

Edwin Johnson, Born May 1906, Illinois

(0:02) Nineteenth of March 1986, and I'm sitting together with, Edwin Johnson, Illinois.

(0:08) He was born May 1906 in Sherrod, and it's today 03/19/1986

(0:18) Your parents, Carl Fredrick Johnson and Anna Berglund, they were from Sweden, and they came here.

(0:27) Yeah.

(0:28) About what time your dad came first?

(0:33) I think about 1898, I think, they come in when they built the They both came at the same time?

(0:40) No.

(0:40) He come first and built the house, then he sent for her.

(0:46) You don't know exactly where he comes from in Sweden?

(0:49) No.

(0:50) No.

(0:50) He never told you anything about No.

(0:53) Only, like you say, all these And it says Linköping on here Yeah.

(0:57) On the pictures.

(0:58) Could be.

(1:00) But I know they she always said she was a dark color.

(1:04) I remember that.

(1:04) Your mother?

(1:05) Yeah.

(1:05) So he sent for her after he came here?

(1:09) Yeah.

(1:10) Yeah.

(1:10) That's what the She came directly then from Sweden to Gerard.

(1:14) Yeah.

(1:15) And your dad, he came here first, did he come to any sisters or brothers or any kind of relation?

(1:24) No.

(1:25) That's we don't know any you know, whether what, you know, our relation.

(1:32) We don't know any of them.

(1:34) You never had any contact with any relation there?

(1:39) No.

(1:40) No.

(1:40) I don't know about you.

(1:41) So he came here on his own then?

(1:43) Yeah.

(1:44) And and he came to the coal mines.

(1:49) There was Yeah.

(1:50) When the coal mines were going.

(1:51) Mining.

(1:53) Was it strip mining?

(1:54) Or No.

(1:55) That mine was 200 feet deep.

(1:58) Oh, it was?

(1:59) Yeah.

(1:59) In Sherrod?

(2:00) Yeah.

(2:01) And it went all directions.

(2:06) And it got so far out that it cost too much to to bring it back, so they closed it.

(2:15) You know?

(2:16) Close it up?

(2:16) Yeah.

(2:17) What what what time did they close it up?

(2:20) In the 1910?

(2:22) No.

(2:25) 1918, I think, they closed it.

(2:28) '18?

(2:28) Yeah.

(2:29) So you remember the coal mines then?

(2:32) Oh, yeah.

(2:32) Yeah.

(2:32) I remember them.

(2:33) Do you remember dad going to work in the coal mines?

(2:36) Yeah.

(2:36) I remember when he come home dressed like that.

(2:39) With his large pail?

(2:40) Yeah.

(2:41) He come home with dirty clothes and I remember that.

(2:45) Oh, but you never went down in the coal mines.

(2:47) You know?

(2:47) No.

(2:48) I've never done.

(2:49) No.

(2:49) Oh, and there was this job then for for many years?

(2:54) Yeah.

(2:56) Fifteen, twenty years maybe he worked there.

(2:58) Yeah.

(2:58) He worked there quite a while.

(3:00) Yeah.

(3:00) And he built this house across the street there?

(3:05) Yeah.

(3:06) I got pictures of it too when I first built it and then when he added on.

(3:10) What year did he start to build it?

(3:12) 1900?

(3:14) Yeah.

(3:15) Must've been I don't know just what year.

(3:17) But When your mother came over from Yeah.

(3:22) Mhmm.

(3:22) Yeah.

(3:23) I got the picture.

(3:24) I'll show you later on then.

(3:25) Yeah.

(3:25) We can take a look at it.

(3:26) And were you the only son?

(3:28) No.

(3:29) I had I had one brother that died, and I think another sister died.

(3:36) Mhmm.

(3:37) Then I had two sisters and a brother.

(3:42) One sister got killed in Davenport.

(3:44) She got run over by a car, Marie.

(3:48) And then I had another sister, Lisa.

(3:53) She died in a home.

(3:57) She was diabetic.

(3:58) I see.

(4:00) Then my brother died here, oh, a couple years ago.

(4:05) He lived there after bought the place after my mother died, and his wife died, and then he went to Arizona, got married again.

(4:17) He had a couple strokes, and he died.

(4:20) So I'm the only one left of the one left.

(4:23) Yeah.

(4:23) So you you were about seven kids then if you all have lived.

(4:27) Yeah.

(4:28) I think we were.

(4:29) That's because we got a, like, a sister Elsie up here buried up here.

(4:39) Oh, so you're the only one left today?

(4:41) Yeah.

(4:42) Called Frederick Johnson?

(4:44) Yeah.

(4:44) I was the only one.

(4:45) Oh, and your dad, when did he die here?

(4:52) That's I was about 20, I think, when he does.

(4:57) I'm like that.

(4:58) So after they closed the mine now, what was your dad doing then?

(5:02) Did he go to another No.

(5:06) Mine?

(5:06) Or They were on welfare.

(5:08) I mean, Connie helped them.

(5:11) After they closed the mine down?

(5:12) Yeah.

(5:14) Because there was nothing, you know, nothing to do around here.

(5:18) So It was hard to get a job.

(5:19) Oh, yeah.

(5:20) He never farmed anything?

(5:22) No.

(5:23) He never did.

(5:23) Oh.

(5:26) So there were no unions at that time when your dad worked in the mine?

(5:30) Anybody can work?

(5:31) I mean, there was no union activities going on.

(5:35) Yeah.

(5:36) They he's got a ribbon there.

(5:38) He when the unions come.

(5:40) Oh, they they were in there.

(5:41) Yeah.

(5:42) I see.

(5:43) I got the I got the ribbon.

(5:45) Oh, I see.

(5:46) So he was belong to the coal miners union?

(5:50) Yeah.

(5:50) Uh-huh.

(5:53) So they got better conditions than I suppose after Yeah.

(5:56) I imagine.

(5:56) They got But before that, there was a rough time.

(5:59) Yeah.

(6:00) Did the coal company know who owned the coal mine?

(6:02) Was it a private ownership or was Coal Valley Mining Company.

(6:07) Coal Valley?

(6:08) Yeah.

(6:09) It's the same one that owned the cable?

(6:11) Yeah.

(6:11) They were on cable too.

(6:12) Area around there.

(6:14) Oh, did they had any company stores?

(6:16) Yeah.

(6:16) They had company stores.

(6:17) They had one here, and they had one in the cable.

(6:20) They had company houses too.

(6:22) You know?

(6:22) Oh.

(6:23) But your dad, he had his own.

(6:25) He had his own house.

(6:26) In other words, he didn't live on the company house.

(6:28) No.

(6:29) No.

(6:29) He had his own.

(6:30) He built a So the company houses, were they located right in Sherrod or Yeah.

(6:35) I think closer to the mine?

(6:36) Through the town, I guess.

(6:38) And there's nothing left of those?

(6:40) No.

(6:40) I don't think so.

(6:42) They're all gone?

(6:43) Yeah.

(6:45) So there were a couple of 100 workers then in that coal mine when it was going full steam, or how many was working in it, do you think?

(6:53) Yeah.

(6:53) I imagine someone was just that that was a big mine.

(6:57) Oh, and then when it closed down, it hit hard.

(7:00) And did people move out then?

(7:02) Or Yeah.

(7:03) They moved to houses and a lot of them.

(7:05) I see.

(7:07) And some of them went to the Quad Cities perhaps for for work.

(7:10) Or Yeah.

(7:11) They But at that time, it was too far for people to go to the Quad Cities to work.

(7:15) Oh, yeah.

(7:16) They didn't have a You had to move the whole family over there.

(7:19) Yeah.

(7:19) They didn't have the hard roads they got now.

(7:21) So your dad here, he didn't work too much then after they closed the market?

(7:28) No.

(7:28) No.

(7:29) He didn't.

(7:29) He got older and and your mother No.

(7:34) He was he was epileptic.

(7:36) You know?

