

NARRATORS NAMES: AGNES AND ALEX ERICKSON

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INTERVIEWERS NAMES: JOE HRABA, ELMER SCHWEIDER

FOR: BUXTON PROJECT, ISU

A. That's the tennis club.

Q. (ES) OH, THEY HAD A TENNIS CLUB.

A. Yes.

Q. AND YOU HAD THE NAMES OF THE PEOPLE IN THE TENNIS CLUB, TOO.

A. I'm on it.

Q. OH, YOU'RE ON IT?

A. This is my head right there.

Q. YOU'RE EIGHT. (?)

A. This was my neighbor, and that's my brother-in-law, but he's dead. He lived just south of here, he died three years ago.

Q. WELL, WHAT WE'RE DOING...MY WIFE DID SOME WORK ON IOWA MINING IN THE SOUTHERN PART OF THE STATE, AND WE FOUND OUT A LITTLE BIT ABOUT BUXTON, AND THEN WE GOT CURIOUS ABOUT IT.

A. They're talking ^{ed about} to all the colored people.-----

Seventh grade.

Q. THIS IS YOUR SEVENTH GRADE CLASS? YOU HAD SOME COLORED IN YOUR CLASS, DIDN'T YOU?

A. Yes. That's

And she was... That was a four room schoolhouse. They had three four room schoolhouses there.

Q. MAYBE WE CAN TURN THE FAN OFF AND WE'LL GET A BETTER...WE'LL HEAR BETTER. WILL THAT BE ALRIGHT WITH YOU?

A. Sure, if it isn't too hot for you.

Q. NO, IT'S FINE FOR US. WELL WE STARTED OUT TRYING TO FIND SOME PEOPLE THAT LIVED IN BUXTON.

A. Well, we moved there when Buxton started and ~~stayed~~ ^{staid} there until it shut down.

Q. IS THAT RIGHT?

A. Until they cut off the miner's train, then we come over here and get jobs, my dad and I, and moved over here, and tore our house down in sections, moved it by truck and set it here. And this is ^{the same house} it.

Q. THIS IS THE SAME HOUSE?

Q. (JH) SO THIS HOUSE IS A BUXTON HOUSE?

A. We remodeled it, we changed it.

A. (Agnes) This was a Swede Town house.

A. In Buxton there was two Swede towns. ^{There was} East Swede town and West Swede town.

A. (Agnes) But East Swede Towners were Lutherans and the West Swede towners were Methodists. But I don't know what they're going to do when they get to heaven, if they're going over there or not.

A. Well, they got a Long

Q. (ES) DID THEY GET ALONG PRETTY WELL?

A. (Agnes) They used to have coffee socials, but that'd be...

A. They ~~used to serve~~ cake and coffee and different things, and they used to charge 15¢, I think it was. And ^{then} the money went to the church and stuff was donated. About once a month, I think they'd have it, and then...

Q. NOW EAST SWEDE TOWN AND WEST SWEDE TOWN...NOW DID YOU LIVE...?

A. Did you ever see the map of Buxton?

Q. NO, WE'D LOVE TO SEE A GOOD MAP OF BUXTON.

Q. (JH) EAST SWEDE TOWN WAS LUTHERAN?

A. Yes.

Q. AND WEST WAS METHODIST.

A. (Agnes) East Swede town was larger than west. It was ^{MORE LUTHERAN} ~~smaller~~.

Q. YOU SAY YOUR FATHER WORKED THERE...?

A. For twenty...yes. And he worked in Muchakinok, and Muchakinok was the same company as Buxton, but it was before. And we moved the house from Muchakinok, and you tore it down and loaded it, and then they moved it free from Muchy to Buxton, and then you unloaded it yourself and set it up.

Q. (ES) I THINK THAT'S THE SAME ONE WE'VE GOT ^{HAVE, SMALLER ONE} (the map)

A. (Agnes) I have ^{A lot of} A PICTURES, LIKE THE SCHOOL, AND I NEVER GOT IT BACK ^{PEOPLE BORROWED IT}

A. Another fellow borrowed it, because his mother was on it, and he wanted to have them enlarged and send them right back. He lived in California.

Q. I'M NOT SURE WHETHER WE'VE GOT THAT OR NOT.

A. That's the lady that was here.

Q. THIS WAS IN THE DES MOINES REGISTER.

A. Yes, that's the lady that was here. Her picture was in the paper. Is her name there?

Q. THIS DOESN'T SHOW EAST SWEDE TOWN AND WEST SWEDE TOWN.

A. Yes, it does.

Q. IT DOES? WHERE AT? ALL I SEE IS WEST SWEDE TOWN. HERE'S WEST SWEDE TOWN.

A. Here's East. No.

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Q. (JH) NO? IT WOULD BE UP IN HERE, WOULDN'T IT? SOMEPLACE?

A. Right here.

Q. RIGHT HERE?

A. There's the school. There's the school where that picture was taken. There was a Swede town church, a Lutheran church.

Q. OKAY. HOW MANY PEOPLE LIVED IN...?

A. In Buxton?

Q. WELL, IN BUXTON, HOW MANY PEOPLE ABOUT?

A. Well,...

Q. DID IT VARY YEAR BY YEAR?

A. It varied, but...I've got a book here, and it said that there were about five thousand.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Have you seen this book?

Q. (ES) YEAH, WE'VE SEEN THAT ONE. WE'VE GOT A COPY OF IT.

Q. JH WHAT ABOUT ~~AT~~ ^{NEAR} EAST SWEDE TOWN?

A. Well, they had a store and a Swedish man ran a store ~~there~~, a church there and then that schoolhouse.

Q. (JH) WHAT WAS THE NAME OF THE MAN WHO RAN THE STORE?

A. J.D. Larsen.

Q. OKAY, LARSEN, WE'VE ^{heard of him} ~~RUN INTO THAT NAME BEFORE.~~ OKAY, IS THAT PETERSEN IS...WHAT PROPORTION OF THE BUXTON POPULATION WERE BLACK PEOPLE?

A. People say different. Some say it was ³/₅ half and half, and some say it was...but it was different. I'd say it was ~~two~~ thirds colored and one third white. Or maybe two-fifths white.

Q. (ES) DID IT DIFFER OVER THE YEARS? IF YOU LIVED THERE ALL THOSE YEARS, WHEN DID THEY HAVE THE MOST PEOPLE IN BUXTON? 1915, or 19

A. Well, it boomed up when I was going to school ^{then} and they had...

Number 10, number 11, number 12, ^{and} 13, they had four big mines

^{Running} ~~going~~, ^{and} then they sold one of the mines to White City, ^{NUMBER 13, AND} and they shut ~~down~~ number 11 down, and then they satted ~~numbers~~ 14 and 15.

And 15 got ~~so big~~ ^{so big, they} and spread out, ^{A NEW} it sank the ~~next~~ shaft right next to it. So, then they pulled the ^{COAL} ~~pole~~ on top. ^{and} ~~so~~ they

called that 15^{1/2}. And then they had 16, and then they had 17 and 18 and 19. And then they were going to sink 20, and people got to using too much oil and stuff, and it shut down.

Q. (ES) AND THEY QUIT USING COAL.

A. And they couldn't sell it.

Q. AND THEY STARTED THAT ABOUT 1900, then.

A. I think so, I think it was about 1900 when we got to Buxton,

A. (Agnes) I think it was 1901.

Q. (ES) AND YOU LEFT ABOUT 1925.

A. Oh, we left...no, ~~19~~23. ~~We left,~~ we moved here in ~~19~~23.

Q. AND IT WAS ALMOST SHUT DOWN BY '23.

A. Well, they took the trains ~~out~~, ^{OFF} trains didn't run to the mines. ^{ANYMORE}

Q. I SEE.

A. '23.

Q. DID THEY ALL PULL OUT BY TRUCK IN '23, OR DID THE MINES PRETTY WELL SHUT DOWN COMPLETELY?

A. (Agnes) That was far away.

A. Well, they didn't shut ~~down~~, they ~~just~~ quit ~~hauling~~ the miners out to the mines.

Q. OH, I SEE.

A. Took ~~out~~ ^{OFF} the miners train. And they took some of the houses out there to, ^{WHAT THEY CALLED,} what was going to be, to Heydock, and they took some of the houses to, I think they was going to take them to 20. 20 never started.

Q. THEY WERE RUNNING THEM, ON THESE MINERS TRAINS, THEY WERE RUNNING THEM ~~20~~ ^{OR 40} 30 MILES AWAY TO MINE, AND BRING THEM BACK...

A. I don't think it was that far, I think about 20 miles.

Q. 20 MILES. SO WHEN THEY ~~BY~~, SO REALLY BUXTON DIED OUT WHEN THEY STOPPED THE MINER TRAIN, THE MINE IN BUXTON, HAD THERE BEEN A MINE IN BUXTON, OR NEAR BUXTON?

A. Near Buxton.

Q. IT PETERED OUT LONG BEFORE ~~that~~

A. And number ten, it started when Buxton started and it was done in 1910, it ~~went~~ ^{RUN} for ten years.

Q. AND THEN THE COAL WAS GONE, BUT THE PEOPLE WERE...

A. No. ~~There was work,~~ ^{ELEVEN} but they shut 11 down and 14 worked and 16 and 17, they were near to Buxton, we had only about a mile from our house. So if we got done early, and we could come up, if we had a half an hour, I'd walk home.

Q. RATHER THAN WAIT FOR THE TRAIN?

A. Yes, rather than wait for the train.

Q. THAT'S INTERESTING.

Q. (JH) HOW OLD WERE YOU WHEN YOU MOVED TO BUXTON?

A. When we moved to Buxton, I was about 4 or 5 years old.

Q. UH-HUH. YOU SPENT YOUR ENTIRE BOYHOOD AND YOUR YOUNG MANHOOD ^{THERE} IN BUXTON, DIDN'T YOU?

A. Yeah, we lived in Swede town, see in Swede town we went to American school in wintertime and Swedish school in summertime.

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Q. (ES) OH, REALLY?

