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## Interview with Alva and Mary Hall, Session III

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Alva Hall

Mary Hall

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Mara Bell Mancini  
ANSO 67-68  
Interview with Alva and Mary Hall  
February 25, 1995, 3:00 PM'

MH: We don't use this door much.

MB: Do you want me to pull this shut?

MH: Wouldn't hurt. But you know it warmed up quite a bit today.

MB: Yeah it did.

MH: This morning it was cold.

MB: (door knob falls off door) Uh-oh. I'm sorry!

MH: He'll fix it when he gets done. We just won't show him.

MB: OK!

MH: You got that on--that thing?

MB: Yeah. I think it's working. It really did warm up it's nice out. Now, the property goes up to that street up there?

MH: Right there where those line of houses are. It used to go on beyond over to 229 but we sold all that off.

MB: How many acres was it when it went up to 229?

MH: I think 'bout 30, I believe.

MB: And now it goes over how far?

MH: Now it goes over to the college line, isn't that where Alva said the college joined this part?

MB: Uh-huh. Where is your daughter house?

MH: What?

MB: Where does your daughter live?

MH: In Gahanna. You mean this one here? I got one that lives right there.

MB: In that white house?

MH: Mh-huh. My other daughter.

MB: And they bought that property from Mr. Hall's father.

MH: *She* did. She worked and she purchased the ground from him pretty reasonable. And then when she got married, why, he husband could build so he built the house. She had it paid for before they got married.

MB: And then how far that way does it go? Over to the woods or . . .

MH: It goes to that next house there. You seen the next house? It's just not even half a mile. See that's our land over there. The pond. . . and then that's the fence line, right next to the pond there.

MB: OK. Oh, and back that way?

MH: Well, yeah we have land all back--but he'll show you more when he gets on the tractor he can tell you more. And he knows more about. . .he's lived here all his life. You know I don't know. . .

MB: You've been here for a while too.

MH: All the stuff he does about the place. Now I hate to go in there.

MB: If you want me to go first I will!

MH: It won't open. We might have to pound it. (hits the lock) Well, here we go. It's not bad down here. . . . I don't know why I'm going first! I told you. . .

MB: You told me I was supposed to go first. This really is caving in.

MH: That must be where they kept the milk and butter, kept their stuff that had to be refrigerated. And this is where they got the water--this is a deep spring. I don't know whether it had a pump on there or they just dipped. And they washed here.

MB: Where does that connect to? You said it connects to a little spring? I can't see down there very well.

MH: The spring runs in there. That should go clear to China. But that--that's a pipe isn't it? That's too big for the pipe hole.

MB: And they would put the food over here?

MH: Uh-huh. Keep the perishables from spoiling. Then anybody when we had our meals, not me so much as back beyond, 'cause I had refrigeration. I had what they called an icebox with a chunk of ice in it, you know. But before my time, that's the way they had to keep their stuff and kids would have to take turns coming to get the butter when they was have a meal. Or the milk or whatever. They came clear out here.

MB: I suppose that wasn't too fun in the middle of winter.

MH: Yeah. And they carried water from out here, I think, to the house. So that was quite a step--and they didn't think anything about it you know, cause they had to do it. Kids had to do things those days.

MB: Where would they put the water in the house if they brought in a lot? You said there was that little sink kind of thing in the downstairs?

MH: Well, they had a . . . oh you mean that? Downstairs, there was a little sink with water running through too, but

we took that out to the Agriculture Museum. And they keep butter and stuff down there too. I don't know why they kept it out here and there too. Some reason. . .

MB: They had a lot of butter!

MH: Well they did make butter and sell it.

MB: Oh they did?

MH: Oh yes.

MB: Did you ever do that?

MH: I didn't. Well, I sold a little butter but I used the little old churn and. . . just a little glass churn and make butter.

MB: Did they lay all the stones down here or did they shape the room to what was here already?

MH: This is all stone that they hauled in. And this is the size they made it. I don't know. . . . This is all sandstone. That's why we kept it. When the tornado went through and blew the top off, why, it blew all those bricks out from the top, you know. And that's why we decided to keep it on account of this. And then we just used the wood thing on the top because it's so expensive to buy brick and it wouldn't be like the old brick, anyway. Yeah, it's caving in on us. We better get out of here!

MB: Do you want to go first or do you want me to?

MH: When we get back in the house Alva can tell you more about it.

MB: It's not going to shut the way it did.

MH: Oh it isn't?

MB: No because that dirt just fell.

MH: Some more dirt fell?

MB: Well, it's sitting there on the step so it's hard to pull the door. . .

MH: I think we could probably bring the shovel out pretty soon. Tomorrow or something. It'll be alright.

MB: So just leave it like this?

MH: Yeah.

MB: What was the upstairs?

MH: Oh, the upstairs. We just store in here. We just built this on new just 2 or 3 years ago. Not too long ago. I don't know what's in here--not much. Not much. Nice little building.

MB: This seems newer in here.

MH: Well, I say this is new, the top. See, a tornado came through and blew it, the bricks, off. It was made like the house. And it just come through here and. . . . It was leaning anyway. And tore this top right off. So we put a slab of cement on, and built it with some stained wood and made it look rustic. But it isn't like the bricks, of course. So this is fairly new--5 or 6 years old. But we just didn't want to. . . 'cause of that down there we didn't want to fill it in. Because of the spring and the stuff down below. Here's another house that we use for cooling milk. That was called the milk house. That one.

MB: The little stone one.

MH: That also has water in it.

MB: Is it the same? Is it connected to the spring house?

MH: No, no. But it is a spring again, another spring. Running in there from some place. At least we didn't pump water those days. There was plenty of water from springs. But now the spring's practically dried up.

MB: Where was the well?

MH: The what? The well? Oh it's up here. Do you want to see this building or do you want to go up there?

MB: Well, let's go here first and then go up. . .

MH: To the well?

MB: Yeah.

MH: Oh this is wet! I didn't know we was going to get in this, did you?

MB: Nope.

MH: We may have to just climb this gate. I think that's what we'll do. Now wait. Here we are. We've just got it chained so. . . . We'll see what this baby is now.

MB: No dead bodies?

MH: Nope, no dead bodies. This is where the birds keep making nests in here. That was always full of water. See where it run through? Them two there are too the springs.

MB: Would it come up to this level or would it drain out?

MH: It'd just come up to here. Then we'd put our milk cans in to cool the milk. We have to milk at night, you know. The truck would come and get. . . or well, no, he'd take it into town in the morning. We used to haul our own. Then it got so we'd have a truck.

MB: How old do you think this building is?

MH: This one? Oh I don't believe it's as old as the spring house. But I don't know how old. It was here before I came here, and I've been here 40 years anyway. And the garage is ancient too.

