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A. Better called whe what's she's named. But now call her Lucy, we better call her Aunt Lucy. Aunt Lucy. We better not say no Lucy.

Q. Aunt Lucy.

A. Yes sir, Aunt Lucy. All the old people was "Aunt" and "Uncle." Whether it was kin or not.

Q. That was a way that you showed respect?

A. Yes sir, and my mother would say, "I better not hear you call none of them people by their names. They're your aunts and uncles. They be old enough to be your aunt and uncle." One time I called my mother by her right name. And I never got such a whuppin' in my life!

Q. Is that right.

A. I was settin' there and I said to my sister, "Ella don't want to go so and so." Mama said, "What did I hear you say?" I said, "Nothin' Mama." And my sister said, "Yes, she did Mama. She called you Ella." That was my mother's name, Ella. She said, "Come here." And when I got up close to her she back-handed me, just right in my mouth. She said, "I hear you say it again...."

Q. You were supposed to call her Mother or Mama?

A. Mother or Mama. After we kids got older we called her Bebe for Baby.

A. Uh-huh.

A. We named her Bebe. We called her Bebe for Baby. When my brothers and sisters wasn't here, we come home we called, "Mom." But when we was all here at home we called her Bebe.

Q. I see. Is this the part that records?

It's going.

Soundwise, should we turn that a little closer?

No, it's right here.

Q. When did your mother and dad come to Buxton, what year? Do you remember?

A. 1889.

- Q. They came from Muchy then?
- A. They came to Muchy and then come to Buxton. And the year that I was born they brought me to Buxton. I was born in 1899.
- Q. Where did your parents come from then?
- A. Virginia.
- Q. Do you know the town in Virginia?
- A. Yeah, my father was from Richmond and my mother is from Charlottesville. And when my father come out here he was 21 years old when he come to the state of Iowa. Well, my mother and my father married out here _____ have their child. My father thought he was comin' to a gold mine. He'd been down there in Virginia and he didn't know, he was just 21 years old. He thought he was comin' to a gold mine. Come to find out he was comin' to a coal mine.
- Q. Why did he come to Iowa?
- A. The man went down there that had the Muchy coal mines. And gathered up all them young boys and young men and brought 'em out here for to dig coal. My father couldn't read or write. He didn't know his name when he seen it. He was just out of school...he never went to school. All he knew was to work on a farm down there. And they came down there and gathered up all of them, my father and my mother and they brought all of them people out here, they brought the young women out here to work for different people.
- Q. That's interesting. They recruited both men and women.
- A. Yeah, men and women. My mother's brother and my father, my mother, my aunt, they all come out here and they married in Oskaloosa. They married in Oskaloosa.
- Q. Do you remember your mother's maiden name?
- A. Yeah, Fry. F-r-y.
- Q. How old was she then?
- A. 18
- Q. 18 years old.
- A. She was 18 years old when she come out here to the state. And all of us, we never knowd anything about Virginia or anything, 'cause we never been, we was all born out here. My mother had five. All the rest of us was born in _____. And was five of 'em born in Buxton. She brought me there; I was the baby when she come to Buxton. Had me in a market basket like women carries children on them little things. Well, my mother had me in a market basket. That was my cradle. She had me in that market basket when we come to Buxton. We moved