(7:37) Oh, he was?

(7:38) Yeah.

(7:38) And he could still work in the in the mine?

(7:41) Yeah.

(7:41) He would he was my mother didn't know it till she got married, I guess, because he didn't get them that often.

(7:51) But now they got pills, you know, they can guarantee it, but here they So he got some attacks and more seldom or Yeah.

(8:00) Seldom.

(8:01) It wasn't very often, but I've seen him when he was home here.

(8:04) He get them once in a while.

(8:05) You know?

(8:05) But then he was alright after he was Oh, yeah.

(8:09) Yeah.

(8:12) But it must be hard to work out in the mine if you Yeah.

(8:15) Well, he got by.

(8:16) I don't know.

(8:17) So how many loads are told cold could they break out in the day on the when they were working full shift?

(8:29) They worked eight ten hours a day or eight hours?

(8:33) Eight hours a day.

(8:34) Eight hours a day.

(8:35) Yeah.

(8:35) Two.

(8:36) Yeah.

(8:37) Between seven fifty and a thousand ton a day.

(8:42) Oh, that's a pretty good chunk of coal.

(8:45) Mhmm.

(8:45) And it was soft coal then?

(8:47) Yeah.

(8:47) It was soft coal.

(8:48) Yeah.

(8:48) Also So it was for factories and heating and Yeah.

(8:52) Shipped out?

(8:53) Yeah.

(8:54) It was shipped out in rail cars.

(8:56) To the island?

(8:58) Other parts of the country.

(9:00) And then they went up with wagons and got it to a lot of farmers, got it for the round here.

(9:09) Yeah.

(9:09) So every house was heated in by soft coal?

(9:13) Yeah.

(9:13) Coal and wood around here.

(9:15) Yeah.

(9:15) So there was you didn't use any kind of stalkers, you know, with the small pellets or anything like that?

(9:21) There was No.

(9:21) Not them days.

(9:22) No.

(9:22) We had heaters Heaters.

(9:24) And cold stoves.

(9:26) Oh, and you you used big chunks then?

(9:28) Do you remember carrying in the coal to the stove?

(9:32) Yeah.

(9:33) We had a big heater in the bedroom and a cook stove in the kitchen.

(9:37) And then you had a, like, a barn for the coal or a shed?

(9:42) Or Yeah.

(9:43) We had a shed out in the back for for coal.

(9:47) Was that covered in the wintertime, the coal, or was it just in the open outside?

(9:51) Or No.

(9:52) We had a coal.

(9:53) It was shed.

(9:54) How about the basements in the house in those days?

(9:58) Did they have that?

(10:00) Well, when I was a kid, we'd they had basements.

(10:03) Some of them had their coal in the basement, but where we lived, we had a shed out in the back.

(10:10) Oh, and it was carried in in in pails.

(10:12) Yeah.

(10:13) Cold pails.

(10:13) I got a cold pail out there.

(10:15) Oh, good.

(10:16) Yeah.

(10:16) Now you saved a lot of stuff from the old time.

(10:19) Yeah.

(10:19) I got a lot of antique stuff.

(10:21) When did you get the habit?

(10:22) Did did your father collect anything in No.

(10:24) He was living?

(10:25) Or No.

(10:26) I've been collecting antiques since about, oh, about 1930, I guess, something like that.

(10:34) There was plenty of it in the Oh, yeah.

(10:36) You get them cheap then.

(10:37) But Get to the auctions.

(10:38) Auctions, farm sales, and And and those things were not modern, and so people just threw them out.

(10:44) Threw them away them days, but go to antique shows now, Hawaii.

(10:49) Oh, yeah.

(10:49) They want a fortune.

(10:50) 100% money.

(10:51) Yeah.

(10:51) There is one thing you have in there that's probably one of the most expensive items, the the Harpers Valley or Harpers Ferry.

(10:59) Harpers Ferry rifle.

(11:00) Yeah.

(11:00) How do you get that one?

(11:01) It's really a price gun.

(11:04) It's hard to see.

(11:06) I mean, I I don't think I see more than a and a few of them.

(11:10) No.

(11:10) That 1844.

(11:12) That goes way back.

(11:13) 1844?

(11:14) Yeah.

(11:15) And they ended up with your brother-in-law, you said?

(11:18) Brother-in-law.

(11:19) Yeah.

(11:19) He was also a collector.

(11:21) No.

(11:21) He he got them someplace.

(11:23) I don't know where he got them.

(11:24) But He got a whole slew of them.

(11:27) Yeah.

(11:28) He was an alcoholic, and he that's about thirty five years ago.

(11:36) He said, well, give me \$3 for these.

(11:38) There was a whole slew of them.

(11:39) Yeah.

(11:40) There's seven of them altogether.

(11:43) So And I said, sure.

(11:45) You took it there.

(11:46) So anyone bought a bottle of wine.

(11:48) And He was happy anyway.

(11:51) He was happy.

(11:52) I was happy, of course.

(11:55) I still got the guns.

(11:57) And you also collected fossils and arrowheads in this from this area?

(12:01) Around this area.

(12:02) Yeah.

(12:02) Mississippi.

(12:03) The ditches and underground.

(12:05) Mississippi.

(12:06) So when you were a young boy then, did you go around and poking for things in the dirt and Yeah.

(12:12) Me and my brother-in-law used to go used to go around.

(12:15) Oh, your brother-in-law, now he was of German descent?

(12:19) No.

(12:20) McLaughlin.

(12:21) He's Oh, that was your sister's husband?

(12:25) Yeah.

(12:25) I see.

(12:27) But you married a German?

(12:31) You married a a German girl that Yeah.

(12:34) She was born in Moline, but her folks were German.

(12:37) They moved to Sherard?

(12:39) Yeah.

(12:39) During the depression.

(12:40) In the thirties?

(12:42) Yeah.

(12:42) I mean My dad walked the streets in the West Street.

(12:44) He could not find a job, and he thought if we got a farm, we'd have our food, you know
Yes.

(12:51) To eat.

(12:53) Do you remember that in the the depression when I was hard?

(12:57) Oh, yeah.

(12:57) Oh, yeah.

(13:00) Yep.

(13:01) I sure do.

(13:04) So your father and missus Johnson, he was out of work in in Moline.

(13:09) Yes.

(13:09) He worked been working?

(13:13) We he worked in Mutual Wheel Company in Moline.

(13:17) Oh.

(13:17) Yeah.

(13:18) He worked there.

(13:19) Was he a blacksmith?

(13:20) Or No.

(13:21) Just a workman.

(13:22) Just a workman.

(13:23) And then he was laid off then.

(13:24) Yeah.

(13:25) That's when they made wooden wooden wheels for For buggies and Oh, I see.

(13:32) You know?

(13:32) He worked there twenty five years.

(13:34) Yeah.

(13:35) Got broke.

(13:36) Mhmm.

(13:38) And he was out of work.

(13:39) Yeah.

(13:40) And he was out of work.

(13:41) He never got no pension or nothing.

(13:43) Mhmm.

(13:44) He How did he come to ID, you know, to move to Sherrod?

(13:46) He wanted a farm or a small He he thought if we if he could have a farm, we'd have our butter and our eggs, our chickens.

(13:55) You know?

(13:56) And my mother's mother lend us the money for the farm.

(14:01) Mother, of course, we wouldn't we didn't have nothing.

(14:03) You know?

(14:04) Uh-huh.

(14:05) And he got twenty three three acres then right here in Sherrod.

(14:11) Got what?

(14:12) 23 acres, you said.

(14:14) Yeah.

(14:14) Right down the line.

(14:15) Right down the line here.

(14:16) Mhmm.

(14:16) Mhmm.

(14:16) Apple orchard.

(14:17) Yeah.

(14:18) Mhmm.

(14:18) But it was also already an orchard on it?

(14:20) Oh, yeah.

(14:21) Mhmm.

(14:22) My sister and her husband live on it now.

