

## **Jim Rowe**

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Union Bridge was founded in the 1880s by the Farquar family and they came from Allentown, Pennsylvania. Of course, most of the people came originally from Germany. They were Pennsylvania-Dutch Germans, but the Farquars came here, he and his wife and children and they established residency. And he started to divide up his property among his children. And then his children started to bring industry to the town. His one son Benjamin I think brought an oil mill and a saw mill to town so the town grew slowly. But there were different people here but the Farquars were basically the ones who settled Union Bridge.

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It was a large Quaker community and I've always heard it called the Pipe Creek settlement. And so the Pipe Creek settlement was the Quakers that were here. As a matter of fact the Roosevelt family, I think visited the Quaker meeting house that's here outside of town up on the hill, Quaker Hill. As a matter of fact that's the name of the road so it's very apropos.

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The Quaker House was built in 1764 and then it was a log building and it burned and then in 1771 they rebuilt the Quaker meeting place out of brick and wood.

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Yes, we're very fortunate and you know growing up here as a kid, I've been here 55 years, except for college and moving away for about two years, it's been interesting to know that as a kid the Quakers meeting, it was always to us a kind of secretive people up there. We always used to look at them and say oh, Quaker meeting house. We never really understood you know. They were one religion, and we were all different religions.

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But I can remember through the years I was always worried that it would die out. And the revival of the place is getting more and more. They've got more people that have been moving in the area that are Quaker or that are joining who have found they like the Quaker life and beliefs and so in my heart I'm glad to know that it just didn't die out, like the Shakers. You know they kind of disappeared off the face of the earth, but the Quakers still meet there and I know last year they had a bell ringing service there and they ended up having 60 people. So for a small little building that says a lot. And I think it's good to preserve the history.

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I think there were some slaves and I think there were people who have had slaves but they treat them as slaves. I think you know because the Quakers were anti-slavery and I know that might have been the situation that occurred. And with us...even though we're in the north, we're kind of to the south. You know we've always...people have always said to me you're from the north, you know you're a northern. Well, I always thought we

were a little southern and people that are used to meeting me say I thought you were from the south. And I said, no I'm from Union Bridge which is the north but in Maryland.

But you know again I think you had little of both influences. You had some who probably did keep slaves and treat them as such, but I also think you had people who had slaves, and may have appeared to have slaves, and treat them more like a family.

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You know what I can remember back as a kid, because you know we're going back 50 some years ago, I don't like that part of it. I can remember growing up here, you know, being such a small community, the blacks weren't different so far as I was concerned and a lot of people, because we grew up among a small group of black families, but they had their small communities. You had small communities outside of town like Priestland, was a black community. And then out in Bark Hill from what I was told by my mother and my grandparents years ago they're were a lot of black people that lived in that area because they built their little homes, and there was a lot of log houses in Bark Hill.

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So basically from what I've told, and read, Bark Hill was at one day time quite a large population of blacks. Matter of fact I own a piece of property in that area, that I was told that there was a slave who was freed and he settled there and he built his little farm there. And the barn still stands, the house burned down, but I still have the barn, so again they were prosperous and they were free at that point.

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Union Bridge you know back in... When I look at Union Bridge today people come through here it's entirely different because it's so long ago. But out by the bridge, just below Stanbaughs Hardware and Rental, that was a swampland. So there was the Pipe Creek but there was a lot of swamp. So it's entirely different today; that's all been drained. But they would take the parcels of land and drain the water off and you know build, and build up the ground. And the soil is so good because of it being the dark, rich soil so there was a lot of farming that commenced.

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I think that as time went on they developed more and more because the need grew and the population grew here, they needed more wheat and flour, from the wheat, they needed more corn and those kinds of things. So I think you saw that grow. And of course there were more cattle and there was lots of milk, and then there was more beef and there were sheep and even though you know back then there was that old thing that cattlemen and sheep people don't get along. Back in those days it was harmony you know because you used all those things. You used the wool for clothing, you used the meat, and you used the milk from the cattle. There was lots of things here.

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My grandmother Rowe was a wonderful woman, county woman, you know she raised her own chickens, and then killed the chickens. And I'll never forget doing wash day at

her house we just to heat the water up in big kettles outside and you'd wash the clothes...that was not a fun time.

