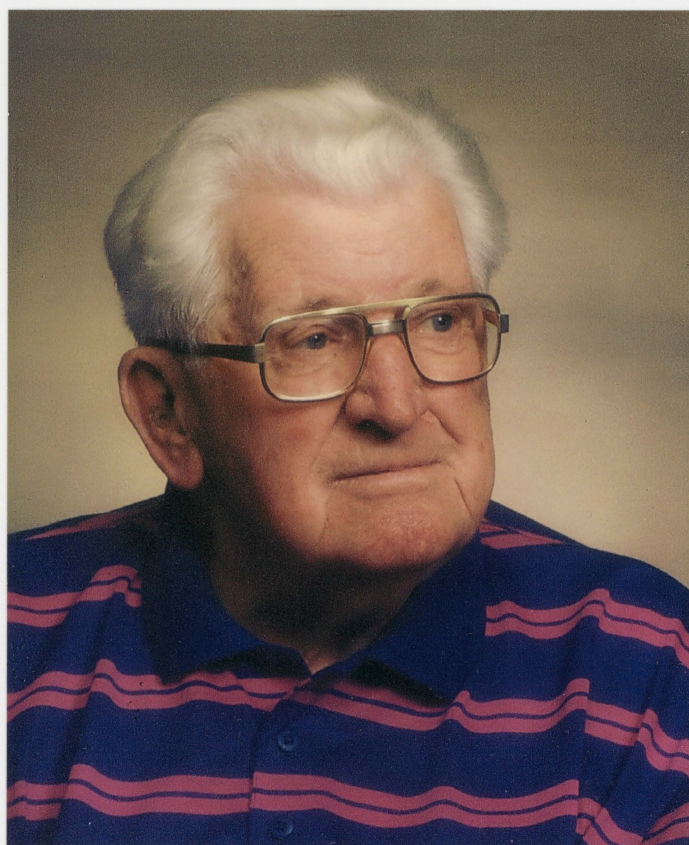


# PERSONAL HISTORY AND FAMILY BACKGROUND

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Percy Heuer

(September 11, 1906 – February 24, 1996)



*No day is over  
if it makes a memory.*

P = Percy Heuer

J = Janette [REDACTED] Heuer

J. On August 23, 1988, Dad and I sat at his kitchen table and spent an enjoyable afternoon recording highlights and memories from his lifetime.

J. Dad, we'd like to hear some of the stories again that you've told us over the years . . . maybe starting with the one about the Indian in the tree.

P. The Pruitts lived on Allen Bertels' place many years ago. And they were going to butcher. It was raining one evening, and they were going to butcher the next day. And I guess the neighbors came horseback or walked, whichever way, I don't know. But anyhow, he opened the door and looked out and seen something move in the tree next to the house. He knew it was an Indian, most likely, so he reached in and got his gun, shot him, and it was an Indian. And now we go back to the old first settlers that I remember. Now, Sam Hornsback lived where Lester Bertels lives today. And B. Dorsey lived up on the corner of Denton's place, right north of JoAnn and Herbie Lesemann. And then there was an A.R. Montgomery run a grocery store in Moro. Lannaman had a hardware store. And the Dorseys migrated from Kentucky and settled around north of Moro. And right south of Dorsey was a Holby family, I remember them and Bohlmeysers. And then Hayes owned a farm where Robert Johnson lives today.



And W.I. Wilson, and Russell Wilson was his father, and he was supposed to have peddled commodities with the Indians in the very beginning of Madison County here.

J. What years do you think that would have been?

P. I don't know. It would be 120 or 150 years ago.

J. Really?

P. I remember him with a little chin whisker and a little skinny wiry man drove a team of broncos to a little peddle wagon.

J. So you were like, what, 10 or 12 when you knew him, that man?

P. Maybe not that old; about 8, I guess.

J. About 8, okay.

P. And he peddled with the Indians and --

J. Was Dorsey like a trading post at that time?

P. Yeah, I guess.

J. Indians and --

P. Yeah. And that's about all the farms. Well, there's more farms. There's Lannaman's and Timmerhoff's and more of them. There's quite a few of them I remember and knew. And then he had an apple orchard, and W.I. was his boy. And I don't know if he had a little -- or if he just naturally had a knack for education or what, but he did teach school on the side, and they lived right where

Robert Bertels lives today. And our schoolhouse was just around, across the road from them.

J. Was that schoolhouse there, though, when you -- was that already built?

P. Yeah, I went there. And then our church was supposed to have been built over at the -- right south of Walter Heuer's place. There's a little cemetery there, they call it Zimmerman's Cemetery, and that's where the church was going to be built. But then there was quite a few members came from over here at Fosterburg area and went to church over there. Well, then they decided to be nice to them and move it half way, so they built where it is the present location today. Think that was in 1874. And then afterwards, they started churches in Fosterburg, Presbyterian and the Baptist. And so then it was, they drifted because it was closer over here yet and went to church over here. So that was -- I was confirmed in -- there's a little red schoolhouse by our parsonage and our church, I went there after it was out, the 5th grade. I went two years over there and then was confirmed.

J. Okay. Would that be where Dorsey Church is now, or is that where the old red schoolhouse was?

P. Right where the new church is today. That was a little old red brick school building there. That's what we went to school in, spent two years over there for confirmation school. And in 1928, we built a new frame



building over there on the west side of our church. And that was finally just discontinued, minister was kind of sick and didn't care to teach school all year round. And then our cemetery's at the present location. But right north of the cemetery in that woods where Allen Bertels is at there was about six little places. They claim Indians had been buried there in the early settlements, dug 'em up, looked for bracelets on the arm and leg gold bands. And right away some say, well, how come they had gold? Well, they probably migrated in the spring out to Kansas, which was no problem to move six, seven hundred miles, you know, in a summer. Maybe those from the west moved this way and that's how they maybe met and fought together, I don't know. They were warring people as a rule, you know.

J. What tribe of Indians would that have been?  
What kind of Indians?

P. Well, around here would have been the Illini, the Illini.

J. The Illini Indians?

P. Yeah, and then the Iroquois over here at Marquette. They claim that they had a big battle one time, there was around 1100 skeletons laying there, in the middle 1700s. I never did hear that in history books, but they announced it on the radio here awhile back in some historical remarks about the early part of

Madison County, Illinois. And there was a -- I think the Mosack (sp.) was one, and the Iroquois ganged up on the Illini that lived around here and probably another tribe. And they had a real battle there and there's supposed to have been 1100 killed, was lying on where the Marquette Park is today in that bottom land there. Now you can shut it off for awhile.

(Pause)

J. Okay. Tell me about some of the, like, who you went to school with when you first remember going to school.

P. I was confirmed at 12 years of age in the Lutheran Church at Dorsey here, Emmaus.

J. Do you remember the date, the year?

P. Let's see, 1920 is close enough. They won't know the difference.

J. 1920, okay.

P. I was supposed to have been confirmed a year older, but I wasn't.

J. Oh, okay.

P. 'Cause the preacher left.

J. And what year were you born, Dad? What was your --

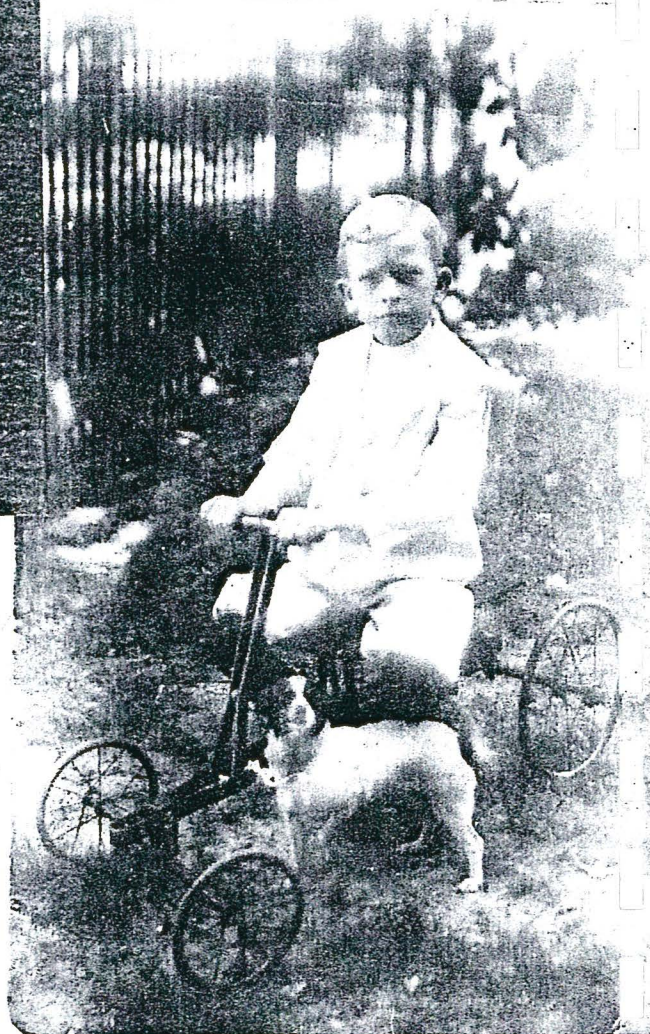
P. 1906, on the 11th of September, 1906. And that was my home place. I was born there.





Confirmation

Percy and "Cutie"







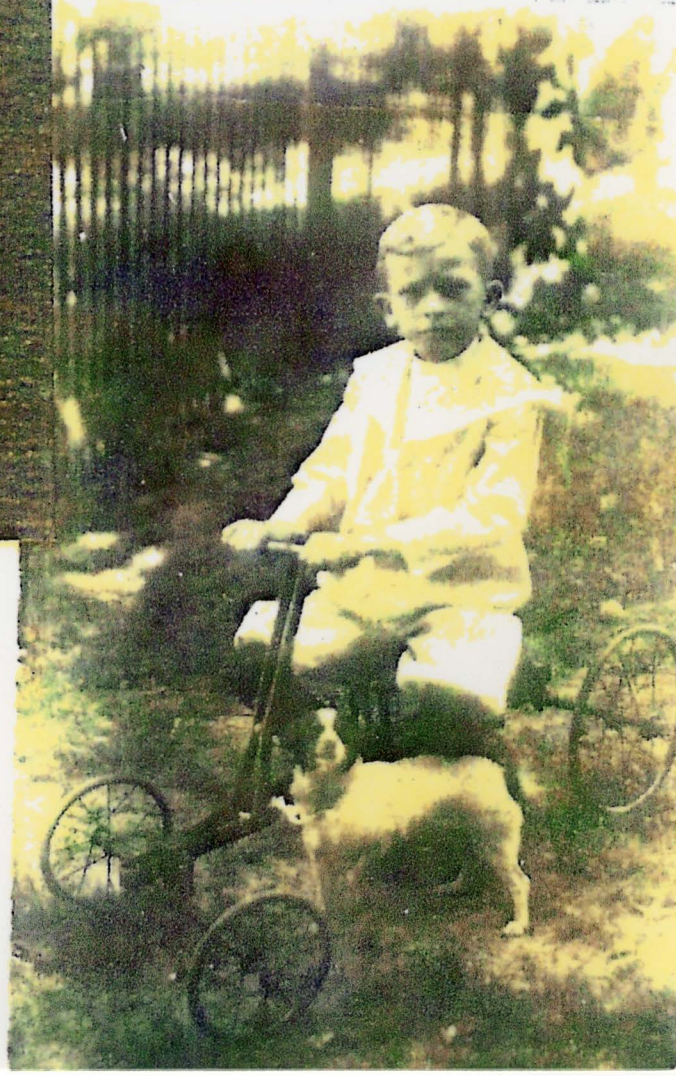
*L.B. Schopp*

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ALTON, ILL.

Confirmation

(page 6A)

Percy and "Cutie"





J. Do you remember the very first, like, do you have any memory of the first thing in your life that you can actually remember, like something at your house or you were like 5 or 6, your first memory? Do you have anything like that that you can just always remember? Like what about your little dog, Tippy (Cutie) and that little tricycle that we see on pictures?