(14:26) Uh-huh.

(14:26) Uh-huh.

(14:27) So he could make his living then and feed the family and Oh, yeah.

(14:30) Many children were you?

(14:33) Two.

(14:34) How many children?

(14:34) Two kids.

(14:37) Yeah.

(14:38) Just you and Helen.

(14:39) Yeah.

(14:39) That's all.

(14:40) Just me and my sister.

(14:42) I'm the oldest.

(14:45) Yeah.

(14:45) So you stayed there also then and and your sister?

(14:48) Oh, yeah.

(14:49) And then you found Edwin.

(14:52) Yeah.

(14:52) How did you bounce into him there?

(14:54) Do you go to the same church?

(14:55) Or no.

(14:58) There was a German church in here, wasn't it?

(15:00) His niece, went out, lived Yeah.

(15:03) Lived with with them over there.

(15:06) And, of course, I got I went got acquainted with her.

(15:10) And we went to church together and different, you know, things.

(15:14) And and I'd go over there, and he'd walk me home.

(15:20) Oh, I see.

(15:21) Well, that's the way it started.

(15:22) That's the way it started.

(15:23) Because you didn't go to the same church.

(15:25) Are you did you go to the Lutheran church?

(15:27) Yeah.

(15:28) The Swedish people?

(15:29) I joined after we was married.

(15:32) And how about your parents now, Edwin?

(15:35) They belong to the Swedish Lutheran Church.

(15:38) No.

(15:38) They didn't they didn't belong to any church at all.

(15:41) Oh, they didn't?

(15:42) No.

(15:43) Oh.

(15:43) So you were not baptized then in Yeah.

(15:47) I baptized at Lutheran Church.

(15:48) The Lutheran Church, but you didn't belong to it?

(15:50) No.

(15:50) Oh, I confirmed I married her.

(15:52) So Did you were you confirmed No.

(15:56) At the Lutheran Church?

(15:57) No.

(15:58) No.

(15:58) No?

(15:59) And you belong to the German Lutheran Church?

(16:02) Well, I don't know if it's called German Lutheran Church.

(16:05) It's Swedish Swedish Lutheran Church.

(16:07) Oh, and your parents belong to that one too?

(16:10) My parents didn't belong to any church.

(16:14) Because I I understand there was a German Lutheran church here once upon a time.

(16:18) Yeah.

(16:18) I guess there was, wasn't there?

(16:19) So there were more German families around.

(16:23) Well, I think it's a toss-up.

(16:26) I mean, lot of a lot of Germans and a lot of Swedes.

(16:30) Oh, I see.

(16:31) Wasn't it?

(16:31) Yeah.

(16:32) But if you Mhmm.

(16:34) But you you couldn't find any German boys, so you took a Swede.

(16:42) Well, his how we got acquainted was His wife?

(16:46) With his niece.

(16:48) Uh-huh.

(16:48) His niece lived over there too.

(16:50) He got into the habit of walking home every night.

(16:52) Yeah.

(16:53) Yeah.

(16:53) And you've been together now for forty nine years.

(16:56) October will be forty nine.

(16:57) Forty nine years.

(16:58) Yeah.

(16:59) It's a long time.

(16:59) Well, it won't won't be long before we'll be celebrating our fiftieth anniversary.

(17:03) We celebrated our twenty fifth anniversary, didn't we?

(17:09) Mhmm.

(17:10) And who are you now started with this collecting things?

(17:14) Edwin, he has a lot of rifles and Oh, you mean names?

(17:18) You mean dolls?

(17:19) No.

(17:19) You yes.

(17:20) The doll section, I suppose, is yours.

(17:21) He didn't start to collect dolls.

(17:23) Mhmm.

(17:23) No.

(17:24) The dolls are mine.

(17:25) Dolls and the roosters.

(17:26) Yeah.

(17:27) Right.

(17:28) Mhmm.

(17:28) How did they come about?

(17:32) Well, the dolls, I imagine, would be through our daughter.

(17:37) You know, she had dolls.

(17:39) And then, of course Yeah.

(17:40) But you have several thousands in here.

(17:42) Yeah.

(17:42) Well, I just kept going.

(17:45) They couldn't stop.

(17:48) And they all seem to be different, though.

(17:50) How do you know when you when you see one, you don't have it before?

(17:53) I don't know.

(17:56) You must have a computer mind.

(17:57) You know exactly what you look for.

(18:00) Well, I tell I tell you.

(18:01) Now when you go to buy those things, they're so high priced that I just don't I've got enough dolls here to make me happy, I guess you would say Yes.

(18:15) Without getting any more.

(18:17) I mean, for the way the price is.

(18:19) You have stuff now and Yeah.

(18:21) Than bought more stuff?

(18:22) Oh, yeah.

(18:24) Oh, yeah.

(18:24) You never traded with anybody?

(18:25) No.

(18:26) You don't want to No.

(18:28) Release one from the collection?

(18:30) No.

(18:32) I see.

(18:33) We always went.

(18:35) If there was a sale any place, we never missed it.

(18:39) And they won't get them Yeah.

(18:41) And if they had anything, why You can get them reasonable there at the sales.

(18:44) Yeah.

(18:45) So your children you have one daughter.

(18:48) Just one daughter.

(18:49) Yeah.

(18:50) But you have several grandchildren, of course.

(18:52) Yeah.

(18:52) They have a heyday then when you visit the grandma.

(18:56) They must have a heyday when they visit grandma with all those dogs and and the boy, of course, with the guns.

(19:02) I said to our daughter once, I said, look at k is her name.

(19:06) Look at all this here will be yours someday.

(19:09) And you know what she said?

(19:11) Mother, I don't want it.

(19:13) She doesn't want it.

(19:14) But she'll change her mind.

(19:15) She changed her mind.

(19:18) Well, she don't want it because she's why doesn't she want Well, she just didn't want to losing her.

(19:26) That's why.

(19:26) So you keep them in a in a safe place Oh, yeah.

(19:31) Until she is ready.

(19:32) And you have so many other grandchildren.

(19:34) Oh, you had oh, she has one of them that said this.

(19:36) Well, great grandchildren.

(19:38) Yes.

(19:38) See?

(19:39) We had just had the one daughter, and she gave us four.

(19:43) Children.

(19:44) She gave us four, wasn't Yeah.

(19:47) Yeah.

(19:47) She had twins, twin girls, Kathy and Kelly, and then she had Melissa, and then she had

Troy.

(19:57) And I said to her, I don't know about you, but I can't afford anymore.

(20:01) So she quit.

(20:06) And then, of course, we have one that one little great granddaughter, you know.

(20:10) One of the granddaughters have a little girl.

(20:17) So you married then in 1930?

(20:20) You've been married before.

(20:21) '7.

(20:22) '37.

(20:23) And Mhmm.

(20:24) Mhmm.

(20:25) We celebrate anniversaries.

(20:27) 1925.

(20:29) Mhmm.

(20:29) Open house.

(20:30) Open house.

(20:31) Oh, 2025 anniversary.

(20:33) Yes.

(20:34) Mhmm.

(20:34) So he he was already working at John Deere's then, your husband, when you met him.

(20:42) Yeah.

(20:43) Yeah.

(20:43) He was working he yeah.

(20:45) He was working at John Deere.

(20:46) You started in 1925, you said?

(20:48) Yeah.

(20:48) Started in 1925.

(20:50) Uh-huh.

(20:50) So you never had another job then.

(20:52) You started it right away at Jandair?

(20:54) I was 16 years old when I started it.

(20:56) At Jandair?

(20:57) Yeah.

(20:58) Did you live in Molina at that time, or how could you travel back and forth?

(21:02) I lived with my brother.

(21:05) See, I lived with my brother.

(21:08) So you live with your brother?

(21:10) What was his name?

(21:11) Carl.

(21:12) Carl.

(21:13) Was he already working up in the core cities or at Yeah.

