

Buxton Project: 424-2104
Narrator's Name: Charles Lenger
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Interviewer's name: Joe Hraba

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A. 1921 till 1928 there.

Q. And then up here to Oskaloosa?

A. Oskaloosa.

Q. And that pretty much does it doesn't it?

A. Yes.

Q. Your remembrance of Buxton is _____ by the years 1909, 1921?

A. That's right.

Q. And probably wasn't until about what 1915 or so that you started to have any memory about Buxton?

A. That's right.

Q. Fair enough. Let me talk now about your family. Give me the names of your mother and father.

A. My mother's name was Elizabeth Lenger, my father's name was Joseph Lenger and my mother's maiden name?

Q. Uh huh.

A. Her name was Elizabeth Matrician.

Q. Matrician. Now did they come from Slovakia?

A. Well my father did, my mother was born in this country.

Q. When did your father come from Slovakia?

A. Oh now let's see, you got me there.

Q. Would it have been before 1900?

A. It was around there sometime.

Q. Where did he come first?

A. Where did he come first?

Q. In this country?

A. They come to this country first, they probably landed in New York.

Q. Did he precede directly then

A. I think they preceded right to Buxton, Iowa.

Q. They did? Where did he meet your mother?

A. Well he met her here in Oskaloosa.

Q. How did she come to be here in Osculoosa?

A. Well she was born in Freeland, Pennsylvania, Freeland and then her mother and father located out here cause they were in mining and farming and so she was born in Freeland and the family moved out here in the mining area where there was work you know. That's how she they got in this area.

Q. Now your dad was a miner?

A. Oh yes.

Q. He worked for Consloided Coal?

A. Oh yes.

Q. What mines did he work in?

A. Well he worked practally all of them.

Q. Starting with which one?

A. Let's see what would that be, #10.

Q. #10

A. 11, 12 and all the way down to 18.

Q. Did they live in Mutch before Buxton or just Buxton?

A. No, Mutch was before that you know.

Q. You're right.

A. Mutch was before Buxton.

Q. So they didn't live in Mutch?

A. No didnt live there.

Q. Okay we can close that off. Let's take up Buxton, where did they live in Buxton?

A. Well I was thinking on 3rd Street there. I noticed on this map, it must have been, I don't know where the store is there I can't figure it out on this can you?

Q. Oh yeah sure. The company store?

A. Yeah.

Q. The company store should be this one.

A. And that's the YMCA?

Q. Here's the Y.

A. Oh there's the Y.

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Q. Uh huh.

A. Now let's see.

Q. This is south and this is north, this is the creek up here, remember it? It would be Cooperstown here, Hayestown, Gainestown above it, This is the reservoir,

A. Where was the ice house?

Q. Ice house was right above it right in here.

A. And North 3rd right in here.

Q. North 3rd huh.

A. Was this North 3rd?

Q. Uh huh.

A. Yeah but now where's the YMCA that's what I'm trying to get. Yeah it would go down to the YMCA, now where's the company store, here and then you go across the street. I had the idea that the YMCA was there and the company store was you know along this side but maybe I'm wrong there.

Q. Okay, was it 3rd Street?

A. It would be 3rd Street but _____ where was the railroad, the depot, where was the depot?

Q. I think in here someplace.

A. Well then we'd have to go up the hill and then we'd go east to the YMCA and the company store and the railroad was going out west to the mines and the cemetery is out in that area.

Q. Who lived nearby, do you remember the neighbors then?

A. Who lived by, yeah now let's see. At that time there was the Hudaks, H-u-d-a-k. They was our neighbor and let's see I'm trying to think Compinsteens

Q. Compinsteens?

A. Uh huh. They were just there for a short time and they left and went out west. I remember them as a neighbor.

Q. How did they spell their name?

A. I wouldn't recall.

Q. Compinsteens?

A. And what was the other party I said?

Q. Hudak?

A. Hudaks and then I had an uncle that lived there. His name was Mike Lenger.

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Q. He lived in the neighborhood?