- A. (cont'd.) to Buxton. They transferred my father from Muchakinock over to Buxton. I think he worked in No. 11 coal mine. Oh, there was so many of them here that worked with my father that they gone on.
- Q. Uh-huh.
- A. That worked in the coal mine, No. 11 and No. 13. In the coal mine camp. When they work out they put them in another room. No. 13, when my father first come he was in No. 11. And then after No. 11 worked out they put him in No. 13. I 'member just as well when my father used to come up. I'd see the train comin' in, they'd have about 15 or 20 coaches bringin' in the miners from No. 13. Oh, I'd run and meet that train. I'd get the dinner bucket. He'd take a piece of bread to the mine and bring it back and I'd get the dinner bucket to get that piece of bread.
- Q. He was bringing you something back?
- A. Bringing something back. I'd go in there when Mama was fixin' his breakfast. I'd take a biscuit -- like Mama baked biscuits. We didn't know anything about light bread or anything like that. When she baked bixcuits and corn -- well, she baked light bread, we didn't have boughten light bread. She baked biscuits and cornbread all the time. My father didn't like no light bread at all. He called it wasp's nest. He didn't like no light bread. He wanted Mama to bake him biscuits or cornbread. I'd take a big biscuit and put it in his dinner bucket. I said, "Papa, don't you bother my biscuit now. Here's my biscuit over here separated from you." I liked the taste of the coal dust on it.
- Q. It would have a distinct taste after being in the mine?
- A. Yeah, after goin' down in the mine and it kinda tasted of the earth or somethin' and I'd run to meet him. I'd get the dinner bucket and sometimes my brother would say, "I'm gonna get Papa's bucket tonight." I'd say, "No you ain't neither 'cause my biscuit's in there."
- Q. Now what was your father's name then?
- A. Bradley? Yeah that was my maiden name.
- Q. Hello, there.
- A. That's my husband.
- Q. How do you do.
- A. He's 83 years old.
- Q. Very good.
- A. Just three.

Q. His first name was Bradley? And his last name was Tandy?

A. His first name was Tandy Bradley. My mother's name was Ella B. Francis Fry. That was her maiden name. But my maiden name was Bradley. I been married 65 years. We married in 1916.

Q. In Buxton?

A. No, we married here. We went back after our celebration to my own town. We hired a horse and buggy to carry us around. We went down there and my older sister, she was livin' down there, and she had just married and she was only 14 when she married. And she had ten children. And so we went down there. We was married in her house down there in the coal mine camp. That was in 1916, and then we come back home. Well, when we come home, well, when we come home. Well, I was just a kid, I didn't know. I didn't think. I didn't know that men and women had to live together. I told him "You go home." My mother cut in with, "Well, you married him, didn't you?" I said, "Yes, Rev. Palmer." His boy lives right up here on McCormick's _____. He married us and so when we got back home, I told Mama "I ain't pullin' my clothes off and goin' to bed with no man seein' me." Mama said, "Well, you married that man." I said, "No ma'm, he goin' home." I run him home. I didn't know when they married they had to live together. I didn't know about that 'cause I lived in a coal mining camp and lived out in the country.

Q. Oh, your home was out in the country?

A. No, we lived right in town. We lived right next to the store. The Company Store.

Q. And you say your mother had how many children?

A. 17.

Q. How in the world did you have 17 children in those little bitty houses?

A. We had five rooms. We had two rooms upstairs and three down. And we all lived in there. I'm tellin' you the truth. We got along better than some of these people I see got two children.

Q. I can appreciate that.

A. My father worked in the mine and I seen him many a day, my mother and father both settin' at the table in the kitchen havin' a conference. They's hold a conference 'bout the bills and things. I seen them many a day, my father didn't draw a nickle; he drew a snake when they come to give him his pay. He done have everything in the Company Store.