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But my grandparents Stambaugh lived on the outside of town, William and Ethel. They were wonderful and my grandmother meant everything to me, she jarred everything, you know made jellies, you know you didn't go to a store and buy things; you produced it yourself. And then in the root cellar you had potatoes, and my grandfather I remember used to go out and dig holes and bury things in the fall that you would go out and get in the wintertime, different root vegetables-- turnips and those kinds of things. That was a way of life you know. We didn't have grocery stores.

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You know it's interesting, we now have several, I guess about six to seven little great nieces and nephews. They're just young now, we trying to get them to come to our house because we have chickens and I want them to see that eggs come from a chicken and the chicken sits in a little box in a chicken house. You don't go to a store and get them off a shelf. You know that's the things that I think are important to remember that things are so different today and we take for granted, but we can't forget where we came from the past and that's what I think is happening in our country. We're so busy trying to survive and move on and all the things around us that people forget where things came from and how we lived back then. And people do still can today.

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You know if I wasn't so busy in my life, I canned for years when I was a nurse at the hospital. You know people said to me you're going home and do what. I'm going home and snip green beans and put up 30 to 40, 50 quarts a year. Well, what do you do with those, well Thanksgiving you have family, you take your own green beans. Those are the things that I'm glad that we still see some of, but we don't see it as much as we used to, but I think that's going to change. Because I think people are realizing things are going to change because these little victory gardens are starting to spring up again.

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Well that was interesting because when we bought this building I knew of the history from my childhood, but I didn't know how far back. And it was an English store, and George Cox, descendant of King George bought the place, and I think that's when Buttersburg came into play because he would take in so much of the butter and the milk and the cream and the products and the honey that the Quakers were producing because there was such an abundance. And he was doing it, selling it, and doing a barter where they would bring in stuff and they would get their products from him, flour, sugar, whatever. And in exchange he opened a hucksters route because he had so much of those good things, fresh brown eggs, and white eggs, whatever they had.

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So it was nicknamed Butter Town, and then it became Buttersburg and because it was funny growing up I didn't hear about that too much. We used to come to town to all the

stores and this was a booming little town. I mean we had lots of stores and on a Friday and Saturday night this was a hot spot, and you wouldn't be able to find a place outside. Though those things have changed but those are part of our lives.

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We had the saw mill, we had the woolen mills and I know that Mr. Farquer's son had an oil mill, I'm not exactly sure what that entailed, but we had lots of saw mills. And as you look around our room at the restaurant you'll see a lot of flour bags from mills that were in the area. I mean like in neighboring areas, like Middleburg, and Crouse Mill was one, and of course Otter Dale Mill Crouse Mill which is just outside of town here was another place. As a matter of fact a coal storage place for a long time, a locker plant up until the Derr family sold it many years ago, but that was part of it. You had places to keep things frozen because the water would generate the freezer and also they would make their wheat and flour.

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So there was a lot that was going on around the area. There was a lot of mills outside of town. Roop's Mill, (?) Mill—they're a lot of mills. Some are still standing, some are in bad shape, some are in good shape. I'd like to see people maybe renovate them and turn them into something, even just antiques shops. But they were a part of our history, they were everywhere you turned, you found power because there was so much water in the area.

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Jacob Thomas in 1811 he designed and built our first reaping machine in the country and down the street right across from our restaurant is the building which is now the Union Bridge Bank, well it's PNC Bank but way back it was Union Bridge Bank. On that site in the building there he designed and built this reaping machine. And the right outside of town at Mt. Pleasant, which is the Mary Clemson farm, that is where he, and if you go out Beaver John Road, you'll see a sign where he tested it in the field. And it must have been so exciting for this town and its people, that one of their own built a machine that can do what people had been doing by hand. And I mean back then it just, it must have been real exciting to know, here's one of the people from the town. And that's why I say when talking about Union Bridge, we're a small town with a big history, and I think that's what people forget. They ride by and see things like dust and dirt, and this and that and they don't realize that was so much rich history here.