MB: Is that the same sandstone?

MH: No. I think that. . . they made that garage I think maybe when I was here. But it's going the other way fast. Now what was it you wanted to see?

MB: The well.

MH: Oh yes. Well there's just really nothing to see.

MB: This is where it was though?

MH: Yeah, this is where we used to get our water and this hooked up to this windmill. Remember how the wind used to pump the water? You've seen 'em. In the Amish country you can see 'em pumping water yet. And this is a dug well. They dug it by hand. 'Course it got so. . .

MB: 40 feet down you said?

MH: I think.

MB: Can you imagine digging 40 feet down?

MH: And they did it all by hand.

MB: Wow. Did they lower somebody in there and . . .

MH: I suppose they did.

MB: And lift out the dirt?

MH: It always scared me to look in.

MB: Did you close it up in '54?

MH: Yeah. We fixed it so it wasn't dangerous to raise our kids. 'Cause it was open, you know, kinda, we had probably a piece of wood on it or something. But we fixed it so it wouldn't be. . .

MB: Now would that pump water out of the well?

MH: That would pump where we wanted it to go. The wind mill pumped it. I suppose they had a. . . not in the well. They probably had a well of some kind or a pump that pumped it. Let's see. Alva could tell you more about it than I did. I know we pumped it up here to the. . . there's a cistern up here. We'd pump it up there and it would run down by gravity to our house so we'd have water in the house. Where was the cistern? It was up there. It would run down with what they call gravity. It sits up there but we got it covered up too.

MB: Oh I see it.

MH: Well that's it right there, isn't it? I thought it was up higher than that. I thought it was up higher on the hill. But it would run enough that we'd get a dribble of water. You know, it wasn't real forceful.

MB: What's the little white building back there?

MH: Our chicken house. Old chicken house.

MB: Did you keep many chickens?

MH: Oh, no not too many. They used to in the older days. Everybody had chickens, pigs, cows, what have you. Farmers had everything they wanted to eat. Their own eggs and . . .

MB: Did you keep the chickens just for the family or did you ever sell the eggs?

MH: I sold a few eggs. I had a few chickens. A hundred, I suppose. I sold a few eggs. Nothing too much.

MB: I'll pick up the doorknob I knocked off. Sorry about that. (pause)

MH: We put this bathroom in. Took a bedroom and made a bathroom, and he's 54. So we've had our bathroom that long. 'Cause I hadn't been here very long 'till we got our bathroom really.

MB: While we're looking at the pictures . . .

MH: That's the old house. That's the way the house was when. . . 'course I think we showed you that out on the porch. Same picture except we blowed it up and put it out there.

MB: Where did you enter the house?

MH: Well, the steps came up. . . See they're broken down here. I think they went up that way, and in.

MB: But there were steps just like there are now?

MH: Well, they were different--arranged different. But they were steps up. You had to go several steps. This is my daughter. And this is my daughter.

MB: Which is which?

MH: This is my son. This is June over in Gahanna and this is Sherry up here and this is Dick in Virginia. There's June with her class. Lincoln-Gahanna. That's when she started out--'bout her first year. They'd come in and think she'd one of the kids! She's only about 21. Well, she wasn't that, I don't think. And this is Sherry up here with her class.

MB: She taught too?

MH: No. She never graduated from college. She just got into the school working substitute for . . . oh you know, just have a lot of helpers. And that's what she did. She helped the teachers. And this is all of June's children. This is her boy and her girl. And this is David and Nathan, Sherry's children.

MB: How old are they?

MH: And this is Dick's kids. 'Course, Dick has four. He's got. . . this girl's a sophomore in high school. So. . .they're coming.

MB: Is this one of the family reunion?

MH: Uh. . . That was our 50th wedding anniversary. We was at the Ann's Deja Vu Restaurant and had our picture taken there. 'Course that's Alva's mother and dad there. And this is my mother and dad. And these are real old pictures. That's us when we's really young. It's terrible.

MB: It's a great picture!

MH: And . . . oh just family pictures. I just put up anything. I like it and I put it up so I can see 'em. I enjoy it.

(switch to porch)

AH: You ask me about where we got our drinking water and whatever.

MB: Where'd you get your drinking water?

AH: OK. The spring house is out there about 100 feet. And that's where we got our drinking water at that time and in the basement as you saw there's a round place there that's about 3 foot across and that's where we dipped our water out. And we dipped it out just take a bucket and get down on our knees and get a bucket of water and bring it to the house. And then from there if the water got up about 6 inches from the top there's another hole there that water runs through to the square place. And that would fill up about 6 inches tall or 4 inches tall and the people put their milk in there, and their butter and cream, or whatever, to keep it cool, and that was their refrigerator. Then after the water got so high there was an overflow that flowed on out and down to the road, and down to the run. And up above, 'course, was storage more than anything else.

MH: Didn't you use the basement, though, for butter and stuff?

AH: Yeah that's what I said. You mean downstairs here?

MH: Yeah, you used. . .

AH: Well, some. . .

MH: Cement thing. . .

AH: Well, no not that much. I don't remember that as much. I think that was before me. I don't know. But out there's where when I was a kid that we used it for butter and cream and things like this. (new scene)  
Make water with. 'Course the wheel would go round and make your suction pump out here and pump the water which this well right here at the bottom of the steps is 40 feet deep. It's about 10 foot across at the top and 'bout 4 foot at the bottom. And my great-grandparents dug that by hand and lifted the dirt out and they laid it up with sandstone. And then at that time when they pumped their water we had a cistern up on the hill here, back of the house, and if Mary didn't show it to you I will. And that would pump the water up there. Then they had piped a run from there down to the basement where we could get water to wash with and drink and whatever. And then there was a pipe that run from the cistern on down to the barn and they had at that time that the water would run down to the stock and you watered the cattle, like we do today. And then after we had the flood in 1939, my dad, and we had the electric of course. They put electric pump here and then we could pump it up there anytime we wanted, if we kept the cistern full. Then we had it high enough, the water would be high enough that we had force enough that we had running water in the house. It didn't run very fast, but we had running water in the house. And then Mary and I got married in 1940 and Dad put a bathroom in and we had running water and we had a hot water tank that fastened on right by the side of the stove. There's a pipe running through that. As the water would get hot that made the water circulate. It'd fill that hot water tank up. I suppose it held 20 gallon, maybe. And that's where we got our hot



water tank. Well, then it didn't have much of a safety device on it but if it got too hot then it would whistle. And you had to shut your fire down a little bit. Didn't put so much wood in. And we heated it with wood and mostly all with wood. And then on the side of the old stove we had a reservoir that would heat up water, and we'd use that a lot of times. The reservoir, 'course, you had to pour the water in there and then it would heat up and then you'd use it, then you'd pour the cold water in . . .