Q. When you say that he drew a snake?

A. Yeah, they called it a rib --

- Q. That means he's drawn out all his money?
What was, a sheet of paper? You called it a snake?
- A. Just a red streak across a sheet of paper and that was his statement. His statement has that line across and it looked like a snake and they called it a snake. And he'd done took up everything he had earned through the Company Store. Mama'd have to go down and buy us clothes and she wouldn't buy us clothes, she'd buy bolts of goods.
- Q. And she'd do all the sewing?
- A. All the sewin'. All the girls had dresses alike, the boys had shirts alike. Oh, I used to get so mad.
- Q. But how did she find time to do all that sewing?
- A. Oh, girl, Mama used to set up nights. On Saturday night she'd set up all night long so we'd have new things to wear to Sunday school. Make the boys shirts and us girls dresses and she'd take flour sacks and make us underclothes out of them; the man down to the Company Store, he'd save her all the flour sacks that he'd have. You know, like they'd come in and they'd but the flour in big barrels and he'd shake the sacks out and stack them up and save these for Sister Bradley. And Mama would go down there and she'd have a stack that high of flour sacks. When the wind blow I'd have more Pillsbury Best across my pants. My pants would be Pillsbury pants, and little body waists. And when the wind blows you'd see nothin' but them XXX's on Pillsbury Best.
- Q. Did they talk any about the Company Store? Did they think they treated them fairly?
- A. Well, I don't know whether my mother said they thought they treated them fair because after all, at that time, you could get a pound of beans for a nickle. And things like that. Well, Papa would get 50 pounds. My Mama and my Papa never did buy no stuff like we buy -- 2-3 pounds like that. They never bought nothin' like that. They go down and they buy two 50 pound sacks of flour. They'd buy a whole slab, about two slabs of bacon.
- Q. How would they keep the bacon, though?
- A. They had a old time ice boxes that they made and sink 'em -- like they had a well -- they'd sink 'em. Oh, they'd make a hole about like that and they'd be a wooden box and they'd put it down in that hole. And they'd fasten it up. They had these big weights to fasten it up. It stayed just like ice down in there. That's where they kept their meat and Mama used to put down -- Papa, on Saturday and Sunday he didn't work in the coal mine. He'd take his gun and go huntin'. He'd come in with rabbit, squirrels and Mama would clean them and she'd put them down in brine. Mother used to have -- they'd get these little barrels. Papa used to get them down at the store, and they's a little barrel oh, about like that. It stood about like that, them little wooden barrels. Mama would clean them out good. I seen her put down sometimes 15-20 rabbits, down in that brine. Then she'd put greens, she'd put them down in that brine.

Q. Mustard greens?

A. And when we'd have garden, she'd have some heads of cabbage. She'd make us go out there when time come, go out there and pull them cabbage up and we'd turn 'em up on their heads. We'd dig a big hole first and then put dry straw and everything in this hole. Then we'd turn them cabbage heads upside down in that hole and bury them.

Q. Bury them? And that's how you kept them?

A. That's how you kept 'em. And when winter time, November and December, Mama want cabbage, she'd leave a little space where we could dig to get some up. Pull that straw back and it would be just as clean when we put 'em in there.

Q. And they weren't frozen?

A. No. They never froze. And she all those sweet potatoes.

Q. The same way?

A. The same way. Put a little straw and stuff in there in the hole and bury them. That's the way we had them. And I tell you my folks got along better than some of these people I see got two and three kids and they had seventeen. And when my father passed he left my mother with fourteen of us.

Q. How old was your father when he died?

A. 54. Yes, he was 54 years old when he passed and he left my mother with 14 and my mother had to work like night and day taking care of all of us and she worked and she didn't get but \$10 a week cookin' at a hotel right down here in Knoxville. After my father passed we moved to Knoxville and Mrs. Parson, that was Mrs. Parson, she was the hotel woman, she had the big hotel there and she hired Mother and after all the meals she said, "Mrs. Bradley, everything that's left over, you put it in a basket and take it to your children." And we didn't go hungry, or nary a thing then. And then there was another old man there, he had property like mad down in Knoxville. Mr. Leekey, he give Mama a house to live in for \$5 a month. We all of us stayed -- there was 6, 7 rooms in that house. I see my mother walk from Knoxville down to this coal mining camp in _____. It was three miles and a half from Knoxville. All of us kids lived down there 'cause Mr. Leekey give my mother the house and my mother cooked up at Knoxville at the hotel. I see her walk on many a day and when she got home her clothes were froze up to here; in the winter time, and she'd have baskets on her arm. I see people now, I just set and shut my eyes when I see people like you, and see kids up and down the street. We wasn't allowed after eight o'clock at night,

But these children, you see them out at 12:00, 1:00, 2:00 o'clock. At that time you didn't know nothin' about children killin' and stealin' and carryin' on like that. My mother used to say, "You pick up anything, and they don't