P. Picture on the --

J. Do you remember that?

P. -- in the hand car? My second cousin from Decatur brought him along for my birthday in his overcoat pocket on the train.

J. That little dog?

P. That little dog that's tied to my hand car here, in that picture frame.

J. He brought him for you?

P. Elmer Reeder, Elmer Reeder did. She was a cousin to my mother, his mother was.

J. Your real mother?

P. Uh-hum.

J. And what was he going to do, surprise you, or what? Bring you a little dog and surprise you on your birthday?

P. Henry Johnson, my grandfather, was his uncle, and he come down occasionally on the train and visited here for a week or so, see? And we had also -- me and my

Mother went to Mt. Olive once in awhile to visit his mother. They had a little grocery store in Mt. Olive.

J. Do you remember that?

P. Yeah, sure, I remember all that.

J. So that was under 8 years of age?

P. Uh-hum, you bet you.

J. When you traveled with your Mom to go to---

P. About 5, I don't know if I went to school already.

J. -- Mt. Olive, okay. So that you remember something from your 5th year?

P. One thing I remember, I was playing out in the yard one day and I don't know what happened, but I said j-a-r. And my Mother was canning peaches, I guess, and I come out, said, I believe I know how to spell jar. She said how? I said j-a-r. She said that's right. I never forgot that. Now, is that all going on like that?

J. Yeah.

P. Okay.

J. Sure, that's good.

P. And now to get back to my -- when I started public school at the age of 6, I went till Christmas and we had our holidays. And there's a scarlet rash broke out. And a lot of them got scarlet fever from it. And I was one of the lucky ones, I got it and I had it good and proper. And my cousin Walter Heuer also had it; he got



scarlatina, like they call that rash. He got scarlet fever and was a very sick boy. And Harry <sup>Cooper</sup>~~Clipper~~ had a boy by the name of Ralph, was my age, he had also started school at Moro that fall like I did, and he died with it. And then another kid down at Moro. But me and my cousin both survived. And them two boys were our age, and they both passed away from the scarlet fever that was just a mild rash, but some of it went into, I don't know, poor system or run down system, whatever it was. When I started school, there was 48 kids going to school in that one room school. Louise McDonald was my teacher. She drove a horse and buggy from over here where Masseys lived. Schoeneweis was one that lived back there and that was the McDonald place. And she drove a horse and buggy about 4 miles every morning for \$60.00 a month was her wages. Quite often in bad weather or rainy, I'd ride with her to school. But I didn't go back to school after Christmas that year when I had scarlet fever, I was too run down. And so I started back again the next year and I was fortunate enough I skipped the first grade and went to second grade where I could keep up and they was all my age, them boys. And we had the first year there when there was 48 going. We had from 18-year-old boys going a few months in the wintertime to the beginners. We didn't have primary; we had first grade, second, and third. And then my classmates, oh, that was quite a few of them had

come and went. But my confirmation class was Elmer Burgess, Oscar Johnson, Wilfred Dietzel, and myself and Alvin Emde. And then there was three girls: Dula Heuer, Louise Johnson, and Lyda Dorsey.

J. Lyda Dorsey.

P. Yeah. And me and Dula Heuer are the only ones left out of them eight. Was there eight of them there, I am wondering? I guess I had it right.

J. Well, wait, go through them again. Who'd you say?

P. Elmer Burgess.

J. Elmer Burgess.

P. Alvin Emde, Oscar Johnson.

J. Oh, yeah.

P. And Wilfred Dietzel.

J. Wilfred Dietzel.

P. And Percy Heuer.

J. That's five.

P. And Louise Johnson and Lyda Deist and Dula Heuer.

J. That's eight. And there are only two of you surviving?

P. Yeah, Oscar Johnson passed away, it will be a year this fall.

J. Okay. That was your confirmation class, so you were around 12 or 13?

P. I was 12 years old when I was confirmed. And I was baptized at the same church and Schlegal was a pastor at that time. He baptized me. And Rohloff confirmed me and Middendorf is the one that was there when we got married and started going to church again 'cause I had went there all my life.

J. When you started going to church, like do you remember going to, like, Sunday school every Sunday morning with your folks?

P. We had Sunday --

J. Did you have to do that like --

P. We had Sunday school after the sermon on Sunday mornings. We didn't have Sunday school before church like they do today.

J. Were you about 4 or 5 years old?

P. I guess so, yeah, that's right. Well, I don't think we was, we was older than that. Probably around confirmation or so.

J. Did you always have a Christmas program and things like that, like we do?

P. Sure, always had a Christmas program, big Christmas tree with burning candles on and they were stuck in a little holder that snapped on the limb. And sometimes they caught fire, and they had a long stick and a bucket of water with a sponge on the end. And I remember we got a pretty good fire up at the top one



time, and one of the guys that was on the committee took a swipe at it with that sponge. We had ornaments and candles flying all over, but he got the fire out. Yep, then they had bags. Everybody donated \$.50, and they got a bag with some candy and a little gift and an orange and a handful of nuts. Every child at the program, either the grandparents or the sponsors would donate \$.50 to the Christmas packages. Oh, we had maybe in the neighborhood of 50 packages, maybe a few more, maybe a few less. Yeah. And then the nuts were generally stuck to the candy.

J. Heat from the candles.

P. That was old Henry Beaumont, I remember him, him and Dad and I don't know who did, John Johnson I think, he grabbed that long bamboo stick and then he hauled off at that candle up there. I can see things go, ornaments went here in pieces and down went a couple candles, landed against the wall, but there's more than one church burned down, too, from them Christmas programs. You betcha.

J. And that was all horse and buggy?

P. Everything was horse and buggy.

J. Everywhere you went you traveled horse and buggy?

P. And mud axle deep a lot of times. And sometimes the horse stepped in the water puddle and

squirted out under their foot and landed in the buggy and you were brown colored by the time you got to church, mud and water would run down.

J. So do you remember going to church with your Mother, your first Mother, your real Mother?

P. Yes, I remember when my Mother died on the 18th of November in 1915, and I was 9 years old that September. And she had been sick off and on for, oh, several years. The last year she was pretty well much an invalid, up and down.

J. Was she in bed, then, most of the time?

P. Most of the time. Many a times I combed her hair and washed her face and carried her plate to her and Pop took it away.

J. What did she actually have? What do you remember then?

P. No. According to my insurance records, she had Brights disease and consumption. I took out an insurance policy when I was 21 years old and that's what my records show on that. Now, consumption was a -- more or less, it affected the lungs, where today TB goes most any place, you know.

J. And Brights disease?

P. That's one of the kidneys. Brights disease is on the kidneys.

J. Oh, I see. And how old was she, then, when she died?

P. If I remember correctly, she was 35.

J. I see.

P. And she died on the day of her Dad's birthday, November 18th. I don't know what year he was born.

J. On her Dad's birthday?

P. Yeah.

J. And she -- what was her last name?

P. Johnson.

J. She was a Johnson, Annie Johnson?

P. Yeah. There was eight in the family, the Johnson family, six girls and two boys. And I think there was -- let's see, one was Billy and who was the other? And Annabelle.

J. They were her sisters?

P. Yeah. Two of them and the boy, there's four sisters married Heuers: Aunt Therese and Bert and my Mother and then Minnie Johnson.

J. Okay. Four sisters married Heuers?

P. Uh-hum.

J. Okay.

P. You putting that on?

J. Yeah, I'm getting it. And then those four sisters, then, they married which men?



P. Aunt Therese married Uncle Gus; Annie married my Dad, Herman Heuer; and Aunt Em married Otto Heuer; and Aunt Bert married Harry Heuer; and John E. Johnson married Minnie Heuer.

J. Okay. And what about Aunt Dell?

P. Aunt Dell married a man in California by the name of Winthro, Fern Winthro was his name. And Aunt Minn, the youngest one in the family, married Bill Bertels, William D. Bertels. And Uncle Fred married Elizabeth Kind in Chicago.

J. So like Fred and John E., you're saying those are brothers to your Mother?

P. Yeah, all right.

J. Okay.

P. Now, turn it on, we'll get that on.

J. It's on.

P. You got that on there then?

J. It's on. It's going.

P. Aunt Dell had a daughter in California that I don't think any of us relatives met her. She never came out here. A little granddaughter by the name of Rusty was her nickname, she came along with my aunt once in awhile to visit, but the last I heard of this daughter, she was up in Canada working for Sinclair Oil Company. And I have never met her or I don't think any of these relatives around here ever met her. So that's that.

J. Okay. That would have been your Mother's side.  
Those are the sisters and brothers on your Mother's side?

P. My Dad's side, there was 11 children.

J. This would have been Herman?

P. Yeah, Herman Heuer, Sr.

J. What was his full name? Didn't he have several names?

P. Herman . . .

J. Henry or . . .

P. Well, Herman, Heuer, Sr., was -- see, that was my grandfather.

J. Oh, okay.

P. Yeah. And his wife's name or Dad's mother was Louise Obermueller. And there was 11 children, three girls and eight boys. And the boys was Henry and William and Herman and August and Ott and Harry and Ed. And the girls was Minnie and Annie and who was she? She lived by what's called Hornsby up there, Emma. Emma. That was the three daughters' names.

J. So that would have been your Dad's sisters and brothers?

P. Yeah.

J. Herman's sisters and brothers, that would have been Herman, Jr.?

P. Yeah.

J. Was your Dad called Herman, Jr., then?

P. Yeah.

J. Okay.

P. Henry Heuer married Clara Heyde, her maiden name was Heyde. William Heuer married Emma Sauerwein. And Dad married Annie Johnson. Gus married Theresa Johnson. Uncle Ott married Emma Johnson. And Bertha married Harry Heuer. And then Annie married a Schirenbeck and they lived in St. Louis practically all their life, but I knew them well. Then Emma married <sup>Schmidt</sup> Smith from up around -- they lived around Hornsby and Litchfield all their lives.

J. How do you think that happened that, like, four sisters married --

P. Well, they couldn't get around as much.

J. Was it because you were all so --

P. Yeah, close together. You walked across the field and they had a girl over there big enough to get married and the boy was just the same way. And Uncle Ed, he got married when he went to the Army in 1918. He married Hulda Olthoff in, what do you call it, in Minnesota, that's where she was.

J. They lived there?

P. Uh-huh.

J. For a long time?

P. Well, all their life.

J. All their life?



P. Yeah. When he came back from the Army, he went back up there and they lived on a farm up there and he spent, oh, I don't know. He was in World War I, some pretty rough going, was wounded, shot in the foot, it was a sniper.

J. That's your uncle?

P. Uh-huh, shortly before the war ended.

J. Was your Dad in the war?

P. No.

J. Any wars?

P. No.

J. Okay.

P. I don't think any of the other boys were in the war, in the Army at all in that time.

J. Okay. Kind of a peaceful time or something?

P. Yeah.

J. What about your grandfather or anybody like that, were they?

P. You want me to answer that right away now?

J. That would be okay.

P. Okay. My grandfather came over from Germany in the neighborhood of Hanover. Him and a brother Benjamin and a sister Annie. I don't know where they landed, but I remember Annie married a Bertels; they lived down around Horseshoe Lake on a farm. Her husband died and she was a widow, as much as I know, and she moved up here

next to our church where Wilbert Bertels lived until he passed away. Anyway, I remember they lived on a farm and I guess somebody bought some land next to them. Then they had a surveyor out there, and these boys, I guess, were old enough to know a little bit from right and wrong. The surveyors drove a stake over there and he says, that ain't right, the line ain't, the line isn't over there and he says that's where I put it. He pulled the stick out of the ground and hit him on the head and it broke in two. He went back to his mother and said he wants \$10.00 for that stake. She went in the house and says, here is \$20.00, hit him again. So then they moved up here to Dorsey and that's where they -- she passed away, and they all settled around here.