MB: Did you use that for cooking?

AH: Oh yeah and wash dishes or whatever.

MH: Clean water to cook with. Hot water if you needed it.

AH: And then when they, I suppose when they built the home here they built another cistern back behind the house here. And they used that one for the basement. And we did have, but I sent it in to the Knox County Farm Historical Society, and they have it in there. Now, it's what I would call a dry sink made out of sandstone. It was about 4 foot wide and about 6 foot long and about they had chiseled out a place about 3 foot long and about 2 foot wide and about 3 inches deep, with a hole in it. And I suppose you could use a corncob or any kind of a plug. You could fill that up and let the water run down stairs and they could cool their butter and stuff downstairs some. But that's sandstone. That's up to the Agricultural Society that's up there today. I thought that would be nice up there because nobody saw it downstairs and everybody can see it up there. So that's pretty much the . . . and I did want to say this. If you, as you're looking around at the old farm houses such as this, I would say 99 times out of 100, if they're still there the buildings are still there, but if you look real close there's always a spring right close to that house. Now you probably didn't think anything about that, but you look at your old houses just like this one, there's a spring right out here. Apparently, they probably checked it out and made sure there's water there before they built this house. There's a house back on the other road over here, an old house, and there's a spring house right beside of it. But you look around as you go through the country and whenever you see an old house 99 times out of 100 you'll see a spring house right beside it.

MB: How do you recognize it?

AH: Just like mine here. You'll see a little building just like that.

MB: In the ground?

AH: Well, no, this is setting up here. It's up on the top here.

MH: They call it a spring house but the water is coming in from the ground.

AH: Now probably, see that's up on the hill there. Probably they took an old pipe or something and made a hole to see if there's any water down there, before they dug the well or before they dug it out and built the spring house. They knew there was water there some way. And you could take a pipe and drive it down in there 20 feet or so and know whether there's water down there or not and apparently they did. But you look around and when you see your houses and there'll be a little building like that about that far away or even closer to the house. And if it's not there by the building it's gone. You look at that old house and you'll see a little hole in the ground, or something, where there used to be a spring house.

MH: Which we may have had if we'd have not put it up again after the tornado.

AH: Well, I talked about filling that in when it got blown over.

MH: By the way, that dirt fell down and you can't get the door shut.

AH: OK. Anyhow, that's about the water story. And now do you want me to go ahead and tell you about the barn?

MB: Yeah.

AH: OK. Back about 1930, after Mother left in '27, Dad and my sister lived here and she was 10 and I would have been about 12 years old at that time. We had two barns as we have now, about exactly the same places. Anyhow, Dad and I slept in the back bedroom, we called at that time, which is now the bathroom. And 'course we couldn't see out. My sister slept upstairs in the back bedroom. Sometime during the early part of the night I would say, Dad said to me and I slept on the outside, and he said, "Alva, what's that light on the wall there flashing?" And I says I don't know, and he says, "Look out and see." So looked up and peaked out the window and I told Dad the barn was on fire and so he jumped up and grabbed his pants and shoes and says, "You get your clothes on and go out and ring that bell." The dinner bell. And that would alert the neighbors that we was having trouble. So I run out and started ringing the dinner bell and he went out and checked the cows in the barn and there wasn't any cows there. He got the car out of the barn and 'course the flames got pretty high and people started coming down over the hill. Walking down they couldn't drive down. Coming from up the road and down the road. We had an awful crowd here and by that time a man by the name of Dwight Dile and his family lived up here right about where the water tower is in Gambier, and they could see the water or heard the bell or something, I don't know, but he come down here right away. And he got the old gray mule out and another mule and put the harness on them and got out there and he pulled out the corn shredder, which was on fire at that time but they got it out here and they got the fire out. It didn't hurt it too much but some of the wood burned on it. Then the ladies come in and they made coffee and donuts, I suppose, or whatever we had. Then after they were here the wind was blowing out of the north and they's all afraid that the wind was going to change and we had a big straw pile between the two barns here. If the wind changed and got the straw pile on fire then it would have burnt both barns. So the men all carried water in buckets wherever they could get it, and kept that straw wet. So if it did change the sparks maybe wouldn't get the straw on fire. But anyhow, the wind didn't change and the barn burnt down and nobody got hurt. I remember very well my sister came down the next morning and all the women's around and she didn't understand what was going on. She slept through it all and either somebody told her to look out or she looked out and she says, "Where's the barn?" That's quite unusual that you would sleep that good, but she did. She slept through it all. Now do you want me to tell you about the pictures here? Now I'll tell you about that if you want me to. (end of side 1, tape 1)

AH: You want me to go ahead now?

MB: Yeah, sure.

AH: OK. You know when we was down to Gambier I made the remark at the luncheon that day people said that I wouldn't be a dumb farmer, or there goes a dumb farmer. That remark had been made back years ago. Lot of times. I've heard it a lot of times.

MB: In Gambier?

AH: Well, I told you that down there when we had our luncheon. Maybe you don't remember. I was telling about some of the old time. Back at that time. . .

MB: Do you remember an incident when that happened?

AH: Not really. Not really but it was very common to say I wouldn't be a farmer, or there goes a dumb farmer. That was very common. But then I told you down there that day that that wasn't really so because a farmer had to have a little bit of knowledge of veterinarian, carpenter work, electrical work, not electrical work so much but

plumbing work, machinery work, fix machinery, feeding horses, be a little bit of a veterinarian, be able to see if a cow was sick or whatever. You had to have a little knowledge of a lot of things. Maybe not a lot, whereas a today an electrician is an electrician. A plumber's a plumber, and so forth. That's all they do. Anyhow, I'm going to show you this. And this is just a little incident. This is back about 5 or 6, 7 years ago. We had a cow starting to have a calf and she couldn't have it, and my niece here wanted to see a cow have a calf, my wife's niece. So we called her and she came down and took these pictures. Now, this cow couldn't have a calf so we got her in the barn.

MB: What was wrong?

AH: Well, it was just too big a calf, I guess, for the cow. So now as long as a cow has a calf and, 'course, the feet comes first, and the head lays right on top of the feet. So the feet and the nose comes first. If that's the case then you don't have too much trouble. So here's the case here. We got her in and we could see the feet and we could see the nose of the calf. So we got a rope, see we got a rope. You can't see it there but . . .

MB: Is that the nose?

AH: Yeah. Well here you are. Now there's the rope. So we put the rope on the calf's feet. Now see Jim's got a stick in there so he can pull hard. He had to pull--you see how hard he's pulling? And then he was pulling up here to start with and I run my arm up next to the calf and worked around to make it a little softer in there, easier. And he kept pulling and I kept working it around 'till we finally got the calf coming out just a little bit. And you can see it coming here. And then here after we got there then we both pulled. And there comes the calf out. And so we got out of there real quick. Just as soon as we got out I cleaned the calf's mouth out. Then we got the devil out of there because that cow, soon as we let it loose, is going to get you.