A. He lived in the neighborhood.

Q. Okay.

A. And then Hutak lived in the neighborhood.

Q. Was this, do I take this to be a Slovak neighborhood then?

A. No, it wasn't. As we go in the area the next door neighbor was a colored people. They was Bingerman.

Q. The neighborhood you lived in was both black and white?

A. Yeah but there wasn't too many, well there was another family, the Smiths lived down in there toward the pond there.

Q. Okay.

A. I recall that and the Bingerman, he was there and a few other colored people but they were over in the other area but we had mostly the white area there but let's see there was Swansons. The Swansons lived in that area.

Q. Your neighborhood was mostly white?

A. Yes. Right in that area there where we.

Q. _____ what about a block square or what?

A. Well there was other people there, what was their name? Bell, I think they're Bell too. Where's this railroad track again.

Q. Here's the railroad.

A. Now where's the depot again?

Q. Right up in here someplace.

A. Right in here?

Q. Yeah.

A. Well we're right in this area here and there was Swansons and I was trying to think, Kenny Swanson and the Polaks, John Polak.

Q. This is just east of West Swedetown here right?

A. Yes, This is West Swedetown up in this area.

Q. And the Sloyak church was here by the reservoir, above the reservoir?

A. I don't recall it unless it was the Lutheran.

Q. Yes it was.

- A. That's the only one that I know, they didn't have a Catholic.
- Q. But your family is Catholic?
- A. Oh yeah and we lived in the area and we had to go to church in Lavilla.
- Q. How far from the reservoir did you live, remember Charles?
- A. You say this is the reservoir?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Well it was about a block or a block and a half, it was close. We'd go down there and skate on the pond, I remember that.
- Q. Yeah you do. Okay, good.
- A. I remember skating on the pond in thw eintertime and then they'd cut ice for the icehouse cause see they'd haul ice for the icebox then. We'd all go around getting ice when the ice man throwed it on the ground you know.
- Q. Now while we're on the topic there of the color of your neighbors, you say that most of them were white people.
- A. There around us.
- Q. Now was that true of other parts of Buxton where white people tended to congregate in one area? The two Swedetowns were primarily white?
- A. They were primarily white.
- Q. What other areas besides your own there in addition to the two Swedetowns were white?
- A. Let's see, who else would be white? I can't think of, let's see. There's bound to be, oh yeah there's bound to be. As you go toward Cooperstown.
- Q. There was _____
- A. Where's that at?
- Q. Up here on the county lines see.
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. This would be, over here is East Swedetown, the Larson store would be over there, the school would be over there.
- A. Now wait a minute here. Now Larson's Store was where?
- Q. I think up in here someplace.
- A. This is East Swedetown then?
- Q. Right.

- A. East Swedetown, where was the school there at Swedetown?
- Q. Right here.
- A. That's where I went to school, grade school.
- Q. Were those classes mostly white?
- A. Yeah those were mostly white that I recall, I never know and I went to a school that was practically all black.
- Q. You did?
- A. Before I went to East Swedetown. Where was that school located at in that 3rd area?
- Q. It would have been on 5th Street.
- A. Well it might have been see there was mostly black people lived through there.
- Q. That was mostly black. When did you go to, did you start to school on the 5th Street School?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. Okay, 1st grade?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. How long did you go to school there Charles?
- A. Well let's see. I can't think how old I was but I must have been in the grades cause then I transferred to go to East Swedetown for some reason on account of my friends I played with you know.
- Q. That was over in East Swedetown?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. How'd you get over there, did you walk each morning?
- A. We walked, everybody walked.
- Q. What do you mean we?
- A. All the people.
- Q. I mean, did you walk with friends from the neighborhood over to East Swedetown?
- A. Oh yes.
- Q. Was that common, now this is an important question. For the white kids, even though they lived on the other side of town to go over to East Swedetown to school, was that common for those kids to do that?