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And I think that's the problem with what I see in our country today. We're so involved in so many things; we seem to tend to forget our history. And I'm not so sure we're teaching history the young people what they should really know about the areas they live in and where we come from. And I think that's something that I hate to see die.

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Well back before 1820, around 1820 there out over the river and of course the swamp area, the town people and the city people, or the town people and the country people

excuse me, they decided they were going to build a bridge together. And once they got the bridge together, they decided what are we going to call it. And they said because we all came together, it was a union of the town and the rural people. So the bridge became Union Bridge.

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And then in 1800s, later in the 1800s the post office came to town because we had rural free delivery that started in Westminster which was a great thing for everybody. I'm sure that was another exciting event. The mail could be delivered right to you. You didn't have to drive into certain places. So the post office came to town which is the building housed across the street from us. They, the postal service decided they just would adopt the name Union Bridge. And there's nothing wrong with the name Union Bridge, but I like butter and Buttersburg. It tells me a little bit more about the history.

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The coming of the railroad to Union Bridge was a big thing because before that people had to take their things to you know...the closest town from us was Westminster....at least part of it, I'm not sure exactly what all was there but we had to go that distance so that's a long travel. But when the railroad came, the farmers could take their milk right to town and down to the railroad station, and of course they had different depots for things to be shipped out. So they would bring their milk and that improved so much of what they could ship, because they could sell things now, not just locally, but they could sell it outside of the area, and things could be brought in. So it was a big boom.

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Because here's this industry coming to town; they had to build housing for the railroad people and so then they had to build housing for the railroad cars, a shop to work on those things. As a matter of fact my father used to work for the Western Maryland railroad, and he worked as a kid as a box car painter. And we used to go down there when I was a kid and I can remember some of the shops; it was a big place, but back, way back in the old days there was a tremendous fire there that destroyed most of the railroad and they built back things but it's not the same.

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The coming of the railroad is a big, big excitement for the town because after all people now could travel. They could get on the train and visit people in Westminster, or they could go shopping. They didn't have to worry about getting on a horse and buggy or an old car to run all the way down, you could just get on a train. So people were back and forth. It was the hustle and bustle.

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As a matter of fact I found, somebody brought to me an old store placard from a store, a sales slip from an old English store up the street here. On the back the lady had done a hand-written ad about her hotel, at the Union Bridge hotel, she had working electric lights and steam heat and baths and a livery stable, and the price was on there, a very minor price. So it must have been an ad she must have been writing to have put in the paper.

So someone found it in the closet when they were cleaning up their parents' stuff that had passed away and they brought it to us. And she said, would you like to have this. And I said, oh absolutely.

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So I gave it to a friend of ours, who was the former doctor here, and he's going to frame it for me, which he does a lot of things here on the wall, Dr. (?) has done for us. It's part of a hobby he doesn't do it for everybody, but we kind of do an exchange. He takes some of the pictures and copies them for himself and then he frames it, and I cover the cost of the framing. So it works out. He gets history, and I get to preserve history.

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Well I think you know when you have freight there was lot of freight that came in, there were probably animals that were shipped from here I'm sure, pigs, chickens, I'm sure there was some even some steers, and of course beef was probably sent to be sold elsewhere. So you didn't want to have people in the same areas. And then of course there was a produce section, a depot for produce. I'm sure there was so much being brought in. Back in those days...you know to us today when we go and see a big tractor load that's tremendous. But if you saw a small wagon load, that was tremendous in those days that those people were able to produce that much and to be able to sell it and to have money to survive.

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When the railroad moved to Hagerstown the town of Union Bridge kind of went down to a slump because all of the hustle and bustle of the main offices weren't here. We still had the freight trains and the passenger trains coming and going, people traveling back and forth. So in way it was nice because people could travel to Hagerstown but at the same time it took away from the town some of the main industry that was here as part of the railroad that was here because they moved their main office.

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Because passengers, people, the automobile became more popular. People didn't want to wait for the train. The train took longer then it would need to get here then in a car because they would stop at each little town. Because behind us, or beyond us there were many little towns like New Windsor, and then there was Medford which was a big bustling little shopping area that had many, many stores, right on the railroad track. That was the nice thing because you could go back and forth on your way to Westminster and you'd go a little further down on into Baltimore.