MB: What do they do once they give birth?

AH Well they . . .

MH: They don't want you around their calves.

AH: They don't want you around their calves. They want you to get out of there.

MB: What do they do?

AH: Well, they run you over that gate. They knock you down and tramp you to death and whatever. So we got out of there. We got out of there and let the cow loose and come to the house after we washed a little bit and she cleaned it all up and had a nice calf but . . . Now if this calf when it started to be born if you couldn't see one leg I'd be in trouble because I couldn't handle it.

MB: What would that mean?

AH: Well that'd mean you have to have a veterinary out and he'd have to push that calf clear back in and reach in and get both legs. Put a chain around both legs. And get it coming with the head too. But you had to be a vet in order to do that. I couldn't do that. I mean . . .

MB: How often does that happen?

AH: Oh not very often. Not very often.

MH: You lose 'em once in a while because of that.

AH: Oh yeah.

MB: Do you ever lose the cow too?

AH: Oh yeah. Now once in a while if the cow is having a calf and if it . . . if its head comes out and the front feet don't come out and if its head comes out and the ears come out then you're in trouble because you can't get the calf back in on account of its ears and its jaws and almost always then you have to cut its head off, and then reach in and get the two front feet and like I said . . .

MH: To save the cow.

AH: To save the cow. To put the chain on the front feet and then pull it out. Almost always.

MB: So that's just if the head comes out without the . . .

AH: If the head come out without the legs.

MH: But the vet does that.

AH: Yeah, I wouldn't do it. Oh no, it's the vet's job. Another thing, if the cow . . . if the nose and one leg's out then I don't know whether I could do that or not because you've got to push that calf back in and reach in and get the two legs together.

MB: Have you had to do that? Have you done that?

AH: I wouldn't be surprised, in my time. Now here a couple three years ago, I can say this, we's having a calf and Jim wasn't here and that cow was having a calf out there in the woods and I watched her and watched her and watched her, and she couldn't have it. So I went up and took the tractor and she was laying with her head down the hill a little bit and I sneaked up behind her and I had my rope and she didn't see me. I was real quiet and she didn't see me. The legs and the nose was sticking out, and I slipped a slip over the legs and then I put my foot up right next to her body and then I pulled all I could pull and she happened to look up and see me and she started to get up and she couldn't get up but she got up on her two front feet and started down through the woods and I hung right with her. With my two feet. . .

MB: She was dragging you?

AH: Yes, she was dragging me, and I had my two feet right up next to her pulling all I could pull. And before I let go I had the calf out. So just soon as the calf come out I jerked the rope off her feet and left right away.

MB: That's what you have to do?

AH: Oh yeah. Get away from her. And I turned around and then I watched her a little bit and she turned around and began to clean the calf and I come to the house. The next morning was fine. So there's that. I'm going to put that right there so the girls can see it.

MB: Tell me about the dog.

AH: OK. I showed you the dog, the picture there. (searches for picture) Now this is the dog I want to tell you about. The mule, and my sister's holding the dog and that's 1931. The dog is a German Shepherd. It has black on

its nose there, just a black nose. And when Dad and I, or Dad, would get up and go out in the morning, now this dog was raised with sheep. Raised with them, from a pup on up. And I don't know how old he was there, but he was a big dog. And we'd get up in the mornings and right out here where you went to the spring house in that little patch there, 'course we had sheep out there, but he'd get up in the morning and a lot of times you could see a sheep dead out there. And he'd go out and look at it and it'd have its throat cut. And all that'd be wrong with that sheep would be that the dog, or whatever, we didn't know what it was, would suck the blood from that sheep. They's blood thirsty or something. They got the blood. Now a dog and a sheep, 99 times out of 100 will tear the wool all up, and bite it and pull the flesh out and all that sort of thing, but this wasn't so. All he did was to cut the sheep's throat and suck the blood. We lost, I will guess, 8 or 10 that way. 8 or 10 different days we'd get up and maybe not everyday in a row but every whip-stitch we'd find a dead sheep out there in the morning, not in the daytime, in the morning. So as time went on then my neighbors up here had dogs and my other neighbor had sheep down here in the field and the dogs got in--my neighbor's dogs--got into their sheep and the dog warden came out and some way or other they seen our dog out here in the road. Now they didn't see our dog in the sheep, but they seen him up here along the road. So the dog warden stopped, Mr. McKnab, and he had my neighbors dogs because they seen them in the sheep. He's going to kill the dogs. That's what they do with them, you know. They're no good and you kill the dogs. So he had the dogs. . .

MB: These were his own dogs?

AH: No that was the dog that belonged up here at the neighbors. And they got the sheep so the dog warden came out, the county dog warden, and picked the dogs up. Gonna take and kill 'em. So he stopped here and he says to Dad, and he called him Frank, he says "Frank I think," he says, "We had some sheep killed over here last night," and he says, "I think your dog was in those sheep with the other ones." And Dad said, "I don't think so." He said, "My dog never goes away from home." And he says, "He wouldn't kill a sheep anyhow because he's raised with 'em. He's raised right with sheep all the time." So they talked that way a little bit and Mr. McKnab kept telling him, kept telling my dad, that he thought that dog was in the sheep because he was up here along the road. But nobody seen him in the sheep. So finally Dad says to Mr. McKnab, he says, "If you think my dog was in those sheep with the other ones," he said, "I want you to take him and kill him or get rid of him just like the other dogs." So Mr. McKnab picked him up and put him in the car and took him away, and apparently he killed him. But we never found another dead sheep out here in the lot. So apparently that dog was sneaking out there every few days and killing the sheep every morning or two. . .

MB: And just sucking their blood?

AH: And sucking their blood, yes.

MB: Weird.

AH: Yeah it is weird.

MB: Vampire dog!

AH: But that's the dog right there. I can remember it just as well as if it was yesterday. That's the dog. And all he did, now he didn't tear the sheep up as I say most dogs that gets in sheep, or at that time, would tear 'em up. Tear the wool off of 'em and eat their flesh, or bite 'em and chew 'em. But there was never a mark on these sheep except their throat.

MB: Did you ever find that again? Or that was the only time that. . .

AH: We never . . .

MB: . . .the sheep ever turned up . . .

AH: That's the only time. We never had another one after they took the dog.

MH: Our dog was doing it.

AH: Our dog was doing it, there's no question about it. And of our sheep, you see, they pastured back here over the hill and then they'd come down here in the morning and he'd catch her in the night sometime and kill it, and suck the blood out of it. He never went back there and got 'em. He got 'em right here. Right here at the house. So if, I don't know of anything else and if you want to take a little ride on the tractor we'll do that.

