

On July 2, 2010 Lindsay Inge interviewed Raymond Bankert at the Carroll County Farm Museum

LI: (beginning of tape is cut off)...big, um, notebook with all the transcripts in it. But yeah, I haven't been able to find the actual recording of it anywhere.

RB: That's back when they had those real little recorders, had the little tape. Yep, this was my place for when I was growing up.

LI: So you visited your aunt here?

RB: And my grandma and granddad.

LI: Oh, ok.

RB: They ran it for fifteen years. And, I lived in Westminster, right on Green Street, where the shoe factory is, where the old shoe factory was. There was a house across the street and that's where I lived. I could ride my bicycle out here (laughter). I spent a lot of time down here. Yep. I remember a lot of the people that lived here, the old people, a lot of things that happened. So where do we want to start?

LI: Um, do you want to go in through the kitchen door, because I think that's the one that's unlocked.

RB: Sure, sure

LI: So, when I was reading through the old transcripts they, people were talking about um, people who lived here, and they mentioned some of the names, and I think Catherine Boyd was one of them.

RB: Who was that?

LI: Catherine Boyd

RB: Oh, Catherine? She was a young girl, who at this time would be one of the Arc people. She was, you know, she was afflicted.

LI: Mhmm

RB: But she could work, and there was no problem about her working. And, but she was an Arc person, as we would have them now. But they, let's see they had her, and there was another lady by the name of Mary who lived here, who couldn't, she could hear and everything, but she couldn't talk.

LI: Hmm.

RB: And she worked here at that time too.

LI: Thank you.

RB: Yep. This door here, outside they had a little building like, where they used to separate the milk. See they had their own cows here, and a young, “young” (laughter), older fellow by the name of Harvey Repp took care of the cows and milked the cows every day, and brought the milk in. And lady by the name of Laura would separate the milk. They had what they called separators, put the cream in one place, and the milk in the other place. And the cream they would take and make butter with it. My grandmother had an old churn; they might have it around here somewhere. But they would whip it, then she had a box, I guess, you ever been to sales you ever see them sell these boxes? The pound, the pound of butter. And then she would put her hand in there, schlop it in there you know, wipe it off. And then she would have a paper she would wrap the rest of it in. Then they would keep some here, and would take some to town to sell it. And that’s what they done with the milk. Hi, honey!

Volunteer: Hi, how are you?

RB: This is my wife’s relation, I guess she’s related to me then by that (laughter).

LI: Hello.

Volunteer: Hello.

RB: We’re going to make a tour here, I’m going to tell her some of my stories.

Volunteer: You go right ahead, I’m going to sneak behind you...no I’m not, because there’s no bag in the trashcan. So never mind (laughter).

RB: So, this used to be the dining room.

LI: This room?

RB: They’ve built a lot of things here since then. Kitchen was over here. Oh, ok. Big cook stove that set right here. And over here was a big walk-in locker, freezer they put in while my grandmother was here. And they could keep their freezer stuff in there. And then Grandmom would be up around 4, 4:30 every morning, come down here and light the fire. That was every day in the morning, seven days a week.

LI: Oh my gosh.

RB: For 15 years she did that. This was the kitchen. Big table here they’d work with, sink over there. But a lot of things were done here (laughter). And, if I can remember, I think at one time the place was full, I think they had 30 some, between 30 and 40 people here I think at that time. That’s men that lived over there, and women lived upstairs on the top floor, that’s where the women lived. Some rooms had one, some had two people. Laura had a roommate, name was Annie, little short gal, Annie. And they were nice; they were all good to me. Also the lady upstairs, her name was Flossie, who was born here, and died here. She was 80 some years old when she died.

LI: Oh my gosh.

RB: When she died she couldn't see, she couldn't hear, she was nothing, really. But her name was Flossie (laughter). I think over there where they've got pictures, I think she's in one of those pictures.

LI: With, is she the one they thought was a twin with somebody?