A. Yes.

A. (Agnes) And we...

A. Ten weeks in the summertime.

Q. (JH) TELL US A LITTLE ABOUT SEDE SCHOOL IN THE SUMMERTIME?

A. They'd bring a student from Rock Island.

Q. AUGUSTANA?

A. Yeah, Augustana, he'd come there, and they'd pay him so much.

A. (Agnes) And he preached.

A. And he preached on Sunday and ^{HE} taught Swede school ~~during~~ ^{through} the week. But we didn't have arithmetic or geometry in Swede because we got that in American school. But we got grammar and reading and writing and stuff like that. I think I've got a Swede reading book here.

Q. (JH) THAT WAS FOR TEN WEEKS IN THE SUMMER.

A. Uh-huh.

Q. WAS IT NORMAL FOR THE MINES TO BE SHUT DOWN IN THE SUMMERTIME?

A. No, they slowed down in April, and they'd clean out the, they'd clean out their yards and stuff, ^{and then} ~~but~~ by the last part of May or June, they'd be back working.

A. (Agnes) DEPENDS ON THE strikes.

Q. (ES) WERE THERE A LOT OF STRIKES?

A. (Agnes) Not in Buxton. BUT HERE WE HAD STRIKES ALMOST EVERY SUMMER

A. Heydock just shut down because they couldn't sell ^{the} ~~any~~ coal.

Q. SO IT WAS JUST KIND OF AUTOMATIC, THERE'D BE A STRIKE AND THEY shut down and...

A. That's a Swede reader. It's poetry and reading, stories and fables, a little ~~bit~~ of everything.

Q. (JH) AND THIS IS A BOOK THAT YOU HAD USED IN BUXTON?

A. Yeash.

Q. DID YOUR FATHER WORK IN THE SUMMERTIMES MOST OF THE YEARS?

A. Yes.

A. (Agnes) We had a great big yard.

A. We had an acre. We paid fifty cents a month ^{RENT FOR} for an acre.

Q. (ES) FIFTY CENTS A MONTH.

A. And when we lived in this house, we lived in two houses in Buxton. We had OVER AN ACRE because there was a ditch down below and our land went down to the ditch.

Q. (ES) SO YOU FARMED OR HAD TRUCK GARDENS OR BIG GARDENS...

A. We had a big garden and we had chickens.

Q. DID MOST OF THE FARMERS HAVE ENOUGH LAND TO HAVE A LITTLE GARDEN?

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A. Oh, yeah. They put company houses four on an acre. ^{Four houses on} ^{AN ACRE}

Q. (ES) FOUR ON AN ACRE.

A. But in Swede town they rented an acre. Each one had an acre.

Q. NOW WERE THERE COMPANY HOUSES IN SWEDE TOWN?

A. No.

Q. THOSE WERE PRIVATE HOMES.

A. You owned them houses and you paid fifty cents a month for your yard, for your lawn.

Q. WHO DID YOU PAY THAT TO, DID THE COMPANY OWN THAT?

A. The just checked it, the company, yeah, they checked it off.

Q. THE COMPANY OWNED THE LAND...

A. Yeah...

Q. AND YOU OWNED ^{YOUR} ~~THE~~ HOUSE.

A....YEAH and they checked it off.

Q. AND YOU PAID FIFTY CENTS A MONTH ^{RENT} FOR YOUR LAND. NOW IF THERE WERE FOUR ON AN ACRE, DID THEY EACH PAY FIFTY CENTS?

A. No, they didn't build that, the company houses...

Q. OH, I SEE.

A. And they charged so much, they had six-room and seven-room houses. And they charged about a dollar a room. Seven...or maybe it was a little more. Seven or eight dollars a month, I don't know what it was. And all they had was a sistern, they didn't have no well, they didn't have city water.

Q. BUT YOUR HOUSE DID?

A. We had our own well.

Q. YOU HAD YOUR OWN WELL.

A. We had a well and we had a sistern. It wasn't a well, it was a spring and it was ten foot deep, but you couldn't pump it dry.

A. (Agnes) And we had a garage.

Q. DID YOU HAVE A CAR?

A. I had a, the last years, I had a Model T. And the lightening hit the garage and burned the car and the garage up.

Q. OH!

A. But I had it insured.

Q. WHERE DID YOU LEARN THE WOODWORKING?

A. I attended college at Fairfield.

Q. I SEE.

A. (Agnes) One Summer,

A. The fellas took it to teach manual training in high school.

And the miners sat down and I was kind of interested in that kind of work, so I went down and asked about the...I didn't go to high school. They didn't have no high school in Buxton, -6-

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A. (CONT.) ...you go to eighth grade and you'd be done.

Q. I THOUGHT THEY HAD A HIGH SCHOOL IN BUXTON. (ES)

A. They had it and it burned down. But that was just one year.

Q. OH, THEY ONLY HAD IT FOR ONE YEAR?

A. One year and you had to leave. It only had one room. They had from, they had a four room school that they first built. ~~After~~ ^{AND THEN NEXT TO} that they built this big school. I bet there's a picture of it in that book.

Q. THAT BIG SCHOOL THAT THEY BUILT, THEY ONLY HAD ONE YEAR OF SCHOOL THERE.

A. Yeah, they had one year of high school. Well, the boys started, you could start ^{to} work when you were 14 years old ^{they hired you} in the mines. And then they didn't have the pill, so _____, they had big families then. Big boys had to start ^{WORK} in the mines.

Q. (ES) SO THEY COULD GO THROUGH EIGHTH GRADE...

A. (Agnes) And they couldn't hardly carry their dinner pails.

A. When I was a ^{REALER} second grader, there was two or three boys who quit to start in the mines, and when I was in the third, some of the boys that finished second ^{reader} grade, they didn't start in the third, they started in the mines, they started in the mines when ^{the} school ended, and they was ^{about the reader} out of ^{reader} second grade.

Q. HOW OLD WERE THEY THEN?

A. Oh, they started, if they were pretty tall, and they could pass off as 14 years...

Q. THEY STARTED.

A. They started, if they could write their name in the bible, carry the bible down to the office and hire them, and say my boy's fourteen years old now, and he got hired. And if two ^{and} men worked together, they got four ^{CARS} dollars, and ~~if~~ a man and a boy worked together, they got three. They got a half a turn, they called it. And so they checked their money off, they got credit ^{OFF} at the company store and they'd check it at the office. So that money went ^{to} to the office.

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A. (Agnes) And there was coal miners that didn't know...

a. Didn't know where the pay office was at. They bought everything at the company store.

Q. (ES) _____ AT THE COMPANY STORE AND BY THE TIME THE END OF THE MONTH THEY DIDN'T HAVE A PENNY.

A. They paid twice...

Q. EVERY TWO WEEKS.

A. Every half a month. The first Saturday after the fifth and the first Saturday after the twenty-fifth, I think it was.

Q. (JH) WHAT STREET DID YOU LIVE ON IN EAST SWEDE TOWN? -7-

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A. We just lived on, it was just Swede Town, that was all.

A.(Agnes) A country road. But we had a mailbox in Albia.

A. The mailman came through from Albia. We got our mail, cause our address was Albia, Iowa.

Q.(JH) NOW THIS IS THE HOUSE THAT YOU HAD IN BUXTON. WERE THE COMPANY HOUSES MUCH DIFFERENT THAN THIS HOUSE?

A. Oh, yeah.

Q. HOW SO?

A. Well, they were four rooms, and then they had a kitchen. And then they had three rooms upstairs. That's where most of them slept. And some didn't have the kitchen, some were just four rooms and two rooms upstairs. And they were all alike and all painted alike.

A.(Agnes) They were kind of blue, weren't they?

A. Kind of bluish-grey looking.

Q. WHAT WERE THE NAMES OF YOUR PARENTS? MOTHER AND FATHER?

A.(Agnes) Mom was Josephine and our dad was...

A. Charlie...

A.(Agnes)...Carl John, Carlu..., ~~I don't know.~~

Q. AND THEY BOTH CAME FROM SWEDEN?

A. My mother came from around Gottenberg, and her dad was a fisherman.

Q. WHEN DID THEY, WHEN DID YOUR MOTHER AND FATHER COME TO THE STATES?

A. I don't know,

Q. YOU DON'T KNOW. YOU DON'T KNOW HOW THEY GOT TO BUXTON EITHER. OR MUCHAKINOK?

A. Well, my dad, he worked...he come from the north of Sweden. He was from so far north that he'd run into ^{Lapps} ~~Lapps~~ once in awhile. *law part*

Q. YEAH.

A. And he worked, ^{then} they made charcoal. If it's hardwood timber, they made charcoal. And they called that a charcoal mine. So when he come here he wanted to go where there was ^{there was some} mining and people that he knew in Iowa, so he come here and got a job in the mines. But then it was altogether different.

Q. HOW DID YOUR MOTHER GET HERE?

A. I don't know how she happened to come here.

A.(Agnes) Well, ^{she} she come to her sister in Pennsylvania.

A. She had a sister in Pennsylvania.

A.(Agnes) And some other relatives were here.

A. This sister, I think her husband had been here before and then he got a job, ^{he} he was kind of educated in Sweden and he .8-

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A. (cont.) ... become a contractor. And he actually, he built railroads. He had work so he'd take contracts that he'd put in the railroad so many miles at such a long time. Then he hired Swedes that came here, couldn't talk or anything ^{and} they were all Swedes and he bossed them, and he got a lot of work out of them because they were big and strong, and he went ahead and made money, and after he'd made so much money, he got my grandpa to come here, and then my mother came here and her sisters and then my grandmother came here, they were all here in Pennsylvania, and then they come to Iowa. I don't know how they happened to come to Iowa.

A. (Agnes) It was just a chance.

Q. (JH) HOW MANY WERE IN THE FAMILY, HOW MANY BROTHERS AND SISTERS DID YOU HAVE?

A. Three.

A. (Agnes) Three.

A. She'd the oldest, she's ninety, and my sister over there, she's eighty-seven and I'm eighty-four.

Q. (ES) THAT'S THE SISTER THAT LIVES NEXT DOOR?

A. ~~Yes. Course,~~ ^{But} she's in the hospital, her knee swelled up and they tapped it. *I WAS UP TO SEE HER YESTERDAY.*

Q. (JH) WHAT IS HER NAME?

A. Allen.

A. (Agnes) Dina. Her name was Nodina.

A. ^{In} Sweden.

A. (Agnes) And my name is Agnes Matilda Sophia Erickson.

A. Sophia, that was our grandmother's name.

A. But I never used the Sophia, ^{all} when I worked, ^{at} I used ^{was} Agnes M. Erickson. And most of the time just A. Erickson.