J. That was your Grandma. That would have been your --

P. No, no, a sister to my Grandfather.

J. Sister to your Grandfather. So that's Annie, Annie you say?

P. Yeah.

J. Okay.

P. And she married Dietrich Bertels and he passed away in the younger days. And then, let's see, Mrs. Heuer, my Grandmother, was an Obermueller from over here, oh, between Fosterburg and Dorsey, about half way between there and Bethalto. And there was a brother,



Henry, lived in Bethalto as long as I remember. Then there was a Mrs. Obermueller was a sister and Mrs. Krieger and Mr. Fensterman. Is that four? And Mrs. Heuer, that would be four. And my Grandmother, that was the four daughters and a brother. And the brother, I remember him getting to be 96 years of age. And I used to meet him when I went to Bethalto. And getting back to my uncles from Dad's side, Uncle Henry was 93, Uncle Bill was 93, and Uncle John was 93, and Uncle Ed got to be 93. And Mrs. Emma <sup>Schmitt</sup> ~~Smith~~ missed the 100 by six months. And Mrs. Minnie Johnson, she got over 100 by six months. Annie Schirenbeck died, I think, in the 60s. Yeah. Now, getting back to them.

J. How about Grandpa?

P. Now, getting to my Grandfather on the Johnson side . . . came over from Alsac Lorraine, that was a little nation between France and Germany. They spoke low German, where my Grandfather spoke high German. They were out of the German country proper. This Alsac Lorraine for some years was ruled by the French, and so then again the Germans rise up and drive the French out and they were ruled by the Germans. And first thing the French get strong enough and they run the Germans out, but they came over on a boat and I guess my Grandfather and Gert Johnson were brothers. And I just found out the other day -- I never did get the straights of what

happened to my Great-grandfather or from the Johnson's side. But I found out the other day that they came over on a boat and they had two little boys, Gert and Henry, two and four years old, and she passed away on the boat on the way over here. Near as I hear, why, she was buried at sea. And I know that them boys was 10 and 12 and went to school down here south where my home place was about a mile and a half, and walked up to this Hornbeck place east of our church when they was 10 and 12 years old and got a little education. They grew up there. The father was a shoemaker and made boots and shoes and they grew up like that, but afterwards he married again, he married a new neighbor girl and they had one child by the name of Bruno Johnson and he was a half-brother to Gert and Henry and my grandfather. And he married Lena Frerichs and she passed away; I just remember when she died, I must have -- I can just barely remember it. And I think she died from pneumonia, if I remember right. And then my Uncle August and Theresa moved in with him and helped him farm for many, many years and then on, I was, I guess, close to 24 years old and they bought the land over at Dorsey and my grandfather rented the farm out there for a number of years till he passed away. He was 82 years old when he died. I remember him quite well and --



J. That would be Grandpa on Johnson's side, okay.  
How about on your Dad's side, on Herman's side?

P. Oh, yeah. Then my Grandfather from my Father's side was in the Civil War. I remember him telling quite oftentimes, I was young yet then, that he marched with Sherman to the sea when they cut the south in two. And he often mentioned the Battle of Pearidge and Bull Run, but I don't know if Pearidge was ever mentioned in the history books. The Battle of Bull Run was. And when, which battle his Brother Benjamin was killed in, I don't know if he ever said or not. And seemed like when they came over here, they very seldom corresponded with the relatives in Germany or wherever they came from. That was, I don't know, very unusual. If their education limited them or if mail service was poor or what, I don't know. I know he often said they'd go around and pick southern plantations and they'd go in the basements and ask if they've got anything stored down here, food and things, nope, nope, and then stick the sword down in the ground and sure enough, pretty soon they'd have meat and molasses and sugar and flour all hoarded down there. And if they found out, they'd go back and tell the captain and burn the house down. I remember him saying one day they had been fighting for several days out in the swamp, wet land there and some, one morning the cavalry attacked them, but they had been out in the moisture so much the

ammunition was damp. And he says we were so lucky, they aimed at us and snapped the trigger, but it didn't go off, but our powder was dry and we didn't have anymore to worry about 'cause they were gone. Then we come back from marching through Georgia with Sherman, and they joined in with General Grant and went down the Mississippi River and he was captured not too long before the end of the war. And he was in prison. And I heard him mention about the Battle of Vicksburg, and he was in prison and they put cornmeal in there for food, they said what should we do with that; mix it with water, make it mushy, put it on a shingle and set it against your little stove there and see if it gets brown and you eat it or do without; then in the mornings a lot of times a mule with a two-wheel cart would go past the window and they'd say, all right you yellow-belly yankees, throw out your dead, they'd pitch out one, two, three, or four and that was it. Then when the word come that the war was over, why, they opened the doors, all right go home, and they were all so happy they went to grab each other and danced a little bit, and he says they wasn't able, they was so lousy and so underfed that they'd fall down. Wasn't able to stand. But he came back up to this Dorsey area here and settled and farmed there.

J. And he's the one that got to be an old age?

P. Yeah, he's 82.



J. Eighty-two, is that right?

P. Yeah. Big, strong, rough-boned man. And he settled down and when he got married on the place where Bob Heuer and Midge are today, right west of our church, about a mile and a half. Then when Henry, the oldest boy, got married, he bought a place up by where Walter Heuer's widow lives today. They moved up there. And then I remember when he moved into Dorsey and retired.

J. The grandfather?

P. Yeah. I remember he had a couple acres of ground there where Louis Bertels is, bought it, the last I remember, I don't know. Louie I think lives there at the present time. And they had a little surrey and two driving horses, I call 'em broncos. I remember them coming to church. I remember them old straw bonnets that the grandmothers used to wear, they knocked them off a lot of times when they got out of the buggy or when they got in. They'd put them back on their head and try to hold 'em there with a big long hat pin about 8, 10 inches long, through the braids on top of their heads. And I remember his funeral, and I remember Grandpa Johnson's funeral.

J. Now, where were they buried?

P. They're all buried on our cemetery up --

J. On the Dorsey --

P. Emmaus Lutheran Church.

J. Oh, is that right?

P. Yep. And a few of the old timers are buried over at the south of Walter Heuer's farm, about a mile, called Zimmerman's cemetery, 'cause they passed away at the time they was wondering if they were going to build a church over them, then they moved and the cemetery stayed there. And different people are buried there today. I don't think anybody's been buried there in the last years. Now, what next do you want to know?

J. Let's see, anymore about the Civil War or anything else, like Ben, you said Ben was killed in the Civil War?

P. I don't know what battle he was killed at. I just know he was killed in the Civil War.

J. Did your Grandpa bring home any, like, any of his gear from the war?

P. Grandfather brought his sword along. I guess it was strapped to the leg with a leather lead sheath or metal sheath and it had a razor edge, you couldn't hardly look at it without almost cutting a finger off. He filed the edge off of it a little bit so it wouldn't -- so people wouldn't hurt themselves by looking at it. And I remember it right well. And he also brought his carbine along, and I don't know if it fired seven shots, or I think it was seven shots. It had a cylinder like a revolver. The cartridges were about the size of my



little fingers. I don't know what caliber it was. I remember seeing that. And I think my uncle got it afterwards. What happened to it, I don't know.

J. Uncle?

P. Uncle John Heuer.

J. Uncle John Heuer would have it in his family?

P. He was administrator and he had that, that was his Civil War weapon, and I was down at Silver Dollar City, oh, I guess 15, 20 years ago and they were antique and they were worth about \$650 at that time. Another thing that sword came in handy was, you know, chickens would roost and they'd want chicken the next day or late supper and there'd be a rooster or bunch of hens sitting on the rail fence; just whistle, get your sword ready and when they raised their head up to see what the noise was, you had chicken soup for dinner.

J. And Ben you say, you don't know how he was --

P. No.

J. -- the brother --

P. He was still in the Civil War, but I don't know --

J. The brother didn't know and never told how, how he got killed or anything?

P. No, can't remember that.

J. Anything else about the Civil War time that your Grandpa would have -- did he sit and tell you all

these little stories like on Sunday afternoons at his house, or did you just pick it up over the years?

P. We'd go up there and visit and once in awhile he'd get on that, and seemed like he never cared too much about talking.

J. Probably upsetting?

P. Yeah, he didn't know anything about his relatives back in Germany.

J. He didn't?

P. But Uncle Ed, he was one of the younger ones, when he was in the 1918 World War, he'd run across a few of them over there with the Army of Occupation and they spelled their name the same and they had children or older boys named almost the same as what Grandpa Heuer's kids were named, you know. So they were relatives, but what --

J. Do you know what part --

P. It'd be around Hanover, in there.

J. Hanover, Germany?

P. Uh-hum, yeah.

J. Okay. All right. 'Cause we could look that up sometime. Hanover, Germany, that section.

P. I remember Uncle Ed run across a couple of them when he was with the Army of Occupation, oh, I don't know, several months after the war ended. I guess they're relatives of ours, to be honest about it.



J. Probably would have been farmers, you think, or he didn't remember?

P. There wasn't too much farming in Germany. It's mostly manufacturing. But I guess they did do some farming, nothing like we used to do.

J. So on your Dad's side, you don't remember like Grandpa, Great-grandpa, like my Great-grandpa, ever saying that they came over here and started a farm somewhere or started a business or anything?

P. Well, they was practically all farms.

J. They just went right into farming?

P. Yeah, and most of them that came over here from Germany and my Grandpa Johnson from part of France and part of Germany, there was usually some relative or friend was over here, and when they corresponded with each other, them kids would say, come over here and stay with us, then they'd work for them awhile and then start on their own and got married or this and that, you know.

J. Okay. Dad, then I want to ask you about, like, your schooling years, say from about after confirmation on or grade school years. Did you graduate, like, from the 8th grade, or what was it in those days?

P. Let's go back to when I started school. I couldn't hardly talk English; we talked low German. And we had an English teacher. And when we wanted to talk with each other about something she wouldn't hear, we'd

say it in German and she didn't know what's going on. And that went on, oh, quite a few years I guess. And I went through the 8th grade. I went through the 8th grade and you had to go till you were 16. I went through the 8th grade, then Dad said, well, we ain't got much to do this winter, got the corn shucked and we'd cut enough wood for firewood on Saturdays, so go back to school a couple of months. So I went back to school, took the 8th grade again till about the middle of March, then I quit. And there was no high school for me at that time unless you had a sister or brother lived in a town that had a high school and then you could stay with them.

J. Because it was so far away?

P. That's right.

J. Where was the closest high school that would have been for you then?

P. Edwardsville.

J. Edwardsville, you had to go in by buggy?

P. About two years later, then, a couple of girls from our school went to Edwardsville and had a place to stay and they went to high school.

J. So you took, like, the 8th grade over just because there wasn't a lot to do on the farm?

P. That's right. Wintertime we would -- them kids lots of times used to do that, older boys, they'd go through it in the wintertime two or three months, see.



Learned a little more, at least they're supposed to. I don't know if they did or not.

J. Like where were you -- where were you born?  
Where were your folks living when you were born?

P. On the place where I farmed all my life.

J. Okay. The main home place?

P. That's right.

J. That's where they were living already?

P. I was born there.

J. Okay. Did you have, like, I know you don't remember this, but did you have a midwife come out there, or did your Mother go somewhere to deliver you, or how did they do that?

P. Born at home. Probably some lady in the neighborhood that they called a midwife. I don't remember too much about my birth. I know I weighed 11 pounds.

J. Eleven pounds, okay.

P. Yeah.

J. Okay. Then your schooling. Okay. We covered that. The schooling you went through the 8th grade twice. You said you spoke low German?

P. Yeah.

J. What was the difference between the high German and the low German? What would the main things have been?

P. You have to speak it practically to know the difference. Low German is -- they used to call it crooked German. From Germany proper that was high German, and that was a little bit more sophisticated German. And then there's Holland over there, they used to call that the Deutsche German. They all had a, well, even the -- in Germany every little state, or we called them counties, had a little different language than what others did.