- A. (cont'd.) belong to you and let 'em come and tell me about it, I'm gonna kill you almost." We didn't pick up nothin' either.
- Q. To go back to something you mentioned earlier, you said that your father thought he was coming to a gold mine.
- A. He though he was going to dig gold.
- Q. Now he hadn't done any mining then before he came to Iowa?
- A. No, he was just a field boy -- worked on a farm.
- Q. Did he have any trouble getting adjusted to working in the mines?
- A. No, he didn't have no trouble at all. He just done what they wanted him to do. Probably just done what they wanted him to do and he didn't have no trouble at all. Only thing was, he just couldn't write his name and then after we got, we learned our A, B, Cs we learned him one thing -- how to print his name: Tandy. And Bradley. We learned him how to print it. After he learned that, he runned us away from him.
- Q. That was enough, huh?
- A. He didn't want no more. He said, "You all just get on away from me and work. Get off. Get on." I said, "Well Papa, you ain't printin' right. There's a 'T' there." He said, "Okay," and go along for awhile. I said "T-a after the 'u'? M. After 'd'? y. Now, we goin' to start over." "No you aint. You get away from here." But he did learn how to print his name and that's all he learned how to read. I'm telling you, if anybody set down and read him the Bible, he could read it back to you just like he read it.
- Q. Now, he mined coal. He actually dug the coal?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. He was a coal miner in a room where he
- A. Yeah, he had a partner. Mr. Jones was his partner. Him and Mr. Jones worked together in the coal mine. But I can't remember his name.
- Q. Was he ever injured at any time?
- A. My father was injured. When he was a young man he got hurt. He broke his leg. And it . He wouldn't let them set it. And they called him "Up and Down." And they walked.
- Q. Why wouldn't he? Do you know why?

- A. He just didn't want no doctor. Papa never did want no doctor; he didn't want to see no doctor, whatever. And he would not let 'em set his leg. And it growed one shorter than the other. And they called him UP and Down.
- Q. They called him Up and Down?
- A. They called him Up and Down 'cause everytime he walked, he'd do like that. and he wouldn't let them set his leg and they called Papa Up and Down. When they called him that, Papa'd get so mad. _____ kick him off the train.
- Q. Apparently it didn't stop him though?
- A. Oh, no. As soon as he got well he went back in the mines. He was in the mine clear up until he passed.
- Q. So your family lived in Buxton until your father died then?
- A. Uh-huh.
- Q. And that would have been what year?
- A. 1911.
- Q. And you came down in 1899, so you were there --
- A. Um-hmm.
- Q. Do you remember going to school in Buxton?
- A. No, I didn't go to school. They -- I wasn't old -- they didn't take them in school at that age that they take them now. But my older sisters and all them went to school there. But my cousin, his daughter, Miss Pearl, was my sister's school teacher there. And I knew where the school houses and everything was but I wasn't old enough. They didn't put them in school until they was 8, 9 years old. They didn't put them in at 5, 6, like they do now. I wasn't in school until I think I was 10 ... I think I was goin' on 10 when I went to school and a woman by the name of Miss Campbell. She was our school teacher. We went there clear up until Papa died and when Papa died we moved ... up to another coal mining town _____. Well, you had to come to Flagler to get to Hawkeye. Coal mining camp.
- Q. And you moved so you had a place to live?
- A. Yeah, my mother and them would have a place to live.
- Q. Was this just a family friend that helped you get the house then? Or was it someone connected with the coal mine that helped you?
- A. Well, the man connected with the coal mine, Mr. Ben Buxton, his name was. He had a man, his partner, had the mine up at Hawkeye. His name was Mr. Miser,