Q. (ES) A. ERICKSON. NOW YOU WORKED IN THE STORE, THEN.

A. (Agnes) I worked in the store.

A. She worked in different places, she worked... see, she went to Albia to learn to be a dress maker, and they needed a lady at the company store to alter dresses and suits for men, and they hired her and two other women. And then she had to relieve the cashier ^{at} ~~over~~ the noon hour and then they took her in the office and after they took her the office they took her into the bank. The bank and the store kind of run together.

Q. (JH) WHEN WAS THIS THAT YOU STARTED TO WORK, HOW OLD WERE YOU?

A. ^(Agnes) I was twenty at the store.

A. My sister started to work in 1912. And she got 18 dollars a month.

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A. (Agnes) And I got twenty. We had to work six days a week.
 A. ~~They started~~ ^{THE STORE OPENED} at eight o'clock, and it closed ^{WHEN} as the miners' train ^{WAS IN} ~~came~~ ^{AND} ~~so~~ the miners ^{THEY} got waited on. Cause ^{LOT OF} the miners, if there was no work the next day, or something was wrong, why they wouldn't need so much, but otherwise they would go in and buy for their dinner bucket. And sometimes they needed tools, something like that.

Q. (ES) SO THEY HAD CARBIDE? DID THEY USE CARBIDE A LOT?

A. They used carbide when I started...the diggers used carbide, but the mule drivers, they had to use oil lamps because they was afraid the carbide would blow out on them.

A. (Agnes) Show them your coal mine.

A. I made a coal mine. This is a mule driver. ^{AND} See he had an oil lamp, see this spout, he had a wick in the spout. And that was his oil can that he carried with him so...

A. (Agnes) I want to show you something.

A....and this was his wick. And he wore pads because the back of the cars were bolts and stuff and they'd tear your clothes so easy. Some wore canvas. I made this look like canvas. And some wore leather. The leather pad cost three or four dollars and they didn't want to spend that much for 'em. And they wore heavy gloves, cause when they'd hold the corner of the car, chunks would shift around. And that was a dinner bucket. You carried water in the ^{NAIF} ~~bottom~~ part and the lunch in the top. And the generally wore a white belt. And they wore a red bandanna around their neck as a rule, so they could wipe their ~~the~~ mouth and wipe their hands when they ^{WAS GOING TO EAT} ~~to~~ need.

Q. (ES) EVEN LIKE WITH THAT WHIP, ^{CAUSE} THEY WERE PRETTY HARD ON THE MULES WITH THAT WHIP.

A. Well, they had to get the coal out. They'd tell you, if you didn't ^{'o} get the coal moving, why we can't use you.

Q. (ES) DID THEY KEEP THE MULES UNDERGROUND?

A. Yes, they ^{HAD} ~~is~~ a mule barn, they had a mule barn under there

A. (Agnes) They stayed there.

A. When ^{THE MULE} ~~they~~ went down there they generally stayed until they died or ^{still} ~~when~~ the mine shut down. But some mines, they took 'em up. I think the Williamson mine took 'em up. And they ^{AND THE MULES} ~~got~~ so they knew, and they'd just walk up on the cage, turn around, and when they got up, they just walk right off.

Q. (ES OH, MY,

A. Well, they was glad to get up.

Q. GLAD TO GET UP IN THE FRESH AIR,

A. Yeah, and they didn't have to work then. They was through. 10

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Q. (ES) YOU MENTIONED A LITTLE WHILE AGO THAT THINGS WERE RATHER PEACEFUL IN BUXTON. THERE WAS NOT MUCH IN THE WAY OF STRIKES OR LABOR TROUBLE?

A. No. See that...I think it was the first day I went to school they brought in the colored people, they started new mines, they went south and they got colored people.

Q. STRIKE BREAKERS?

A. No. They brought 'em up to work, because they couldn't get enough miners.

Q. (JH) WHAT YEAR WAS THIS THAT THEY STARTED BRINGING COAL PEOPLE?

A. What?

Q. WHAT YEAR?

A. I don't remember. It was the first year I went to school. And they brought 'em up in box cars. They didn't even have day coaches for them to sit in. They brought 'em just like you bring a bunch of hogs up. And all they had was practically the clothes they had on. And then they got credit at the company store and they bought ~~their~~ furniture and they brought their clothes and they found out they got _____ at the company store...

Q. (ES) WHEN THEY CAME UP, MR. ERICKSON, DID MOST OF THEM COME UP ~~THEM~~, JUST SINGLE MEN, THEN, THE FIRST LOAD, OR...

A. No, women and kids.

Q. WHOLE FAMILIES.

A. Yes.

A. (Agnes) Some couldn't read or write.

A. Some couldn't read or write. Didn't...and never learned.

Q. DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA OF WHERE THEY WENT AFTER, YOU SAY THE SOUTH. WOULD THAT BE MISSISSIPPI, LOUISIANA...

A. Some come from Alabama, 'cause one of 'em they called him 'Bama, short for Alabama.

A. (Agnes) There was some of them that lived in South Camp.

A. They wouldn't know because some of them was born when Buxton was done. See, when Buxton, was done, we've lived here for 57 years.

A. (Agnes) I imagine they've got antiques. I don't know.

Q. (JH) NOW YOU SAY THAT BLACKS STARTED COMING IN THE FIRST YEAR THAT YOU WERE IN SCHOOL. HOW OLD WERE YOU SIX YEARS OLD?

A. ^{No} I think I was about 7.

Q. ABOUT SEVEN. WHAT YEAR WERE YOU BORN?

A. I was born in '96. 1896.

Q. (ES) SO THAT'D BE ABOUT '03, THAT THEY WERE ^{BRINGING} ~~PICKING~~ THEM UP. 11

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Q. (ES) (CONT.)...FIVE, SIX, SEVEN. ABOUT 1902 OR 1903. THAT THEY WOULD GO DOWN AND BRING BACK A WHOLE FAMILY OF ...

A. A whole trainload in on boxcars. They'd send a colored man down there that was kind of educated, and they'd sent them down there to gather them up. Bring them up.

A. (Agnes) The ^{old?} man that came from Chicago. And they run the YMCA. They had a lovely YMCA down there. What did it cost?

A. I don't know what it cost. But things was cheap in them days, so...well, they had the YMCA on the bottom floor, and in the middle floor there was a theater. They had big shows, big shows used to come into Buxton. Companies would come in there, and the had moving pictures ~~in~~ there, and then they'd fold up ^{the} chairs in ~~there~~ and ~~then~~ they'd have roller skating up there.

Q. (ES) OH, REALLY?

A. Yeah.

Q. WERE THESE MIXED THINGS, LIKE ~~WHEN~~ THEY HAD ROLLER SKATING, BLACKS...?

A. No, the whites, white was white and black was black.

Q. AND WHEN THE WHITES SKATED, THEY SKATED, AND THEN THEY'D LEAVE, AND THE BLACKS WOULD ^{SKATE} ~~COME~~.

A. (Agnes) ^{THEY HAD} ~~AND~~ different churches. ^{white} Black people didn't go to...

A. There was a white Methodist and a colored Methodist.

A. (Agnes) Baptist

A. There was just a street ~~in~~ between.

Q. (ES) SO IT WAS REALLY, WHEN A MOVIE CAME, DID THEY MIX?

A. Yeah, they'd go together, but generally ~~when~~ the white people sat on one side and the colored people on another. But they would get mixed up.

A. (Agnes) Once in a while

Q. ABOUT THE ONLY TIME THEY'D MIX, THEN WOULD BE FOR A MOVIE. OTHERWISE THEY'D...IF THEY HAD LODGES AND THINGS THEY'D HAVE THEIR OWN.

A. There was black lodges and white lodges.

A. (Agnes) They had Masons.

A. The colored Masons they had theirs. And the white Masons, they went to Lovilla. *They belonged to Lovilla.*

Q. WHITES TO LOVILLA.

Q. (JH) DO YOU REMEMBER EVER WHITE AND BLACK GETTING MARRIED IN BUXTON?

A. Yes. Some

A. (Agnes) But if you married a nigger, you became a nigger.

White people wouldn't even speak to you unless ^{you} they had to.

A. You became a nigger.

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A. I think more white women married nigger men than colored men married...than white men married colored women. I don't know why that was.

Q. (JH) UH-HUH.

Q. (ES) DO YOU HAVE ANY IDEA...WOULD THAT HAVE BEEN PRETTY COMMON, OR FAIRLY RARE?

A. No.

Q. IT HAPPENED, BUT IT WAS FAIRLY RARE.

A. I don 't remember more than about two white men married colored women. Out of that whole bunch, and there must have been six or seven women. ^{colored} But they were in Buxton, they come there married to these people.

Q. OH, ALREADY?

A. Most of them did. I don't remember anyone...Nellie Lash, she married a colored man. But her mother had a colored man boarding there. So she was used to them. That's about the only one I remember married.

Q. (JH) WAS THERE ANY FRICTION BETWEEN THE RACES IN BUXTON?

A. No.

Q. EVERYBODY SORT OF KNEW THEIR PLACE AND...

A. The colored people ^{they} gambled together and when they had ^{MEN THAT} fights, why ~~it was colored and then~~ they got killed, ~~I don't know~~. I don't remember any white men getting killed in Buxton.

Q. WHAT WERE THE ROUGH PARTS OF BUXTON? WE'VE HEARD ABOUT CERTAIN PARTS OF BUXTON...?

A. Well, Cooperstown was ^{ed} call rough. And down around the park they'd ^{did} ~~get~~ gambling once in a while. They'd...they didn't use guns too much, they'd use razors.

Q. STRAIGHT RAZORS?

A. _____ and a long razor and a blade.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. Safety razor wasn't out at first. (?)

Q. OKAY. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY TAVERNS IN THESE PARTS OF TOWN.

A. Well, they didn't...I don't think they ever had an open saloon. But they had speakeasys.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. A TRAVELING MAN would come through town. That was when they wasn't selling beer. And he stopped a man and said "where can I get a drink in this town?" Fella said, see that house up there on that hill, Yeah, he said, well, don't go there, they MOVED IN yesterday, They haven't set up the still yet, but go to any other house in town and get it.