J. Like an accent?

P. Yeah.

J. Little different accent?

P. Little different words.

J. Did almost everybody when you were in grade school speak the low German out here?

P. Well, yeah, pretty well. Speaking all low German.

J. Was it pretty hard for you to learn --

P. The Bertels and the -- the Emdes were more on the high German and -- but the Bertels and the Heuers and then there was a few English speaking that moved in, but they didn't know what it was about. They thought it was a bunch of geese attacked or something, you know.

J. Was it difficult to learn English?

P. No, no, I didn't think so.



J. It wasn't? You picked that up, though, from your teacher more than your parents who didn't really speak English at home? You picked that up at school?

P. Yeah. Yeah, that's right.

J. Okay. So you learned that. Then how did you, like, when you went home you went back to speaking low German with your folks again?

P. Sure. It's just like the Mexicans, you stop at a Mexican garage sale sometime or a locality, you're lost. Me and Mother stopped at one up here on Donald Street one time and, holy mackerel, we couldn't understand a thing.

J. Yeah, it's a different language. Okay. Then could you tell us, like, the first home you remember was out there on the farm, the main old home place, out at Dorsey? And who were your neighbors?

P. Well, Victa Johnson.

J. Is that a man?

P. That was a lady, and she was a cousin to my grandfather, Henry Johnson. And she was a Frerichs, too. Now, I don't know if she was, I don't think she was a sister to my aunt, to my Mother.

J. But her name was Johnson?

P. Yeah, sister to my grandmother. She may have been, I don't know. Then there was an old maid, I shouldn't say that, a bachelor and old maid, Annie and

John, they farmed there together a few years after Victa died.

J. Which farm was that now?

P. Where Orville lives.

J. Where Orville Johnson lives, okay.

P. Yeah, Vickie Shaw lives there.

J. Just to the south of --

P. Yeah, we're adjoining.

J. Who was your first best friend out there, like when you were at church or school, who was it that you kind of considered your best friend?

P. Oh, I don't know.

J. Anybody, special buddy in grade school or anybody like that that you used to play marbles with?

P. Well, we played marbles in the school in the wintertime. You may not believe it, but we wore the thumbnails through on our fingers from shooting marbles, that's a fact.

J. Is that right?

P. Yeah. And when them older kids that just went a couple months in the wintertime yet, about 16, 17 years old and it was bad outside, we couldn't hardly get our breath when school took up at 1 o'clock because of the dust. Jumped over the seats and wrestled around on the floor. And then afterwards, they scattered something on the floors and walls to keep the dust down.

J. How did they keep order in school? What was their discipline?

P. Teacher had a stick and she'd better be man enough to use it. I seen one kid get a whipping one time. She had a stick about, oh, I don't know, the size of a broomstick, about three foot long, and she just had about a foot left in her hand when she got done with him. I remember that.

J. So you mostly had women teachers?

P. I never had a man teacher.

J. Never had.

P. Our school did have a man teacher for a year or so after I was out of school. Oh, yeah, another thing we got to get on in there is there was a depot in Dorsey. The railroad ran through there and we had an elevator. I don't know, it stood there for years and years. And Moro had one just like it. It had a big ramp built up to the outside about 30 foot long. And you pull up there with a team of horses and unload your wheat and it rolled down in a bin. And then they'd have a boxcar pull alongside whenever they had a car-full load. And they loaded a car of wheat. And there was also a large gas engine in there, probably 8 or 10 horse, that could break a weatherboard in two when they'd hold it under the exhaust pipe, that much force it had. And pulled them elevators up in there, the buckets and the chutes, and then it run



down into the boxcar. Everything was gravity. And then they sold wheat there afterwards that was built. I remember that.

J. What store would that have been?

P. J.V. Monday owned both of them elevators.

J. And that would have been right next to the railroad tracks, the depot?

P. That's right. You push a boxcar right along there, put it to a valve, put in grain boards.

J. What year do you think they built that or --

P. I have no idea. It was there already when Dad was old enough to walk around and go to parties and stuff. And there was fast trains running through Dorsey, several in a day. And right there at the depot, there was a big well where the trains could get water. Some of them would say how did they pump it out of there. Well, I think it steam operated with your injectors, same as they built the boilers on the steam engine. That was at least 16-foot across. And the story was it was 80-foot deep, but I helped put a top on it. Fred Sawyer drug some, I guess, about five or six poles up from the woods and when I worked in the dairy up there, why, we put bridge boards across it so it wasn't 'cause we got water from there in the summertime when our wells went dry down there at the depot. When we needed water, we pumped it down from there to run our ice machine things. And then

there was a big stockyards there. I don't say big, but I guess it covered maybe 60 by 80 and they bought hogs several times a month, and maybe cows. People had their cow that didn't give milk anymore or bull that they didn't need anymore or want, and you'd bring them up there. A fellow come around, I remember, Lannaman, brought -- or Henry Moore, he'd come around and fill up his pipe, put his foot on the board fence, and argue with you what he was going to give for them hogs, that you'd take it or not, and light his pipe a couple of times. Then you'd take them up to Dorsey, and that stockyard had chutes. You'd get a cattle car up alongside of it, and every time people brought their hogs in, why, they'd weigh 'em and they'd pay you for 'em. Then you went into the stockyards. And when the buying was over, they'd put them in the car, and the train come through and took them to St. Louis. I remember that was quite a time. We had a cow one time that wouldn't go up in the wagon. You put stop racks on your wagon, the cow wouldn't go in and lay down, and shoot, we drug her in with a team of horses with a rope around the neck. We got up there, now we got her up there, how are we going to get her out, and he said, that's no problem. He walked along behind there real unsuspecting and grabbed his hat and hit her over the rump. The cow jumped up, jumped right out over the double trees into the stockyards.

J. What did you do? Did you drive them in from the farm, then, like when you wanted to sell something?

P. Hauled them in a wagon.

J. Oh, you hauled them, oh, with a team or horses?

P. They used to from my area, before my time, they drove cattle to St. Louis, East St. Louis, with the stuff. Farmers get together with a bunch of them and drive them down. Then during the war years, 1918, Gettelman bought about 900 head of horses for the Army in our area, right down here at Rosewood Heights, where Junior Hahnenkamp lives at the time. That's all built up, but they had I don't know how many head of horses there and lightning hit a dead tree and stampeded them. We had horses up our way in the wheat fields there one morning after a storm. And the Army guys came around and rounded them up, come back down there to the place where they had them in the pasture. And then up at Dorsey was another thing, an icehouse. It was a building about, oh, I don't know, 30 by 40 at the most, and they cut ice off the farm ponds in the wintertime with a big saw. And that was manpower, that wasn't gas driven. They put it in that icehouse and go to where they were sawing lumber someplace and get sawdust and store it. And then taverns in Dorsey and Boland and Eilers and Prairietown would come in the summertime and get some chunks of ice out of there and keep their beer cold in their taverns. Yeah.



And then afterwards, we bought that building and slid her down the railroad track on the skids and used it for a band house, right there where the post office is today. I belonged to the band for a few years, but it was going long before my days. I don't know how many years it was existing.

J. What did you play in the band?

P. Alto, after a time. It's a horn, something like a -- it was a curved deal, something like a tenor horn. And I had played the alto. And we had a drum, we had clarinets, we had cornets.

J. Did you play at parades or picnics or what?

P. Yeah, we played at quite a few picnics, Carpenter, sometimes Prairietown, Bunker Hill. Then Saturday nights sometimes, we went to Bunker Hill during the summertime and we played at a band concert up there. It'd draw the people into town, you know. Another interesting thing, Gunnerman had a store in Dorsey where McGaughey still has the old building standing there. And the story was that he used to go out about 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock by the porch. And if any farmer had lights yet, he'd stay open a little while, but if there was no light, then he'd close up 'cause nobody's coming to town anymore. Another thing, we had a creamery condenser there, that creamery in Dorsey. Farmers would bring their milk in in the mornings and we'd weigh it, separate

it, and pour the cream and the milk in separate cans to ship to St. Louis on the 10 o'clock train. I worked there three and a half years from -- I guess I was about 17 when I started. And we bought milk and separated and tested it and weighed it for the farmers.

J. Farmers brought it in?

P. Uh-huh, they'd bring it in.

J. The creamery was right there?

P. Right there, yeah.

J. Where McGa<sup>g</sup>hey's store was?

P. Just west of it, next to the railroad.

J. Okay.

P. We'd separate it, put it on a little car that we could push out to the railroad and join up against the train in a little load of about maybe 50 cans of milk and things into that, and that went to St. Louis.

J. Now, who owned that creamery?

P. Man by the name of Adam Thornton, the St. Louis dairy out in St. Louis.

J. How did you happen to get that job?

P. Me?

J. Yeah.

P. Well, they hired guys. Let's see, one boy quit and I got the job. Me and Ed Aljets run it for several years. And then Uncle Harry was one of the first ones that started it, and he managed it. And then after that,

though, cars were just coming into existence. They were Model T Fords and he sold automobiles. Very busy man. People were buying automobiles and bringing milk to Dorsey, yeah.

J. What did they pay per hour? Do you remember what your first wages were?

P. I got \$.45 an hour.

J. Did you work, like, 8, 10 hours a day?

P. Oh, no, I worked from about -- I had to be there by 7 o'clock and I worked till the train went down about 10 o'clock. Maybe 10:30, 11 o'clock I was free. That was my --

J. Oh, just early morning?

P. Yeah.

J. I see. Then after that?

P. Sometimes in the afternoon we had repair cans to solder or something to clean on the boiler, change water, and this and that. Yeah. And then I worked a couple months down at the dairy in East Alton, Madison County Dairy. We bottled milk down there. And I worked there from -- I don't know, in the fall to the next spring. Then I got married.

J. Did you ride the rails down there? Did you ride a train to Alton? Oh, you bought -- when did you buy your first automobile?



P. I got my first automobile in 1926 in the fall, my birthday.

J. Was that before you were married?

P. Oh, yeah, sure.

J. While you worked at the creamery, then you went out?

P. Yeah. And you might say, too, I paid for my first automobile with \$372, and I bought it from Herman Helmkamp there. He sold for the auto dealer in Alton.

J. What kind was it?

P. It was a Model A -- Model T Ford Coupe, a new type just came out that year. Oh, it was really something different compared to the old ones, but didn't have no self-starter. You cranked it.

J. So you had to get out, raise the hood, and crank it?

P. No. The crank handle was hanging in front. You just had to push in on it and shwoooosh, and pray you didn't break your arm. I paid for it with the money I made from working there. And skunks and possum furs that you caught in the wintertime.

J. So were you a trapper?

P. Yeah, trapped mostly with a dog and rabbits. You could ship rabbits, a gunnysack full, to St. Louis for about \$2.50 a dozen. One of the guys that trucked cattle to St. Louis would take 'em along. Yep.

J. And what did they pay you, like, per pellet?  
What was the best one, minks or --

P. Mink was about, oh, maybe \$15 to \$20, but I had -- I think I had 22 skunks that winter. Some of them brought me \$5.60. And possums brought about \$2.50. I didn't have no coons, but I had a mink or two.

J. So you saved that money and saved up so you could buy yourself a brand new car, huh?

P. Stuck it all in an automobile.

J. Just like they do nowadays.

P. But you could buy gasoline for \$.17 a gallon.

J. And the car was how much, your first car?

P. \$372.00.

J. \$372.00?

P. New Model T Ford Coupe.

J. Ford was the only one?

P. No, there was Chevy, the Maxwell. Oh, they were a dime a dozen, but Ford was the main automobile at that time. An uncle sold them there in Dorsey, or he got them for people, ordered them.

J. Yeah, so he ordered yours for you then?

P. No, I got mine from Herman Helmkamp down at Moro. I think Ford had a car dealer in Alton and was a horseman, if I remember right. Was right there where Sears Roebuck was last, in that corner.