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I can remember people talking about getting the train as children with their parents and ride to Baltimore. That was a big thing back then. But times change, things change. I know when my father worked for the railroad we were kids and when they were closing down the shops, they were going to transfer him to West Virginia we just, my sister, brother and I; we just didn't want to go. We begged him not to go so he became unemployed for a while because he gave up the job at the railroad; he retired early from

the Western Maryland because you know we just didn't want to go. I'm sure West Virginia might be a nice place to go but we just didn't want to leave our area because we had friends here and we wanted to finish school here. So when the railroads really changed our shops, that's when things changed.

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You know they were country folks. I'm sure they were excited, just happy for what that they had. I mean you know this wasn't the wealthiest place in the world. What people had was much more than sometimes what they have today which is the substance, the closeness of family. You know, I'm sure they were excited, there was celebration but they never talked much about that. Basically they just talked about what was going on here in the community itself.

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It's funny. Where we own our little farm there's a meadow in the back, it's clear, but it's surrounded by woods and we've had people come over and look for things, and found buttons, Civil war buttons and bullets and things like that. I can remember my grandfather talking about troops used to come through and even in their meadow they camped there in his meadow on old Bark Hill Road and talked about it, this was told to him and this is what went on their way to Westminster, from around and of course we were in between. I think one thing about our railroad is back in the Civil War when people were shot, some of the people were brought to Union Bridge in the late of night, some of their officers, packed in ice at the railroad station and then shipped to Baltimore to be given back to their families. So that's something different and unique. But if you look around the area they now have the Civil War plaques of what each area was a part of. That's an excellent thing that's been done. I think the more we post history, keep it out there, the better we are.

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There are stories about the railroad sites that people were transported back and forth to different places, different farm houses had places that they hid them in basements and so forth. So I'm sure that there was a railroad here. Exactly where it is, there are people that are older than me that knew that and might still be able to remember, and some have passed on. So I'm sure the Quakers were very instrumental in helping the people who wanted to move on, especially people who could make it from the south to here.

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I think when they came back, those that came back that weren't wounded so severely, came back to their homes and started back up their businesses and started doing things. I think we saw more entrepreneurs coming in, you know doing certain things with you know shoemakers, and those kinds of things, harness makers. I think they probably came back and picked up blacksmiths. I mean there was a lot going on back in those days. So I think they just came back and some of them came back and what I remember were stories being told. Some of them didn't come back mentally in one piece. So there were some who were unable to function. As we see today in all of our wars, the soldiers and

returning veterans, we see some come back with traumatic experiences that are there to interfere with what they can do with their lives, which is sad.

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Yes, that's a big part. That kept the town going because you had people that were all intertwined and worked together well.

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From what I can remember now, the paper I remember the most was the Pilot, but the People's Voice I can remember my grandparents talking about. It was a newspaper that everyone informed about what was happening around the community, and outside our community. But like I said the biggest paper I can remember as a child was the Pilot and it was interesting because you could open it up, and I have some copies that were given to me. You can read local events. And they would talk about William E. and Ethel Stanbaugh entertained her mother and father at a dinner at the farm on Bark Hill Road on Saturday night. When there was a bad car accident and people were killed, back at the time; that was in the paper. There was always information and people would write for the little communities like Fezersburg (?) outside of here close to Middlesburg, which no longer has signs, there would be something about that little town.

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So the papers kept everybody informed about what was happening. And it wasn't a gossip paper. It was just talking about what went on. If they died they talked about it and that they would have the wake in the family home. You know when I grew up on Bark Hill Road as a kid where I grew up, the people that had it before my father bought the house, when Mr. and Mrs. Jackson died they had them in the house. And you kept them there all night and people came and sat with them. And the funeral was done there; we didn't have an undertaker where you went into the funeral home. And I think there's a lot of houses around here where that happened. Some people that don't want to think about ghosts and so forth may not like the fact that somebody laid in their livingroom for a couple of days but you know those were the times.

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And we still see that happening. There are some families here that still have their family members at home because that's been a tradition. And I think that's fine if that's what they want to do. I'm not sure where I want to be laid out.