LAUGHING.

Nellie Lash King interviewed

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Q.(ES) SO THEY MADE A LOT OF BOOTLEG BOOZE, THEN?

A. Everybody did. Fellas who were scared to go and buy it from other people, they made their own. Our cousin's husband, he was a sheriff, he was a lawman, ^{ANY WAY} and he said you'd be surprised at the places you find it when you go to search.

A.(Agnes) They found some in the toilet.

A.Yeah, they loosened the boards, some of the boards on the toilet floor and dug a hole and ^{hid} kept their booze there.

Q.(ES) OH, MY.

A.(Agnes) Very few had inside toilets. Very few.

A. Just a few down by the business district.

A.(Agnes) ~~Up in the~~ Up in the Ucity UPS. That run things.

Q.(ES) WAS THERE A GROUP OF PEOPLE, NOW I'M SURE THAT THE COMPANY IS ~~THE SAME~~ ^{WAS KIND OF} A POWERFUL GROUP...WAS THERE A GROUP OF PEOPLE WHO SORT OF RAN BUXTON?

A. Yes.

Q. WHO WOULD ~~THEY~~ BE, THE BANKER AND...?

A. No. The banker didn't have anything to ^{SAY} do...I think the store man, ^(MCRAE) McGray, I think he was... and then there was the manager of all the mines. ~~Called~~ superintendent, he lived kind of high up near the pay office. And the paymaster.

Q. SO THE COMPANY REALLY RAN THE TOWN.

A. Yeah.

Q. AND IF SOMETHING WENT ON THAT THEY DIDN'T LIKE, IT STOPPED. OR IF THEY DIDN'T LOOK THE OTHER WAY IT STARTED.

A. We never had any trouble.

A.(Agnes) My sister and I, we used to walk in the dark ~~by~~ the railroad tracks ^{HOME FROM} off of the store.

A. We lived about five blocks from the company store.

A.(Agnes) I never heard of a nigger bothering a white girl. And in Des Moines, It's every ^{PAPER YOU READ} day.

Q. WELL, WE'VE GOT SOME, WE'VE BEEN READING THE BYSTANDER. AND THE BYSTANDER IS APPARENTLY A PAPER THAT'S PUT OUT BY THE BLACKS. IT TALKS A LITTLE BIT ABOUT BUXTON, AND SOME PLACE ~~THEY~~ THEY SAY "ANOTHER MURDER IN BUXTON" BUT IT'S DOWN IN COOPERSTOWN AND IT'S LARGELY, APPARENTLY IT WASN'T UNCOMMON FOR A BLACK TO GET IN A LITTLE TROUBLE.

A. I think Buxton is kind of like that show, that Dodge City, Kansas. Gunsmoke. ^{EITHER}

Q. UH-HUH. BUT THERE WERE NO BLACKS IN BUSSEY. COLORRDS COULDN'T GET INTO BUSSEY, SO...

A. No,

Q. THEY COULD GO IN TO SHOP, BUT THEY GOT OUT BEFORE DARK

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A. (Agnes) I don't know ^{IF THEY SEIZE THEM IN BUSSEY} ~~about~~...

A. I don't know whether they did or not.

Q. (ES) YOU KNOW, I NEVER THOUGHT OF THAT. WERE THERE RESTURANTS IN BUXTON?

A. Yes. There was everything in Buxton. There was hotels, there was Hotel Buxton and there was Perkins Hotel and the White House, ^{THE WHITE HOUSE} they only catered to white people.

Q. BUT THE OTHER TWO, BUXTON HOTEL AND PERKINS HOTEL, THEY WOULD SERVE ANYBODY.

A. Anybody would...yes.

Q. BUT THE WHITE HOUSE ONLY HAD WHITE PEOPLE.

A. It was mostly travelling men that come through there. See, in that day and age, it was mud roads and people didn't have cars. See, it was done in '23 and ~~people~~ ^{THEY} started having cars and come through there, and it was mostly travelling men that come through. And they didn't ~~have a trunk~~ ^{TRUCK} and stuff, everything was brought in on the Northwestern railroad. And the store, it was built so close to the track, they just built a chute into the boxcar and it just went right into the basement of the ^{COMPANY} store.

A. (Agnes) And we bought by carloads.

A. The company store bogght by carloads.

Q. HOW FAR AWAY ARE WE FROM BUXTON PHYSICALLY? ARE WE TEN MILES?

A. Oh, ^{you're} more than ten miles. I have an idea that we're about fifteen miles ~~from~~ ^{to} Hamilton, and it was about 7 miles then. Now you're about 23 miles from Buxton.

Q. WE'RE JUST A FEW MILES FROM LOVILLA.

A. No, you're about 15 miles from Lovilla. Lovilla ^{is} wasn't very far from Buxton, I think about three miles.

Q. OH, LOVILLA IS CLOSE TO BUXTON?

A. About three miles. Lovilla was about three miles west.

Q. I SEE. WE'VE DRIVEN OUT THERE, BUT THIS HAS BEEN A COUPLE OF YEARS AGO, AND WE CAN'T FIND ANYTHING. WE FOUND SOME OLD BUSTED DOWN BUILDINGS.

A. And now that things ^{is} scavenged in, they say.

A. (Agnes) And they _____ niggers buried in Buxton.

Q. THERE IS A CEMETARY THERE, ISN'T THERE?

A. (Agnes) But they went up there with a fella who was collecting. ~~(?)~~

A. ^{COLLECTING} Bottles, and I went with him, and nearly all the tombstones were kicked over. Groundhogs had dug in there, and I think Hallows ^{EVERY} ~~(?)~~ had been up and pushed some over. It was all run down ^(?) with weeds and brush and stuff. And we heard they was going to try to fix it up again. I don't know that it ~~is~~ ever will be fixed up.

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Q. (ES) I DON'T KNOW WHETHER THAT MIGHT HAPPEN, I CAN TELL YOU THAT WHAT'S HAPPENED AS FAR AS BUXTON...MANY PEOPLE REMEMBER AND THERE IS AN ATTEMPT TO FIND OUT WHAT IT LOOKED LIKE AND THE HISTORIC, NATIONAL HISTORICAL PEOPLE MIGHT WANT TO PUT A PLAQUE OUT TO MARK BUXTON OR THEY MIGHT WANT TO GO FURTHER. THERE ARE A NUMBER OF BLACK PEOPLE WHO HAVE MEETINGS AND CLUBS IN DES MOINES.

A. In Des Moines, yes. One was here.

Q. AND WE'RE ACQUAINTED WITH SOME OF THEM, AND THEY WOULD LIKE TO HAVE SOME KIND OF A PARK. THEY WANT TO GO BACK AND DO SOMETHING ABOUT THE CEMETARY.

A. But I don't know, the old ones are dead. We've lived for 57 years in this house in Pershing.

A. (Agnes) And I'm the oldest person in Pershing.

Q. IS THAT RIGHT?

A. I think so.

A. And I'm the only war 1 veteran, ^{LIVING} here in Pershing.

Q. IN PERSHING

A. And there was about thirty-five of us here ^{AT ONE TIME}.

Q. (JH) CAN I ASK YOU SOME QUESTIONS ABOUT YOUR PARENTS? DID YOUR FATHER BELONG TO ANY OF THE LODGES?

A. No.

Q. NO.

A. They belonged to church and that was all.

Q. JUST THE CHURCH, AND YOUR MOTHER?

A. Just the church. My mother belonged to Ladies aid and things like that that were hooked up to the church.

Q. DID THEY TAKE, DID YOUR FOLKS TAKE IN BOARDERS?

A. Yes.

A. (Agnes) Yes. Two or four.

A. We had four and two, two and four. Not all the time, but they'd come from Sweden and they ^{could} talk Swede to us and when they'd come, someone who could talk American generally would take them with them ^{WALK IN} to the mine, 'till they learned to work and learned to talk so they could take...handle themselves. And...

Q. (JH) WOULD THEY ALL SLEEP IN ONE ROOM, IN THE SAME ROOM, OR...?

A. No, they had two beds and they had two in the bed.

A. (Agnes) We had two rooms upstairs.

Q. AND THAT'S WHERE THE BOARDERS STAYED. AND TWO MEN WOULD SLEEP IN THE SAME BED?

A. Yes.

Q. OKAY. DID YOUR MOTHER WASH FOR THEM AND COOK?

A. Wes, she cooked and washed.

Q. HOW MUCH DID SHE CHARGE THE MEN?

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A. I think it was twenty dollars a month.

A. (Agnes) I don't know.

A. Or sixteen, maybe it was sixteen, ^{about} fifty cents a day.

A. (Agnes) If you had come thirty years ago, we could have told you.
(LAUGHING)

Q. YOU'RE DOING FINE RIGHT NOW.

A. Yes, but she's been dead thirty years. She died in '49, my mother. She was 98 years in January, then she died in September.

Q. (JH) HOW ABOUT... YOU SAID YOU WERE ON THE TENNIS CLUB. WHAT ELSE DID YOU DO AS A YOUNG MAN IN BUXTON?

A. Oh, we used to play ball down there and we'd hunt and we fished. ^{Could} We ^{Went} catch a ^{Freight} train by the Des Moines ^{RIVER} and I think they charged us ten cents to ride to what they called White City, that was another mining town. We'd get off there and had a few miles to walk to the river. WE'D GO DOWN THERE AND FISH AND STAY

Q. (ES) I NOTICED IN THE TENNIS CLUB, THEY WERE ALL WHITE. THE BUXTON WONDERS ^{They} WERE ALL ^{THE BLACK} BLACK.

A. Well, they had a tennis court.

A. (Agnes) They were good ball players.

A. They had two or three courts ^{by} the YMCA and they played at the YM-CA.

Q. (ES) PH, I SEE.

A. And ^{this was our} we had this garden club. I think we paid a dollar month and we done all the work. See the company, the superintendent ^{AND THEY} played tennis, and their wives come down there and played tennis and ^{they} gave us telephone poles and we put them up all around and then we bought fence and put it around the poles.