J. So you went home, like, after you worked at the creamery, you'd go home and work on the farm?

P. Yeah.

J. Grandpa's. Were you the only who worked out there on the farm with him?

P. Yeah, that's all. He didn't have that much ground.

J. And I was going to ask you, too, backing up a little bit, like when did your dad remarry, your stepmother?

P. Oh, I was nine years old when my mother died. And I was 12 when he remarried. Married Gesena Mansholt (Gesena Frauc(a)lena Fannie-Helen Mansholt Heuer) from Bunker Hill. And you couldn't have a better stepmother than I had.

J. So there were about three years there where you didn't have -- it was just you and your Dad?

P. I was just 12, from 9 to 12 just me. Well, my Aunt kept house for us.

J. Oh, who was that?

P. Aunt Della Johnson.

J. Oh, I see.

P. My mother's second youngest sister.

J. So she just moved in and helped take care of you guys? Did you learn to cook or anything?



P. Oh, I was a good cook. I could bake pancakes, scrambled eggs. Yeah.

J. And then he got married when you were 12, married Gesena. But then you stayed there on the farm?

P. Yeah.

J. They all lived right there on the farm. Okay. And then now, let's see, we got into the jobs. Any other jobs that you had? You did hunting and trapping, and you had the two creamery jobs. Any others besides the farm? Did you have any other, like, salary jobs?

P. No, no. Odd jobs. The creamery, we furnished the sand or sold the sand out of our creek there for the creamery. And quite a few houses in Dorsey, when they were first built, got sand out of our creek there in the past. Ten cents a load, if I remember right. I believe we charged a quarter afterwards. Today there ain't hardly no sand down them creeks. I don't know why. Them days, why, every time we'd get two inches of rain, there'd be a carload of sand on every curve down there.

J. Okay. Did you do a lot of socializing then once you got your car? Weren't you out a lot more and that gave you mobility to get all over the place?

P. Oh, yeah. Every morning you took milk to Dorsey, rain or shine, zero or above zero, either horse and buggy or some of them put it in an automobile. Of course, you didn't like to do that because it was your

pleasure car also. You had to be very careful. Maybe on Sunday once in a while you want to go to church, you take the car and you'd take the milk down if you didn't have too much. Otherwise you had a spring wagon and you'd hitch up a horse or two every morning and take it to Dorsey. We milked cows by hand. And milking machines were unheard of at that time.

J. Okay. Then what did you do, like, on weekends? How did you -- what was social life like?

P. Driveless in the wintertime.

J. And like -- did you have, like, Friday, did you go out with your friends or did you have parties?

P. We had skating parties on some of the big ponds there, build a bonfire. And don't forget on New Year's, shooting on New Year's.

J. Was that at church? Was that with a church group?

P. No, that was a community. A bunch of young guys get together, about 8 or 10 or so, you know, with their shotguns, get some blank shells, or make some, and have some wine and a sandwich and cookies and whatever all good to eat. A lot of people had contributed sandwiches.

J. And then where did you meet?

P. Somebody's house. Then we'd go around the block, see.

J. Well, then, how did you meet Mother? Like, if you were out, you had to have met her somewhere right around there after you got the car?

P. Yes. I knew and met her, I guess, right after -- well, not so much that first winter I met her, but we did go to dances, met her. And in the summertime there was picnics, homecomings, Fourth of July dances, Labor Day dances.

J. Where did they hold those dances?

P. In Bethalto. In Bethalto and Prairietown was a dance about every Saturday night or twice a month at least. The summertime was lover's lane. That was out in the country, right east of Prairietown. And you'd go there. Prohibition was the main thing. And if you wanted a little drink of spirits, why, you'd just watch where the white shirts went through the timber, and if there was moonlight or they had some Delco lamp furnish electricity, and you could see where the guy was that was selling a little drink for a quarter. And Prairietown would have a masquerade every Halloween. That was quite interesting, go over there and go to dances.

J. Do you remember exactly the first time you ever --

P. Yes. I knew Mother for --

J. Bernice Emma.



"  
Town of "Dorsey"  
named by "Big 4 Railroad"  
for Dorsey families  
living nearby—  
possibly around 1882!







THE KOPP STUDIO  
ALTON, ILL.

Percy  
Percy Henrich & Bernice Emma Henke wedding Aug. 15 1928



Ford Model Tand Berni



Bernice

← Percy and Bernice

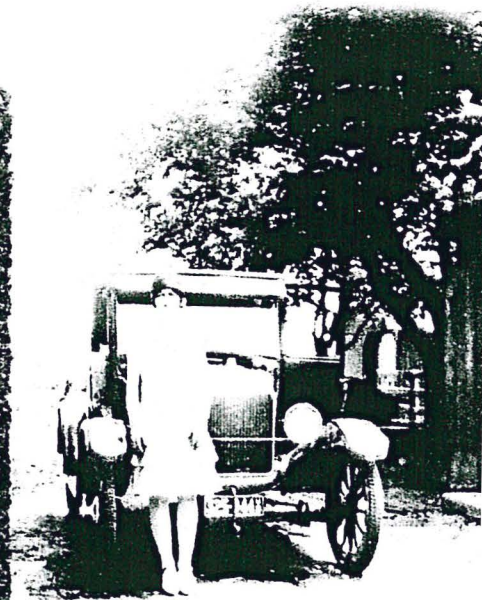






THE KOPP STUDIO  
ALTON, ILL.

Percy  
Percy Hewitt & Bernice Emma Henke wedding Aug. 15 1928



Ford Model Tand Bernice



Bernice

← Percy and Bernice





P. 1926. Well, I didn't see much of her the first winter or two. The second summer, then, they'd be at all the picnics. See, Dorsey had a picnic, Bunker Hill had a picnic, Prairietown had a picnic, Carpenter had a picnic, Worden had a picnic, Bethalto had a big doings for the Fourth of July.

J. Okay, Dad. Now, where would those picnics be? Were they centered around at your church functions, or --

P. Our church had it up at Lester Bertels' pasture. And Prairietown had theirs at the church grounds. Bunker Hill had Schreier's Grove, just south of town there, along Springfield Road. That wasn't a hard road there in them days yet. And Bethalto had it in the Legion Park and big dance pavilion there. And Carpenter had it at the church grounds there. Lover's Lane was east of Prairietown and Graham's Timber.

J. What was that, everybody just went out and parked in their new cars and --

P. Well, yeah.

J. Kind of a --

P. Every Saturday night in the summertime they had a dance there. And then they had a Delco light lamp set up to furnish light. And Worden, I think they had it at their church grounds, I believe, if I remember right. But that was custom for all the churches to have picnics in the summertime.

J. Then you'd see mother at all those different ones?

P. Yeah.

J. What did she do, come over with her brothers and sisters in groups?

P. Her brother Milton always brought her along. And I loved to bowl and some of us were pretty good bowlers. She loved to bowl. And there was always a couple of girls around that like to bowl, too. I remember at Carpenter one year I believe I had 21 tickets from winning games. And then there was a couple more of us there that pooled our tickets and a bunch of wieners and a case of soda. We had a big time for a while, yeah.

J. And the first time that you saw -- that you said to Mother, like, you want to go out on a date or go to another picnic or something, I guess that would be --

P. I met Mother at a party at Dorsey. She came there with her brother. He was kind of dating a girl there where the party was. And that was on the 19th of September in 1927. And you see, what happened, got married on August 15th of '28. Now, you can figure that out. So I was not quite 22 years old.

J. And Mother was how old?

P. Twenty. She was 20. And Mother's birthday was the 23rd of May 1908. My birthday is the 11th of September 1906.

J. And you guys got married then, where -- you and Mother got married?

P. Grandpa Henke's front room. It was too expensive and nobody had money in the Depression years. Nobody had money to get married in church and have a wedding.

J. And the date of your wedding was what?

P. August 15th, 1928. Hot as the dickens, about the hottest day of summer. Yep. We moved on the farm, and Dad moved to Dorsey. He bought a house there from Uncle John E. He built a new house on the east end of the town and Dad moved there and we moved on the farm. And I want to tell you how wonderful it was when we made money that 1929 and '31, wheat was \$.36 a bushel. I sold enough to pay Louie Bertels' threshing bill. It was \$165. And the rest I kept till March and I got \$.48 for it. And hogs, you got a 200-pound hog, you get a \$5 bill. It was about \$2.50 a hundred, that hog. Eggs was \$.10, \$.12 a dozen. Bushel of corn, and it was -- the white corn would bring about \$.14 and yellow corn brought \$.12. I sold a many a hundred pounds of milk for \$.45, and I gave Art Bertels -- well, I had about seven different milk haulers in my life -- gave him about \$.10 a hundred for milk, hauling milk to Bunker Hill, yeah, Edwardsville afterwards.



J. I wanted to ask you, did Mother bring, like, a dowry from home? Did Mother bring anything like that when you got married?

P. Mother got \$1,000. She got two cows, 25 chickens, and \$1,000 worth of furniture. But I think the value of the cows was in with that. She got an equivalent of \$1,000, two cows, 25 chickens, and the rest was furniture.

J. Oh, I see, to equal --

P. Got most of our furniture. We could buy that with what we had left over.

J. Is that what they gave each -- is that how they did it? They gave each of the girls that?

P. Yeah. The boys usually got a buggy -- horse and a buggy when they were 21. Automobiles just came out right after we got married. To be honest about it, the young kids, you know, worked a little bit and would have a few dollars to buy an automobile.

J. And Mother had how many brothers and sisters?

P. She had Jule, Tone (Milton), Cliff, and Al. Four ain't it? And then two girls. She has two sisters and four brothers. Yep. Do you want their names?

J. Yeah, why don't you just put them on here.

P. Hilka married Henry Kruckeberg. And Barb married Henry Wieseman. And Bernice married Percy Heuer. And Jule married Clara Kruckeberg. And Cliff married

Helen Rinkel, and Milton didn't -- he was a bachelor yet, he was 31 or 32 when he passed away with a terrible pneumonia he got in the wintertime. But then he was going with a girl pretty steady then, and maybe would have gotten married, I don't know. And Al married Loretta Bardelmeier.

J. And who were Mother's parents?

P. Julius and Elizabeth Henke. Mrs. Henke was a Miller.

J. Elizabeth Miller. (Died March 11, 1971 -- 97 years, 3 months, 3 days old -- at Barry's Nursing Home.)

P. Albert Miller lived down at Yard Station. You could see the house from the 3-mile house, right across the field to the west. And Grandma had, let me see, how many sisters was there?

J. Elizabeth Miller?

P. Yeah. She had to have that one brother, Albert. He lived on the farm.

J. Are they the ones that came from Missouri originally? Was it the Millers or the Henkes that came --

P. I don't know where they came from, I tell you, no. They came from Granite City really.

J. Mother used to talk about the Missouri farmers.

P. Well, he lived -- Grandpa Henke and Grandma, when they got married, they moved to Missouri, bought a farm out there.

J. Okay. That's what she talked about.

P. Yeah, there were some cousins living out there. Both kids went out there.

J. What made them move back here?

P. Didn't like it. Was homesick. Yeah. And everything along Springfield Road was Henkes. Chris Henke up the corner by Ridgely; Julius Henke right to the west, first house; and just go east and you hit Roger Henke; and then you went down the road and there was Willard Henke; and before you got to Midway -- well, Willard started Midway long about '35, I guess, about 1940 something in there; and Gus Henke lived on the home place. Yeah.

J. Do you remember any stories that Mother told you about her family background, anything in particular like something about the -- I remember something about the mules in Missouri where the tarantulas used to jump on the side of the mules. Do you remember that story? Do you remember anything about her talking about Jessie James or her mother --

P. Yes.

J. -- living near Jesse James, something like that?



P. Where they lived wasn't too far from Jessie James. We went out there to see, let's see, Ina Smith. I think she was a Buchta, married somebody out there in Missouri. We drove out there one Labor Day when I had three days when I worked on the highways, and we hunted it up. I seen Jessie James' tombstone there in the cemetery. And if I remember, we went past his home place, where he was raised.