(21:16) He worked for John Deere before I did.

(21:20) He had forty two years too.

(21:22) Was he a blacksmith?

(21:23) Or No.

(21:24) He worked assembly.

(21:25) Assembly?

(21:26) Yeah.

(21:26) Mhmm.

(21:27) So he said that there was a good way for you to find employment too then.

(21:31) Yeah.

(21:31) He told him about me, and I went in.

(21:33) And what was your first job then as a 16 year old boy to I was a dye cleaner.

(21:43) I lasted one day.

(21:44) One day?

(21:45) Yeah.

(21:46) What happened?

(21:47) I wasn't fast enough.

(21:49) See, they they was dropping plow fires.

(21:53) You know?

(21:55) That big die come down, and I was standing behind there and clean off the die.

(22:02) And I wasn't clean fast enough to get that dye cleaned off till we get got ready for another one, see.

(22:12) So I lasted one day.

(22:14) They sent me home.

(22:17) They told me to come back the next day.

(22:21) So I come back the next day, and they put me in another department with an old sweet fellow, Teddy Falk.

(22:30) And that was in a down the basement.

(22:35) So there, I stayed down there for twenty years.

(22:41) Twenty years.

(22:42) Yeah.

(22:42) What were you doing then?

(22:43) Was that different Different I run a riveter, and then I made the calibrated plows, you know, cultivators for Was that piecework?

(22:58) Yeah.

(22:58) It was all piecework.

(22:59) Yeah.

(22:59) And no union at that time?

(23:01) No.

(23:01) There's no union at that time.

(23:03) Were you paid then?

(23:03) 30¢ an hour?

(23:05) When I first started, I made 27¢ an hour when I first started there.

(23:10) Ten hour workday?

(23:13) Eight hours.

(23:14) Eight hours?

(23:14) Yeah.

(23:15) And half Saturday.

(23:18) What?

(23:18) You work half Saturday too?

(23:20) Yeah.

(23:21) Sometimes half Saturdays.

(23:24) This cleaning of the dye, that was a tough job.

(23:26) Yeah.

(23:27) It was hot.

(23:28) Hot?

(23:29) Because they put that And you gotta do it fast.

(23:31) Yeah.

(23:32) That air and another iron rod, you know, to clean that scale off of the So it didn't stick to the next And they had to get it out of the furnace and get it on there, you know, and then that big thing dropped down on it.

(23:50) You know?

(23:51) And, of course, them guys have been doing it for years, and they was I was a greenhorn.

(23:57) Kid's 16 years old.

(23:58) I didn't know much about it.

(24:01) So what do you thought then?

(24:03) I mean, were you ready to go back to Chelard again?

(24:06) Or About that time, I was.

(24:11) But this old Swede, he was a pretty nice guy.

(24:16) Were you able to understand Swedish at that time or speak it?

(24:20) Yeah.

(24:20) Pretty well.

(24:21) Good.

(24:21) My folks you know?

(24:22) They use Swedish?

(24:23) Yeah.

(24:23) They Most of the time?

(24:25) Well, quite a bit of the time.

(24:27) Yeah.

(24:28) When they talk to in their house, for instance, do they talk Swedish?

(24:31) Yeah.

(24:31) My dad, he he used to snuff, but he snuffed it up his nose.

(24:38) Well, he didn't put the on their lip?

(24:40) No.

(24:40) He he snuffed it up his nose.

(24:43) Then he was sneezing?

(24:45) No.

(24:45) He didn't sneeze.

(24:46) He never snore.

(24:47) Sneezed.

(24:48) I don't see how he got off.

(24:50) I remember every time he'd meet a Swede, why I'd come in that snuff box.

(24:57) You know?

(24:57) They'd hit it like that.

(25:00) So that's why you have so many snuff boxes in your collection.

(25:03) No?

(25:05) I There've been a lot of snuff boxes around shit all day.

(25:08) Yeah.

(25:08) He bought it by the quart jar.

(25:11) And filled it on there on his In his box.

(25:13) Yeah.

(25:13) I see.

(25:14) And they had it in the pocket.

(25:16) Yeah.

(25:16) So they couldn't smoke down in the in the mine, I suppose.

(25:19) No.

(25:19) I suppose not.

(25:20) No.

(25:20) So they had But he always snuffed it up his nose.

(25:24) You know?

(25:26) Did most of the fellas do that?

(25:28) No.

(25:29) I don't remember any other doing that.

(25:30) Nobody was smoking?

(25:32) No.

(25:32) I didn't see so much smoking.

(25:34) There's a lot of it's snuff or tobacco.

(25:38) Like your generation, now did they start to smoke cigarettes and and pipe?

(25:44) Or Well, I was I rode downtown.

(25:49) I run around with five guys.

(25:52) There was only one in knife five that smoked.

(25:57) I never smoked in my life.

(25:58) Oh, no snuff either?

(26:00) No.

(26:01) Nothing there I tried snuff once and I got so sick.

(26:06) It cured it.

(26:06) That cured me.

(26:07) Well, when you were born here, this was a bustling town of almost thousand people in the living here.

(26:15) Yeah.

(26:15) Yeah.

(26:16) It was And then it dwindled on because they shut the mine down Yeah.

(26:19) In the 1918, you said, '19 in twenties.

(26:23) And then the houses were standing empty.

(26:25) In other words, they couldn't they just moved away people.

(26:28) Yeah.

(26:28) They moved away.

(26:29) And Do you remember the Opera House?

(26:32) Oh, yeah.

(26:33) Yeah.

(26:34) I remember they had silent movies in there and had dances above.

(26:39) Oh, did you go through some movies?

(26:42) Yeah.

(26:43) Rudolph Valentino and I don't remember what they were, but they were Silent movies?

(26:48) Remember standing outside trying to get somebody to pay my way in, you know, because didn't have money to go in.

(26:59) It would only cost \$10.15 cents in them days, you know, but I was still a kid.

(27:04) You didn't have no money.

(27:05) Why?

(27:06) Mhmm.

(27:07) So sometimes you could So twist the get the guys twist somebody's arm to get a favor away in.

(27:12) You know?

(27:12) Happy day.

(27:13) You don't remember if there were any Swedish shows?

(27:16) No.

(27:17) I don't.

(27:17) Any place or anything like that that They're crazy.

(27:20) No?

(27:22) So and then you had about five, six saloons.

(27:27) Yeah.

(27:27) Do you remember them open?

(27:28) Oh, yeah.

(27:29) I remember one family there, my mother used to go see, and they'd send me up with a bucket, like a milk bucket.

(27:40) Go up there and get that full for 5¢.

(27:43) Well, there was beer then?

(27:44) Beer.

(27:45) Yeah.

(27:45) I see.

(27:46) And bring it home, and then they drink beer.

(27:48) So how about the ladies at that time?

(27:52) Do they do they drink beer?

(27:54) Oh, yeah.

(27:55) Yeah.

(27:55) They did.

(27:55) But no liquor, though?

(27:57) Not so much liquor.

(27:58) No.

(27:58) Mostly beer.

(27:59) Ouch.

(28:01) I get much.

(28:06) Then the town voted to be dry.

(28:09) Dry.

(28:09) Yeah.

(28:10) They closed every saloon there.

(28:11) Down?

(28:11) Yeah.

(28:12) There was no no liquor at all.

(28:13) And there's nothing left of it.

(28:16) Is there saloon there today?

(28:18) Yeah.

(28:19) They got the tavern up there, the brick tavern that after they got Prohibition.

(28:30) Probation come back, why some guy by the name of Bloomberg started a tavern there.

(28:37) Then Mike Huggins, he got it.

(28:40) He had it for several years.

(28:42) He's dead now.

(28:45) That's at Kirk And Huggins.

(28:47) You know?

(28:47) Mhmm.

(28:48) That was his dad around it.

(28:49) I see.

(28:50) So how about during the prohibition?