RB: I don't know, I don't know about that.

LI: Mhmm.

RB: I don't know about that. Could be a possibility, I don't know. But I know Grandmom said she was born here, and I know she died here. She died here while they were here. And I can remember when the older people would die, undertaker would come put them in a basket-like thing, like long, it was like a basket. And cart them down through the tunnel there, put them in the wagon and cart them away (laughter). Yeah.

LI: So were there a lot of kids here, or were you the only kid that was around here? Or were there kids that lived here too?

RB: Kids? Just my aunt, she was the only kid that lived here. Yeah. And besides us, my sister and I, and some of the guys that I would bring out. We'd come out here in play. And as I got older I used to work on the farm with them. This place extended all the way up where the hospital is right up there, all the way up to the next farm over the hill. That's how big the farm was. It was a big farm. The Ag Center, it goes down into the woods almost to the railroad track down that way. Way out, used to be a swimming pool up here, do you know about the swimming pool, Thomas's swimming pool? Up where you come in, where it's growed up, growed up around there?

LI: Yeah.

RB: Used to be a nice swimming pool in there. We used to sneak in there at night (laughter). They kept the door locked, and we'd sneak in. Every once in a while we'd be good and we'd go downtown to the insurance agents, it was Thomas Insurance Agents- they still have that there? No, they both passed away. The son passed away too. But we'd go down and get the key and they'd let us in. But a lot of times we snuck in at night.

LI: Yeah (laughter).

RB: And the people that lived in the farmhouse up there, right up the road where they have the bed and breakfast?

LI: Mhmm.

RB: They would come down run us out sometimes. Oh yeah. Oh. Back in there's where they used to keep the, this here was just a closed-in place that they had, where they'd just walk through here and go in these rooms out here, get, they kept tobacco, cigarettes and stuff in this room here, and medicine. But what medicine they had they kept in this room here. There used to be a divider, these where all separate rooms at one time. And then they had one room under the brick bread room, they used to have a guy they had two people from Taneytown that would come here and bring bread. Two bakeries, and they would come both would come on Tuesday one on

Thursday or Friday or something like that. And they would put the bread in down here. And let's see, I can't remember. And the other two rooms they kept food in too. I used to use this as my play area. I'd get marbles and roll them down on the floor, crawl down on the floor. My granddad had a rocking chair set right here, and every night there after dinner, he had a stand here and he had a radio on top- I got the radio at home. I think it's one of the first FM radios ever made- and he would listen to the news every night. My grandmom had a rocker here, had a bench set like that right there. In there they used to have, we had a player piano. I don't know what ever happened to that player piano that used to set up there. We would pump it you know, we had a cabinet all full of records-like things, they were on the rolls. And we sat there and played that piano. And next room over, that was where they had the chapel. That's where about every other Sunday they would have a church. And there was a lady up on the hill up here, I can't remember her name...Mrs. Dittman. She would have different churches come here. In fact I can remember after I moved away, after my grandmother moved away, we would come back, our church would come back to have services every once in a while for the people. But Mrs. Dittman, she took charge of that, she was a nice lady.

LI: Did she work for the almshouse?

RB: No. She just, she just did that for, that's something that she done. And she, they were a couple at that time that were affluent, and it was her thing to take care of the people, get churches and stuff to come down here. That's what happened there. Of course this was a sitting room, that hardly ever got used really. My grandmom and granddad would always set out in here. And then of course they lived upstairs, I mean the bedrooms where upstairs. This whole section was their living area. One of the rooms upstairs my grandmother used as a place where she sewed, she used to do a lot of sewing. They would buy feed for the chickens, and they, the bags you could use to make dresses, or shirts, or anything out of. Once they got rid of the feed, they would bring the bags in, then Grandmom would wash them and tear them apart and they would make things out of them. The last room down on this end was where the women had their setting room. And they would set in there after they down their chores in the morning, and in the afternoon and after lunch, they spent the afternoon in that little sitting room down there, and they'd set there. Or they'd go upstairs to their room or something like that. My grandmom, she would work upstairs. Let's see, at that time we had, I think there was three bedrooms upstairs at that time. My aunt had one, and there was a spare room, and Grandmom and Granddad, they had one. And then the other rooms they used for supplies. All the way down the end the hall was where the bathroom was, I could remember that. Enormous room. (laughter). Had a bathtub in it. I don't know what they got in there now, I have no idea- I haven't been in there for years. But that little high-top bathtub (laughter). But, anything else, I can't remember.