J. And that was pretty close to where Grandma Henke would have been?

P. Yeah. I saw the farm where they had lived for a couple of years, but they got homesick and wanted to come back up here.

J. So when Mother told that story to us kids about her mom or grandma holding Jessie James and rocking him on the front porch, then, that would have been --

P. That could have been. That could have all been.

J. That would have been, like, Mother's mother doing that probably, is that about --

P. That would have been her grandma.

J. Her grandma, okay. Mother's grandma. So that grandma lived in Missouri?

P. Yeah, that's right. And some of these Buchtas from Edwardsville went down to Missouri. And Millers and Beckmans, the old great great-grandparents came over,

supposed to come over on the -- I always used to joke about it -- on the Mayflower, but knew it was a different ship they came over from Europe on. They settled down around, see, Beckman still lives around Granite City. That Army depot, that was their farmland where they worked. I remember Bill and Pap and Albert and, oh, Frieda, one of the girls, and Almie Roland, I see her now yet once in a while. Let's see, what was it they always called him? Rooster. I don't know what his first name was.

J. Those were all the distant relatives on --

P. All cousins.

J. On whose side?

P. Mother's side, the Millers.

J. The Millers' side, okay. Mother's mother's side.

P. That's right.

J. Okay, Dad, tell us who Ina Smith was.

P. She was a cousin to Bernice's mother.

J. Ina Smith?

P. The Millers, yeah. We went out to see her and she and her and her brother were batching out there on the farm. And he died. He was dead when we stopped in there. We went there one Labor Day to hunt them up, that was it. Liberty, Missouri. And Carnie. And I think Liberty was really the birthplace of Jessie James and

them. I saw the cemetery. I saw what was left of the home. And I saw Grandpa Henke's place where they lived and started farming. And then they got homesick and had to come back to Midway. Midway just started later. Uncle Willard started that little burg up there, bought a farm, laid out some lots. And Chris Henke, he had a -- he cooked molasses or sorghum in the fall out there where Elmo Weishaupt lives today. The old brick barn is still there.

J. Okay. Then, let's see, going to when you and Mother lived on the farm, when was your first child born?

P. Don was born on Christmas day. That must have been '32 (31), is that's what's --

J. 1932 (1931). Okay. And then JoAnn was born?

P. The next years -- two years -- or two and a half years later on the 30<sup>th</sup> of January.

J. Or December?

P. December, that's right. And you was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July.

J. Janette was born on the 19<sup>th</sup> of July. I know that was 1940.

P. We got electricity in '41, I think, or '40.

J. I believe Mother always said when she came home from Carrie Braasch, the --

P. We must have got electricity in '40, then.



J. Yeah, that was when you had electricity.  
Carrie Braasch was a midwife?

P. Yeah, that's right.

J. What did they do in those days, they went to the midwife's house?

P. You went to the midwife's place. Used to, they'd come to you. JoAnn was born and Carrie Braasch came along with a doctor to the house, yeah. And when you was born, your mother went to Carrie Braasch's place up there.

J. She had, like, a boarding house or something for expectant mothers?

P. Yeah. And you stayed, I don't know, ten days or what they stayed there. And then the doctor was there in Bunker Hill and he had his hand here. And, well, she got acquainted to her home there, she knew where everything was, see. Coming on the farm or some place, why, maybe someone maybe didn't have this, some didn't have that. And Joyce was born up there, too.

J. At Carrie Braasch's. Joyce was born in -- well, let's see, three years after I was. And then Janelle was --

P. She was born in Memorial Hospital.

J. In what, 1950, I guess. Is that right?

P. Yeah.

J. Well, October 26th --

P. '50 or '51.

J. October 26th of 1950 because it was ten years after me.

P. Because we built the house in '51. We started in April, that's right.

J. Yeah. Tell us a little bit about building that new home. You lived out there on the farm. How many acres, Dad, did you have originally when you and Mother first moved out there and got married? How many acres did you actually own?

P. Dad had 80 acres.

J. Okay.

P. You got that turned on?

J. Yeah.

P. All right. Dad had 80 acres and then we rented some land down the road, I don't know, probably about 40 acres from Adens down there. It was a great aunt of mine that lived in Chicago and they had that land down there and they just kept it.

J. That was close to the Depression years, wasn't it?

P. Huh?

J. That was Depression years?

P. You bet it was Depression years. You betcha. \$.36 for wheat and \$2.50 per 100 pounds for hogs.

J. So you were able to actually make a living  
or --

P. We lived.

J. Did you have any profit at the end of the year,  
or was it just --

P. Very, very little profit, yeah. And you didn't  
buy on credit. If you didn't have the cash, you didn't  
buy. That's all.

J. Did you trade?

P. Huh?

J. What did you do, trade and barter things like  
eggs for --

P. You lived on what you had or done without, see.  
And we didn't run to every homecoming and everything that  
went around the area cause you didn't have money to buy  
gas.

J. Oh, I see. Did they ration gas and everything,  
too?

P. No, not till -- in World War 2, then, you  
rationed gas and meat. You had two bond books that you  
got, tore so many tickets out for -- a pound of meat took  
so many, two pounds, a gallon of gas, that was separate.  
And you got so many gallons of gas per five-gallon  
coupon, I guess it went.

J. What were those little tokens that I can  
remember as a kid, the little round red tokens?



P. Them was sales tax. Half of a quarter cent sales tax when it first started out.

J. What did they do, give them to you or what?

P. Uh-huh. I don't know if you bought them -- I guess you bought to start out a couple of them, a dollars' worth or so. And then the stores would trade back and forth with you. If you owed so much sales tax, sure, you had to buy them, that's right. And that's where they got their money, see. And then you gave so many -- this item takes so many tokens.

J. And then you gave it back to them?

P. Yeah, you gave it to them. Then when you run out, you went and bought some more.

J. You rented Adens' 40 acres?

P. Yeah, and 80 there. And then when my grandfather died down the road there from us, why, then Dad bought 30 -- 40 acres off of him that was -- we were short on pastures and that was a bad thing when we first started out. And we bought that 40 acres at 30 dollars an acre. And then a couple years later, Virgil Hess bought the other 120 for -- I believe he gave \$3,600 for it, if I remember right. That was -- I got my Mother's share out of the estate. And then Hess lived there a couple of years. And I heard one day that they wanted to leave, they was going to move on his brother-in-law's place. They were feeding horses at threshing and I say,

hey, is that true, you want to sell your farm? Yeah, I'll sell anything. I said, what'll you take for that 40 acres that joins me up there? \$2,000. I said, I'll give you \$1,750, and he said, you got it, I'll make up the deed one of these first days. I felt I was lucky. I got nice cultivating ground to go with my farm, maybe 160 acres of nice property.

J. So that was kind of the extent of the property lines as far as what you owned for those years? So then you were able to make a living out of that?

P. Oh, yeah. And milk was pretty good. I got in a dairy herd. And wheat went up a fair amount, at least it wasn't \$.36 a bushel. Taxes, they didn't take everything you had left over in them days either, like they do now.

J. Did you have mostly wheat, corn, or what did you raise usually?

P. Milk and eggs. I never did like eggs or hogs too much because the chicken house was next to the hog pen and the young would start the hogs to eating chickens and they didn't do good after that. So I did have quite a few eggs. Last years was pretty good, people come up.

J. Did you and -- go ahead.

P. People came out from town and would get 10 dozen every week. And I always done pretty good on that. Then I had pretty good milk checks. And then I rented

more ground afterwards, there was more land available. Elderly couples would -- boy leave home, get married, leave home, and the girls get married, and then dad and mom have to retire, and they come and, hey, could you farm my ground next summer, now, maybe two, three summers. And wheat and soybeans come along and I did have quite a bit of wheat and corn I never did sell. I generally fed most of my corn once in a while. Soybeans come along, sometimes we had pretty good money out of soybeans. Huetten's farm up there, about four miles from my place, something like that, for, I believe, seven years. And I farmed out of Wilkenings' for a few years. And then Adens went out to Rhine's. And I farmed what was cultivation ground at that for a few years. And some of the other land back over across the timber for a couple of years.

J. Out by the persimmon trees?

P. No, that was mine I got with --

J. That was your own?

P. This was down there by --

J. You talked about renting. Who was the lady who always sent us chocolates?

P. What?

J. Sent us chocolate, was that Louise Aden?

P. Could be, I --



J. A lady who sent us chocolate from somewhere, a great big box once a year.

P. Yeah, could be.

J. She'd always send a box of chocolate.

P. Yeah. Then I farmed Henry Emde's farm for, oh, I don't know, two, three years. And then John Bertels' place was sold and a minister bought it from Alton and Prehn's dad bought it before that. And they rented it to me. They come over and wondered if I would farm it. And that was 80 acres. And I farmed that for, I don't know, quite a few years. So I guess we had maybe over 500, 600 acres for several years there till Don got married.

J. And you just had yourself and Mother and kids to help you, huh?

P. Yeah. Course, my girls could all run a tractor. A lot of them always said that. They could go out with the three bottom tractor and be following old Dad and you don't even have to watch them, which was true enough. Mother always helped milk till we got a milking machine. That was a big lift.

J. You milked dairy cows right away after you got married?

P. You betcha.

J. That was one of your main incomes, I guess?

P. Yeah. And how times changed from \$.36 a bushel for wheat when I got married. I don't know what year

that was, '70 -- no, '60 -- I forget what year I started working for the highway department and state. And I had a 2,250 bushel bin. I filled it with wheat one year and it was \$1.85 and two years later I sold it for \$5.20. And they hauled it. So that was a big change. Prosperity hit all at once.

J. But what years would you say that was, like what?

P. Right at the end of World War 2. When was that, in the '40s?

J. '45, 1945.

P. That's right. And milk went up to, I think, \$5.20. No, wait a minute. That would be just like the wheat. Yeah, I guess it was \$5.20 a hundred when I sold it. When I got married, it was \$.45, \$.10 for hauling, that would be \$.35 clear.

J. How many cows did you usually milk?

P. Well, we started out with about eight and then it was up to about 12 or 14. And we built milk parlors. We started out in the old cow barn and then gradually St. Louis wanted inspected milk and built a milking parlor. And you had to milk in that and have a milk house and a milk cooler. It was always one after another. I think I remodeled about three times to stay on the market. Milk cows had to be connected to the

dairy barn, that you didn't carry it out and a little dust would blow in it and all this and that.

J. How did you store the milk?

P. Cooler. We had a water tank with an ice machine on there the last years. Used to be just had well water in a tub, a wooden tub, a barrel sawed in two and you put a can of milk in there when you was done milking and filled it with water out of the well and that was it. And then hauled it to the receiving station the next morning in Dorsey there, you know. Then afterwards, that went bankrupt. Then Gerke hauled a while. Art Bertels hauled a while. And Morris hauled a while. Edwin Schreier hauled a while. I think that takes care about all of them. Hardly room for any more.

J. Okay. Let's see. Then how did you ever -- how did you save or have enough money to build the house that you built? Did you build that in 1950?

P. Uh-huh, '51. Started in spring, April of '51. Made a little money in them years, yeah, made milk.

J. Did Mother just stash it away until you had enough to -- you saved most of it, didn't you, before -- you didn't borrow a lot of money to build a house, did you?

P. No.

J. Saved most of it before?



P. Them days you generally didn't spend money unless you had it.

J. There wasn't that much credit?

P. No, credit was a bad word in them days.

J. So every time you bought a piece of new machinery, you saved up the money first to replace it?

P. In '41, I bought a combine.

J. Was that the first one, you mean?

P. The first one, the old Allis-Chalmer.

J. Before that, you did what?

P. Wheat binder, bind it in bundles and then you went threshing. That was a rough life. And then I know my first -- I guess I bought my first tractor in '37, I believe.