MB: OK. Sounds good.

(cut to footsteps)

MB: Which way?

AH: Wait a minute, 'till I come down there.

MB: OK.

AH: I'll show you.

MH: Can't go in the basement--can't get in.

AH: Just so Mary don't hit me over the head.

MH: What?

AH: For showing you this.

MH: What is it you're showing?

AH: Look here. I want to show you. . . here's a referigerator we bought in 1947. Mary cleaned it up the other day. Now this is our old cellar. Now it's filled up here some but it. . . Here's an old thing. I remember this. See that's metal. There's our fruit placing.

MB: Jars for canning?

AH: Oh yeah. But that's the old fruit bin. Been here as long as I can remember.

MH: That was cleaned up at one time, but the water got to in it.

AH: Still runs. And this used to be a fireplace here. Here. And then over here, see I filled this up on account of these bricks was getting kind of old. But over here there was a place here, through the door here, and that's hollow in there, and when they had a fire there, that's where they baked the bread and baked their pies. They'd build a fire in the fireplace here and open, have a door here, and they'd push their bread in there and bake their bread. This is where I told you . . . this is where I told you we stayed in the summertime. And then went upstairs in the wintertime. But at that time this is board floors and now it's of course cement.

MB: The kitchen was down here?

AH: Oh yes. We come down here every summer, see.

MH: I never did.

MB: You never did?

MH: Huh-uh.

MB: By the time you were here the kitchen was upstairs?

MH: I got everything new upstairs, pretty much.

AH: We got our bathroom and our new kitchen well pretty quick . . .

MH: Well, I did have the old fashioned wood stove that you cooked on. . .

AH: Yeah, for ten years.

MH: And the resevoir. . .

AH: We had that for 10 years.

MH: Stuff like that but I did have running water.

AH: Show Mara Bell that license plate. How heavy it is.

MH: This one, you mean.

MB: This one?

MH: Or this?

AH: That yellow one.

MH: I don't know where this one came from. This is the oldest.

AH: 1917.

MH: This one? This is 1961. And this is 19. .

MB: 55.

MH: 55.

AH: The yellow one is 1917.

MB: Oh, I guess the numbers go down.

MH: Oh, 19. . .

AH: 17. That's older than I am.

MH: Oh, I didn't know that was the one that was the oldest. I thought it was that'n. Well, that's a big old thing. Is that the one you found in the . . .

AH: In the garage. Now there's one up there in 1927.

MH: Oh yeah, that's an old one.

AH: So that's . . . Now up there's a mule shoe, Mara Bell, up there's a mule shoe. And I would bet money that that was on the old gray mule that I showed you upstairs.

MB: Toby?

AH: Toby. That comes from Toby, I'll bet. Could have been. Dress up pretty warm 'cause that tractor . . .

MH: We usually have this table over here but we just don't paint shutters.

AH: Yeah. That boy's gonna paint my shutters on the house. He was gonna paint 'em here but after I talked to him he's gonna paint 'em down, spray 'em down. . .

MH: Thank goodness.

MB: I think I dropped my hat so if you see a blue thing lying around. . . (cool chime)

AH: This is over that well. This well goes about that big around and it's about 40 feet deep. It's about 8 or 10 feet deep here and about 4 feet wide down at the bottom.

MB: I see the hat. It's out there. I'll get it later.

AH: The what?

MB: Hat. (wind and walking)

MH: We'll be going around there anyway. (pause) You don't have that thing on do you? Oh well, we can. . . (sound of garage door opening)

AH: Now, you let me back out. (more garage door opening)

MH: There's the old fashioned way! I'm the garage door opener today. In that film we took Nathan was the garage door opener.

MB: That's right.

MH: He's only just about that big! (laughs) I think he was 3, possibly 4. This'll be a cold ride. (tractor starts up) It's close.



MB: I know, I was just going to say it doesn't look like it fits!

MH: He's so used to bringing it out of there that . . . We keep it in there in the winter 'cause we connect it up so it'll start.

AH: Come around to this side up here. Give me your hand . . .

MB: And sit up here?

AH: Yeah sit right up here. Now wait a minute.

MB: OK. Is this good?

AH: OK?

MB: OK.

AH: You set back here, Mary, (undistinguishable conversation). Now, you know the tractor is either the coldest place you can be or the hottest place you can be in the summertime.

MB: Oh I bet!

AH: Yeah. (long stretch of tractor noise) Now Kenyon College comes clear across those're their lines there. Right up there.

MB: And you own up to the fense.

AH: Yeah. 'Course Jim and Sherry bought this from my dad. They built the house here in 1971. Over here is College Township on the line fense right here.

MB: What township?

AH: College. That's College Township. Then we're in Pleasant. And right over here at the corner is Monroe. So Pleasant, Monroe and College meets right there. (pause) You might want to watch clear through and you might see deer or turkeys or anything. We go clear over to those pines, clear over up to the \_\_\_\_\_. (pause)

MB: How old's the tractor?

AH: About 22 or 3 years old. I never farmed with it much. It's got a little less than 3000 hours on it. You figure that up it's 20 years. What'll that be. . . I can hardly think of it but that wouldn't be very many hours each year. Be about 150 hours a year. That's all. That'd be about, on average, about 20 days out of the year at 8 hours a day. That's all I've ever used it. (long pause)

MB: What do you grow here?

AH: This is the field that the girls picked their popcorn in.

MB: Oh.

AH: We was up the other day, David, my grandson, and we saw 11 turkeys right in here, where they get shell corn

to eat. (pause)

MH: Any deer?

AH: Now there's ten acres here. Mostly, Jim gets most of our hay on this 10 acre field. Here's an iron pipe sticking out of the ground here. They drilled for gas back about 1948. And they got what we call a dry hole. They didn't get anything so they put cement down in and put a cap on it and it's still sitting there.

MB: Do you get the gas off of your own land?

AH: Not then 'cause that was dry. We got our gas over there on the other side of the road. Now let's watch down in here now real close and you might see a deer. We would drive down that way but it's so wet in there now.

MB: This thing ever get stuck in the mud?

AH: Well, I never try to get it stuck in the mud, I'll put it that way.

MH: I don't think we're going to see any deer.

AH: Well, I wouldn't say that yet. Now, I'm going to show you a little problem here that most of us farmers have, and it's not a bad problem at all but it's a problem. And this is a pretty good fence here, but you see where the hunters climb over it?

MB: Oh yeah.

AH: Pushed it down. Now we've got to come up and fix that. The only thing that's done that is the hunters that come up through here and climb over there.

MB: Do you have many poachers?