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I'm not sure exactly the date of that but...we were the first town to have electric lights and that was exciting for Union Bridge to be such a small town and be able to have that opportunity.

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William Rinehardt grew up outside of town on Marble Quarry Road on the Marble Quarry farm which his family had and he got into carving limestone. Of course there's a lot of limestone here and marble. And so he started doing some sculpting work and then

he got involved with the Walters family from the Walters Art Gallery and you know he went on to school and he became one of the greatest sculptors. And you can see his works around Baltimore, over at Greenmount Cemetery, he did a lot of things for the Walters family. Of course, he did the statute that we have a copy of in the town square for Mrs. Walter's grave.

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And then there were things that have been told to me by people that you know he did a lot of things here but then he went to Rome and did many things there, died in Rome. But he even did carvings of some doors, I think it was the U.S. Congress something in DC where he had done the carvings of the doors. I think it's kind of sad because growing up here we never really talked about him much even in our history classes or anything, but now as we get older we start talking about him. And then you know when the monument is going to come to town I did a little more looking into it. Of course we have people that were working hard on that and it's amazing just how good, how great were things that he did and very little did we ever think about that we had somebody rich and famous that came from little Union Bridge. So it's something for us to be proud of.

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I think when the rural free delivery came in it did change because people did come into town to get their mail, and they may have only made the trip only once a week. They may come in twice a week and they would come to the post office. So when they would meet for their mail people would discuss things and it would be kind of a social area to meet in and find out what was going on in the community. Like I said there are a lot of little communities that are still here, some of the signs may be down along the road but they're still here. And of course you had Lynnwood, and you would have Union Town so people would come and go to the small little towns, which I think was interesting that you had this social gathering.

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When the delivery come in people didn't have the need to come to town all the time. They may have come in once a month to get their groceries. As I said people grew what they needed on their own properties. They may have come more into town in the wintertime but not as much maybe in the summer time because they were busy doing their crops and harvesting and growing their vegetables. But the post office was an important part of the town.

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Tidewater Cement came in and that started the ball rolling and of course they started to produce cement. And then that gave business to the town and that brought people for work. The cement company has been a very important part of our town, the fact of history and the employment. And like you said as the railroad died out, then you had the cement which helped tremendously as far as employment.

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And of course the Tidewater was purchased by Lehigh Portland Cement back in 1925, '24, '25. And then became Lehigh Portland Cement Company. And of course it's been growing and growing and of course over time you change and find new methods of work, you change the kind of equipment you use. The technology of today is nothing like what they did in the old days. They went down and chipped away and broke up rock and all that. Now they have all this technology that you can do things with computers and so forth.

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And today it is owned by its owned by a Germany company, in Heidelberg but it's Lehigh Portland Cement and they have increased what they have there but the technology has changed so they don't need as many employees as they had way back. But they still are a large employer. They're a good neighbor; they're a good neighbor for the town. Lehigh is a good group of people. It's very beneficial to the town; it provides us with you know substance here. People have to have jobs and a lot of the men that worked there forever and forever—a lot of my family worked there, a lot of my past family have worked there, so you know I have a nephew that works there, I have cousins that work there, so there are many people and many of our customers work there. But it's been a very important part of our community and you know we're lucky to have a neighbor like Lehigh.

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They do a lot of support. You know I think as we see things growing you sometimes hear things that are people are unhappy because they're increasing their size; they're going to start shipping things like this and that from another quarry. But they're looking at ways to do it that not just will you know be cumbersome to the community. You know people worry about the truck traffic that it will bring but they're looking at other alternatives. Then there are people out there that don't like those alternatives, so you're never going to make everybody happy. But we have to look at the fact that Lehigh is here; it's an important part of us; we need industry, they need people, we need them and I think that you know we all have to look at all because Lehigh has provided for a lot of community outreach. They've done a lot of donating for things in the community, not just in Union Bridge but in the county itself.

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So I think we're lucky. I mean like I said you're never going to please everybody and there's always going to be people on the both sides. I am for some things and I'm against some things, and some things that I may be against I may change my mind later. As we get older we seem to mellow, we change but I think that it's important to realize there are changes and industry has to grow and things have to change. But we need to work with them to make sure that they change in a less intrusive way. That's the concern I have.