J. What was that?

P. Allis-Chalmer, two plows, \$750. Now, they're \$50,000. The combine was, I think, around \$800. Then I had it for, I believe, 10, 11 years, and then I went up to Narmont and I bought a John Deere. Had a two-foot larger header on it and it handled the wheat and straw a lot better than the old one did. And that's the one I ended up with. And then Don got married. He got a self-propelled and I done his custom work and cut my wheat with that. I think 3,000 bushel was the most wheat I raised in a year. And that helped, you know, when you

got, would you say, \$5.20 a bushel for 2,000 bushel, you made in one year what took you five years before.

J. So that's how you were able to build that house then?

P. That's right. That house cost me \$15,000. I don't know what it was, something like that, cause we done a lot of work ourselves.

J. Who did you have build it?

P. Ernest and Henry, yeah. Ernest Braasch and the boys and Walter Henke built it.

J. They built it?

P. Yeah.

J. Then you helped them?

P. Yeah, we done a lot of putting the lathes in and painting and sanding the floors. Had somebody dig the basement with a bulldozer. Lot of the milking parlor and the barns I built myself in summertime. When the worst was done, you had -- well, August you had a slack time in there, paint the buildings and you extend the milking parlor, make it larger. Then I had a milk house; I built that. Had a guy lay the tile for me and I finished the rest of it. Brother-in-law went out of the milk business when his wife died and I bought his ice milk cooler, needed a tank of my own, and shed and this and that. And that's the way it all went. Never a dull moment.

J. When did you have the fire? Do you remember the year of that and a little bit about that --

P. Yes.

J. -- how that started or what they thought started it?

P. It was lit, from most of the things we can say.

J. What year was that? I forgot.

P. It was in October, the 8th I think, of '63. I believe it was. Grandma Henke was staying with us at that time. And I think it was October 8th of '63. Yep. JoAnn remembers that Old Duke barked and woke us up with that the other day.

J. That's how you discovered it?

P. Yeah, heard a car go by, 3:30 a.m., dog barked, and the car went north a little. About 15 minutes or so, I heard him bark again. I heard the car kind of slow down and go down the road. And first thing, all at once, I saw the fire coming out of the top of the roof. It was about, I don't know, 2500 bales of hay, and 80 or 90 bushels of corn, some bales of straw, and --

J. Any animals?

P. Yeah. The neighbor lived on the Wilkening place. He had rented that home there -- house there and me and Art Bertels farmed the ground for a number of years. And the fire was in the yard. And he didn't know it, but you know, you didn't have bathrooms in the house



at that time. It was summertime and he walked out on the porch to get relief. And my God, when he turned the yard light on, why, that car pulled out of the road, out of his yard, and went back down the road. By that time, the fire was going good and strong. Now, the Dorsey fire department came, Bethalto came up. And don't think there wasn't a large amount of heat there because the leaves were starting to burn the valley and in the gutters on my new house. But they got it all out and never anything done. Fire marshal came out afterwards, neighbors were having trouble down the road with mailboxes. And somebody tried to light the bridge down there. Seemed like they never could get anything. So one day I went up to Springfield to buy a new barn and I went over to the state fire marshal and he says, I'll take care of that. I'll send a man down Monday and he'll check it out, which he did. And the guy's name was Marvin Tatters from Granite City. And he had a buddy with him that probably played football with the Chicago Bears, 'cause one look at him, you got to hide or you'd confess. They went down the high school in Bethalto and they got two boys and two girls. They admitted setting fire to the bridge down the road, but they wouldn't admit to the barn, which was lucky for them, I guess. So that's where it stayed.

J. Did they ever find any gas or any kind of --

P. Yes. They had stole gas out of Herman Helmkamp's truck in Moro that night, ciphened it out of his tank. They evidently used some of that to light the bridge, the deck on the bridge, which it burned it, but never damaged it that much, you know. That was dangerous. They probably spilled the rest on the barn up there. The fire marshal and all them decided it was lit, but he said we scared them good and proper, but couldn't make them confess, that's another problem. So that's where it stayed.

J. Did you have plenty of insurance --

P. No.

J. -- on things? Didn't have that much insurance?

P. I had \$3,000 worth of insurance, and I was out of about \$1,500. But then I figured the premiums in them 25 years or so would have cost me what I lost out by the extra insurance. And I lost my manure spreader, practically new, and a \$500 hay rake, one that I just cherished and very valuable. And a good milk cow.

J. How did that cow happen to be in there?

P. Well, I'll tell you. I sold a calf that morning, shipped it to St. Louis with a man. And a lot of times, we'd do that. And I had other cows was fresh. The calves was out in the yard and the lot with them. And a lot of times, they would let different calves nurse. And I wanted to break them to miss the calf. In

fact, I had forgot it, too. I left her in the stanchion for that reason. Then, when the fire was going, somebody said, hey, there's a dead cow in there. I had to think a little bit and then it dawned on me. Well, I'll just leave her in the barn then. But I lost all my milking equipment.

J. Was that when you went out of the milking business, then, or --

P. Three days later.

J. You did. What did you do, ship those cows up to the --

P. No, sold them to Chester Mansholt out by the road from Helen Hamburg.

J. Then how much longer did you stay out there at the farm after that?

P. Well, I left here in '73. I farmed yet, I didn't milk, but I farmed quite a bit of ground yet them last years and --

J. Just by yourself?

P. Yeah. And the kids. Your Mother run a tractor a lot for me and I'd sow. And you plowed once in a while and Joyce did, too. Then, let's see --

J. Then you had a sale. I remember you had an auction. Do you remember the date of that?

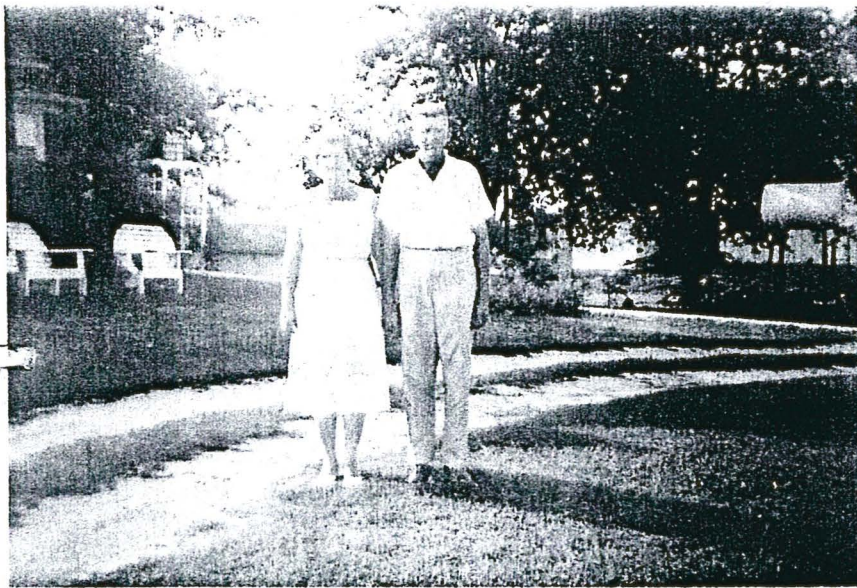
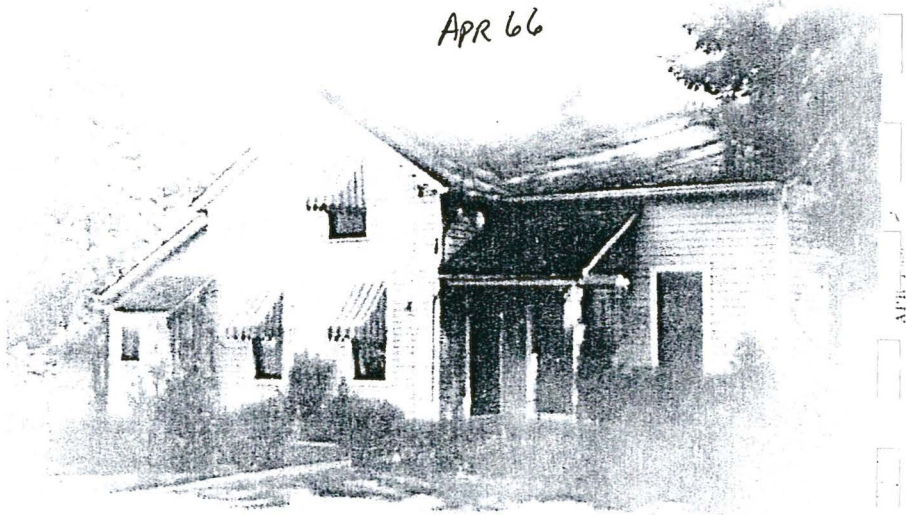
P. Yeah. Well, no, not -- I think it was the 30th of September when the auction was. Art Long was



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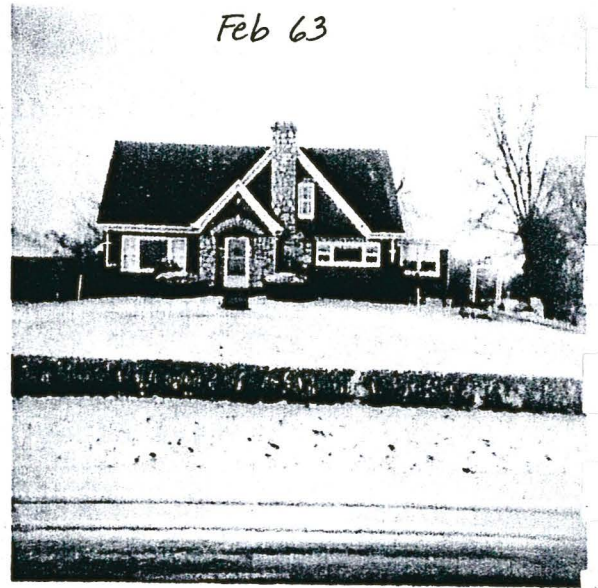


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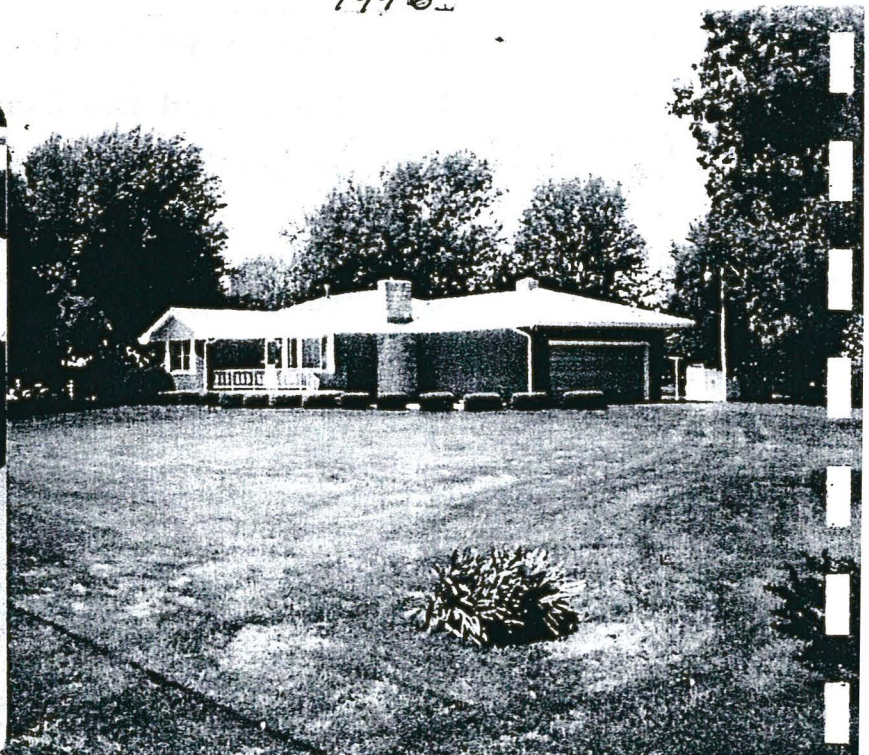
1960's