- A. (cont'd.) Dr. Miser. He was a doctor. He had the coal mine up in Hawkeye. So Ben Buxton knew him and he told him about my mother. And so he had her come up there.
- Q. And so that gave you a place to live.
- A. It gave us a place to live and go to school. They had one little school house -- one room and there was about 35 kids or 40 kids in it. All the Fraziers they moved up there, too, from Buxton. They moved up there, and the Frazier's kids, and Miss Proctors, all of them. The Fraziers and the Proctors -- and the Frazier boy and his father and the Frazier boy's mother were sister and brother. And Miss Fox had his aunt had, Miss Molly had six children. There was Bert, Les, Otis, Luce and Goldie. All us was raised up little bitty kids together.
- Q. Now, why did the Fraziers move?
- A. They transferred him up after Buxton commenced working down and working out. Old Man Frazier come, the mines commenced workin' out. They sent for him to work in the coal mine up there in Hawkeye.
- Q. Did they have a camp at Hawkeye?
- A. Oh, yeah. Company houses. Four-rooms. Four rooms is all they had at Hawkeye. My uncle, he moved up there and he had five kids. He moved up there. My uncle died up there. And so my aunt, she still stayed there until she moved up here. She moved to Des Moines after my uncle died. In 1912. She moved here in 1912. And left my mother down there. Well, we moved up here and I come before 'cause I worked for some people, I worked for them 22 years. I stayed right there and worked while I went to school.
- Q. In Hawkeye?
- A. Um-hmm. I was in Hawkeye, but I worked in Knoxville. Miss Britt, her name was. I'd get up and they'd come at me every morning. I'd have to go to school. Well, I'd go out to the house, feed the chickens, help him carry stuff down to the hogs and then they'd carry me to school.
- Q. And then they'd take you to school?
- A. Um-hmm. And then they'd carry me back home in the evenin' after they'd get me from school, I'd come by and do my work there at the house, and then they'd carry me home.
- Q. What kind of work would you do then, housework?
- A. No, chores out there, feedin' the chickens and the hogs and go and get the cows up for him to milk. And I'd carry buckets, great big buckets like them galvanized buckets full of corn down to feed the chickens. I don't get the corn to feed the hogs 'cause it's in the trough.

Q. So a lot of heavy work?

A. I'd almost be draggin'. But I stayed there. I says when I get grown I can get away from here.

Q. How old were you then when you started doing that?

A. 12.

Q. 12 years old, and how many hours would you estimate you worked every day?

A. Oh, I'd work about -- oh, they'd come at me about 6:30 in the morning and I'd carry my clothes and I'd be ready to go to school about a quarter to 9.

Q. So you'd work between those times?

A. Between them times, between 6:30 and 9 -- quarter to 9:00, I have to quit and go to school. And then when they come after me, she'd fix me a lunch and then they'd come after me at 3:30 in the evenin' after school and I work until 6 o'clock.

Q. That's a long, hard day.
How long did you go to school then?

A. Oh, I went to school about 'til I was 14. Down there. So then I come up here to Des Moines in -- I left there when I was 14 years old, when I left there. I left Miss Britt then and I come up here and I got with her sister and I worked for her sister 21 years.

Q. Did you live here then?

A. No, I lived at home here. With my aunt. But I worked for her 21 years. I worked for her 'til she passed. And then when she passed why the girl, she had two kids -- and I raised them. Right now, well, I just lost Lenore, the girl last year. The boy, he's a lawyer out at West Des Moines. With Farmer's Insurance. And he weighs about -- I told Jack, I said, "Jack, _____" He weighs about 200. I said "You don't think." I said, "I'll whip you boy, just like I whipped you then." And he just died laughing. So we have insurance with them. Out there. He's just like my family. When I was sick in the hospital, that girl, his sister, I lost her last year. His sister was right there at that hospital. Every day she worked at the Court House but whenever she got off from work she was over at the hospital. "Oh, Martha," she said, 'cause my name is Martha, she said, "Don't say nothin' like that. You know I'm gonna be here. I don't know -- look like Martha, don't you ever get lonely?" I said, "Yes, I get lonesome for my parents and I get lonesome for my sisters and brothers but I ain't got nothing. I have to be content." Have to be content. Ain't nobody but just me and him. He ain't got no _____ loss to his problem; they had nine children and they lost all of them but just him.