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You know back when the Depression came from what I heard from my grandparents, and I had a great aunt that lived across the street from us, she used to have when I was older as a teenager and even younger, I used to go over and she used to go up the attic and get

sugar. And I always wondered where the sugar came from. So I said to her one time, I said Aunt Edna where are you getting this sugar? I had it stored in the attic from the Depression and this was back in the late 50s, early 60s. And I'm thinking the Depression. She said well back then you were given coupons and rationed so we saved, and she had lard cans with sugar, and flour and mill in her attic. It's funny you look at that and you think that's crazy but it wasn't crazy because back in those days you didn't get it; when you ran out you did without it. And they tried to make it last.

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But the Depression came to town and the people who were here were lucky because they had space to grow food, and you to keep a couple of chickens, you know maybe a milk cow or so. And if you look around the town even the town today a lot of the older homes, and they're beautiful homes here, they have back yards that are pretty large or little places that were most likely garden plots because people raised their own food. So I think the Depression here was hard, but I don't think it was hard as other areas in larger places because people here worked hard and people did without and made use of things.

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And I can remember my grandmother Rowe used to work for the cement company, the Tidewater Company and she sewed cement bags; they were cloth and she would sew cement bags to be able to provide for my father's brothers, sisters because my grandfather died young and left her with six children to raise. So people did whatever they could do to survive, and they did as we are today.

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Miss Olive is going to be turning did I see in the paper 95 coming up soon and I'm lucky I knew Olive and Mr. Roop, knew them all of my life, good people, good wonderful people. And they started a project on their farm where they would take heifers and they would ship them over to other countries, so that the people could own a cow, and that cow could give them substance which would be milk. And then they would be bred, and it would give them an offspring. They would take that, if it was a heifer, and give it to another person, and if it was a bull cow they usually probably take it and use it for food.

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So that was something that started out from the Roops and they brought in all these cattle and would be taking care of them on their farm so they could do that. They were from the Church of the Brethren so that was part of their, their life and what they wanted to do. They were good people and did a great service and the heifer project is still alive and is going well. And now they do other things; they have goats, pigs, and other things that they are sending off to these other countries where people are less fortunate so that they can grow their own food.

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Which I think is a wonderful thing. I think that when we can go into another country and teach them the way to grow more food better and easier than what they're struggling to do, that's a great thing. You know as they just to say take the weapons and beat them

into plow shearers, that's the thing that the Roops stood for. They were people who were not, they didn't believe in wars. They believed in taking care of people and they were good people.

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So the heifer project was from here, so right aside not far from here. And the farm still stands today and one of my classmates from high school she lives there, her family's been there for two centuries. It was nice to be able to know that the Roops were part of that and that legacy is still there. That their children and their grandchildren and great grandchildren can look back and say that you know Olive and John Roop were good people. They really did a good thing.

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And back when the heifer project started, this was after the war, in Europe, in war-torn Europe and then of course they talked about the sea cowboys because they would take these large amounts over and of course you had to take them by boat over there. And that was the part of that. So heifer relief is now heifer international which is a large program so like I said to you that it is not just the heifers now but its other animals that we've added to that. But it's still going strong and is an important part of our history.

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Growing up here for me I never saw much of a difference between the black community and the white community, maybe because we grew up together. You know it was part of our families. I can remember my grandparents having black people come there to help out during harvest. And we had a neighbor up the road that I used to go and we would hang out and I can remember him working on different farms and I looked up to him because he was older. It was Mr. Thomas. And there was a lot of people here. I don't remember us having a problem. I'm sure way back, way back there were separate eating places. They couldn't come in and eat in places like we did but by the time I got older that seemed to change, and in school we were all together because it was a small town and we had small schools. And we didn't have all of the influence that you see in other places and so I don't think we saw the things that we saw in the south. I think that was a whole different situation.

