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## Interview with Regina Sharp

Jennifer Keeley

Regina Sharp

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Researcher's Name: Jennifer Keeley

Event: Interview with Regina Sapp

Place: The Davis House

Coworkers Present: none

Jennifer: I'm Jennifer Keeley and this is Friday, February 4, 2000. We are in the Davis house. I am with Mrs. Sapp and we are going to be talking about the jump bridge. You live in Danville right?

Regina Sapp: I live in Danville yes.

J: Have you lived there all your life?

R: Uh, no I grew up in Howard.

J: Oh you did.

R: Well we moved there in the 7<sup>th</sup> grade. But we used to live on top of what is called snow hill. You might now be familiar with it, but it's the hill as your going out on the ----. That great big long incline there at the top. There used to be a house there. And we lived in that house. Then we moved to town. But I lived there till I got married and left.

J: How did you first find out about the jumping bridge?

R: Um, we called it the baseball bridge.

J: Oh, really.

R: Well actually, there were two bridges. You've been on the bike path, you've gone to Howard, right.

J: I've gone to Howard and I've visited the bridge, and eaten in Frankies Pizza parlor.

R: Okay, the bridge that - there's like a resting spot, and there's a bridge that goes over that. That used to be called the railroad bridge. And there is a couple on deep spots there. Somebody either went to the Railroad Bridge, or what we called the Baseball Bridge. We called it that because there used to be a baseball field out there. There's a big corn field out there now. And there was a baseball field out there.

J: So there were two different bridges that you would go to.

R: Yeah, One had the railroad tracks, and you could walk the tracks, the other, you know that's just what you called them. That way you could keep them straight.

J: When would you go to which one.

R: Well, um, usually if you wanted to fish you would go to the Railroad Bridge, and if you wanted to swim you would go to the other one, or you went to the spillway. Like where the spillway is in Apple Valley. I don't know if you've ever been on Magers (?) Road. It's a road back behind Howard. In the Apple Valley Lake there's a spillway. It was better to swim there cause we could jump off the cliffs and down into the water.

J: Wow.

R: Hee hee he. I know I was a little dare devil when I was young. I had no fear what so ever. When I showed the kids that their like "Oh my God - you jumped off there!" I said "Not only did I jump off there. I said you had to climb up the side of the construction, you know there's like a dirt side and I said you had to climb the path that you had to climb to get up there. We spent a lot of time there in the summers. As far as the Baseball Bridge goes, there was some deep spots there. But when people started going there - cause it was a better place to swim.

J: As compared to the Railroad Bridge then.

R: As compared to the Baseball Bridge. Yeah, the Railroad Bridge you could fish off of and

stuff, but there was a lot of clutter in it. It was more like a crik. The other is like the Kokosing River, you know, runs underneath the Baseball Bridge, so it was bigger, deeper.

J: How often would you guys go down there?

R: To the Baseball Bridge?

J: To the Railroad Bridge.

R: To the Railroad Bridge. Um, not really that often. I mean, my brothers would go down there to fish and stuff, but I didn't fish that much. I did when I was younger, but not off that bridge.

J: So it was just more of a relaxing place. . .

R: Yeah, you know how, you just walk the tracks.

J: Yeah, it's pretty, I like it.

R: Yeah, you know you walk on through. I don't know if you've been down there in the Spring or Summer. There's a lot of Buckeye tress. A ton of Buckeye trees. And the birds and stuff. Just don't go down there in the evening. Cause you'll be eaten alive by the mesquitoses.

J: Is it widly know?

R: Which?

J: The Railroad Bridge.

R: Probably now, because the bike path is over it, cause they tor the tracks up and everything. But yeah, people my age and the years before it. Now my father in law grew up in Howard also. And they always called it the Railroad Bridge. Cause he lived, well now the house has been demolished. But you know those real old, there's trailers along it now. But there used to be actual homes along there. And so they would go down there fishing. You know you used to be able to fish out of the fresh water criks and actually catch stuff. You know decent stuff, but now, you know you can't. They would fish, he fished down there a lot. My brother's fished down there a lot. But I didn't.

J: There's a house right by it that used to be I guess the train station, and now it's being redone.

R: Yeah. It's all remolded now. There was a mill there. It was probably a lot of things.

J: So I guess visiting the Railroad Bridge is more seasonal for the spring time and summer. When it gets cold people don't go and hang out there.

R: Well there's nothing to do. But the fishing was always very good. You know catfish.

J: How do you think having the Railroad Bridge there influenced people's lives in Howard?

R: Probably, it was kind of like a meeting place. I would say the Baseball Bridge was more fun, because there was more to do. The river was bigger and then you had the ball field was out there. So if there was enough people you could play kickball or base ball. It was fairly quite back there. It was small. You know, it was over a crik so there wasn't that much to do there.

J: Do you have any stories of people jumping off the bridge or the cliffs even.

R: Oh, uh. Yeah, well my brothers would jump off like the top of the Railroad bridge.

J: It's not that deep there is it?