A. (Agnes) I've got ^{it} have the fan on in the back.

A. _____ it's five minutes to two.

Q. (JH) WHAT DID YOU DO IN BUXTON AS A GIRL?

A. (agnes) I worked at the company store, and ^{then} I got a purchase (?) an education for me. I got started there and I didn't have hardly any school. And I started and then I got to work in the office. And I ^{THEN} worked ^{at} the bank and then I ^{got} to work ^{at} the mine office.

A. ^{My} statements.

A. Agnes) I didn't pay them, but I made statements. And then when I ^{COME} got to Pershing I got a job in the mine office and I worked ^{REGULAR} there twenty years. The paymaster they ^{fixed} him, he was crooked, so they gave me the job.

Q. (JH) YOU WERE PAYMASTER FOR AWHILE?

A. He built a couple of chicken houses ^{and} started raising fancy chickens in them, and he forgot to go to work.

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Q. (ES) OH.

A. He'd go home ^{at noon} to get his dinner and he'd go out to fool with his chickens and he was late coming to work. And in the mornings he was out there fooling with his chickens and he was late.

A. (Agnes) The main office was in Des Moines. They'd send us the payroll, cause the miners had to be paid cash. They ^{wouldn't take} ~~were~~ checks

Q. (ES) OH, IS THAT RIGHT? THEY WERE PAID CASH? WERE THEY PAID IN CASH IN BUXTON, TOO?

A. Yes, paid in gold most of the time.

Q. MOST OF THE TIME?

A. Cause they didn't want the bills.

Q. WAS THERE EVER ANY ROBBERY, OR...?

A. No, they tried to rob the payroll once, it was in the...

A. (Agnes) It come in the, on Friday.

A. It come in on ^{THE TRAIN ON} Friday and they put it in the vault at the bank, so it'd be there for Saturday. ^{SOME MEN} And ~~they~~ ^{I THINK} they come in through the store and they caught the guards in the store, there was so many men that was supposed to guard the bank and the store, and then they had to build shelves and stuff during the night. Pick them up and they caught them and ~~think~~ they tied them up, and then they tried acet-
olyne torches, and it wouldn't work for them, it just burnt a little paint off the...

Q. THEY COULDN'T GET THE SAFE OPEN.

A. (Agnes) No they couldn't get the vault open.

A. But they had sixty thousand ^{dollars} dollars in the vault that pay. And then the bank had ten thousand, so they would have got about 70 thousand ^{dollars} they said.

Q. NOW WHEN THEY PAID IN GOLD, HOW WOULD THEY HANDLE, WAS IT GOLD COIN, OR...?

A. Yeah. Twenty dollar...

Q. TWENTY DOLLAR GOLD PIECES.

A. Twenty, ten five, and two and a half.

A. (AGNES) Very seldom two and a half. Mostly five, ten...

A. Five, ten and silver dollars, and fifty cents and quarters.

Q. (ES) NO PAPER, THEY DIDN'T LIKE PAPER.

A. (Agnes) But afterwards...

A. But after the war was over, then they got the paper, then the gold, kind of...faded out, people got bills.

Q. (JH) WHAT, YOUNG WOMEN IN BUXTON, DID MOST OF THEM WORK LIKE YOU DID? WHAT WAS THE SOCIAL LIFE LIKE? WHAT SORT OF SOCIAL LIFE?

A. No married women ever worked.

Q. MARRIED WOMEN DID NOT WORK.

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A. They took care of the house.

A. (Agnes) Not unless they were rich.

Q. (JH) UH-HUH.

A. (Agnes) I never heard of a married woman working.

Q. WHAT DID YOU DO FOR RECREATION, ENTERTAINMENT?

A. ~~They~~^{WE} had movies nearly every night.

A. (Agnes) I used to go roller skating with my ~~my~~^{sister} and brother.

A. We used to go roller skating at, we had a big reservoir in Buxton.

I don't know whether you saw that or not when you were there. The bank is still there. The farmer, he was a coal miner and ^{THEN} he bought a strip of land ^{THERE WHEN WAS DONE} in Buxton and he got the reservoir. And the niggers would come from Heydock ^{DOWN} there and fish and camp and go in his cornfields and take corn, dig up his potatoes and stuff like that, so he just dug a hole in the dam and let all the water out.

A. (Agnes) He's dead now.

A. He's dead now. He was ^{or} German, name was Brandt.

Q. (ES) WERE THERE A LOT OF BLACKS IN HEYDOCK, THEN?

A. More blacks, I think in Heydock than there were whites. The whites went to Bisby, they had mines in Bisby, too, the same company. Most of them went there, a lot of them went there, and they didn't hire blacks.

IN ILLINOIS And I don't know what become of all those colored people. They just drifted here.

A. (Agnes) They went to the packing houses.

A. To packing houses in Waterloo, and...

Q. (ES) DES MOINES.

A. Des Moines and Cedar Rapids and around.

Q. (JH) WHAT ABOUT THE FRIENDS OF YOUR PARENTS? DO YOU REMEMBER ~~THE FRIEND~~^{YOUR PARENTS!} ~~OF YOUR PARENTS~~ DID THEY EVER HAVE PEOPLE IN, LIKE INTO THE HOUSE TO HAVE A MEAL WITH THEM, OR..?

A. We used to have ~~Company~~^{Company}

Q. AH...

A. (Agnes) relatives.

A. Relatives.

Q. SO IT WAS MOSTLY FAMILY, THEN?

A. Well, they lived in Swede town, and most of them was intermarried.

^{NEARLY} Everybody was related to...

Q. WOULD YOU SAY THAT VIRTUALLY ALL OF YOUR PARENTS FRIENDS WERE SWEDES?

A. Yes.

Q. OKAY

A. They'd talk Swede when they'd get together. We had a neighbor that could n't say a word in English ^{HARDLY}.

A. (Agnes) In Buxton.

A. Yeah, in Buxton.

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Q.(JH) DO YOU REMEMBER SPECIFIC THINGS ABOUT THE HOUSEHOLD WHEN YOU WERE YOUNGER? FOR EXAMPLE , HOW DID YOUR MOTHER TREAT CERTAIN KINDS OF SICKNESSES, LIKE THE COMMON COLD? DO YOU REMEMBER THAT?

A. If you had a sore throat, she put cola (?) and lard on a woven cloth and tie around your neck.

A.(Agnes) We had to carry something in the wintertime that stunk.

A. Asphidity they called it that you'd wear around ^{the} ~~your~~ neck. Nearly everybody...all the kids.

Q. WHAT ABOUT OTHER SICKNESSES THAT YOU HAD? HOW DID SHE TREAT THEM? JUST NAME THEM AND TELL US.

A. We hardly ever had anything but a cold. Sore throat once in a while.

Q. HOW WOULD SHE TREAT A COLD?

A. Same way that...

Q. SAME WAY.

Q.(ES) NO MEASLES OR MUMPS?

A. Oh, yeah. We just stayed in the house, called ~~the~~ doctor. They had company doctors, you paid a dollar a month, I think, a family did.

A.(Agnes) I f we were sick, she'd call the company doctor.

Q.(JH) OKAY.

Q.(ES) AND HE WOULD MAKE HOUSE CALLS.

A. Oh, yeah, they'd make house calls.

Q.(JH) WHAT ABOUT FOOD, WHAT SORTS OF FOODS WOULD YOUR MOTHER PREPARE?

A.(Agnes) W e had big gardens and in the wintertime we had...

A. Potatoes.

A.(Agnes)...and they used to buy hogs and they would salt them in wooden kelps. (?)

A. Put lots of salt on them and put them in a cold room.

A.(Agnes) And then they would soak them to get the salt ^{out} ~~off~~. And then we'd cook them ~~and~~ ^{out of the chunks} make soup and ~~comps~~.

(BOTH TALKING AT ONCE)

Q.(JH) UH-HUH.

A.(Agnes) And we made the cake and the butter.

A. Everything from scratch. There wasn't...

A.(Agnes) ~~We~~ ^I never heard of oly and cake or boughten cake until we came to Pershing.

Q.(JH) DID...?

A.(Agnes) She made her own bread. Six loaves and ten at a time.

A. Sometimes we bought from the farm. They'd come around and sell butter. Two three ^punds in a chunk. And they'd sell eggs. And there was a fella who raised turkeys, he'd sell them for a dollar a turkey.

Q.(JH) IT SOUNDS AS IF...

THE APP.
A. They called it MULTAVITA, but it was a kind of cereal.

Q. WHAT ABOUT FOR LUNCH?

A. We had coffee-

A. (Agnes) and sometimes fried eggs

Q. FRIED EGGS AND COFFEE?

A. And ^{FRIED} potatoes-

A. (Agnes) We had coffee five times a day

Q. (E.S.) IT WAS A SWEDISH TRADITION TO HAVE COFFEE?

A. (Agnes) We had coffee for breakfast and we had coffee for FORENOON COFFEE and then we had coffee for dinner.

A. In the afternoon about two o'clock two thirty we'd have coffee.

A. (Agnes) And then we'd have SKIRTA?, a rich bread-

A. Shaped like a hamburger bun, and we'd cut them in two and dry them in the oven and then they'd hang'em behind the stove in a clean flour sack.

A. (Agnes) And the chimney was open-

A. It ^{WAS} ~~would be like~~ a half ^{OF} a chimney and ~~there would be~~ ^{THEN LIKE} a place under that where they would hang them

A. (Agnes) And homemade cookies...

A. We always had cookies.

Q. (ES) SPRITZ?

A. (Agnes) Dina was always a good spritz baker, I wasn't very good.

Q. (J.H.) Celebrating holidays...the first question I want to ask, I'm sure you must have celebrated holidays of the Swedish and American culture.

A. We'd go early in the morning on Christmas morning. We'd have a big supper on Christmas eve, we always had a big time. And generally we ~~had~~ ^{HAD} rice and they would put a lima ^{BEAN} bean in there and then ~~next~~ one who got that was the next one ~~gonna be getting~~ ^{got} married.

Q. ^{OTHER THINGS} WHAT DID YOU DO AT CHRISTMAS?

A. We'd go to church early in the morning, and then we'd ~~have~~ ^{HAD} to go to church at ten o'clock, it was just like going to church on Sunday. Then we'd be home in the afternoon and generally we'd have people come and visit us or we'd go to somebody else's house.