LI: What were your grandparents' names?

RB: Oh, that was George, George W.- and my wife made me, she wrote it down- George W. and Myrtle. And they were here from '35-'50, 15 years. So that's why I say my first 15 years, this is where I lived (laughter). We, almost every Saturday night we would come out here for dinner, and Sunday lunch and a lot of times Sunday evenings we would come out here. Of course we didn't live that far away. But, Caroline, she lives in New Windsor. That's, only three left anymore- my sister, myself, and Caroline, that I can remember that knows anything about this. Oh, yeah, and Freddy, my cousin, I got a cousin in Littlestown. He works, does a lot of work down here. Freddy Miller.

LI: Oh yeah, I talked to him.

RB: You know Freddy, with all the beard. That's my cousin. When he was young, he lived here some too. I think that was before his mom and dad moved to Littlestown. Only they were on the wing, that was during the recession you know, I don't know what-all was going on then, I was a kid, I had no idea (laughter). But, I don't know anything else here. Let's see, I told you about some of the people upstairs, the ladies. Annie, and Laura, and Flossie, Catherine, Mary. There was another lady lived in the end room upstairs that we used to love to go up and see here. Every time we came when we were little we'd go up to see her, because she had candy (laughter). She always had candy for us. She passed away here too, I can't remember. See these ladies would really fix their rooms up. They fixed them up real nice, I can remember that. Probably a lot of real old antiques left in them rooms. God knows whatever happened to all that old stuff. I don't know if the families came and got it after or not. Now the men, that was a...different situation (laughter). Ok, what else do you want to do?

LI: Um, do you want to walk up to the men's dormitory?

RB: Yeah, sure.

LI: Ok.

RB: See if we can find that picture up there of Flossie.

LI: Yeah.

RB: I can remember one thing, you've heard of the snow storm on Palm Sunday. Have you heard that?

LI: No.

RB: Well, Palm Sunday had a one big storm, happened on a Saturday night. And my sister and I, we were staying here because my mom was in the hospital and my dad was down the hospital with her, and we stayed here. Anyway, it snowed that night. I walked out this door, and the snow was so high that it was over my head.

LI: Oh my gosh.

RB: It was an awful snow storm. And on Monday they got the mules and hooked them to a wagon and we went in town here around the corner where, you know where you go out the end of Bishop Street, across the street that used to be a store, grocery store. And we hooked up the wagon, and my sister and I, we got in the wagon with them- I think Grandpap and the guy Ed, who took care of the mules. We went to town, and we came back, the snow disappeared. That's how fast it left.

LI: Wow (laughter).

RB: But it, yeah, I remember walking out this door, and it was way, way up over my head (laughter) (opens door).

LI: Thank you.