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- A. No, I don't think so. I think it was because of the change in teachers. I know we had a elderly gentleman, his name was Professor Baker and he was there and I think we kind of liked his attitude and everything, I think that and then on account of the other boys, the other Swedish boys that lived around the area they were going so you know I followed them to go to their school here.
- Q. Okay. But when you were a boy did you play with both black and white kids?
- A. Well to a certain extent yeah.
- Q. What do you mean by that Charles?
- A. Well in our games at the school you know we'd do that.
- Q. Okay, well what about when you were out of school?
- A. Well we didn't play too much because people that were, children that were of miners usually always jobs and worked you know, around the yard or in the gardens or collect wood for the and take over to the house, they always had those projects to do.
- Q. Okay now we'll come back to these but you've introduced another topic that I'd like to follow up. When we need this map again I'll hand it back to you. I'd like to know a little bit about daily routines that you experienced as a boy there in Buxton. During the school year you went to school, what did you do in the summer?
- A. In the summertime well we'd come to my grandfather's, he lived here northeast of town and stay mostly.
- Q. You'd spend the summers in Osculoosa?
- A. Not always, just some and it would just be maybe during the time they were having their harvest time or when they were picking strawberries, we'd help with those jobs and they had orchards and we taken care of the cherries and things of that nature.
- Q. Okay well during the school year when you were in Buxton itself, is this where you lived the whole time you lived in Buxton?
- A. You mean on 3rd?
- Q. Uh huh.
- A. Well no we moved closer to the town, I mean the downtown area.
- Q. You did?
- A. We were out in an area.
- Q. Was it on 3rd Street that you moved?
- A. It was closer to the depot yeah. The depot's here you said and we was in 3rd here. I recall there was when they brought this coal chute, when they brought that coal they brought it way up on this hill _____ it there. Now see that's where we lived most of our years there in Buxton. And previous to that we were living out where the, oh I can't what that 17th Street

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Q. There's no 17th, it goes through 14th.

A. Oh I see, I'm trying to organize where

Q. 14th would be Sharpe End.

A. No we didn't

Q. Didn't live that far out did you?

A. We must have lived in the area out between North 3rd and, what'd I say North 3rd

Q. You said 3rd right.

A. And North 6th. We moved there because of the houses were better.

Q. They were better?

A. Well I think they were better because they were

Q. But you lived in the company house?

A. Oh yeah they was company houses.

Q. Can you describe the houses?

A. Let's see can I describe it, let me see. I'm trying to organize this. Let's see we had a driveway run here to the yard and then I'm just marking off the lot you know and the house, I notice those houses

Q. How big was the lot?

A. A quarter of an acre around that area but the house was as I say was in this area but it had, right in there it had another kitchen added to it. Then you had your

Q. Okay if we walk in the front door what would be the first room you go into?

A. You'd go into the living room and then in this area, when you go on this side, you'd have

Q. What was off the living room, another bedroom?

A. There was a bedroom but it only face this side that I recall now and the kitchen was over in this area and there was a dining room.

Q. So we're on the same perspective, you walk into the house in the living room and

A. Now see these house they were just like this _____ but seem like on this house we had like an addition, the kitchen and then in that part of the house you'd have a bedroom, and a bedroom down and a dining room and a living room. The living room was on this side.

Q. So you'd walk into the kitchen and the kitchen was a double kitchen?

A. Well there was just one kitchen that we had.

Q. But it was expanded?

A. Yeah.

Q. It was larger than the kitchens in the other houses?

A. Yeah that's right.

Q. So there was living room, dining room, kitchen, down?

A. Yeah.

Q. And one bedroom off to the right as you face the front of the house?

A. Well no it was the back of the house.

Q. It was the back of the house, off the kitchen?

A. Well there was a kitchen and the dining room was here and then the bedroom and then it seems to me this living room was right in this area. It must have been right in this area here but it was on the other side.

Q. And so the house itself running lengthwise was divided into a living room and bedroom right and then a dining room and then a kitchen?

A. Yeah.

Q. Is that right?

A. That's right, that I can recall.

Q. And then what was upstairs?

A. 2 bedrooms.

Q. 2 bedrooms upstairs.

A. See some of the houses were built a little different but as the miners moved in.

Q. How much did you pay for rent, do you recall?

A. Well it wouldn't too much, about \$8.00 a month.

Q. About \$8.00.

A. I would suggest.

Q. Any electricity in the home?

A. Oh no electricity, kerosene, coal oil lamps as they call them.

Q. How'd you heat the house?

A. We had a heating stove in the center of the house.

Q. What in the dining room?

A. In the dining room it was usually a heating stove and then we had a kitchen stove in the kitchen that heat the rest of the house.