A. (Agnes) And then we'd have at the church the children ^{HAD} a program.

A. (Alex) Had a program on the second day of Christmas.

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A. (Agnes) And we got gifts.

A. And the company store furnished ^{those} gifts. The company store would have ^{each church} each church ^{come there} and ^{get} ^{one} gift to ^{each} ^{every} child who went to Sunday school.

Q. WHAT DO YOU MEAN THE SECOND DAY OF CHRISTMAS?

A. The twenty-sixth day

Q. THE TWENTY-SIXTH DAY?

Q. (E. S.) CAN YOU TELL ME A LITTLE ABOUT THE ^{SE} GIFTS THE COMPANY WOULD FURNISH?

A. They were nice, there were toys...they'd sold everything that they could sell, and ^{this} they got the leavings.

Q. I SEE, ~~THEY SOLD~~ ^{EVERYTHING} THEY COULD SELL AND THEN THE CHURCH COULD COME AND THEY COULD PICK UP--

A. Each church got an evening ~~they could~~ come down there, after the store closed they could come and SO MANY FROM

A. (Agnes) You couldn't take anything--

A. (Alex) No, they put out what you could pick from.

Q. DID THE COMPANY GIVE YOU ANYTHING AS A MINER FOR CHRISTMAS?

A. No, there was a fella on a T.V. show ^{THEY GAVE} ~~we got~~ turkeys but we didn't get no turkeys as far as I know. And I oughta know cause I worked starting in the mine in 1910 and I was fourteen years old when I started.

A. (Agnes) (inaudible) WE USUALLY HAVE A TURKEY

A. We'd have a goose once in a while. A farmer would deliver them live for a dollar a turkey or GOOSE

Q. OH, I SEE, HE'D DELIVER THEM LIVE, AND YOUR JOB WAS TO KILL THEM?

A. We had to kill them and pick'em

Q. NOW YOU'D CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS FOR TWO DAYS?

A. Yes, the miners generally stayed home, I think they stayed home the second day.

A. (Agnes) SWEDISH the second day of Christmas.

Q. DID YOU CELEBRATE NEW YEARS?

A. The church would always have something going on and they'd ring their bell at twelve o'clock.

A. (Agnes) On New Year's.

Q. ON NEW YEAR'S, NOW HOW IS THE NEW YEAR CELEBRATED, FOR HOW LONG? JUST THE ONE DAY?

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A. Well, in Sweden they used to celebrate till the thirteenth day.

A. (Agnes) See it was cold there.

A. In Sweden they'd start celebrating the thirteenth of December and they'd celebrate till the thirteenth of January.

Q. BUT THAT WASN' T DONE IN BUXTON?

A. No no no.

Q. WHY?

A. The men ^{could} work.. so the men could work, but in Sweden it was so cold there was nothing to do for the farmers or the people there so they just celebrated.

Q. WHAT ARE THE OTHER HOLIDAYS THAT YOU REMBER CELEBRATING LIKE DID YOU CELEBRATE THE FOURTH OF JULY?

A. Ya, they did.. they'd have picnics or something like that

A. (Agnes) Each one would bring something--

A. Each one would bring his own basket--

A. (Agnes) Some _____

Q. DID YOU CELEBRATE MAY DAY ANY HOLI--

A. Once in a while they had May Day.. they had a pole.. the men would go in the timber and they'd chop down the tallest and straightest tree they could find, and then they'd decorate it with flags and stuff, and they'd dance around it, and they'd serve ice cream and cake, and the money would go to church.

Q. UH-HUH.. LABOR DAY, DID YOU CELEBRATE LABOR DAY?

A. No, not the Swedes didn't but Buxton did. They'd generally have a parade or something and they'd get so many farmers to come with there hay racks and give the kids a ride on around through the town and stuff like that. And they'd have stuff going on in the park, the polititians would come there and speak. And they'd have stands to sell chicken and have things you could throw rings on ..and you see in Buxton they used to have a merry-go-round there kept it there and they had a bandstand they had a band up ^{in the bandstand} there to play and they'd run the merry-go-round.

Q. (E.S.) NOW WERE THERE BOTH BLACKS AND WHITES IN THE BAND OR WAS IT ALL BLACK OR ALL WHITE?

A. One time it was all black but then they got all mixed up .

Q. (J.H.) DID YOU CELEBRATE THANKSGIVING?

A. Yes.

Q. AND THAT WAS ABOUT THE YEAR'S CYCLE OF CELEBRATIONS? OF HOLIDAY'S.

A. ~~SOME TIME~~ ^{IS THEY} ~~we'd~~ have a meeting in the church on Thanksgiving before noon and then we'd have a big dinner at home.

Q. UH-HUH.

Q. (ES) BIRTHDAYS?

A. We didn't celebrate birthdays much.

Q. (ES) _____ BIRTHDAYS.

A. Mother would generally buy ~~something for the~~ ^{THE KID SOMETHING} birthday and that ~~be~~ ^{would} be about it. He went to school that day same as any other day.

Q. (JH) WHAT IS THAT? A BIBLE?

A. A Swedish bible. That's when I was sixteen years old. Or fifteen, I ~~guess~~ ^{THINK}.

Q. (ES) ALL DECKED OUT TO GO DOWN IN THE MINES.

A. Coming home. I went by the studio and stopped in.

Q. LET'S SEE, MY GOODNESS. THAT'S A MEAN, TOUGH JOB UNDERGROUND, ISN'T IT? HOW ~~BIG~~ ^{THICK} WERE THE SEAMS OF COAL?

A. Oh, it run different. At ~~one place~~ ^{THEY HAD ONE PLACE,} in Buxton number 18, the men had to have nail kegs to stand up to set the timbers.

Q. SIX OR EIGHT FOOT OF COAL.

A. Yeah.

Q. (JH) THANK YOU.

A. (agnes) My brother-in-law ⁱⁿ here, he was first aid man.

A. At 19 Buxton. And one month he come home every day with a man hurt. He got seven and a half dollars for eabh, for every ^{time} ~~man~~ he brought ^{a man} home. He'd get seven and a half. He'd either ^{brought} have to take them to Albia, they'd send for the ambulance, if he's hurt bad, then they'd take him to Albia, or if they weren't too bad they'd take them to Buxton.

Q. (ES) WHAT WOULD THE AMBULANCE BE LIKE? WAS THIS A BUGGY?

A. No, it was a...looked kind of like a hearse.

Q. AUTOMOBILE TYPE?

A. Yeah.

A. (Agnes) That's the way I remember it.

A. The first years we lived in Buxton, they didn't have nothing, they'd...

A. (Agnes)...bring 'em home in a lumber wagon and a team of horses.

A. A team of mules and they throw a little straw in the back. To lay on.

A. (agnes) there wasn't much to it.

A. If a man got a leg broke or a broken back, ^{OR SOMETHING} why they'd just throw some straw in, haul 'em home and then the doctor ~~would~~ come to the house. Wash 'em up and fix 'em up best you could.

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A. (Cont.)... They brought one nigger home and he complained of his leg hurting and the doctor felt him, and said it was broke and set ^{it} and the next time the doctor came to see how he was getting along, he said that thing ~~doesn't~~ ^{CHON'T} hurt since you got the splint on ^{that} ~~it~~. ^{THE OTHER LEG HURTS} ~~The other leg hurts.~~ And when he examined it, he'd got the splint on the wrong leg.

Q. (ES) OH, NO!

(LAUGHING)

A. He'd put it on the fella's...

Q. (JH) WERE THERE BOTH BLACK AND WHITE DOCTORS?

A. Yes.

A. (Agnes) The nigger doctor was better than the white.

A. The colored doctor was better, he took more interest in them.

A. (Agnes) He examined you.

Q. (ES) NOW THEY WERE BOTH PAID BY THE COMPANY.

A. No. The company ^{THEY} charged each family a dollar a month.

Q. OH.

A. And I think a single man had to pay fifty cents. I don't remember just how. *It was so much.*

A. (Agnes) I don't remember.

A. And then you'd go there and get medicine and they'd take care of you when you were sick.

A. (Agnes) But you had to sign up *FOR IT.*

A. Yeah, you had to sign up. ^{FOR IT} If you didn't sign up, they didn't come to your house. ^{THEY DIDN'T} And you had to go pay.

Q. (ES) AND IF YOU HAD SOMETHING ^{HAPPEN} WRONG, YOU HAD TO GO HIRE THE DOCTOR PRIVATELY.

A. Yeah, or get another. *PRIVATE DOCTORS, THERE WAS AROUND BUXTON.* There was several doctors ^{WHERE} ~~there~~ ^{TREN} ~~there~~ was private doctors in Buxton there. ^{TREN} ~~It~~ was generally two company doctors, and ^{TREN} ~~there'd~~ be two three other doctors.

Q. PRIVATE. DO YOU REMEMBER ANYTHING ABOUT MIDWIVES? DID THEY HAVE MIDWIVES?

A. Yes, they had midwives.

Q. FOR BOTH BLACK AND WHITE.

A. I don't know about the black. In ~~East Swede Town~~ ^{THEY WERE BOTH SWEDISH} they had a woman and in West swede town they had ^A ~~a~~ woman. ~~They were both swede women.~~

A. (Agnes) And they would ^{I think,} come every morning and evening ^A and take care of the baby and the mother for two weeks or ninedays...

A. That's when we first got to Buxton, but then afterwards ^{why} they went to the hospital.

Q. (JH) DO YOU REMEMBER ANY...WE WERE TALKING ABOUT BLACKS AND SWEDES IN BUXTON, DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER NATIONALITIES IN BUXTON?

A. Oh, there was all kinds, there was Italians, and there was...we called ^{THEY WERE} them Hunks, Slavish.

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A. (Agnes) They had a Lutheran church.