(28:53) Was it still possible to get some beer to drink, or did they Well, bootleggers.

(28:58) They said they were still open then.

(29:00) Speakeas, as they call them.

(29:02) Or No.

(29:02) No.

(29:03) They They didn't have that?

(29:04) No.

(29:04) They didn't have that.

(29:07) But you moved away then for from 1925 up to '19 how about during the depression?

(29:14) What is the The depression, then I come out here to live with my mother after that.

(29:18) You were laid off then in at January Yeah.

(29:20) I was laid off for four years.

(29:21) Four years?

(29:22) Yeah.

(29:23) No work.

(29:25) So then you took other office jobs?

(29:28) Or That's some guy who worked in the office, the name of Malmy.

(29:33) I was in the CC camps with him, you know, the 1933.

(29:39) Up in Rock Island?

(29:40) Up in Rock Island, or where did they get to see?

(29:43) We went to Washington.

(29:47) What?

(29:47) DC?

(29:48) State Of Washington.

(29:49) Well, state Of Washington.

(29:50) Yeah.

(29:50) Give me that picture by the Raymond, Washington.

(29:52) Yeah.

(29:53) Give me that picture by the table there by my chair.

(29:56) So you went by train out there with other people?

(29:58) Yeah.

(29:59) And you stayed there how long?

(30:02) Six months.

(30:04) And there was a guy who worked in the office.

(30:06) He told me they lost track of me at the Deers.

(30:13) They come across my name, and they said, here's a guy that should have been working a long time ago.

(30:22) That's me right up there in the So there's the Civilian Conservation Camp.

(30:29) Yeah.

(30:35) Site 2 continuation with Edwin Johnson, Sherrod, Illinois.

(30:39) Site 2.

(30:41) And how long did you stay here then?

(30:43) In the where in Washington State was it?

(30:47) Spokane?

(30:50) Raymond Washington, they call it.

(30:55) I was up in the mountains.

(30:56) It was up in the mountains, and we build roads and spot fire.

(31:00) You worked eight hours a day, and I lived in a camp.

(31:02) Yeah.

(31:04) It was just like being in the army.

(31:05) You didn't carry your gun is all.

(31:07) Well, there was orders you had to take then.

(31:10) And Yeah.

(31:10) See, they had soldiers over us.

(31:13) Well, they were soldiers.

(31:14) They were Yeah.

(31:15) Do you think?

(31:16) Yeah.

(31:16) They were we had tents, living tents.

(31:20) We had to make our beds just like we was in the army, and it was yes, sir and no, sir.

(31:25) And you know?

(31:27) I see.

(31:27) Only thing we just we didn't carry a gun.

(31:30) That's the only thing.

(31:31) Did you go by your number or by your name?

(31:33) By our name.

(31:34) By your name?

(31:35) Yeah.

(31:35) And how about did you get permission to go out for instance on in the evening?

(31:41) No.

(31:41) We could we had leave.

(31:42) You know?

(31:43) But You could leave without asking sure if No.

(31:46) Yeah.

(31:47) For approval.

(31:48) But you had to be back in the morning.

(31:50) Oh, yeah.

(31:50) What happened then if you didn't come back in time?

(31:52) Did were you fired then?

(31:53) Or No.

(31:54) No.

(31:55) We just we had we went down fire patrol for nine days straight.

(32:05) So we we got so all in, but we complained, you know, because we just got got all in after, you know, go out every day and fighting fire for nine days straight.

(32:19) You just can't take it anymore.

(32:21) So then they sent us out every other day to give us a day rest.

(32:27) So, you know, that fire gets in them pine trees, it just whoosh like that, you know.

(32:40) Now one day I had to walk patrol through that smoke back and forth, and I get sick.

(32:50) It was a tough battle.

(32:52) Yeah.

(32:53) So that so much vegetation.

(32:55) It just seems like the ground burns.

(32:59) You know?

(32:59) That's just It's like part of it.

(33:01) Yeah.

(33:02) Spreads fast.

(33:03) So, yes, I asked, you know, how long you were staying there.

(33:09) You came back then the whole group or one by one left?

(33:13) Or No.

(33:14) They all come back.

(33:15) See?

(33:15) They all come back.

(33:16) Yeah.

(33:16) And at that time, then when you come back to Moline, you had a job done at Jandir.

(33:23) Yeah.

(33:24) That was well, I was laid off at that time.

(33:26) That was during depression.

(33:27) See?

(33:28) Well, there was 1933.

(33:30) Yeah.

(33:31) See, I was off four years.

(33:32) Four years.

(33:33) So you didn't come back until you married then?

(33:35) No.

(33:35) No.

(33:36) I I got back, I think, day before Christmas in '35.

(33:42) Like I say, this guy told me, he said they lost track of you.

(33:49) And he said, dear, come here's a guy that should have been working a long time ago.

(33:52) See, I had five years in before depressions.

(33:58) And a lot of guys that only worked there two, three years, they got back to work before I did, see.

(34:08) And I should have been back before them.

(34:11) And you never went back to ask them if you could start work or anything.

(34:15) You're just waiting for them to Not waiting for them to call me.

(34:17) See?

(34:17) Yeah.

(34:18) What they said.

(34:19) There was no union them days, you know, to to fight for you.

(34:22) See?

(34:23) They couldn't they couldn't have got by with it now.

(34:25) See?

(34:26) No.

(34:26) But in those days, nobody talked union.

(34:29) No.

(34:30) No.

(34:30) If you did, then you were fired.

(34:32) Sure.

(34:35) So you took another job then after coming back from the CC camp in Washington.

(34:39) Well, I worked for the farmers.

(34:40) For the farmers.

(34:42) Your parents And I worked this road between Sherard and Prampshire, and I worked on that.

(34:51) 35¢ an hour, I got for that.

(34:53) But then you stay home with your With my mother's.

(34:56) With your mother.

(34:57) Yeah.

(34:57) Yeah.

(34:57) Your mother was still living, but your father's dead.

(34:59) Yeah.

(35:00) How was Sherard at that time?

(35:02) Was it many living here then, or was it a Well, that's quite a few.

(35:07) Yeah.

(35:07) But But it was still not like it was in the 1910 and 1915?

(35:12) No.

(35:12) No.

(35:14) But your future wife, she was here.

(35:17) She was waiting for you.

(35:18) Yeah.

(35:19) Come back from what?

(35:20) I had to come out here to live to find a man.

(35:24) But this sounds terrible.

(35:25) You came from the big cities there.

(35:26) You had Davenport with a lot of German population.

(35:29) Maligne.

(35:30) Yeah.

(35:30) But the Davenport was more German in the Yeah.

(35:33) And Rock Island, a lot of Germans, the club.

(35:38) Yeah.

(35:40) You couldn't find anyone.

(35:41) Not in town.

(35:42) The sooner your taste.

(35:43) Yeah.

(35:46) Uh-huh.

(35:47) Well, his niece, wasn't that Phyllis?

(35:50) Phyllis.

(35:50) Yeah.

(35:51) Lived with him.

(35:52) And, of course, we went back and forth to Sunday school at church.

(35:57) That's Yeah.

(35:57) We got we got acquainted.

(35:59) That's how I got acquainted with him through his niece.

(36:02) Mhmm.

(36:03) I used to come down and see her, and he used to walk me home.

(36:08) What kind of work were you doing then, missus Johnson?

(36:11) Nothing.

(36:12) Staying home?

(36:12) Mhmm.

(36:13) Picking apples and having a pen?

(36:15) Right.

(36:15) We had an apple orchard.

(36:16) Did you sell the apples to doors?

(36:19) Or We went we took the apples in into town and went from door to door to sell apples.

(36:26) One year, they had 800 bushel.

(36:30) 800 bushels.

(36:32) At that time, were you spraying it like they do today?

(36:34) Oh, yeah.

(36:35) Ten, twelve Five times.

(36:36) Time of year how many times?

(36:37) Five.

(36:38) Five times.