RB: Right out there, they used to have a grape harbor there. We could just walk right up there to the grape harbor. Over that area they had, there was a chicken house. They had a big chicken house over there. This building here my granddad used to smoke his hams and shoulders there. And the second building over there is where they hung them. They had the best ham, mmm! My grandmom, down there underneath those steps down there is where they used to do their butchering. They'd butcher 30 hogs a year; they'd kill 10 at a time. They had a guy would come in, a butcher that would help them. They did all the butchering down in there. My grandmom used to make sausage, made their own sausage. And then made, people call it sweetmeat, the backbone of the pig. She would cut it in pieces about so big, we called it sirloin, and she would fry it down there and put it in crocks. Have you ever heard about that or not? They used to put it, that's how they used to preserve it. They'd put it in crocks, and then they'd put all this stuff over it. And every morning at breakfast time, she would- I got her little frying pan at home- she had that little frying pan, she would put sirloin in and hominy, they made their own hominy here too. And we'd have sirloin hominy for breakfast, with applesauce, they made their own applesauce. About everything they ate here they made here. It was a self-supporting farm. Once a month, they'd go to the County Commissioners and get some money, and they would buy extra supplies that they would need, they would go every month with their list of what they needed. And they would give them money and they would go buy...and that room right there, right at the bottom of the steps, was a man who, an old blacksmith, and a carpenter I think, he could make anything. He made my grandmother one of those big, what do you call them, sets on the floor...cedar chest.

LI: Oh, ok.

RB: He made her a cedar chest. And I got that at home (laughter). That's an antique too. Let's see...that's probably about 60 years old. And I told my kids when something happens to me and my wife, I want that donated back to the farm. It should come back here. And I told them up there I want to donate back. And the room next to him used to be a guy named Shorty, he was road walker, back in those days they called them tramps. And he would take off and go, but he always came back to my grandmother. And, when these tramps would come in, Grandmom would feed them, give them food, and let's see... down there next to that bench down there, I think that's where they used to have the furnace room. And they had two cots down there, and they would sleep in that furnace room. Next day she'd give them breakfast and they'd leave. But Shorty came one time and he decided to stay, that they would keep him, and they got the ok to keep him. He lived in that end room right there, and he helped on the farm. Up in the second room up there was a guy named Roy. He was lazy as crap (laughter). My granddad used to have to get on him. He used him as a farmhand. He could work, but they, they would have to keep on him all the time, he was actually lazy. All he wanted to do was read, he loved to read. And Shorty and him one time over in the barn, they got in a fight with pitchforks.

LI: Oh my gosh! (laughter)

RB: Up in the hay mound, I was there. My granddad got up in that hay mound and got a hold of each one of them and straightened them out. He put one down on the floor and one in the hay mound, I never will forget that (laughter)

LI: Do you know what they were fighting about?

RB: Oh, they just, for some reason they just didn't like each other. Lot of people didn't like Roy because he was lazy. And they probably asked him to do something and he told them no or something like that. All the way done on the end, down on the steps down there, that there's where the farmer lived, his name was Ed. He was an inmate here, but he done all the farming. And they had mules at that time; no tractors or nothing, they did everything with mules. And he lived in there. And the one next door to him right there, I told you about Harvey? The one that took care of the cows? That's where he stayed right there, Harvey Repp. Now on Sunday night, my grandmom would take him in to what we called a "dunking church" out there on Taneytown Road, oh, name of that church up there...that's where the cemetery is, right outside of town. Can't remember, ain't that awful? My mind, I can't remember names. But anyway, she would take him to church out there, every on Sunday evening. Then somebody out there would bring him home. Every, I think about every other week or something like that, my grandmother had a lady come in that helped her, and she would clean every room on Friday. Every room. The women upstairs took care of their own, but the men, Grandmom would go into every room and clean every room. She had one or two women to come in to help her. Let's see if we can find Flossie.

LI: Yeah, let's go.

RB: Yeah the, I can remember on the farm with the mules they would get them out, go with them, work them...I don't remember where the pictures were, which room they're in.

LI: Yeah, I think the picture I saw was in the room that's made to look like an almshouse.

RB: Maybe it's over here...I know there's some small pictures here somewhere. But at one time this whole building was full of men, sometimes two, sometimes three in a room. That's where Grandmom used to, where granddad used to keep his meat. They would hang them up on hangers, and if they wanted one, they just come out, take it off, take it inside and cook it. Well, you couldn't beat it, good old salty ham (laughter).

LI: I think there's...

RB: Where we want to go?