A. They had a Lutheran church up close to us. Second house from us.

Q. (JH) NOW THE ITALIANS, DID THE ITALIANS LIVE IN ONE SPECIFIC PART...?

A. No.

Q. ...OF BUXTON?

A. And the hunks, ^{didn't either} they rented company houses.

Q. THE HUNKS, NOW WHAT NATIONALITY WERE THEY?

A. Czechoslovakian.

Q. THEY WERE CZECH?

A. Czechoslovakian. See, they was in that country that got split up after the first world war.

Q. WERE THEY SLOVAKS OR WERE THEY CZECHS, DO YOU KNOW? DID THEY CALL THEM BOHEMIAN? OR SLOVAKS?

A. They called themselves Slovaks, I think.

Q. SLOVAKS?

A. A. (Agnes) We called 'em Hunks.

A. Everybody called 'em Hunks, that was all they went by.

Q. WERE THERE MANY THERE?

A. Oh, quite a few-

A. (Agnes) I have no idea.

A. I don't know how many was there, was quite a few.

Q. BUT YOU REMEMBER ITALIANS AND SLOVAKS.

A. Yes.

Q. DO YOU REMEMBER ANY OTHER NATIONALITIES, POLISH FOR INSTANCE?

A. No, I don't remember any Pollackers--

Q. OKAY..

A. There was a few Indians.

Q. WERE THEY MINERS?

A. (Agnes) No.

A. There were some, I went to school with some that was Indian.

A. (Agnes) Some had SALOONS

A. And some of 'em was mixed in with Niggers

Q. (E.S.) NOW WHEN YOU MENTIONED THAT THE BLACKS AND WHITES, THERE WERE A FEW MARRIAGES DID THE SWEDES TRY TO MARRY SWEDES? AND THE GERMANS TRY TO MARRY GERMANS?

A. The Swedes married Swedes, yes.

A. (Agnes) ~~Sometimes~~ ^{old time} the Swedes from Sweden, they didn't think you should marry an American.

Q. UH-HUH

A. Remember how MAD ^{WAS} ?

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Q. UH-HUH.

A. But then later on, why, they got mixed up--

Q. THE KIDS GOT MIXED UP IN SCHOOL THEN?

A. Yes, Then they married and intermarried.

Q. (J.H.) DO ^{you} REMEMBER MUCH ABOUT GOING TO SCHOOL IN BUXTON, WHAT ARE YOUR REMEMBRANCES ABOUT SCHOOL THERE?

A. (Agnes) I didn't go much.

A. It was no foolishness--if you studied--when you went to the public school if you didn't study and ~~the~~ ^{THE} teacher couldn't handle you she sent you to the principal and he took you down to his office and he could handle any kid that-- he ~~put~~ ^{LAI'D THEM} ~~em~~ across a bench and put a strap on 'em ... he didn't have no trouble with no kids.

Q. UH-HUH. WAS YOUR TEACHER WHITE?

A. Sometimes, and they were mixed.

Q. YOU HAD COLORED TEACHERS?

A. Colored and white, yes. And they didn't treat ya-- they treated the whites ^{JUST} as good as ^{THEY TREATED} the blacks. They wanted the white kids to go with the-- mix with the blacks. They had a private ^{WHITE} school for a while , then it all become a public school.

A. (Agnes) Ya, it did, they had to pay a dollar a month.

A. Ya, they did.

Q. WHAT IS THIS PRIVATE WHITE SCHOOL-- THIS PRIVATE WHITE SCHOOL, WHEN DID IT EXIST? DO YOU REMEMBER?

A. It was--

A. (Agnes) You were at home you were just a kid.

A. I went, I was ~~in~~ second reader (?) I think.

A. (Agnes) Dina and I didn't go.

A. Dina went.

A. (Agnes) Did she?

A. She went one year.

Q. IT WAS A--OKAY--

A. And then they made four schools...the big school house burnt down and a... it had ten rooms in it, I think .

Q. THIS PRIVATE WHITE SCHOOL, WHO RAN THE SCHOOL?

A. (Agnes) There was teachers--

A. They had two teachers, they had two rooms, and they had two teachers and a.. I think it was run by the Methodist church.

Q. SO WAS IT ONLY SWEDISH CHILDREN?

A. No! Whites and hunks and Swedes and everything went there.

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Q. OKAY, ALL WENT THERE, HOW BIG A SCHOOL WAS IT, WAS IT A BIG SCHOOL FOR A WHILE OR--

A. Oh THREE, there must have been ^{ABOUT} fifty kids in each room, but see the boys started work in the mines when they's about fourteen so they so when they got up about the third-- you didn't start school till you's about seven years old because you started in the first reader, you didn't have no primary, kindergarten stuff you started in the first reader ^{AND} then the second, then when they got to the third, they started dropping off-- startin' in the mines.

Q. DID YOU SAY...DID YOU SAY THIS SCHOOL DIDN'T LAST? HOW LONG DID IT LAST?

A. I don't know ~~how~~ LONG

A. (Agnes) I don't know.

A. Till about 1909.

Q. OKAY, TILL ABOUT 1909--

A. You was in DENVER, ^{IT WAS DONE THEN, YOU WAS IN DENVER IN} ~~about~~ 1909, ~~it was done...~~ you went out there with-- we had relatives in DENVER she went out there for a while and it was done then.

Q. ~~HOW~~ ^{WHY} DID IT CEASE TO OPERATE?

A. Well the big school house burnt down, then they built two new school houses and then they had a four room , then they built two ^{NEW} four room school houses, ^{AND} ~~then~~ the white kids that lived near ^{EACH} ~~this~~ School they went there instead of going ^{down} ~~to~~ this private school. And cause they could go home for dinner and everything and then they didn't have to pay that dollar a month for the kids.

A. (Agnes) And then some of the West town kids would walk through all of Buxton ^{UP} ~~to~~ the East Swede town .

A. Because they was nearly all whites, ^{you} ~~see~~, there was only five colored kids in my room there--

Q. UH HUH.

A. And they'd walk up from the West Swede town and cause a-- may ONE OF the school's right in the center of town, it was nearly all colored and they didn't want to go with them, so they'd come up to the other Swede school,

Q. (E.S.) THAT WAS NUMBER FIVE OR SOMETHING WASN'T IT?

A. (Agnes) We had _____ to them people in _____.

A. We had a picture of-- from there.

A. (Agnes) You gave it to them last year.

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A. I gave it to 'em about a year ago. Their a- their grandmother was on it. So they wanted it, and I said "I'm gettin' old" so when I'm through with it and nobody else wanted it so I told them they could have it.

A. (Agnes) We had a lot of pictures five or six years ago..

A. Ya, we had the company store.

Q. WELL THAT'S TOO BAD , BECAUSE NOW--

A. (Agnes) We had ~~male~~ clerks on one picture and ~~mail~~ ^{WOMEN} clerks on one picture..

A. And that's a mixed one that's on that.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. (Agnes) This is the whole FORCE.

Q. DO YOU REMBER BUXTON AS A HAPPY TOWN, BASICALLY? YOU WORKED HARD--

A. You worked hard, but I don't think anybody had a care there.

Q. YOU WEREN'T AFRAID?

A. You weren't afraid, you didn't worry ^{you didn't think} about the next day, you figured the mines had been there and the mines would stay as long as you lived and-

Q. BUXTON BASICALLY TREATED YOU PRETTY DECENTLY THEN? THEY WERE PRETTY FAIR WITH YOU THEN?

A. (Agnes) And if you didn't work, you got credit.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. (Agnes) And then they had to pay so much on a half each payday.

A. And if you got fired for something, there was always little mines around there, you could go up there and get a job and work there for a while then you could come back and ask for a job again and they'd hire you.

Q. WHY WOULD THEY FIRE YOU?

A. Oh if you loaded dirty coal, if you didn't clean your coal sometimes, a fella was careless with his mule and his mule got killed they thought more of the mule than they did of the driver, so the driver he'd go to another place and drive for awhile and pretty soon he'd drift back, they'd sooner live in Buxton cause it was a bigger place and there was always something going on so-

Q. WHEN IT COMES TO THE BLACKS, YOUR MEMORY IS THAT THEY ^{JUST} COULDN'T FIND ENOUGH MINERS SO THEY WENT DOWN AFTER BLACKS.

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Q. (E.S.) WE HEARD THAT THEY BROUGHT BLACKS UP TO BREAK STRIKES BUT APPARENTLY THERE WERE NO STRIKES.

A. They might have done that in Muchy, I don't know, but they didn't do it in Buxton.

Q. IF YOU LOOK BACK ON THE EXPERIENCE, THEN, IT WAS REALLY A PRETTY GOOD ONE?

A. Well, I think everyone would've stayed in Buxton if the mine had kept on going.

Q. THEY KEPT THE MINE-- THEY KEPT BUXTON GOING BY USING THESE PASSENGER TRAINS OUT TO THE DIFFERENT MINES AND THEN ^{ONE DAY} THEY SAID IT WAS TOO EXPENSIVE AND THEY QUIT RUNNING THE PASSENGER TRAINS AND THAT'S WHEN BUXTON WENT DOWN--

A. That's when it went down, that's when it went down.

Q. IT'S POSSIBLE THEN --

A. They ran the mines a couple years after we ^{COME} got here, 18.. then shut 18 down and they run 19 a little bit.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And then they had a strike and then they just shut everything down, They didn't even take the coal cars up, they were loaded, standing down in the mines, it was full of coal and they didn't even take them up. I had a cousin who ^{WAS} worked at 19 and he said all they took up was electric motors, that's it...they ^{RUN} 'em in the cage and brought and brought 'em up and that was all.

Q. SO IF WE'RE LOOKING AT THE WAY THE TOWN GREW UP IT STARTED ^{They got} IT HAD A LOT OF PEOPLE, AND THEN THE MINES STARTED TO DRIFT BUT THE POPULATION STAYED, BUT ONCE THE COMPANY DECIDED TO SHUT DOWN THE ^{THEM OUT ON} MINE AND QUIT RUNNING THE RAILROAD, THEN THE TOWN JUST DIED OVERNIGHT ALMOST?

A. ^{THEM} THEY tore down a house in Buxton, moved 'em out there and people who had their own houses they _____ and sold them and some moved to other places. We moved this house here and that house next to there .. it was moved here and another house next to there. ...and it was moved, but then a fella moved a mobile home on up here, he's living in there.