Q. So both of you are --

- A. Got no sisters and no brothers and no aunts, no uncles.
- Q. Now you have children?
- A. No. We don't have no children.
- Q. You don't have any children?
- A. I think my sister had enough for both of us.
- Q. What happened to your other brothers and sisters? Did any of them move to Des Moines?
- A. No. Well, there was eight of us come to Des Moines and they all passed. They're all out to Glendale except Ruth.
- Q. What work did they do?
- A. Oh, my sisters and brothers, when they had jobs, they had jobs. They didn't change jobs. They stayed with their jobs. My brother, he was a train porter for 32 years.
- Q. With the Rock Island?
- A. Uh-hmm. We went from here to Denver. And my other brother, he was a ball player -- with Satchel Paige.
- Q. Oh really?
- A. Um-hmm. My baby brother -- Satchel Paige come here and got him.
- Q. What was his first name, then?
- A. His name was Henry Bradley. And Satchel Paige come here and got him. He was a ball player. My mother only raised two boys. All of the rest of the boys, she had ten boys and seven girls, and all the rest of the boys passed. I don't know, seemed like they had measles and things happened when they were children.
- Q. My, she lost a lot of children.
- A. Oh, yeah, she lost a lot of children. They come call my mother, was that in 1918, they called my mother about they movin' the cemetery from _____ and they wanted to know if she wanted to have all her children moved -- what could she move except the handles of the casket. My mother said, "No, I ain't got that kind of money." She couldn't have moved nothing except the handles of the casket. So we went back down there to see. We went down to Buxton -- my uncle is buried in Buxton, out to Cricket. We went down there, we went over to _____ Do you know they took all the tomb stones and stacked them in the corner of the field and the field was waving in corn. The cemetery.

- Q. In other words, they just left the graves there and picked up the tomb stones and put them in the corner.
- A. They left the graves there and picked up the tombstones and put them in the corner just like you'd take a whole thing of bricks or something and pile it in the corner.
- Q. That's in Muchy?
- A. And when we got down there the whole cemetery's just wavin' in corn. Nothin' but a corn field. And when we went to Buxton, Crickets out at the cemetery there, it was wavin'.
- Q. With corn, too?
- A. Yep.
- Q. Did they do the same thing, did they move the stones?
- A. They did the same thing to Crickets, some Crickets. They had done the same thing. We went then to my aunt and paid my mother for my uncle's tomb stone. It had been there a long time, kinda leaned over, they found it and they stood it up and I think my aunt, I think she went back down there and got it. I don't know whether she went back down there, I'm gonna ask my cousin.
- Q. And brought the tombstone here then?
- A. Yeah, I think she got it and brought it here.
- Q. You know, there is a cemetery left at Buxton, though.
- A. Yeah, but it isn't out to where all the old Buxton people was put in.
- Q. Oh, there were two cemeteries?
- A. Uh-hmm.
- Q. Where is that map? Let's see if we can find....
Do you want to go get it, I think it's in the front seat of the car.
We've got a map that shows the streets in Buxton.
- A. We lived on First Street. Right up in front of the store. Like the store sets there and our house was just about as far as from here out to the alley.
- Q. Oh, well, we'll show you the map and you can show us on the map right where your house was. I meant to ask you, with all of this sickness and everything, did your mother go to the company doctor to have her babies, then?
- A. No, we had godmothers.

Q. Godmothers?

A. Old ladies that brought babies into the world.

Q. Like midwives?

A. Yeah, midwives. That's what they called Godmothers.

Q. And did other women you knew have babies that way, too?

A. Yeah, practically all of them. In the camp.

Q. Was this because they were more comfortable with that?

A. They didn't like doctors. They didn't have doctors there hardly. They didn't have but one doctor there and I know I heard my father and my mother talking about Dr. Nye. He was the only company doctor there.

Q. Was he a black man?

A. No. He was a white man.

Q. And they didn't really feel comfortable?

A. No, they didn't feel comfortable goin' with him so they had old ladies would bring the babies into the world. And we called them Godmothers.

Q. That's very interesting.

(The map was brought in.)

I think one of these up here was the Company Store but I'm not sure which building, but I think this is where the railroad line went through.