Q. Was there running water?

- A. No running water, you go to the pump the water in the streets, you go out and carry your water.
- Q. There was a pump in the street?
- A. A water pump you know. It was a regular water pump, we were staying out in the country.
- Q. Oh yeah I know. That's the first time I've heard of that. It was on the street or an intersection?
- A. On the street was so big you know and then round there you'd have your wells with your pump in them and you go over there and you pump your water what you need for your household use. Even for your laundry you'd carry your water.
- Q. Did your house have a cistern?
- A. Yeah we had a cistern also.
- Q. But there was a pump, was it right outside of your house?
- A. That we drew with a bucket.
- Q. The pump now
- A. That was out in the streets for other neighbors to use.
- Q. Surely, was it right in front of your house?
- A. Well it was about, let's say oh about like here to that church there.
- Q. Okay, directly in front of you?
- A. Well it was to the side.
- Q. To the side a little bit.
- A. That _____ had about 4 or 5 families in there.
- Q. Now on the street on which you lived, were there a series of pumps Charles or just one that you remember?
- A. Well I remember I think about 3 on the street.
- Q. About 3, okay. That's a good piece of information. So they had pumps in certain parts of Buxton. Do you remember this being all over Buxton like that?
- A. Well I don't remember all over cause like I say we didn't venture out too far in the different areas, just only to school
- Q. Okay. How big a family did you have? How many brothers and sisters?
- A. I have a brother and I have a sister.
- Q. Okay, what are their names?
- A. My brother's name is Joseph Richard Lenger, he's in Dubuque, Iowa and he's in

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- A. the drug business. I have a sister that lives here in Osculoosa. Her name is Emma. You want her full name?
- Q. Uh huh.
- A. Emma Lenger Hillard. Hillard's her married name.
- Q. Okay, so there three of you?
- A. That's right.
- Q. And raised there, were all three raised in Buxton?
- A. We was raised until we moved, we kept moving with the different mining camps. When they closed down, you'd have to move on. You just pick up like any other
- Q. Well this is a round about way. I was going to ask you about daily routine there during the year. Okay, let's start with getting up, what time would people around home get up?
- A. Dad would get up early in the morning because he'd have to get ready to go to work you know they'd have to have, even my mother would get up early also. It must have been about oh I'd say 4:30 or 5:00 or maybe earlier cause they had to get ready and get the water heated, have breakfast, get the buckets made for the miners to go the depot down there where the trains arrived for the men you know to go to the mines and so you had to get up early. It was dark. I don't think we got up as early. I know we didn't. It must have been around 6 we'd get up.
- Q. What time did your dad have to get down to the miner's train?
- A. Well he'd have to get down there, let's see, I think they pulled out about 6:00.
- Q. About 6:00?
- A. Or a little after, something like that.
- Q. Okay, what time would he start work?
- A. Well I don't know how long it took to go to the mine. Whatever it was, whatever he'd left the house and then he'd get on the train and they pull out and I don't know how long it took to get to the mines you know.
- Q. Do you remember about what time you'd get up on a school day?
- A. Well I imagine we would get up about 6 you know.
- Q. About 6:00, what would you do before you'd go to school?
- A. Well we'd clean up and get ready and have breakfast.
- Q. About breakfast, what was, what did you generally have for breakfast?
- A. Well we always had a real good breakfast. We had eggs and oatmeal and bacon, whatever and whatever my mother would prepare we'd have.

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- Q. But it was some sort of cereal like oatmeal?
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. Eggs and beacon.
- A. That was mostly the breakfast in those days.
- Q. You took a lunch to school?
- A. We'd take our lunch to school.
- Q. What do you remember about school there. You went to two different schools _____
- A. Yes. What I remember about school well the school that was near the house, I forget what we said how far it was, which I said was mostly the black.
- Q. Black kids.
- A. Yeah youngsters and so we'd, oh you said what we'd do? What did you want to know?
- Q. What do you remember about school? What about the instructions, does anything come to mind?
- A. The instructions I thought was very good. I had a black school teacher. I think her name was Mrs. Blackburn.
- Q. Blackburn, okay.
- A. Uh huh and she was an excellent teacher that I recall and we had different programs we had to do and we were taught things as our ages.
- Q. As you went from grade to grade.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Do you remember any of the books that you used in school?
- A. The old readers. There was the old book that everybody reading, the _____ readers.
- Q. What is the _____ or something?
- A. Some of the old elementary books we had and we had spelling, arithmetic. And I remember that where they open up they'd talk about religion but they always had prayer in school in Buxton.
- Q. Okay, and you had prayer the first thing in the morning didn't you?
- A. Yeah and they sang.
- Q. And you sang songs, what kind of songs?
- A. Well I think like patriotic songs.
- Q. Nationalistic songs?