Q. HOW MUCH, IF YOU CAN REMEMBER, DID IT COST TO MOVE YOUR HOUSE FROM BUXTON TO HERE?

A. Oh, I don't know, ^{I think} about three thousand dollars.

A. (Agnes) The house itself _____ you go by there --they sold for fifty and seventy-five dollars--

A. When the mines shut down.

A. (Agnes) Here.

Q. HMM.

A. (Agnes) But it was just the walls.

A. We didn't have no basement, we put in the basement afterwards ^{AFTER} when we got straightened out, when we knew we was going to live here, and the mine, they shut down in forty-one, and they said it wasn't going to open up any more. And then I went up and got a job at the Veteran's hospital, and because I could do woodwork, I got in with a group, they called them occupational therapy.

Q. UH-HUH.

A. And I got to working with them and I got five days straight, I didn't have no swing shift...And I got more money. And I had to , I'd had so many patients and we'd be too-- and we'd have so many patients we had to keep them busy doing something.

Q. UH-HUH

A. And some would work and some wouldn't and some would sit and read, and some would do this and some would do that.

Q. SOME WOULDN'T DO ANYTHING?

A. No.

Q. NO.

A. Some was just a blank.

Q. HMM.

Q. WERE YOUR DAYS IN BUXTON HAPPIER THAN THOSE YOU SPENT WORKING IN KNOXVILLE?

A. Oh yes. You didn't know what was goin to happen, sometimes you'd have three or four fights in-- and you'd have to get in-between them and part them and get them in different parts of the room and sometimes you'd have to take one back on the ward and keep one in the _____.

A. (Agnes) _____ his eye _____?

A. Ya, a fella, he was stooping over wringing out the mop, and then a patient, mad at him, he just run up to him and run his finger in his eye and _____.

O. HMM.

A. And one fella got kicked in the chest and broke that partition there and they had to take him to the hospital and operate on him.

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A. One doctor got kicked and she didn't pay no attention to it and it developed into cancer and he died. And one fella he was playing pool and he said "~~put~~^{put} up the cues, I'm going home for dinner now" and a fella just struck him over the head with a cue....almost caved his head in ...he was out for about a week. And one fella, he'd got fighting, and you'd try to separate'em and the patient he turned on him and they had to take him to Des Moines to a hospital. He was out of his head for quite a while, he didn't know anything.

Q. INAUDIBLE

A. Ya things happend up there, you never knew what was going to happen up there , they'd bite and they'd kick and they'd bite and they'd make things, you had to watch'em so close because they'd make things out of plastic and stuff and they'd make keys out of plastic and they'd make knives out of plastic and one had a compass and he stabbed one of the aides up there he stuck it in there and they said if it was half an inch farther it would have gone right through the man's heart. It was one of these ten cent compasses you buy in the store with a pencil on to make circles with, he just run it into him.

Q. HMM.

A. _____ they got occupation up there. ?

A. (Agnes) Women too.

A. Ya. Nurses and doctors.

Q.(E.S.) IF WE GET BACK TO BUXTON JUST A LITTLE BIT THEN..

WAS IT COMMON FOR MOST OF THE KIDS TO WORK ? NOW YOU SAID WHEN THE BOYS WERE ABOUT THIRTEEN THEY WENT TO THE MINES--

A. Yes , well, there wasn't much relief or any thing like that. When a man ^{got} ~~was~~ hurt or anything ^{like} ~~and~~ was disabled, he ^{GENERALLY} ~~started~~ bootleggin' and they didn't _____

A. (Agnes) Then they passed a law and they got compensation.

A. Ya. When I started working in the mines there was no compensation ...if you got hurt, you was just out of a job, you couldn't ..you was just-

Q. (J.H.) DID YOU JOIN A UNION?

A. Yes I ^{had to} ~~joined~~ the union-

A. (Agnes) Everybody had to join the union

Q. (E.S.) EVERYBODY JOINED THE UNION?

A. They come around the second day, I think and wanted to know. We had a committee that worked in the mine-

Q. (J.H.) WERE THERE ANY SWEDES WHO WERE UNION OFFICERS?

A. I don't know if there was or not.

Q. DON'T KNOW.

A. (Agnes) Our cousin was a policeman.

A. He wasn't a policeman, he was kind of a constable, he helped the Raids and he enjoyed it.

Q. WE'VE HEARD THAT TERM, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN A POLICEMAN AND A CONSTABLE?

A. Well the constable, ^{I think} he worked under the ..a..sheriff or something like that.

Q. I SEE

A. They'd get complaints in Albia , I think the sheriff, he'd come and he'd get these men to help him raid.

Q. I SEE.

A. But then they'd pay them off too.

Q. LIKE TEMPLETON RYE OR SOMETHING.

A. Ah.. there was one fella they raided he was making..hehad a still, that was out of eighteen, and so the state men came there and raided him. He said 'You can't take my still', "I paid him to run it." Well that officer, he paid him to run ^{him to} that still. He said you can't take my still, I paid for it.

Q. (.S.) I PAID FOR IT ALREADY.

A. I paid for it already to run it. And sometimes they took them off when they were comin'.

Q. THEY'D HIDE EVERYTHING.

A. Ya. We had a radio club on the..when the radio first came out. A bunch got together, we were all whites, we paid five dollars apiece and then there was, I think a dollar a month and we bought a radio, and ^{ONE} of the fellas, he was one of these deputies or something and every once in a while when they were on abe big raids, he'd bring ⁱⁿ booze

Q. THAT THEY'D FOUND...

A. That they took from somebody.

A. (Agnes) This has all been recorded.

Q. OH YES.. YOU HAVE THE RIGHT TO REMOVE ANY PARTS YOU DON'T WANT TO BE KNOWN. IF YOU LOOK BACK AT BUXTON THEN, YOU DON'T RECALL ANY SERIOUS TROUBLE? WITH BLACKS AND WHITES?

A. No.

Q. STAYED PRETTY MUCH APART SOCIALLY?

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Q. BUT THEY MIXED IN THE MINF AND THEY MIXED AT WORK, THEY BOTH WENT IN THE STORE.

A. Ya.

Q. THE STORE DIDN'T CHARGE YOU ANY MORE IF YOU WERE WHITE OR ANY LESS IF YOU WERE BLACK? THE COMPANY SEEMS TO HAVE.. AND THAT'S WHAT INTRIGUES ^{US} ~~ME~~, THE COMPANY SEEMS TO HAVE PUT TOGETHER BUXTON WITH WHAT THEY WANTED TO BE AN IDEAL COMMUNITY, THEY SORT OF SET OUT TO MAKE IT PERFECT, OR UTOPIA OR SOMETHING.. AND WE GET THIS STORY OVER AND OVER- THAT THERE REALLY WASN'T MUCH FRICTION IN BUXTON... NO COMPANY FIGHTS OR-

A. Alot of the people, most of the people wasn't educated very much and they were- they could read and write and that was about all. Figure a little bit.

Q. YOU DON'T REMBER ANY REAL POOR PEOPLE IN TOWN?

A. No, I don't remember anyone--

Q. IF YOU WERE OUT OF A JOB YOU COULD FIND WORK OR SOMEBODY COULD.

A. As far as I know ^{NEARLY} everybody worked, ^{THEY} or ^A bootlegged or something.

Q. AND THERE WEREN'T ANY RICH PEOPLE IN TOWN, EXEET FOR THE COMPANY STORE PEOPLE.

A. I don't think they were too rich, they were hired by the company...

Q. YEAH, THE BANKER, HE'S...THE COMPANY RUNS THE BANK

A. He worked coal work for wages.

Q. UH-HUH. THE DOCTORS WORKED MOSTLY FOR WAGES.

A. They got their...

Q. BUT THEY WEREN'T SUPER RICH EITHER.

A. No.

Q. SO IT WAS KIND OF ...A CROSS SECTION OF PEOPLE WHO WERE PRETTY MUCH ON ONE LEVEL. ^{THEY} AND ^A GOT ALONG...

A. I don't think any doctor had a car except Nader. I think Nader had a Ford. I think he just had a common Model T ^{Ford} that he drove around in.

Q. (JH) WHY DID YOU BUY YOUR CAR? DID YOU...WHERE WERE YOU GOING TO TRAVEL WITH IT?

A. Oh, we went, like to Albia, and we went fishing with it. Something like that.

Q. (ES) BUT YOU REMEMBER ^{THAT} DURING THE SUMMERS THEY MINED. IT WASN'T LIKE THEY LAID OFF ^{EVERY} MARCH AND ^{WENT} BACK EVERY LABOR DAY...

A. No. ^{WE WORKED} They worked mostly in the summer in Buxton. They'd be slowed down or they'd clean out their coal yards ^{OR STUFF} or something. We never worried about work ~~in~~ Buxton.

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Q. (JH) DID YOU EVER KNOW OF THE KU KLUX KLAN IN CITIES AROUND BUXTON?

A. Oh, no, not in Buxton.

Q. NOT IN BUXTON, WHAT ABOUT TOWNS AROUND BUXTON?

A. No. It hadn't started then. It might have ~~been~~ down south, but hadn't got up...

Q. OKAY. THAT'S ABOUT ALL I HAVE

Q. (ES) I DON'T THINK THERE'S ANYTHING MORE WE NEED...WE'D PROBABLY LIKE TO COME BACK AND CHAT WITH YOU ANOTHER TIME. BECAUSE WHAT WE'RE TRYING TO DO IS TO GET AS MANY PEOPLE AS WE CAN TO ~~TELL~~ US WHAT THEY REMEMBER ABOUT BUXTON. SO YOU TELL US A LITTLE BIT, AND SOMEBODY TELLS A LITTLE BIT, AND THEN WE COME BACK AND SAY, NOW WE HEARD THIS... MY UNDERSTANDING OF THE BUXTON WONDERS IS THAT THEY WERE A MIGHTY GOOD BASEBALL TEAM. THAT THEY PLAYED EVERY PLACE AROUND TOWN AND WHIPPED THE WHOLE BUNCH.

A. Well, they said if they'd have been white, they'd be in the big leagues...

Q. PRO.

A. But then they wouldn't have played so much, because in Buxton, after you come home, there was no radio, no T.V., nothing like that. Everybody went to the ball park and there'd be a ball game.

Q. THERE'D BE A BALL GAME.

A. And in the daytime kids would be there and play. Why if this mine was idle, there'd be a bunch down there playing. There was nearly always somebody on the ball park.

Q. WELL, I THINK MAYBE WE'LL...

END OF TAPE ANGES AND ALEX ERICKSON

PERSHING, IOWA

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