LI: I think it might be...

RB: Oh, here we go. This might be it. Alright...

LI: Oh, this is the thing I read before.

RB: Yeah, that's Flossie, the one on the right-hand side. Yep. Now, that's the one they say are twins?

LI: Um, someone thought they were twins, and then it turned out they actually weren't.

RB: Yeah, one was born in 1860, one in 1865.

LI: But the um, I'm not sure who they were interviewing, but she said they were together all the time, so people thought they were twins. "Ellen Fritz".

RB: The other lady on this side must have died before, I don't remember her. I remember Flossie. But she was blind and couldn't hear when she died. (Looking at exhibit). Huh. Yeah, she had her hair cut short like that. Now, over here in the little icehouse, the little place, every Saturday morning they would make ice cream. They had a couple freezers that high, and they would churn it every Saturday morning, no matter what the weather was or nothing, but every Saturday they would make ice cream. And at the dinner table that evening, Saturday evening, everybody came in, they had ice cream for their meal. You know, after they ate and they would have their ice cream. Sometimes at Sunday lunch if they had ice cream left over they would have it. But they made that, they churned it every Saturday morning, didn't matter what, in that little icehouse there. I remember that, I used to love that (laughter). I used to clean off the things that they whip around, "whoop" (laughter). They would kill the pigs in that wagon shed right there and they had the standards they'd sit out here, they would hang them up, cut them in half and hang them up. And then the next day is when they would cut them up downstairs in that building there. I seen a man one time they were there and they had a steer. He took a mallet, "wham!" Hit him right here, knocked him down, cut his throat (laughter). I seen that done! That was my cousin that did that (laughter). They would, the barn, they would thrash. The thrash machine that sets up there in the field? Ok, something like that. They would stick a pipe out the middle door over here, and they would make, that used to be a barnyard there, it was a stone barnyard. And they would make a haystack. And Shorty, downstairs, he got the dirty job of stacking the shawls (?) that went up. Over in the barn they got a hay hook up in the top, and they would bring the hay in and then we'd have two mules outside, and that was my job. Ed would stick it down into the hay, and he'd say "ok," and then I'd hit the mules, and we'd shoot out across there, and that hay would come up out of the wagon and go over, and he'd say, "woah!" And then he would pull a string, and the hay would drop down on the mound. Then it was Roy and Shorty's job to spread it around the mound. That's when they got in a fight (laughter). But that was my job to take care of the mules on the outside. Yeah. Anything else I can think about over there...oh yeah, I used to shoot pigeons in the barn with a BB gun. I'd knock them down, then I'd take them home and put them in a little box I had at home, then they'd get loose and fly away. I had a lot of fun in that barn. Things has really changed in the back back here. Over here behind the barn, yeah, over where this other barn sets? I think there's another barn over there. They used to plant potatoes over there, and it would stretch almost down to the woods. And I can remember they would, when the time was to take them out, pick up the potatoes, they'd put them in a bag. Yeah, I can remember doing that many times.

LI: Where there enough people that lived here that they could run the farm by themselves, or did you ever have to bring other people in?

RB: Well, when we thrashed we brought a man in by the name of Huff. They had a farm out here on the edge of Westminster. And he went around the country and thrashed. He would come in here and do the thrashing for them. But, that's about the only thing I can remember, besides the butcher. He would bring a butcher in, and then Mr. Huff would come and thrash for him. Um...oh, yeah. During the Second World War, I guess you heard we had Germans?

LI: Oh, no.

RB: Prison camp. Out towards New Windsor, they had a prison camp out there. And you could go out and get them, and bring them here to work for you. And my granddad used to go out and get four or five of them. And I can remember, I never went out there with him that I can

remember. And he would bring them here and they would work. And it seemed like every time he went out there we got the same ones. We thought they liked my grandmother's cooking (laughter). Yep, they were...we had no problems with them. They brought a guard, with a gun; he would be with them all the time. I can remember one of them, a blonde, blonde soldier; I'm talking about blonde hair like you have. I can remember him, but the others I can't remember too much about. I was only a youngster.