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A. Yeah.

Q. And then instructions would start?

A. That's right.

Q. And then you had a recess?

A. Yeah we had recess.

Q. About what time in the mornings?

A. Well I wouldn't recall but it was a break that they had and we'd go out and play in their yard, school yard.

Q. And you said at that time blacks and whites would play together?

A. We played together yes. They played ball whatever. There was ball games and _____ games and something or the other.

Q. What did boys, did boys and girls play together or sort of separate?

A. Just separate I would say.

Q. Okay, what did boys play?

A. Mostly baseball.

Q. Baseball?

A. Uh huh.

Q. Okay, remember marbles?

A. Oh yeah, marbles was a big thing too. That was in the summertime we played marbles. Then they had plenty of time. Yeah cause everybody was proud of their marbles.

Q. They were?

A. Yeah you know, their stonnies and different kinds you know, you'd collect your marbles. Everybody played marbles.

Q. Did they play keeps?

A. Well some did yes.

Q. Okay, were certain boys really good at marbles?

A. Oh sure, yes they were.

Q. If they were, did they think they were big shots?

A. Well some of them did _____

Q. What would the girls in that day play, do you remember?

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- A. I was trying to think what they played. Oh they played a lot of these jumping and hop scotch and all these other games that the girls play.
- Q. Jump rope maybe?
- A. Jump ropes yeah they had that.
- Q. Then you'd have lunch, eat right there at school?
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. Your mother packed you lunch?
- A. She packed the lunch.
- Q. What, in a tin pale or
- A. Well we had a little, it was a tin pale.
- Q. A box?
- A. It was a round one I think we had or a square one whatever.
- Q. What would you generally have for lunch?
- A. Oh we just had a sandwich and maybe pie but the mothers of that day baked pies you know.
- Q. A lot of pies yeah.
- A. And they'd have pies and they'd also have sandwiches and maybe a banana or something like that.
- Q. And then back to school and recess in the afternoon.
- A. Yeah, same deal.
- Q. And then out of school about what time in the afternoon?
- A. Well about 3:30 or 4:00 or something, I think we were in school longer than they are now.
- Q. Then after school, what'd you do Charles?
- A. Go home and we always had our chores.
- Q. What were the chores?
- A. Well like fill up the coal bucket, bring it up to the porch and bring in the wood, if it was chopped we'd have a certain amount, carry all that up and fill _____ and things like that and bring in water. They had to carry their water. So we had plenty to do. and then in the evening

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A. Did it give their names here?

Q. No I don't think so.

Q. You recognize those people?

A. I don't recognize those. But the bank was at one side of the company store, Is that going back of the store, this is the front of it, yeah. You don't know those people there?

Q. No, I was hoping that you might have known them.

A. Let's see again.

Q. Is that T.R. Cole, Ms. Ollie Mattie, Ms. Evelyn Crockrin.

A. No, I'm not familiar with them.

Q. Not familiar with those people? Is that a street light? Did they have street lights?

A. They must have, they must have had, oh yeah they had some street lights, I guess they had the generators that made light for the

Q. Downtown right.

A. Well some parts of the. Now here's Buxton. Who's this _____ Agnes Erichson, well there used to be some Erichsons live there. Now this shows a lot of the way Buxton looked, the houses. Our house looked a little better than that. Some of those, I guess, maybe we add to it, I don't know. My father was always doing something.

Q. He was kind of a handiman huh?

A. He did everything. I remember the churches. As you go up the street, these were mostly, this is a colored church, AME?

Q. Yeah, it is.

A. They're great people for going to church. And then this one here was _____ Where was the one _____ there.

Q. Well I think it's a large white building.

A. Yeah that's it. Now where's the store.

Q. See the one with the _____ and the _____ across the

A. Now that's what I was trying to get see. There was the store right in this area and then up in this area, Armstrong's meat market was on the hill there. And then office of the Consolidated Coal Company

Q. Pay office.

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Q. What time was supper?