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Well I think that Union Bridge is one of the small towns to grow, and I think we're going to grow, there's no doubt about it. We have two developments on both sides of the area here that have been incorporated into the town. I think that Jackson Ridge will be on line before the villages of Union Bridge because they're further along so I see that coming. The holdup now is the economy. Nobody wants to come in and start building houses if there's not going to be anybody to buy the houses. It would be nice if we could start building the houses, so that people would have jobs, but again and being here all my life you know I don't want to see us grow fast but I know in my heart and I used to be one those people who went to the town meetings 20 years ago and fight any development that came in. But I know at 55 years of age that has to change. In order to survive we have to

change because the town can't keep paying for services off of the same amount of people because things are going up.

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Our water treatment center for the water here has gotten more expensive. The products to do that with have gotten more expensive. So the town people are the ones who are paying for that so the more people coming on line the better off that would be. However, I don't want to see you know thousands of people move in a week or two. But over the time, over the years, every year or so we can build here and there that wouldn't be a problem and bring in people. You need new blood, and we need the changes.

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I think that the changes are going to come; people are going to see more industry, not big industry, we don't have the property for that but I think that things are going to change. Drastically, I don't see that happening, but over time I see it changing. And I think that's better. I think that we do need growth and we welcome people to move in but we will stay a close-knit community because we have always been.

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And you know we have a volunteer fire department that is very important to our community and they do a fantastic job. So we have organizations. We have the Lions Club who does a great job. So I think we're going to see that things have changed, but I think that we can have good change as long as we plan properly and that's the thing that needs to be done. Making sure that things are in place, that we have the infrastructure to be able to handle the growth, that's important.

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I refer to Union Bridge as a diamond in the rough because it is a jewel you know. When I was younger I didn't like Union Bridge, course we lived right outside of Union Bridge. Union Bridge was like oh it's a cement town, it's dusty, it's this and that. And I was from the rural community, my grandparents were farmers, so I didn't want to live in the town but as I got older I appreciated it. And now that I'm older I really appreciate it for the fact, not just because I own a business here, but because it is my roots, and my family's here and my family's been here.

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And I just think that it's a town that a lot of people overlook. You know there's too many unions. We have Union Town, Union Mills, Unionville and then there's Fort Little Union Bridge. And when I tell people where we're from located they say oh, I passed that going to Silver Run. No, no, no that's not Union Bridge; that's Union Mills so I think Union Mills sometimes gets put on the backburner. And I'll say this that politically that I think we get put on the backburner many times because people come out here during election year, when there is no election we don't see them as often. And, I think that's a problem I have. If you're going to take care of me, you take care of me all of the time, 365 days out of the year. Don't come out before elections. Now we did have a county commissioner from here, Perry Jones, that is no longer commissioner at this point, and he

did represent us And I felt good about that because I thought, gee finally after all these years Union Bridge has a voice. And he just didn't do things for Union Bridge, he did things for the whole county but it was nice to have somebody from our home town, because I look for that and our politicians need to realize that they're here to represent everybody.

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So when you're representing a county you should be representing all parts of the county. And I'm not saying we should get anything different than any other small town, but I think that Union Bridge has always been overlooked, and I think we're a diamond in the rough. I think there's a lot here and as I've said before "we're a small town with a big history." And I think if people would look at that history, it is so interesting come out here and to see the walking tour brochure that we have from the Heritage Committee and many businesses donated to make that possible, and grants. That is an interesting thing. You know we never had that. We give out tons of those in restaurants. And that is something very interesting. People need to look at that. I bet you there are people in this town who don't even know that exist and they ought to stop by anywhere in town the general store next door, (?) Angelo might have some and pick up ones of those walking tour brochures and read about our town. Because there's a lot of history here, and believe me I have people who come to me all the time giving me books on the history of Union Bridge that they've put together over the years and they've done research. And I've got about this many of them in the office stuck in different places. And the town is just amazing of the stories and history. And I wouldn't even have the time; if I gave you everything, we'd be here for a month to go over this and we don't have the time, but it is to me, it's a "diamond in the rough."

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And we have new sidewalks, new street lights, I think things are getting better, people just to talk about it being dusty, the dust that's in the town is much less from Lehigh. I think we see a lot it from the truck factory. That eventually will change because there will be new routings of roads but I think in the future we need to look at that to make sure that the government keeps up with what needs to be done for these small towns, but I'm proud of Union Bridge.