LI: So did they speak any English?

RB: Hmmm?

LI: Did they speak any English?

RB: Sleep?

LI: Speak any English?

RB: Speak English? Broken, broken. But they know what you wanted done, and when the harvest time was here, Grandpap had them. I can remember going out in the fields and getting hay, and every once in a while they'd throw a snake up at me.

LI: Oh my gosh!

RB: That was the days when they used to fork all the hay on the wagon. They had these long forks that they would throw up on the wagon. And my job was to stack the wagon so the hay wouldn't fall off, every once in a while they'd throw one up at me. I'd come flying off. I ain't going back up there till you get rid of it! (laughter). I didn't either! I don't like a snake.

LI: Yeah (laughter).

RB: Had my first experience driving vehicles here. I would drive around the farm here, my granddad had an old Chevrolet pick-up. And I'd drive around the farm. He needed to get chicken feed one day, I think I was fifteen, thirteen or fourteen years old, I guess. And my granddad said, "Raymond"...he'd take me out to the feed store, which was out on Uniontown Road at that time, that's where we got the chicken feed. That's where we got what they called "bags" that they made shirts and stuff with. And I said, "Ok, Grandpap." I drove him into town and my dad happened to be working for the man I told you about, hit the pig, I mean hit the cow, he was working for him. At that time they were building a building right there on the other side of the bridge on Green Street, the lumber yard? That had burned down, and they were rebuilding it. And I went over the bridge and my dad happened to see me (laughter). He didn't say anything at that time, but that evening when I got home he says, "Raymond, did you want to get your license when you're sixteen?" And I said yeah, he said, "Well, then you stay out from behind that wheel" (laughter). And that's all he told me, he didn't get mad at me or nothing. I told him Grandpap wasn't feeling good, he wanted me to drive him. I think he jumped Grandpap about it, I'm not sure...yeah (laughter). (Looking at exhibit). That's back before Grandmom...yeah, 1909-1910, goodness gracious. Yeah, I don't know if I can think of anything else right now. You got any questions maybe I can answer for you? I don't know.

LI: Um, yeah you talked about a lot. Because I wanted to hear more about the people who lived here, since there's not a lot on record about them, the people who stayed. So that's really interesting I think. And just about how different the almshouse itself was on the inside.

RB: Yeah, I can remember that the women set over here, and the men set over here. The women had a short table like, and the men had a long table. The men here, the women here; they were separated.

LI: So there were more men staying here?

RB: Oh, a lot more men than women, yeah, yeah. It seems like you know, when back in those days, when the families couldn't take care of them, they'd dump them off here. And you don't see that today, you don't see nothing like that. And of course back in those days you didn't have the homes that you've got around here now, assisted living and all that kind of stuff, nursing homes. Nothing like that. When they got sick here they stayed here till they died. Course, there was no hospital here, hospital wasn't there. Yeah like I say, this farm goes all the way over to where the road is, up to this road, and takes in the hospital area. At one time, where you come in on the left hand side they had a big orchard in there. They had a real nice orchard, an apple orchard. Yeah, everything they ate here was made here. They had corn...Grandmom put up a lot of stuff. She canned a lot of stuff. Back in those days that was the thing, women stayed home and done the work, they didn't go out and work like they do today. They stayed home and they did everything. Grandmom, she worked from four o'clock in the morning till seven o'clock at night. She worked every day, seven days a week. I don't remember them ever taking a vacation. They, one time, I did take them to Georgia, to pick up my aunt, Aunt Caroline. That was about a four day trip back in those days, about four or five day trip. And brought her back home. But I can't remember her ever taking a vacation. But granddad got the job, he was, at one time somebody passed away in the House of Delegates, and granddad was appointed to the House of Delegates, and he somehow got this. This was a political job. And of course the Republicans were big, and he was a Republican, and he got appointed here. And they were re-appointed every year I think it was, until your time you wanted to leave. And once a year, they would have the County Commissioners come out, and Grandmom would make everything spic and span, I mean spic and span (laughter). And in the dining room they would get all fixed up and she'd have a big meal for them. We'd be here and eat with them, it was no problem. And just went to show them everything was going ok. Yep. I don't know why they don't have any pictures of Grandpap and Grandmom on there anywhere. They ought to be in there.