A. Well I was trying to think of what time the miners come home, about 6:30.

Q. About 6:30?

A. 7

Q. What would your mother fix for supper?

A. Well we'd have good supper, pork chops, mashed potatoes and gravey. Miners would eat good you know and then there was no diet because they worked hard. So they had pork chops and round steaks.

Q. A round steak huh?

A. Yeah but pork chops was a big favorite, oh and hamburger and every choice of meat. The meat man would come with the wagon every day.

Q. Who'd you buy meat from?

A. Well the Armstrongs.

Q. Armstrongs?

A. I hope to tell you. They had the meat wagon, they had a big market there not too far from the _____ the company store was right up on the hill.

Q. You remember Johnny Baxter's.

A. Sure did, Johnny Baxter. You mean the young one or old one?

Q. Hope Armstrong's son-in-law.

A. Well he was married to Lottie Baxter, Lottie Armstrong. She was in the banking. I remember Lottie.

Q. She worked at the bank?

A. Oh yes, she run the bank. She managed it I remember. I remember her being the manager of the bank.

Q. Let's stop for

A. Who're these people in the buggy here?

Q. I don't know. I think they're some Swedes there.

A. Oh I see, Larson. Buxton Savings Bank.

Q. Was that the bank? You recognize those people, is that the one that Lottie Armstrong and Lottie Baxter worked at?

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A. Yeah.

Q. Pay office huh.

A. Yeah that's where they pay the men, miners.

Q. Was the Buxton house house back here?

A. No that's where the. Well let's see, I'll tell you who lived there. Eric Brown was the paymaster but the Buxtons _____

Q. Was that the house for the superintendent?

A. Was evidently it was but afterwards I knew it as the Eric Brown house. Mr. Eric Brown was the paymaster there, and I don't know where Ben Buxton lived. There was the old Ben Buxton and _____ was the elderly and then the young Ben Buxton was about 25 years old he come into the mining and he's the one that brought in all these men from the south, all the immigrants from all over Europe that was coming in this country. He brought all those people in to work.

Q. Do you know how he did that?

A. Well he went back east you know and I guess they advertised that they knew where they needed men for working in the coal mines or the steel mills and a lot of them _____ went over in the coal and come out here in Iowa, Wyoming and Colorado and went out into the coal mining and this is the store. This was a big store.

Q. Yeah the company store?

A. Yeah, they had everything in there to sell. Erickson, there's the Erickson home.

Q. Did you know the Erichsons?

A. I didn't know them, I just know their name. And here's the Swedish Lutheran Church. Was that in the east, looks like it.

Q. Which one is it, yeah that's right, it was in East Swedetown.

A. East.

Q. Also known as the Ebenezer Church.

A. Now here's the thing that I remember.

Q. What's that?

A. The depot. Here's this train come you know on the track, people wait on here to go to, well they'd come to Osculoosa and all these town around there, Tracy and they'd all come in like if they had relatives in Osculoosa and on the farm. Now we always come on the train, we'd get the train here and come to Osculoosa and we'd either get off there and we'd get on the streetcars. They had streetcars in this city and we'd go out here to the McNeal mansion and my grandfather and uncles _____ with the spring, _____ we'd go out to the farm about 3 miles north-east of town. But that was true with many people. I noticed that was traveling

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A. and some would go to Chicago you know and they'd meet these other trains up there.

Q. When did the trains run there?

A. They'd run all during the day. They had a miners trains like in the evenings you know and that was a beautiful site. When you see all and the lights _____ and the miner's cap you know. I could see that from our, we'd say oh there's the train, and the lights would just flicker you know. They'd come here and they'd unload and they'd all go up this hill. That's where we went, and then there was a hotel here I think, this big building. Let's see, you have it here?

Q. I don't think so.

A. But anyway, there was a hotel and dental office there. I think I got my teeth fixed there once, some colored doctor. What's this building? First School, where is that one?

Q. I don't know.

A. The 1st School, _____ that one.

Q. Does it look familiar?

A. It looks familiar, could be.

Q. Did they ever have a high school in Buxton while you were there?

A. No there was no high school that I recall, just a grade school. I think that's the reason I had to go to East Swedetown on account of the school to go you know. And then I had to go, I graduated in Buckneal. What's this another church? Swedish, it's a Swedish.