(36:39) During the wintertime and also in the summer?

(36:41) No.

(36:41) In the in the summer.

(36:43) We didn't do anything in the winter.

(36:46) No.

(36:48) Okay.

(36:48) No.

(36:49) So there was a lot of picking.

(36:50) No.

(36:51) But it was a healthy job, though.

(36:53) You were home and Yeah.

(36:55) Carefree.

(36:56) Yep.

(36:57) Yeah.

(36:57) You didn't have to stamp any card at the employment office or anything.

(37:01) We took apples to town and went from house to house trying to sell them, but it didn't pan out too good.

(37:10) People just didn't seem to want any.

(37:13) I don't know.

(37:14) I don't think that we charged too much.

(37:16) Was there half a bushel then, or how much did you offer them at each house?

(37:20) The bushel or half a bushel?

(37:21) Well, you could buy it by the bushel or the half bushel, whatever you want.

(37:27) You had the car then and stopped at every house.

(37:29) You had the car then and draw the apples with you.

(37:33) Mhmm.

(37:33) But it didn't pan off.

(37:35) No.

(37:37) Didn't seem like the people wanted to buy them.

(37:40) And then he brought them home and made apple cider.

(37:46) And, of course, that got a little bit strong, and that's when they young people wanted it.

(37:52) You know?

(37:53) What would you call it then, Heather?

(37:57) But when it got strong, didn't it ferment in to vinegar?

(38:00) Yeah.

(38:01) Yeah.

(38:02) But they still drank it.

(38:03) Oh, they they the the stronger it got, the better they liked it.

(38:08) So they was easy to sell the labels.

(38:10) Yeah.

(38:11) And they kept better too because they could never spoil.

(38:13) They already got the Money in the bank.

(38:18) So there there was a better deal.

(38:21) One year, we had 800 bushel.

(38:23) Just apples.

(38:26) No pears or Well, had we had a pear tree, but not not really to do much selling.

(38:34) It was it was mostly apples.

(38:36) What what kind?

(38:37) Macintosh or Rome?

(38:40) Jonathan?

(38:41) Jonathan.

(38:41) Delicious.

(38:46) Yeah.

(38:47) So your parents then stayed on their farm until they died?

(38:50) Yeah.

(38:50) It was their livelihood too.

(38:52) Yeah.

(38:52) Well, my mother, we had to put her in a home in Aledo.

(38:57) Mhmm.

(38:57) That's where she passed away.

(39:00) Mhmm.

(39:03) Yeah.

(39:04) She needed special care like somebody bathing her and feeding her.

(39:11) You know?

(39:11) Oh, I see.

(39:12) And the doctor just told us.

(39:16) He says, my sister and I, you just can't two can't go on like that.

(39:21) You know?

(39:22) And they he suggested that we put her in a home Mhmm.

(39:27) In Aledo.

(39:29) And then you got married then in 1937.

(39:34) Yeah.

(39:34) '37.

(39:35) Yeah.

(39:36) Mhmm.

(39:37) Uh-huh.

(39:38) And there was a Lutheran minister, a Swedish Lutheran church minister.

(39:41) We went to his house where he lived.

(39:44) That was The parsonage in the Sweetonna.

(39:49) Yeah.

(39:49) We went to the Parsonage in Sweetonna.

(39:51) And my was it my who was it?

(39:57) Your cousin.

(39:59) Herbie and and Mary Anne, was it?

(40:02) Yeah.

(40:03) Yeah.

(40:05) And then you went on a honeymoon, or did you No.

(40:08) We never We didn't go any place.

(40:10) We just come home, and my mother fixed the dinner.

(40:16) That was it.

(40:18) And then the next day, Edward went to Jandere.

(40:22) Were you commuting then between the Girard and the Marine?

(40:26) You had a car then?

(40:29) Yeah.

(40:30) Finally, we there was four of us who bought an old car.

(40:37) We bought an old car together.

(40:41) We call it a company car and we drove that to terms one one a week, you know, to drove it.

(40:52) We call it a company car.

(40:54) You know?

(40:55) And they kept up because there was a lot of bad roads at that time.

(40:59) Were were the roads pretty good then?

(41:00) Yeah.

(41:01) We had the hard roads.

(41:03) You know?

(41:03) You took one fifty in them?

(41:05) No.

(41:06) The Coal Valley in Coal Valley?

(41:08) Yeah.

(41:09) Well, there's one fifty, isn't it?

(41:12) Yeah.

(41:12) What In Coal Valley.

(41:13) Coal Valley.

(41:15) And you continue to do that for how many years?

(41:17) Forty two years?

(41:19) No.

(41:20) I was in I lived in town for five years.

(41:24) Oh, you rent an apartment then?

(41:27) No.

(41:27) I lived with my brother.

(41:29) Oh, I see.

(41:30) His wife there for But, yeah, but I mean, after you got married, you We lived with my mother for two years.

(41:40) Oh, and then you built this house?

(41:41) We built this house.

(41:42) So All the time I was married, I've never paid a cent of rent.

(41:49) So they're paying off pretty good.

(41:51) Yeah.

(41:51) I never No foreclosures or any horses or anything?

(41:55) I never rented a never paid a cent of rent all that too.

(41:59) I lived with my mother two years, and I built this house in 1940.

(42:04) You know?

(42:05) Two years.

(42:06) How about during the depression?

(42:07) Do you know if some people lost their houses through foreclosures and the bank took it over?

(42:15) I mean, down in this area.

(42:16) In Moline and the Rock Island, they happen very often.

(42:20) In other words, they couldn't make the payments, and they took the house away in the bank.

(42:23) Did they happen also in in a small town like this?

(42:26) I never heard.

(42:27) I don't I don't know.

(42:29) They're all set safe in their houses.

(42:33) Yeah.

(42:35) But it was a rough time though, the depression.

(42:39) Well, if it wasn't for the depression, I wouldn't be living out here then.

(42:43) I wouldn't be living out here now.

(42:45) I don't suppose.

(42:45) Because I was born and raised in Moline.

(42:48) You know?

(42:49) You went to school there and Yep.

(42:52) William Carr School.

(42:53) Do you know that place?

(42:55) Now them days you got laid off.

(42:57) You was laid off.

(42:58) You didn't have no No future no compensation like they do now.

(43:03) You know?

(43:03) You just Mhmm.

(43:04) You was laid off.

(43:05) You was laid off.

(43:07) Yeah.

(43:07) You had to go find yourself something else to bring in a little money.

(43:11) Mhmm.

(43:12) And your parents never thought of going back to to the cities again?

(43:16) Your parents?

(43:17) That's my two sisters.

(43:31) Your department, Nayel, when in at the end of year, when the union started to come in, did they join the union, all of the workers, or they or were there resistance in the beginning for the old timers?

(43:43) No.

(43:43) They they joined pretty well.

(43:45) But not everybody, though?

(43:47) No.

(43:48) There's some of them then, I guess.

(43:49) Well, they're the older ones that resisted joining.

(43:55) I don't remember what Like the young workers.

(44:01) They were probably for it, and they and they Yeah.

(44:03) I think mostly.

(44:11) There was one man that really settled the.

(44:15) Samuelson.

(44:16) He owned the land.

(44:17) Yeah.

(44:17) That's He was an old suite.

(44:18) That's the one That's him.

(44:19) Yes.

(44:19) Right there.

(44:20) Right there in his valley.

(44:21) He had the most of the land tracks around there, and he he had one plot he called Stockholm.

(44:27) Do you remember that place?

(44:28) This this is Stockholm down here.

(44:30) Oh, right here?

(44:31) Yeah.

(44:32) Well, this is Stockholm.

(44:33) This is Stockholm.

(44:34) Do you still call it that?

(44:36) No.

(44:36) You tell people you live in Stockholm, they wouldn't know what it is.

(44:40) But this is actually the place?

(44:42) This is Stockholm.