LI: If you have any pictures I could copy, the thing that I'm working on, I'm going to transcribe all the interviews...

RB: Of them?

LI: Mhmm. Or of anything from when you were here.

RB: Yeah, yeah.

LI: Because I'd like to put some pictures in with the transcriptions.

RB: I'll get my wife to make some for you.

LI: Ok, thank you.

RB: She can do it on the computer for you. Yeah we'll get some, a picture of my aunt, my dad, and his brother. I think we got all five of them in a picture one time. My uncle was in the service and we had a going away dinner for him. I can remember when the war was just about over, my uncle had been wounded in Italy, he had been sent home and he was down in Virginia going to some kind of officers' school, and when the war was over...and we went down there to see him one Sunday, and Grandmom got all this stuff ready, and we went down the road and we got there, and she had forgot to take the meat! We had no ham, no meat! I never will forget that (laughter). Everything, took everything along but the meat. That was something else. Yep. She kind of worked herself to death.

LI: I'm sure it was a lot of work. Trying to keep everybody in line and keep a farm running.

RB: Oh, it was a lot of work. These rooms ain't big, but they would come in and scrub the floors and everything, at least once a month I know it was. But they washed everything done, made sure everything's ok. And they, that one room I told you where they had a tobacco room in there, remember? They had a lot of chewing tobacco in there. These guys, these old guys, they like to chew (laughter). And they, some of them that have the little bag type. Like the Beech-Nut, I guess you've seen that?

LI: Yeah, I think so.

RB: Then they'd have these blocks they would "chomp" dig down on it and take a piece of it. They were working around on the farm you know, and they'd take it out of their pocket...oh, I forgot to tell you about Pete! Pete was a guy that couldn't talk, strong as an ox, strong as an ox. And they brought him here, and Pete always had a wad of chewing gum in his mouth, and he's always chewing, chewing. He'd begin chewing, it'd fall out of his mouth, and he'd pick it back up, put it back in his mouth.

LI: Oh! (laughter).

RB: I seen him do it! I seen him do it in the barnyard! (laughter)

LI: Probably the worst place.

RB: Pete was still here when my grandmom and them left. But I think a lot of the older fellows had passed away, I think Harvey was gone; I know Ed was gone, because they got a new guy to come in and farm. Um, Shorty was gone, Mr. Burns was gone. I think a lot of them had passed away. The women were still here that I can remember. Mary was still here, and Catherine, and Annie...I think Annie passed, but I think Laura was still here. I can't think of any of the other women, but there were some other ladies. And they would do their job in the kitchen. It was, they would be up not too long after Grandmom was up. Grandmom was up and started the fire, every morning, no matter what. Oh, they had a guy come here, one time, was a painter; and he painted all the screens, pictures on the screens. Like this here, he would paint that there. From the inside you could look out, just like you look out there now. But the outside, the outside in, you couldn't look in, because there was a picture on the screen. He was a good artist, he done every screen in the big building.

LI: That's neat.

RB: I don't know what ever happened...

LI: Yeah, I wonder what happened to them.

RB: Anyway, about him, there was a lady that moved in here. And they got together and got married.

LI: Oh, really?

RB: That was something else, too (laughter). Boy, that upset my grandmother.

LI: Yeah, that probably was a big deal!

RB: Oh, that really upset her. Yep. But they got married, moved away. I don't know what ever happened to them. I can't remember his name.

LI: If, were married couples, did they ever stay here?