R: Well you know, its been 20 years so you know its changed a lot. It was deep you know at one time. See when they did all that construction and they put in that new bridge, you know that one that's there now. Of course no one uses that old one. You know there was a lot of changes made right then and there. There was deep spots and you could jump off there. I never got the nerve up to jump off the top. Now I would jump off lik you know if this was like where the road is. You could jump down. That was maybe probably 20 feet or so. It wasn't that far. But they would jump off, well the climbing part was actually the most dangerous part. If you fell you'd be a gonner. Because the bridge would go this way and you'd have to climb up this. You know if you've ever looked at the metal abutments that go over a bridge. You know there's hardly

anything to hang onto. You just kind of shiny up and go. That's the thing with me. I never had the nerve to get up there, to climb up there. I was afraid I'd fall off. But they were'nt and they would just go up there and jump right off the top. So that was like twice the distance. It was a long way. The cliffs at the spill way was like a meeting point. There was people from all over that would swim ther. Then they kind of put the fence there and blocked it all off. There's was like a cold water crik that went down there. It was like a fresh water spring. There's like a mail crik that goes donw there. The crik is here, and then the spillway comes over here. And the spillway's like this real deep area of the lake where the run off fro the lake went. So you know you just meet people out there and swim. You could take inner tubes, or you could walk. Waht was fun too was like to walk up the spill way and you could walk up the water, walk up along the side. It was like these big waterfalls. IF you ever get ocer there. Well now it probably looks real good in the snow. Really good frozen. There would be years where like the blizard years. It looks like a glacier, like a solid piece of ice. We probably have pictures here. You just see all kinds of things, you know their neat. There used to be this one guy, ingact, he still drives around on his motorcycle. I don't know how often you get over to Danville. He's like a really old guy. I went to highscool with his sons. They called him cave man. It's a long story. But he would do like swan dives and stuff in there. And then there was this other guy that I swear looked like Jesus. He had this long hair, long beard stuff. And he'd always come and do swan dive too off there. But he was never with anybody. He'd just come over and cool off. You know, everyone was afraid to talk to him, he was so strange. But we knew this other guy, this Ed, because it was Travis and Lee's dad, two guys I went to high school with. And he's still around Danville. You know you just see all kinds of things. People are just in the water. There was a time when we were just up there laying out. And there was these kids, they were probably college students. I was young at the time. We were like - oh no we better get out of here, there's older people, older kids coming. So we were getting ready to get out of there and some guy took his clothes off. He just decided that he was going over the edge. So it must have been a dare or something. He must have lost a bet or something, looking back. He took all his clothes and jumped in. Of corse I'd never seen anybody in the nude before. And I was like "Huuuuu!". I remember my friend Alfea telling me, she said "I never seen anybody look so suprized." I wonder why! It was just a lot of fun. And you could fish in t he spill way to. You know they stopped the lake so of course some of those fish are going to come over the spill way. And it was just something to do over the summer.

J: And they roped it off now?

R: Yeah. There's a fence up there. They decided it's like a liability for people to be in there. When I was older we'd go and park and drink a beer. But I never had a problem up there. I never heard of anything bad happening. But it's their property. They have to think of a liability issue. But it sure did ruin the good time that everybody could have had.

J: Have you ever heard of anybody getting hurt at either of the places.

R: Actually no. I can't think of anybody ever getting hurt. Just clean fun. People went swimming and goofing off. I can't think of anybody getting hurt. Maybe there was, nobody that I knew.

J: Now the Railroad Bridge, the reason why we were concentrating on it is because the railroad is really important to development in small towns. What's your experence, or knowledge of the railroad effecting Howard? When it came I know that Howard grew a lot. And then it ended.

R: Um, you know, I don't really know a lot. We moved there in 7<sup>th</sup> grade. Then I left home when I was 16 so I wasn't there long. The railroad wasn't that much an influence. You'd hear

the train. In that time I think the railroad was in such a decline that they used it, but it was probably like to move an engine, or a train.

J: Ever heard of anybody train hopping or anything?

R: No, no I'm sure they probably did though. Because they have such easy access to it. My father in law would probably be a good one to talk to about that because he grew up there. And he's like 60 something. I think if it would have been done, if it's possible he would have tried it, or he would have know someone to do that. That would have been when the trains are really big. I don't.

J: What's his name?

R: Uh, Charles.

J: Maybe I can talk to him and try to find someone who knew.

R: Yeah, he would like that. See, my mom wouldn't because she moved when we moved there. There's not really not that many older people left in Howard. There used to be a lot of Henwoods. I guess the Henwoods are still there.

J: What's happening to them? Why aren't they there?

R: Well, you know their getting older and passing away and moving. A lot of the houses are being bought by younger families. It's just kind of time moving on.

J: There's going to be an increase of people moving into Howard because of Apple Valley is what I've heard.

R: Um, I don't know. It wouldn't surprize me. But a lot of people don't care for Howard. Because it's like why buy a house there when you could go to Apple Valley. But there is something to small town life. It's quite. You know what's going on, you know your neighbors, you can trust people. For the most part there's not strange people. Everyboday knows everybody else or who to stay away from if there is some strange person. But in Apple Valley it's a little bit different. There's people all over from the United States there. And there's people from bigger cities and stuff. And a lot of homes started out as a vacaation spot, for people to have second homes. Now it's completely changed. That's normal I think. Have I given you enough information? Probably a lot huh.

J: Yeah.

R: Okay, well I could call Charels and see if he wants to talk with you. If you have the time to do that. He's available most of the time. He's retired. That's Adam's Grandpa.

J: Oh, his Grandpa.

R: Yeah, it's my husband's Dad. Like I say, if there was any trouble to get into he probably would have done it. He could definatly get some stories. You want me to call him, and have him call you cause I still have your number.

J: Yeah. Thank you.

R: Your welcome.