(44:43) So Samuelson, now where did he live?

(44:45) Up there by the gas station, that Seneca's gas station, that big house.

(44:52) That was his place.

(44:53) He was not a farmer?

(44:55) Was he a farmer?

(44:57) No.

(44:57) He was a he was had money.

(45:02) I don't know.

(45:03) So he was well-to-do.

(45:06) What are you doing, Noob?

(45:09) So he was the one that sold the mining right there to the Mhmm.

(45:13) Mister Cable and the and the Coal Valley I think so.

(45:16) Mining company from the beginning.

(45:17) I don't know.

(45:18) Just Okay.

(45:20) You were growing up, Nayid, when what are you doing here after the day's work?

(45:25) Because or what what did you have to do to earn your food every day?

(45:31) I suppose you have to have both here with your parents and do some shows around the house.

(45:36) You didn't have any chickens or cows?

(45:39) My folks had a cow.

(45:42) We had a big barn.

(45:43) I went over there.

(45:43) They had a big red barn in the back.

(45:45) And and chickens?

(45:47) No.

(45:47) We never had chickens.

(45:48) We had a cow.

(45:49) No pigs?

(45:51) No.

(45:51) Only chicken?

(45:53) We had a cow, and we kept it out there.

(45:58) They call that Samuelson's Pasture out there.

(46:01) And So you had to help out to move her to water and Yeah.

(46:08) And grazing.

(46:09) So you And we had a big strap on his neck with a bell.

(46:13) I see.

(46:14) And I got the bell out there in the shed.

(46:18) Okay.

(46:19) You know?

(46:19) Was they the only bell cow in the shed out of the other cows around?

(46:23) Oh, yeah.

(46:25) Yeah.

(46:25) There's other people had cows out there too, but out there, it's Fire Lake out there now.

(46:31) You know?

(46:32) But you know where they was at.

(46:35) You know?

(46:36) We go out tonight and get them.

(46:38) You hear them bells ringing.

(46:40) Well, they were all different, the bells.

(46:42) No.

(46:43) But, I mean, if you hear them bells ringing, you knew where the cows were.

(46:46) See?

(46:47) Well, they're usually together and now the cows too?

(46:49) Yeah.

(46:49) Most of cows were together.

(46:50) So you picked out the one that belonged to you Yeah.

(46:52) And milked it?

(46:53) Bring it home.

(46:54) You brought it home then?

(46:55) Then Let them loose.

(46:57) You're getting all you Then milk it that night in the morning, and then take it back out the next day.

(47:04) Oh, did you do the milking too?

(47:06) No.

(47:07) No.

(47:07) It was mother.

(47:08) Yeah.

(47:09) My mother and dad.

(47:11) But I got I got the bell out there and the leather strap.

(47:17) Yes.

(47:20) I know.

(47:20) So what were you doing then when you you went to school here in?

(47:27) After you came out of school, what kind of work were you doing then?

(47:31) I didn't work at all because I was just I was just a kid.

(47:35) You know?

(47:35) I know.

(47:36) But sometimes you had to help out, you know, to keep busy with something to help the family.

(47:44) Mostly play, I guess.

(47:46) So you went to and you were not confirmed then.

(47:50) So you went to work after school and at John Deere when you were 16?

(47:56) Yeah.

(47:56) I went I went through seventh grade, and I didn't pass.

(48:04) So I didn't go back to school anymore.

(48:08) I quit school.

(48:09) And then were you starting to look for arrowheads and fossils?

(48:14) That was after Where?

(48:17) Later on.

(48:19) Yeah.

(48:19) After I come back from, you know, during depression.

(48:23) On my dreams.

(48:23) Mhmm.

(48:26) How about the different customs now?

(48:28) You know, Christmas.

(48:30) Do you remember when they put the Christmas tree in?

(48:34) Was it the several weeks before Christmas or some other time?

(48:38) Yeah.

(48:40) They used to put a Christmas tree right in the middle of Main Street up here.

(48:48) There was a town.

(48:50) Yeah.

(48:50) The town put one in there.

(48:51) And they decorated it?

(48:52) Yeah.

(48:53) They had lights in it?

(48:54) Or Yeah.

(48:54) They had lights on it.

(48:55) But So you had electric light there quite early?

(48:59) Yeah.

(48:59) Because mine had the electric light in nineteen o three, I believe, or 1899.

(49:04) Yeah.

(49:05) Right.

(49:05) They said something about that.

(49:07) So how about your house?

(49:08) Did you have electric lights when you were growing up?

(49:11) Yeah.

(49:11) We had lights.

(49:12) But Oh.

(49:13) Well, you had oil lamps first.

(49:15) I had oil lamps first.

(49:16) But Light you had collected in there.

(49:18) Yeah.

(49:19) Kerosene.

(49:20) Yeah.

(49:20) Kerosene lights.

(49:22) But in your home now, you had a Christmas tree.

(49:25) Never had a Christmas tree over there.

(49:27) In your home?

(49:28) No.

(49:29) Oh, I see.

(49:29) So you When we got married over I I lived over there.

(49:33) That's the first time we had it.

(49:34) It was the first Christmas tree in that house.

(49:37) Oh, I see.

(49:38) And, of course, I was used to my our house always having a tree every year.

(49:44) And, of course, when I married him, well, I had to have a tree.

(49:48) Oh, I see.

(49:49) Uh-huh.

(49:51) How about your mother preparing the Swedish food, meatballs and silt and She always made pulp.

(50:03) Pulp?

(50:04) Blue pulp.

(50:04) Good boy.

(50:05) Yeah.

(50:06) Blood Blood.

(50:08) Sausage?

(50:08) No.

(50:09) Not the sausage.

(50:10) She made head cheese.

(50:11) I'll never forget that.

(50:14) I just tell Ruth the other day, people heard of that or knew that, they'd go crazy.

(50:25) I remember I remember when I was butchering, you know, my mother would go out there and catch that blood, you know, and stir it till she could get in the house and put the flour with it, make the pulp.

(50:40) Oh, that was good.

(50:42) And she fried it then in the in the frying pan?

(50:44) Or Yeah.

(50:44) In the the frying pan.

(50:46) Oh.

(50:46) Did she use any kind of berries on it, lingon berries?

(50:49) No.

(50:50) Just How about with milk.

(50:52) How about lutefisk?

(50:53) Yeah.

(50:54) Do you hear that?

(50:55) Oh, yeah.

(50:55) Oh, yeah.

(50:56) Oh.

(50:57) Johnson Carl, she was having a big barrel sitting outside, dry.

(51:03) How about your wife?

(51:04) Did she get used to the eat lute fisk?

(51:06) No.

(51:07) I don't think so.

(51:08) Never tried it?

(51:10) What?

(51:10) Lute fisk.

(51:11) Lute fisk.

(51:12) I don't think so.

(51:13) No.

(51:14) I don't how about herring?

(51:17) I don't know about no.

(51:18) I don't think so.

(51:19) My dad used to have that too.

(51:22) But up there at the store, that one burned down.

(51:25) He used to have a big barrel sitting outside just all dry.

(51:29) He'd go up there and get some And soak.

(51:32) Soak it.

(51:34) Oh, okay.

(51:35) I know when my dad would butcher a pig down there, they catch the blood, and my mother would make a blood pudding.

(51:46) Yeah.

(51:46) She remembers that.

(51:47) Mother and said it was quite similar then.

(51:50) But I mean, people nowadays, Wouldn't do it.

(51:52) Oh, they'd shut her to think of that.

(51:54) You know?

(51:54) They just look at you.

(51:57) You tell them anything like that.

(52:01) Then she take the all the meat off of the head, you know, like, head cheese.

(52:06) Head cheese.

(52:06) So you like that?

(52:07) Oh, that was really good.

(52:09) How about Christmas gifts?

(52:12) Did you have any in your home like Santa Claus coming at No.

(52:17) No.

(52:17) No.