AH: Not really. (pause) Would be good to see deer come up through there, but not today. 'Course when I had the girls up here we didn't see any. The other girls, we didn't see any. But I was up the other day and I seen three deer here and seven on the other side. Then when David and I was up here we seen 11 turkeys so . . . (pause) You've been over to the shopping center, haven't you? See the water tower over there? How close we are to Mt. Vernon?

MB: Oh wow. I didn't realize we were that close.

AH: There used to be a deer stand up there. See the ladder?

MB: Yeah. So you could watch?

AH: So you could kill deer. See up there? Then they'd shoot a deer when it'd come through.

MB: Do you hunt much?

AH: No. A few times. But I never killed a deer and I wouldn't today.

MB: What did you hunt?

AH: Oh we'd coon hunt a lot. Trap for mush rats over along the river. Rabbit hunt. Used to squirrel hunt a lot.

Haven't for years. Got away from it. (pause; tractor squeaks)

MB: Do you grow things on this field?

AH: Yeah. This is where we get the alfalfa hay.

MB: Oh, OK.

AH: We come up the other end of it, over there. There's our popcorn field again.

MB: I didn't know if it was still the same field.

AH: Yeah. Same thing. Just soon as it gets dry enough I'm going to get some fertilizer to bring out and then Jim's going to put fertilizer 300 pounds to the acre. This the first time you's ever on a farm tractor?

MB: Yup.

AH: No?

MB: Yeah it is.

AH: Oh is it?

MB: Yeah. (pause)

AH: There's a block of salt they've got for their deer. They can see 'em come and eat salt there. Mrs. \_\_\_\_\_ had a stroke about a little over a year ago. She can't get out much and last, couple months ago, she had another stroke and they took her to Columbus and they had to take one of her legs off. (end of tape 1)

(tape 2)

MB: Got my hat.

MH: Hold on!

AH: (says something undistinguishable)

MB: Thanks. (long pause, lots of tractor noise)

AH: Well, there's something that's way older than I am and that's the watering trough. And this fense used to go up and around. That used to be out in the road. And that's where they watered their horses. That's where the water came from the spring house up there.

MB: When do you think that was built?

AH: I would say back in the early 1900s, at least. Maybe before that. Maybe when they built the house shortly after--way back there. Are you in any hurry to go yet? (pause) I don't know if you want to ride up to the gas well or not.

MB: Sure.

AH: Then I'll take you up.

MB: Who's that over there in the barn?

AH: Well, that's where the kids have got three Angus calves and Jim bought that calf. He's gonna make a milk cow.

MH: (Mary says something undistinguishable)

AH: No. But he's gonna have a milk cow and have his own milk, I guess. (sounds of tractor accelerating)

MB: Is the pond frozen?

AH: No. A little bit, but not too much. Now, I'm not going over that way because of the wet.

MB: OK.

AH: Maybe if you're out again I'll take you over to the pond.

MB: OK. Did you ever go skating on the pond?

AH: No. I'd never allow it.

MH: The kids did once, but we don't allow it because it might crack. (pause; sound of tractor decelerating)

AH: Where's your dormitory at?

MB: What do I what?

AH: Where do you stay at down at Kenyon, down at the college?

MB: Where do I stay? I live in an apartment with three other women. The Bexley apartments. I don't know if you know where that is.

AH: No. Where?

MB: It's . . .

MH: What street?

MB: You know where the Bexley Art building is, that old brick building? When you come up rt. 308?

AH: Yeah.

MB: If you turn to the left and go back behind the Health Center, it's right back there.

AH: You come up 308 . . .

MH: Past the water tower?

MB: Yeah. If you turn left there and you go back and you turn right then there's the Health Center on the corner, and you curve around. There's a row of white apartments. Those are the Bexleys.

AH: I probably know but I don't just understand, but we'll get it. (pause)

MH: There's a pipe that runs down to our house.

MB: And this is gas?

AH: Yeah. This is our gas well. We get our gas, a lot of people say it's free gas but I never said that. We have to pay the swabbing and. . . You just take hold of the salt water and there's a little bit of oil in it. And when we get a thousand gallon in there we have to get a truck to haul it to way down around Coshocton County and they put it back down in the ground again. I'm not even allowed to haul a barrel of it or take a bucket of it across the road.

MB: Why's that?

AH: EPA. It's salt water and oil. The EPA. The gauge on top tells how much gas we have. It's doing real good. Of course it hasn't been real cold. When you say free gas, well, it costs us about \$240 every year to just get it swabbed. That gets the water and the oil out of it. If you don't do that then it just don't make gas. Just like everything else. Get too much water in there and the gas won't come up through it. So about \$240 a year to do that. Then it's just like everything else.

MB: Do you sell any of it?

AH: No, we used to but we don't anymore. It's just like I say--just everything else. Just like an automobile. Some day somebody, maybe I won't have to but somebody, if they keep that gas up is going to have to put a new pipe in there. About 2600 feet worth, and that would be a lot of money.

MB: Wow. Yeah.

AH: But on the other hand, if you keep it long enough it's worth a lot of money.

MB: Yeah.

MH: You saw the fence line, did you?

MB: Yeah.

MH: There by the house.

AH: Now you say you never rode a tractor before?

MB: Nope. Never.

AH: Well, then you never drove one either did you?

MB: Nope.

AH: Alright. My cane. . .

MB: Is it still here?

MH: Can't hold 'self on let alone that cane. (more about the cane) Kids own clear back to there.

MB: Where's your garden?

AH: Beg your pardon?

MB: Where's your garden?

AH: Why it's up there by the garage.

(shuts tractor off)

AH: There comes somebody there.

MH: What?

AH: Somebody there. (to Mary) Now stick that [cane] down in there and then it won't fall off. Just lay it down. Pick up your arms. Let go of it. There you go. (to MB) Now you never rode a tractor and you never drove one but you're going to start. (to Mary) Now you sit still.

MH: I am but I'm going to move my leg.

AH: Oh OK. Now you get right down here.

MB: Alright. Who gets to tape? Mary you get to tape.

MH: You'uns talk.

AH: Now, there's your brakes.

MB: Here. These two?

AH: Those two. There's your clutch over there. Now push down on your clutch. Now wait a minute. There's your gear shift.

MB: OK.

AH: Now there's 8 gears forward and 8 gears backwards.

MB: OK.

AH: Now we've got . . . Pull your gearshift up.

MB: Push the clutch in first?

AH: Well, either one. Push the clutch. That's the gearshift.

MB: Now pull up?

AH: There right there. Now that's in neutral. Now it's already in drive, and first gear so that's all you have to do.

MH: Take us to the house.

MB: Oh no! OK, now what?

AH: Is that thing clear up, that little thing?

MB: Yeah.

AH: Pull a little farther, I think. OK. Turn your key on. Start it up. (starts up)

MB: Just down?