Q. And Methodist Church. Now this was in West Swedetown.

A. Yeah. _____ that was what must have been gone up the hill from the railroad track. That wasn't from the, it was down here further where the company store was and then bring all the coal here so they could service all the houses you know. Yeah they haul the coal to all the families. Not only that but to the farmers or whoever was there in the area, or else they have, they haul coal with the horses you know and wagons.

Q. Who did that, the company?

A. I don't recall whether the company did. Well the company supplied the coal for them.

Q. And the teamsters would bring it to your house?

A. Yes, you ordered your coal I know that.

Q. Oh yeah, these are just pictures of people.

A. Who is this? That house looks familiar to me.

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Q. Try and remember.

A. It looks like the John Thomas home and his wife Allie Thomas.

Q. I don't think that this identified for me. It's a nice home, isn't it?

A. Yes it was over in toward the west. No was it west, east. Yeah it was east. It looks something like the Thomas home but I'm not sure.

Q. See there was a drugstore, Thomas Drugstore, right?

A. Right.

Q. Back to the daily routine. You'd get home and you'd do these chores and then you'd eat. What would you do in the evenings?

A. Play cards.

Q. Play cards?

A. We'd play cards and play checkers and domino and things like that. Sat down with my father or whoever happened to be home and in those days in a lot of the homes we always had boarders, one or two men.

Q. Oh you did?

A. See men coming from the old country didn't have a place to stay and so they asked if they could stay at your home and they'd pay their board and all that.

Q. What were the names of the boarders your family had?

A. Well we had my father's brother.

Q. What was his name?

A. John Morris, they were stepbrothers.

Q. Okay, who else?

A. I'm trying to think of who else.

Q. What would your mother provide for these boarders?

A. Well just about what she provide for all of us. It was all eating you know whatever.

Q. Laundry?

A. Oh yeah you did the laundry.

Q. Okay and they'd eat with the family?

A. Oh yeah, _____

Q. What did your family do for entertainment on the weekends?

A. they'd come to Osculoosa. My uncle would bring us. He had one of these old foreign cars you know and he'd bring us over here to grandfather's here on the farm and we'd stay probably, we'd stay Saturday and come back Sunday. Friday night we always had

Q. Did you also go to church in Lavilla?

A. Just whenever we were able to go. Yeah that's where we went.

Q. Do you remember anything about the Slovak celebrations down there? Slovak people getting together.

A. Their weddings I remember. They were always colorful.

Q. What do you remember about the weddings?

A. Oh they just all out.

Q. How long would these weddings last?

A. 3 days.

Q. 3 days?

A. Saturday, Sunday and Monday.

Q. Saturday they would be married?

A. Yeah.

Q. Before noon?

A. Before noon.

Q. And then what would happen in the afternoon?

A. And then they'd start playing the music.

Q. What sort of music?

A. Oh everything that come from Europe cause most of them was from Europe you know, From Czechoslovakia.

Q. What sort of instruments do you remember?

A. Oh they had, my grandfather played a fiddle, a violin and the big they had that.

Q. You had a grandfather in Buxton too?

A. No he wasn't there, he lived here northeast of town

Q. Oh that's right, but he'd come down and play?

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- A. Oh he'd come down when they used to go play for different weddings, not only for you know different, yeah whoever was getting married they'd ask him to play the music, and boy they'd really play. The restaurant and everything was closed. More liquor they had the better they played.
- Q. Would the celebration go on all night?
- A. Oh yeah, until a certain time.
- Q. Do you remember anything special about the celebrations? I've heard there would be an official host or hostess that would take the lead, for example the first one to dance with the bride.
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. Do you remember that?
- A. Yeah I remember that.
- Q. What was that called?
- A. I don't recall what it was called.
- Q. I've also heard that they would collect money at the table.
- A. Yeah they would collect money at the table or pin it on the bride.
- Q. Pin it on the bride?
- A. Yeah, pin it on her beautiful dress and the fellows take the money and \$1.00, \$5.00 and \$10.00.
- Q. That's the way they gave, instead of giving gifts _____
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Food. What else about those celebrations, anything else come to mine.
- A. Oh food. Food was the great thing they'd bake you know, all kind of bakery items.
- Q. What kinds of food did they have?
- A. Oh they'd have ham and all that kind for the meat dishes you know would be ham and whatever different ones would bring you know besides the bakery like all that