(52:18) When we got married, it was the first Christmas tree in that house.

(52:24) Yeah.

(52:24) I had I was used to a Christmas tree every year, you know, where with my folks.

(52:30) But I remember years ago, I was too young, but the merchants up here, they give presents every Christmas morning.

(52:44) To the kids?

(52:45) To the kids.

(52:46) They got up early enough.

(52:47) Yeah.

(52:47) I'd get up about 05:00 and go up, and they give presents Christmas morning.

(52:53) At 05:00?

(52:54) Yeah.

(52:56) What did you get then?

(52:57) Some small Small candy, you know, candy.

(53:03) This book I remember, none of them mentioned that.

(53:11) You know?

(53:11) Oh.

(53:14) Mhmm.

(53:14) How do you remember?

(53:16) I remember, but they don't remember.

(53:18) They're not old enough.

(53:19) You're not old enough then to remember that.

(53:21) No.

(53:23) Uh-huh.

(53:24) So everybody in the village then went up to the store there and and received it.

(53:28) Yeah.

(53:28) I remember my sisters and my brother going up.

(53:30) Oh, and if you got them, you went home?

(53:32) Yeah.

(53:32) I've been home.

(53:33) But if you got up there too late, you was they just had so much.

(53:37) You know?

(53:38) Oh, was it a company store?

(53:40) Or No.

(53:42) It was grocery stores.

(53:43) The company coal company didn't have any store in the home?

(53:46) Yeah.

(53:46) The company coal company had company stores.

(53:49) Yeah.

(53:53) And like I say, that book Something is missing in it.

(53:59) Uh-huh.

(54:00) Something is missing in that book.

(54:02) There's five of them.

(54:03) Uh-huh.

(54:04) And two of them mentioned the buildings on the south side of the street.

(54:10) And there's a Greer Hotel.

(54:12) Two of them didn't mention.

(54:15) They mentioned the buildings, but in between there, they didn't mention that Greer's Hotel at all.

(54:21) It was in there.

(54:22) Mhmm.

(54:23) So you remember the hotel?

(54:25) There was Yeah.

(54:26) I remember the one.

(54:27) I got I got the picture of the hotel.

(54:31) And one guy, he talking about the bank, it got robbed.

(54:35) Oh, he says that was an inside job, he says.

(54:39) You know, somebody inside stole the money.

(54:44) And I got a picture that this Walt took these pictures.

(54:48) He took a picture of the door of the wall, and you could see where they've tried the vault door open.

(54:58) Oh, they never caught the guy?

(55:00) No.

(55:02) But this guy that you added in this book, he said it was an inside job.

(55:07) In other words, they had the combination already.

(55:11) Well, he said it's an inside job.

(55:13) But this wall that took these pictures, he took a picture of the wall.

(55:19) When it was forced open.

(55:21) And you could see where it was forced open.

(55:23) And it was back in '19 what year was it the robbery there in the bank?

(55:30) It was one of the first That was in where the library is now.

(55:35) So that was in That was the bank.

(55:37) Yeah.

(55:37) I see.

(55:39) And that was early nineteen hundreds.

(55:40) That was before your time, though.

(55:43) No.

(55:43) No.

(55:44) It was I was a kid then, of course.

(55:46) You remember it?

(55:47) What year was it?

(55:48) I don't remember what year it was.

(55:50) There must have been some commotion in this town then when and they never caught the guy.

(55:56) No.

(55:56) I don't think they ever did.

(55:57) He went away with the money with a loan.

(56:02) Then another blacksmith shop, this one guy said that his name was Gibson, and that wasn't right.

(56:20) It's another name.

(56:28) And he said it was by a garage, and that that wasn't right.

(56:35) So I said that they don't remember.

(56:41) People are mistaken.

(56:43) Yeah.

(56:44) Where he said it was, that was a grocery store.

(56:47) Uh-huh.

(56:48) I think they could've got an awful lot if they come up and talk to him.

(56:56) Got a lot of information.

(56:58) Been here all his life, so he should know about that.

(57:01) Right.

(57:01) He should.

(57:03) One guy they talked to was 73 and another guy they talked to, I think he was about 65,

64, something like that.

(57:17) Oh, yeah.

(57:18) You lived there all your life, and you've seen a lot of changes.

(57:21) Yeah.

(57:21) So you remember then as a little boy, it was a big town here, a lot of hustling and traffic.

(57:26) And did they have more horses and buggies in your early days compared to cars?

(57:33) There was not too many cars around.

(57:34) No.

(57:35) It wasn't so many.

(57:36) They they had a liver stable up here too, you know.

(57:39) Oh, yeah.

(57:39) And then the train.

(57:41) And the train come through here day to day.

(57:44) Yeah.

(57:45) I'd come in the night, stay overnight, went out in the day, in the morning, and come in at night.

(57:50) Well, they stopped here in the train?

(57:52) Mhmm.

(57:52) Yeah.

(57:53) The passenger train?

(57:54) Mhmm.

(57:54) It was a passenger train.

(57:55) Because going to Rock Island?

(57:56) To Rock Island.

(57:57) Yeah.

(57:58) Uh-huh.

(57:59) So you could come use every day then to Rock Island if you want to do it.

(58:02) Yeah.

(58:03) But they didn't pay them when you were to do it.

(58:05) Because it was No.

(58:07) You didn't want to spend the They was gone before then.

(58:10) They was gone.

(58:13) Do you remember this mister Cable that started this coal business?

(58:20) They gave the name to Cable down here, for instance.

(58:23) No.

(58:23) I don't know him.

(58:24) You don't remember the guy?

(58:25) No.

(58:26) And not mister Chiraud either.

(58:29) You never saw him?

(58:30) No.

(58:31) Gave the name to Don.

(58:37) Yeah.

(58:38) I remember they used to have a merry-go-round back here too.

(58:44) Many people remember that when the coal mines were gone.

(58:50) So I can still hear that Calliope.

(58:56) The coal miners used to go out there for picnics, you know.

(58:59) Oh, I see.

(59:00) With the whole cabinet?

(59:01) Yeah.

(59:02) I can still go out there and show you where the Oh, we will do that someday when it gets warmer.

(59:08) We can walk around and I can still show you What it is.

(59:12) Yeah?

(59:12) Where the where I don't think there's many people in Shariah remember that either.

(59:19) I don't think so either.

(59:21) No.

(59:22) So many things like this, they were already gone then, missus Janssen, when you came here.

(59:27) Oh, yeah.

(59:27) Oh, gosh.

(59:28) Yes.

(59:28) It was a past time.

(59:30) Yep.

(59:31) Yep.

(59:32) You came into a more It was nothing like like he you know, all that she's talking about, I don't know anything about that.

(59:39) No.

(59:40) How about politics here in Chirona?

(59:42) Were there Republicans or Democrats?

(59:45) Mostly mostly Republicans around here.

(59:48) Mercer County is Is Republican?

(59:50) A Republican mostly.

(59:51) How about you, though?

(59:52) What kind of influence do you get?

(59:54) Your dad, for instance, was he interested in politics?

(59:56) Or No.

(59:57) There was no discussion about politics then?

(1:00:00) I was a republican till depression.

(1:00:04) And then Just like the rest of them.

(1:00:07) Yeah.

(1:00:08) You couldn't be a democrat because then they will look at you.

(1:00:12) So then you That's I was I was off four years during the republican.

(1:00:17) That cured me.

(1:00:21) This now it cured me again.

(1:00:25) You know?

(1:00:27) Boy, Reagan's going away.

(1:00:29) Did more people change them to the Democrats, you think, during the Oh, yeah.

(1:00:32) Was So most of country today are still Republicans, though.

(1:00:37) They are still Republicans, though, here in Mercer.

(1:00:40) Oh, yeah.

(1:00:41) There's still a lot of them, I guess.

(1:00:42) So some of the farmers, they don't want to I think there's a lot of them change now.

(1:00:46) I think so.