AH: Yeah.

MB: Do I pull the clutch up?

AH: No, not yet.

MB: Why isn't it going?

AH: Pull it up. Now let your clutch out. Now try it again. Now wait a minute, put your clutch down. Now try it again.

MB: OK. Now what?

AH: Let the clutch out real easy.

MB: OK. Are we going to go?

AH: Well yeah in a minute. There you go. Now there's your gas. Pull down on your gas a little bit. There you go. We're in business now!

MB: Alright.

MH: Drive faster than him!

MB: Drive faster than him? (laughs) (undistinguishable dialogue)

MH: Turn towards the house.

MB: OK. Uh-oh. I'm going to get us stuck in the mud.

AH: No you won't.

MB: Are you sure?

AH: Yes, yes.

MB: I'm going to slow down.

AH: Just so you don't miss the driveway.

MB: Alright. We're not going to get stuck?

AH: No, no.

MB: Uh-oh.

MH: Uh-oh.

AH: You need to pull out the clutch there.

MH: For a pretty ride you ought to come in the Spring and see it.

MB: Oh I'd love to.

MH: It's pretty.

AH: OK. A little more gas.

(indistinguishable conversation and laughter)

MB: Now what?

AH: Put your clutch in.

MB: Alright.

AH: Put your brake on. Now turn it off. Now wait a minute. Drive up.

MB: Drive up? So let the clutch. . .

MH: There you go, learning how.

AH: Pull right down in front of the barn.

MB: OK.

AH: That door isn't very big.

MB: I don't want to do that!

MH: No way!

MB: Pull it down right there? Alright. Alright here?

AH: Yeah. Put the clutch down. Now turn your key off.



MB: Off?

AH: There. Now you drove a tractor.

MB: Wow. That was great!

AH: Now you tell . . .

MH: Lucie and Rachel there not the only ones.

AH: Yeah they're not the only ones to drive a tractor. Now I don't know anything else, do you? Anything else you want to do, or talk about? Now, I seen Virgil \_\_\_\_\_. You seen him. He's a photographer in the city of Mt. Vernon, with the *Mt. Vernon News*. He was in there and that took his eye right off the bat because she had a hat on that come around like this and it looks like there's fur on it. So he wondered where that came from. I have no idea, but I imagine it'd be probably a wild animal fur. It's interesting. Real nice picture.

MB: Well, I had a few more questions, if you want to go back inside.

AH: OK. I'll be right up then.

MB: Alright.

AH: Alright.  
(starts up tractor)

(back inside)

MB: I won't be but a minute.

AH: Oh we got plenty of time.

MH: Oh I don't mean that. I'll have something else besides. . . .

MB: I just wanted to ask a little bit about the farm itself. And I wondered if you ever thought about leaving?

AH: Oh my no. No. That'd be the last thing.

MB: Was there ever any question that the farm would be yours?

AH: Not really. Not really. The only thing I can tell you is that 'bout 1970, if I remember right, I asked Dad about the farm. I says, "Dad, I think with the age you're getting and myself that we ought to understand kind of what we're going to do with the farm." And he said, "Well Alva, you're going to get the farm through the will." I says, "Well, how's that?" And he says, "You're going to get it at appraised value." And I says, "Well, Dad, if we do that I'll never buy the farm because I won't be able to afford it this close to Mt. Vernon anymore. Because it's so high." And I says, "If you live a few years, or several years yet, the longer you live and the longer I live the more expensive it's going to be." And I said I wouldn't be able to afford it. So he changed his will and he put it in there very reasonable. I can even tell you, for \$16, 000, "And if the kids approve it, why, I aim to put that in my will." So the kids all approved it and he put it in his will and with that approval, so I got the farm. No question about after that. But before that it had come to me that there might have been.

MB: And your brothers and sisters never raised a fuss about it?

AH: I won't say that. Not much. But they didn't particularly care for it.

MH: They knew it was worth more then.

AH: Well, the only thing that was mentioned after Dad passed away is the fact that he made the will and he signed his papers in 1970. And 'course the inflation or whatever you might call it grew quite a bit by the next 20 years. And that made the place more valuable. But really it didn't make it any more valuable to me then, now as then or whatever, because I was going to live here and if it's worth 10,000 there and a million dollars today it didn't make any difference to me I was going to stay here and that's the way it's gonna be! And, 'course, it's going to my daughter and hopefully it'll go to my grandsons up here.

MB: You think they're going to stay on the farm?

AH: I would guess so. Yes. I think so. I think they will. There's no doubt in my mind that they will.

MB: How many people around, do you think, can still say they live on the land they were born on?

AH: Just one other person I know of. And that's my first cousin. There was three that I knew of. Darwin Vincent, he was born in his house where he lives now. He's a little older than I am. That'd be about 7, 8, 9 years ago. He retired and sold his farm about two years ago. And so that left Glen Wolf. He's about 72 and he's born in the same house he lived in. And I never moved and neither did Glen. So that's the only two I know of.

MB: How did your father end up owning the farm out of his family?

AH: Through the estate. He bought it from the estate. Now I don't know . . . It wasn't willed to him. He just bought it from his brothers and sisters.

MB: Is that the way it usually works within families?

AH: Pretty much so, I think. Yes. I would think most of the time it's, now especially, it would go through the will rather than just agreement between the brothers and sisters. I would imagine that. . . .

MB: Do you think it used to go through mostly agreement?

AH: I would say so, yes.

MB: And now it has to be in the will?

AH: Yeah. Or it should be.

MB: Do you think that's a big problem? The passing on of the farm?

AH: No, I don't think so. The only thing is that that doesn't happen much anymore. See, it's just like this one here. I don't know another place, outside of Glen Wolf's right offhand, that people were born there and still live there. So it don't pass down to the family. They move out. It's just not there anymore like it used to be. Now, over the fence here years ago, Walkers. They lived up here on the corner, and as long as I can remember it was in the Walker family. But Grandpa and Grandma Walker died probably 20, 30 years ago and finally Harlo died just a few weeks ago and his wife's still living over at the nursing home but as soon as she's gone I'm sure that the boys is never going to come back here. So that'll be gone. So I don't think that' so anymore. I think that outside a few farms they just

move out and go because they can't make it a go.

MB: Yeah. How do you feel about that?

AH: I think it's sad. Really. And I can say this. I think I could today . . . If my son-in-law and my daughter . . . If I would move to Mt. Vernon today and say "You take the farm. You take the machinery and the cattle, and don't do anything else. No work away from home." And give it to them. They'd have to pay the taxes and keep the insurance up. I don't think they'd be here in five years. They couldn't live. They couldn't buy the groceries. They couldn't raise the kids. They couldn't send them to school. I don't think they could--I know they couldn't do it. So that's the reason why it's gone. It's so big time. I can give you an example. What I'm trying to say is my wife was looking at the paper today and she says, "Here. I'm gonna buy the coffee over at Big Bear next week. It's on sale for," we'll say, "three dollars." I says, "How much in it? In the can?" She says, "I suppose 12 or 13 ounces." I says, "Well, look and tell me how much's in it." She looked on the ad again and she looked it up and the ad says 11-12 ounces.