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And when I think about that it kind of makes me laugh because when I was a kid my whole attitude was different but as I've gotten older, I guess when you get older you cling to things that are from your past and my family were from here and family means a lot. And my grandparents like I said they were wonderful, good people. And I just to come to town with my grandfather, he'd throw an ear of corn on the truck and we'd come down to the old feed mill and he would unload it, grind the feed and I'd sit there on the feedbag, and I talked to Mrs. Botzell, Thelma Botzell who still lives outside of town. She worked the desk and I remember that she used to be such a sweet lady. I would sit there and wait for my grandfather to get the feed mixed and they'd go to the truck with the feed and then we'd take it back to the farm and we'd unload it and he'd feed his dairy cows and pigs and chickens. So I looked forward to that so whenever Pappy said he was going

to town any of us grandchildren there we wanted to go along because you usually got a little coke in a bottle, just a small one, and maybe sometimes if you were lucky you got a candy bar. So it's, it's been a nice, nice experience, and I can say that I'm proud to be from Union Bridge.

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Oh yea. Because it's funny because my mother Thelma Stanball Rowe she worked when she graduated from high school at the bank and then she left there and years later she came to work for the town doctor, Dr. Thomas H. Legg. Dr. Legg was a phenomenal man, big guy and a little scary when you were a kid, but he was a sweet man. And so she worked for him so she would bring me into town a lot. We'd come in different times. I would come into the soda fountain and different stores. And John Lightner had the barber shop here on the corner. I'd go there...I remember when I used to first come as a little kid and they'd put that bar across the seat and my father would sit me up there I would scream and cry for a while but you got used to after a while. The shears didn't seem to hurt you. You thought there were going to cut off your ears. But I'd come to the soda fountain over here and we'd sit there and we'd get burgers and cokes, and I loved the fountain cokes, the fountain cokes were wonderful.

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And then as growing up, it's funny because when I grew up and I'm a nurse, went to nursing school and I worked away for so many years and then I came back and opened an assistant living over on Middleburg Road, it's called Brookville Manor; it's resident care. I never dreamed in all my years I would ever own a business in Union Bridge. I never dreamed I would come back here. I thought that when I went to nursing school I'd probably move away but my roots are on Bark Hill Road and I own a house out there. But it's funny because now that I own the building that the soda fountain was in, there's many times I'm here at night when I close up thinking about all those people who came through those doors, and all the people that owned it.

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Mr. Otis Doublebitz who owned the soda fountain with his wife Lillian, and they owned the grocery store where we're sitting, where I'm sitting now, it's it's just amazing because you don't think about it. My life is a full circle. You know I grew up here, went away thinking I would never come back here to work, and I went away was a nurse for years for the state, covered five counties as a nurse, I got a program. And then I opened the assistant living for 12 years and then you know six years ago my partner and I bought the Butterburg Inn and we opened it and we're running it today; we're enjoying it; it's hard work. The economy's not so great right now, some people don't a lot of money but our good, loyal customers keep coming back.

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But it's just strange how that happens. I never fathomed that I would end up here. And if you'd have asked me ten years ago, you're going to own a restaurant some day, even though I like to cook and I do the baking, and my grandmother taught me things in the kitchen—which was a wonderful experience--that I would end up here. It's just, it's just

kind of give me the chills sometimes because you just don't know how your life is going to turn out.

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But I have to go back to my grandparents. They were good, loving Christian people, my grandparents were Lutherans and I would go to their house. And when we were kids, my cousins, who were older, they'd go out and help in the field with the chores but I always stuck to the kitchen because it was cooler, even though it was hot cooking. And you would help my grandmother, and my grandmother God love her, she just to say to me, "Now when they come into lunch, we have to hurry up and get them done, because we've got my soap coming on at 2:00." So we'd go in and I got to lay on the couch and snooze while she watches *As the World Turns*. That was a good experience.

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So it's its been; it's been a lot of memories and I don't think as much about them. I don't about them as what you've brought out in me just talking about these things. But it was a great childhood. I wish every child could have the childhood that my nephews and my cousins and I have had at my grandparents farm. They were great people, hard workers with values and that's something that people need to keep doing, and that's what scares me about the kids today, they don't learn about the history and they don't have the grandparents some times that pass those things on. So it's been a joy.