A. Burlington railroad line went through there.

Q. First Street, so your house would be one of those in there then?

A. Yeah.

Q. Do you remember? Did it have a number?

A. No, they didn't have no house numbers. They just had the houses in rows. But ours was on First Street.

Q. So it would be one of those then?

A. Uh-huh. One of these up here.

Q. Do you remember the YMCA?

A. Yep, it was catta-corner cross up the hill from us. We could sit and look at the YMCA.

Q. You could?

A. Um-hmm. Yeah, we could look at the YMCA and up on Gobbler's Knob --

Q. Where was Gobbler's Knob?
Was that also known as Sharp's End?

A. Yeah. Also Sharp End.

Q. It was the same name?

A. Yeah, Sharp End and Gobbler's Knob. Um-hmm. And Cricket's Town.

Q. Oh, Cricket's Town, that's a new one. We hadn't heard about Cricket's Town.

A. And Swede Town, and Cricket's was almost joinin' together. Gobbler's Knob was way up -- you had to go across a little foot bridge before the hill, way up on the hill. We used to go up there all the time and it wasn't nothin' but yellow clay -- mud when it rains. When it rained, boy, you had to pull, you get in that mud. Your shoes was left in there. In that yellow clay.

Q. You just stepped right out of your shoes?

A. You had to step out of the shoes to reach back and get them 'cause you couldn't pull them out with your foot.

That clay, that hard clay. I had a little gray pair of shoes on and went up there and they had -- my step sister, brother come in and brought her here, oh -- Charlie Tansey, that's it. Had to come up and pull me out.

Q. Actually pull you out of the mud?

A. Yeah, pull me out of the mud and left my shoes just in the mud.

Q. Oh, that's good.

A. I said that if people could live like that now, they'd be OK.

Q. You remember it then, as being a good place to live?

A. Oh, good place to live. If people could live like they lived then, they wouldn't have no trouble. Wouldn't be no robberies, no stealin', no nothin'. Very seldom you heard of a fight down there amongst the men, and the men, my

- A. (cont'd.) father, when we first moved down there, I heard my mother talk. She run my Papa out. My Papa would have his friends from the mine, when they'd come in from the mines on payday, he'd give Mama a quarter and they called it a demijug and it was a brown with a brown top on the bottom of it. We bought one and Papa would go to Oskaloosa and we'd give him the _____ full of liquor. Mama didn't like it in the house. He'd better go to the barn or go to the coal house or someplace. He better not lay around that house with it and let us see him drinkin', nothing like that. Oh, Mama used to say I'll break his neck if he comes in here with that stuff. Well, people at that time, they didn't know nothin' about, they'd drink pure corn whiskey. That's what it was. And they'd get it for 50¢ or a dollar for a gallon.
- Q. Oh, my.
- A. They'd have them big billy johns. It was a brown jug. Get that little jug -- see where my salt and pepper up there where that little old man settin' on that stool up there in that thing. That kinda jug. Only it was a big one.
- Q. I wanted to ask you more about the doctors, when you got sick then did you usually go to the doctor then?
- A. Yeah, my mother used _____ too. No, I don't want the man. I just want the billy john. That's what they called the billy john. Only it was a big jug like that, with a brown top to it. That's a salt and pepper but a real big jug like that. With a brown top to it.
- Q. Full of corn liquor.
- A. Yes, full of corn liquor. And him and his friends would take it and go to the barn or go to the hills. They'd go down round Crickets or someplace and go out in the woods and _____ on Saturday and Sunday. Out there with that stuff. He better come home sober. My mother would kill him if he didn't.
- Q. Do you remember, did they gamble any, too?
- A. Oh, God, I remember my father and my mother -- my mother didn't but my father did. I remember people used to come down there every pay day. Owen Watkins, Cole Cook, them was one -- they didn't work in the mine, just come down there to gamble to get them coal man's money.
- Q. Where would they come from?
- A. Come from up in here -- from Des Moines and around places.
- Q. Come down on pay day?

- A. Yeah, come down on pay days. Never see 'em 'till on pay days. After they win the people, the old man's money and all the old man's money, then they leave and you wouldn't see 'em no more until the next pay day. Mama used to tell about --. I knowed the man, one of the men since I got grown. He got killed right over then on _____ Park. Gamblin'. And Owen Watkins, he was way up in his 80s but he looked like a man about, course he never worked.
- Q. Why not, he wasn't down in the mine getting hurt or anything.
- A. No, he never work a day.