MH: 13.

AH: Beg pardon?

MH: 11 to 13 ounces.

AH: Well, you get it and look. She told me 11 to 12 ounces. And she says, "No big deal." Well, an ounce isn't very much but think if they, over at Big Bear, they probably brought a thousand pounds. Or a thousand cans, we'll say. Brought over the other day. If there's an ounce in --that's over a thousand ounces. So most of 'em if it says 12 to 13 ounces or 11 to 12 ounces, most of 'em's going to weigh 11 ounces. They put one in every once in a while that'll be 12, to free 'em up on their ad. But most of 'em go out with 11 so they've got an extra ounce there and if they have that many cans well think how many pounds we got. At three dollars a pound.

MH: 12 to 13 ounce--same difference.

AH: Same difference. So if they say 12 to 13, if they put 13 ounces in one can out of a hundred, we'll say, and the rest of 'em's 12 ounces . . .

MB: Doesn't seem very honest, does it?

AH: No, but it's there. And if they buy 10,000 cans there's 10,000 ounces divide that by 16 and that's an awful lot of pounds there. And the chicken farm up here at Croton. They tell me that if they make a penny a dozen on eggs that's plenty. They can make plenty of money at it. But you take a . . .

MB: They sell that many eggs?

AH: Yeah. They've got millions of chickens. Now you take a farm like this, has 50 chickens and get 3 dozen eggs a day and get a penny a eggs, you know what's gonna happen. They're gonna be broke tomorrow.

MB: Yeah.

AH: So that's the whole thing. Same way with your cattle, your sheep, and your little farm, and everything. You've got to if you want to make \$10 on a cow you've got to have a hundred cows to make any money. You can't have 10. That's all there is to it. So that's the way it is. It's too bad it's going that way, but it's going that way.

MB: You see that a lot around?

AH: Oh yes. Now I can say this. Back several years ago your adjoining property owners would have to help keep the fence up. They'd have to do their share--their half of it. Probably so yet today. But on the other hand, even 20 years ago I probably had 4 or 5 people that joined me that would help build the fence if I need some fence built or to keep the cattle out or whatever. Lying the fence, as we called it. And my sister said the other day, "Why don't you get your neighbors to help you build the fence." That same fence today I've got 24 property owners next to me. So rather. . .

MB: You can't really call 'em up, all 24 of them, and say come help me.

AH: No. And argue with them. And they say they don't have any cattle or any sheep or anything. They don't have to build a fence. So the only thing I can do is go build a fence. Cheaper than anything else. So that's what I do. I build all the fence. Not half of it, all of it. And I'm pretty close to Mt. Vernon, see, and it's gonna be pretty close before too long.

MB: Yeah. Do you think it's important to keep the farm in the family?

AH: Oh yes. Sure. I think so. It's just like you going to college. You've got to have a college degree today to go. When I graduated from high school we's fine. We's gonna make it. And I graduated from high school. I didn't give it a thought. I rode the pony to school for 8 years. Then I rode in the old, we all called it The Breadbox. 8 or 10 would ride in it. And I never thought about quitting high school. I didn't have the best grades in the world but I got my diploma and got through and I thought I was pretty lucky and I think I am. Now if you . . .you couldn't do that today. High school. . . well, you'd go out and make about \$5 an hour, or 4.50, and you can't live on that. So that's the difference today from a few years ago.

MB: How do you think life was different for your kids growing up on the farm than it was for you?

AH: Well, when I went to school we started at 9 o'clock and I had to be there at 9:00 in the morning. We got an hour off at noon. I think it was 15 minutes in the morning before noon and 15 in the afternoon. We got recess. We got out of school at 4 o'clock. My dad expected me home at 4:30. If we had an extra pair of pants we'd change clothes. If we didn't we wore the same clothes. We had our calves to feed and we had our wood to get in so we'd have kindling for the next morning. We had, of course, we heated with wood. We had to go get our wood. Haul it in. Carry it in. However you could get enough to run it for the whole day. Milk--had to milk cows. Go get the milk. Maybe go get some corn out of the field. We worked 'till dark and then after dark if we had anything to do we'd have to get to the barn and Dad and hold the lantern so he could see to work. So that was when I went to school. Now, today, my grandkids up here. They go to school. They get up early in the morning. The one grandchild leaves at 7:00 in the morning on the bus. He gets of at 2:15 and he either goes to the ball park or comes home or down to the sports center. But he has, we'll say, anywhere from 2:30 to. . . 8 hours from then on 'till he'd have to go to bed. (end of side one)

And again we don't have the chores that we had then. See, because it's all mechanical and big stuff. And you just don't have work for kids, though there's a lot of work they could do if they'd do it but you don't have that kind of work. They don't have to get wood. They don't have to carry coal. They don't have to carry water. They've got too much time on their hands, the kids today, to what they did when I went to school.

MB: Still, do you think it's different to grow up on the farm than it is to grow up in the city?

AH: Sure. Oh yes.

MH: Not much difference now a-days.

AH: Well, no not really today but . . . Oh I think so really.

MH: Yeah really.

AH: Look here. Look right over there. You see the cows. Now it won't be but a few days I can set out there and I can see a cow have a calf. If I set there a few minutes, if I watch up there, I'll see a couple deer go across the hill. Look out here you might see 5 or 6 turkeys. Now you go to town or to Gambier--I don't care where you go--and you look out your window and what are you going to see? You're going to see a street. You're going to see somebody's house. Or whatever. You're not going to see across the field very far. So it's altogether different. Absolutely different. Now as I told you, up here Mrs. Ruth had a stroke about a year ago. Finally here, 6 or 8 weeks ago, or well it's been longer than that. I'd say 3 months ago she had another stroke and she went to Columbus and they cut her leg off and she's over there for about 2 months and she's home now and between him and 2 other ladies they're taking care of her. She's laying up there in bed and the wife's up there the other day and she had that salt block up there. She can look out the window. She lays there in bed, in the wheelchair, and she can look out the window and see deer coming in the morning and evening and eat salt. She can look out the window and see my cattle over here roaming the hills, and little calves come in the Spring. They run and play just like a bunch of kids. So it's quite a difference I think.

MB: Did you have any pictures you wanted me to take a look at, those older ones?

AH: Not right now that I know of. We'll look through some.

MB: If you think of any. . .let me shut this off. (end of tape)