RB: No, not while I was here. I think there was, but not while I was here. I don't have any more good stories to tell you.

LI: These are all good!

RB: I used to love riding my bicycle out here. I had that hill, I would go flying around. All these roads were hard then. Yeah, the concrete like it is now out here? They were here at that time. And around on the outside here we had the tar and chip roads. Yeah, there was no mud. Yeah, they kept it all pretty decent. There was no, no machines to mow the yard with, you done pushing it, you know.

LI: Oh my gosh. That's a lot of land to have to mow.

RB: This is up in here, where this area is now they got all their flowers, but that's where they used to have the gardens. They grew a lot of things out there, I told you about the grape arbor they had there. Yeah, they had a nice grape arbor. And they had a lot of chickens up in the chicken house, they'd go up there and get the eggs. I can remember Grandpap would get a nest of pee-pees, I don't know if you've ever seen it or not. They got a wire thing all around the pee-pees, and they had this lamp that sets in the middle- you have to keep these pee-pees warm. All these pee-pees would be in there, staying warm. Sometimes you'd lose a whole herd of them, the whole flock. But he took good care of them. Oh, yeah, used to be a hog house over here, down below. And used to keep a lot of hogs over there, and that there's where they got the hogs to kill. And Grandpap would raise the hogs. I used to like to go upstairs, they had- they probably got one around here somewhere- where you'd stick a ear of corn in, and you wind it, and it would shell the corn.

LI: Oh, that's neat!

RB: Yeah, it was pretty neat. And that was the game for me, as a kid (laughter). I'd stick that ear in there, and spin it around, and a bucket would catch the corn, you know. And I'd take it downstairs and give it to the hogs (laughter). Yeah. But it had a downstairs and an upstairs, and

the upstairs is where they'd pick the ears of corn. They kept that up there. And had two, two stalls over here where they used to keep the cows. And then on the end one out here is where they had the mules; they had the mules out there. I don't know much else, honey, I can tell you anymore.

LI: Well, thank you, this is really good. I love hearing stories about it.

RB: Yeah, I remember Grandpap listening to Gabriel Heater, he was a news man. "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. America". That's how he would come on. "Good evening, Mr. and Mrs. America and all..." and all the something, I can't remember what (laughter). That's about it, honey.

LI: Alright, well thank you! You want to walk back down?

RB: I'm yapping on (laughter). But this was all level up through here, it wasn't all humped up like that.

LI: Oh, really? Hmm.

RB: It was all level through there. Talking about Shorty, he had a rocking chair, he had right here. He'd set in that rocking chair, and he would get epileptic fits. And he would set there rocking, and he would foam, and Grandmom said, "Stay away from him, he'll be ok." And after a while he'd get straightened out. But he would shake and kick and everything. Being a kid, you know, it scared you to death. I used to roller skate down through here.

LI: This must have been fun as a kid, to have free reign over a whole farm.

RB: (Wind obscures part of recording) ...we used to go down there, dam it up. And that door up there, we used to come up and set on that roof, we thought that was the biggest thing in the world (laughter).

LI: Yeah, that's interesting that there's just a door there.

RB: That's been there as long as I can remember. They say that old building used to be a jail years ago. Because they had bars on them. Some of those doors, the old doors when you shut them, they had a bar come across them, and you could lock them. I guess they were, I don't know (laughter).

LI: Yeah I've heard, that they, sometime...I forget what I was reading, but one time there was a fire at the jailhouse, and they had to keep people in there for awhile, but I didn't know they actually fitted it up to be like a cell.

RB: That old building up there was the "barracks", we called it, that's the only building that was out there at that time. (Wind obscures part of recording). My granddad, he, we found out not long ago, you know where the mill is, Union Mills? He was supposed to be the owner of that farm. Somehow or another he got crooked out of it. He did work for the Shivers, he was a farm boss for the Shivers.

LI: Well thank you so much, that was really great!