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1996

1978's

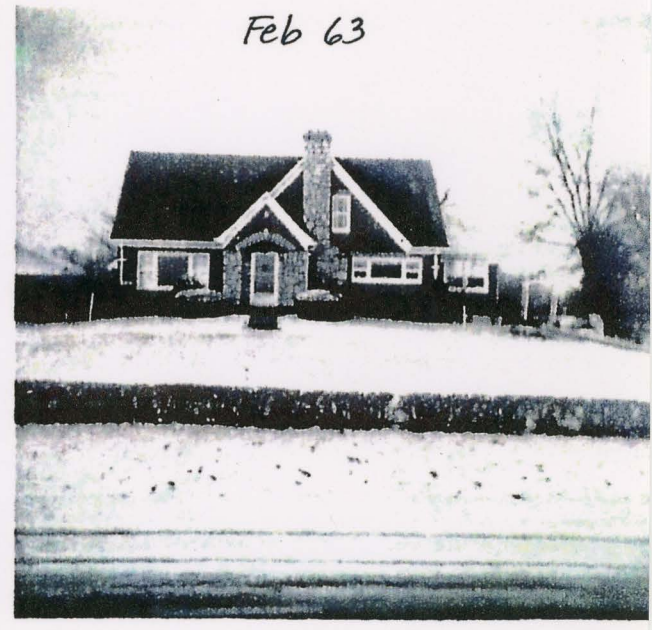
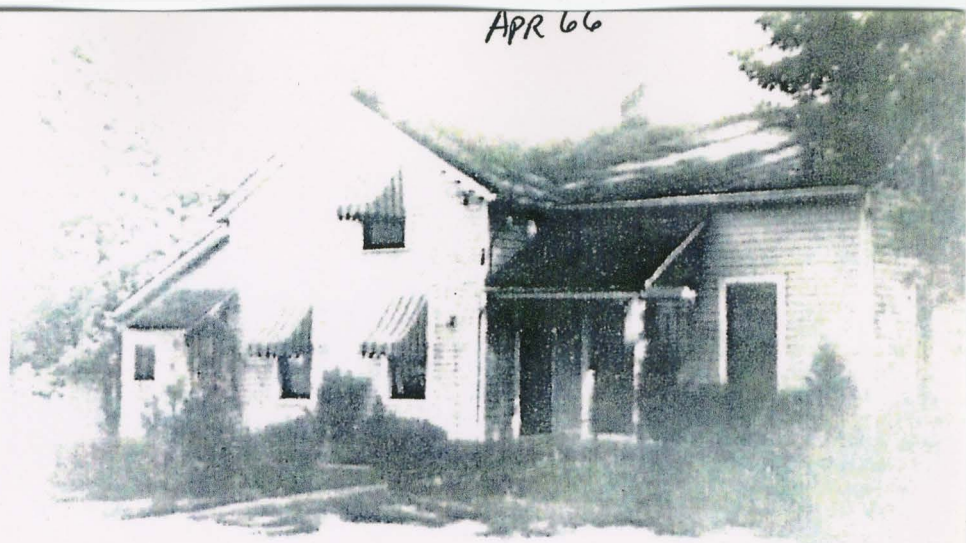


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1966

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1960's

1996

1970's





auctioneer and some real estate construction bunch (Tom Jun 8-28-72) bought my farm. And, let's see, what did I get for it? \$600 an acre? Yeah, \$96,000 for the 160 acres.

J. That was everything?

P. That was everything. Then the sale (9-30-72) brought, I don't know, around \$11,000, I believe. So that was that. Then we moved here on January the 3rd. It was 15 years ago, what would that be? '73. Yeah. So next January will be 16 years since I moved here (purchased from Dale Rhines 10-12-72).

J. And Mother -- Mother got -- when was Mother first sick? Do you remember the very first -- about that time I know I was --

P. Well, let's see.

J. In the '70s, wasn't it?

P. She's been dead seven years in April. And what was it, five or six years she had her breasts taken off?

J. I think six.

P. Take seven from '70, it would be, what, '81, yeah. She must have had a --

J. '81?

P. Yeah. She must have started with cancer about '78, I guess.

J. '78?



P. Yeah. She took chemotherapy for 14 months, and she had a gallbladder operation before that. So that would be two years at least, that would make it '79. She must have started in about '77.

J. And then when did she die? What was the date of her --

P. 22nd of April in '81.

J. In '81, okay. And you and Mother took a lot of trips, didn't you? After you lived here in those last 10 years, didn't you take --

P. We took them on the farm.

J. Was that on the farm?

P. Yeah.

J. When you did the Presley tours?

P. Well, quite a few of them here, though. But we went to Minnesota about three times in our lives and went to Niagara Falls when we was living on the farm yet. And then when we lived here -- no, we went to Florida yet from the farm one summer. We generally always left on our wedding anniversary, took a ten-day vacation, for a few years anyhow. And then we moved here and we went on a California Circle tour and we --

J. Was that with Presley?

P. Presley.

J. Presley Tours, yeah.

P. Then we went to New York City with a trip. And I don't know if you want to count them.

J. What, Amana, Iowa?

P. Yeah.

J. I was just wondering, like, all the different places you've been, like you and Mother went and, you know, some of those. I remember when you went out west.

P. Yeah, that was --

J. Mother always wanted to go to Florida.

P. Yeah, we went there on our 40th anniversary.

No, no --

J. One of those. It was a special time, yeah.

P. It was special anyhow, yeah.

J. We gave it to you as an anniversary present.

P. Yeah.

J. I think that was on a bus, wasn't it? Was that a bus tour, or was that?

P. No, that Plymouth, that '57 Plymouth with them big fins on the back, yeah.

J. Oh, yeah. Okay. I remember that car. That was one thing I wanted to ask you about was that little story you told me recently about Mother painting the car. Tell us about that little incident. I think the grandkids would get a kick out of that one, to show how Mother --

P. Had a 1949 Ford. It needed a little paint, a little sprucing up. So they -- Western Auto came out with a paint job and you put a glove on your hand, come with it, and I was plowing up at Huetten's bottom, and all at once she come up there to get me to take me home for dinner. And she had painted the automobile that morning. Didn't look bad at all. There was only about a year or two that you could buy that at Western Auto, and then they done away with it. I don't know what was wrong, but it was too bad.

J. How did you buff it out or anything? What did it look like?

P. She just put that glove on, poured the paint in, dipped it in, and took the brush and went over it. And it didn't look bad at all.

J. Is that right?

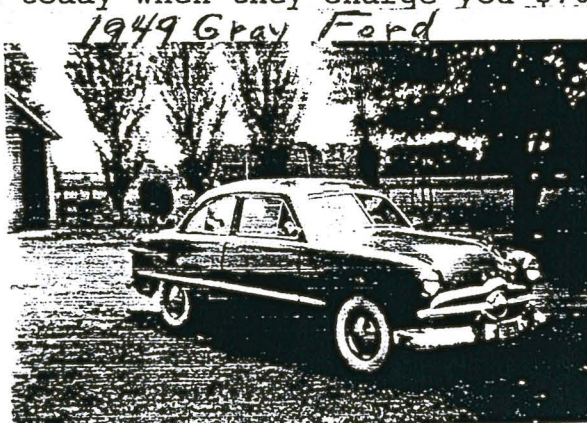
P. Was a gun metal gray with white sidewall tires, and boy was it spiffy.

J. Was that the original color of the car?

P. Uh-huh, yeah.

J. Just bought that same color?

P. That's right. It's sure a far cry from maybe \$4.98, a little quart of oil with a glove, and paint them with a glove, and today when they charge you \$700, \$800 for a paint job





J. Then there was another thing I wanted to ask you that I wrote down about. You told me one time about you knew -- you remembered when the Browns were the St. Louis baseball team and how you used a rock and a wire or something to listen to the game. Can you kind of describe that? I don't think your grandkids ever heard of that.

P. Television came out and, let's see, that was before I got married is when the Browns and Cardinals had got the series, in St. Louis. And I guess it was about the last year the Browns played. Let's see, where'd they go. They went up to Baltimore, didn't they?

J. Yeah, they went --

P. I think to Baltimore. Anyhow, you had a television.

J. A radio or television?

P. A radio I mean, yeah. And it had a little copper and a little box, something like a scanner today, and it had a little crystal in there. Well, scanners use a crystal. You had a little thing you turned. It had a little wire on it, and that rubbed over that little crystal rock in there until you run a station. And there was only a couple stations out. I remember you had an aerial outside from the lightning rod to the tree or post or someplace to have an antenna. You hunted with that on that little crystal and kept turning that till you heard

somebody talk. And then the Cardinals and the Browns were playing.

J. Was that in the series?

P. Yeah.

J. When they were playing and you were listening?

P. City series, yeah. You had one set of earphones -- two sets of earphones, you had to have them on, you couldn't hear, there was no loud speaker.

J. Was this something you went out and bought in the store, or did somebody in Dorsey have it?

P. No.

J. Or how did you happen to get a hold of that?

P. You bought them in a store and sometimes kids that had a little knowledge of this, they'd make a set. You could buy that diagram and buy the little parts and make a set. But mostly you bought that set with that little crystal, just about like your scanners today. But you had that little copper wire in there and you turned that till you got a station. The only thing you could hear was with earphones. And Pete Burjes had one.

J. That's what I think I remember you telling about.

P. We'd go there on Sunday afternoons once in a while and listen to it. Them days, the Cardinals had Grover Alexander. And they say he drank a half a pint of whiskey and would sleep on the park bench at night there

at the ballpark and next morning get up and pitch. And he was good, don't think he wasn't. Yeah.

J. Did you ever go to any of those games? Did you ever go to any of the Browns games?

P. No, uh-huh.

J. You would have been kind of young probably.

P. Yeah.

J. And you would have to take the train over, or how would you get to St. Louis?

P. Well, yeah, you could drive a car down there.

J. But didn't they have trains and streetcars at the same time like the ones that -- well, was there a streetcar from Dorsey?

P. Sure. No, not streetcar, but train. The Big Four run from Mattoon down to St. Louis.

J. Okay. Did you ever get on that?

P. Did I? I rode on that thing a many a times.

J. For what reason? What would you go over there for?

P. We'd drive our horse and buggy to Dorsey and put the horse in the barn at Uncle John E. He was the mail carrier. And he had a good-sized barn there. And parked the horse and buggy there and get on the 9 o'clock, 10 o'clock train, ride down to East Alton, get off, and catch the one that went to Alton, from East Alton to Alton. The Big Four train went down to



St. Louis, see. In the evening about 6 o'clock, it came back. And you do your shopping in Alton and kill time, and then go to work and ride that train back to Dorsey and drive your horse and buggy home.

J. Was that free or did you pay?

P. Oh, Lord, no, that wasn't free. But it was a long ways from what you pay today.

J. Like a quarter or something?

P. Yeah, probably. Yeah. Dollar-wise that was terrible.

J. So you never rode the train over to go to, like, a ball game, but you'd ride it over --

P. Yeah.

J. -- to shop or something like that?

P. But then Alton, in the summertime, halfway decent weather, we'd drive the horse and buggy to Alton and park it up here in upper Alton, tie the horse up to a hitching rack -- or Uncle Ott lived right near where Holiday Inn is today -- and put the horse in the barn there. And course, he had an automobile. He got a car in 1912. And, boy, I was pretty young. Just think, I was only six years old and I had a ride in an automobile. And we'd leave the horse there. And then there's a streetcar. The State Hospital was built and they had a streetcar track from Alton out to the State Hospital. I remember when they laid the water line over to the State

Hospital 'cause I was down at Uncle Ott's for a couple days one time visiting when I was a kid and they had a trench dug. And I don't remember if they dug that trench by hand or not. Most likely. I sure don't remember that there was a backhoe or anything in them days yet, but I remember when they laid that water line and the streetcar track. And that was a big boon for Alton 'cause lot of the women could ride the streetcar out to the State Hospital and then had a job out there.

J. Didn't Mother and Dorothy Wallace go to St. Louis once in a while on the streetcar? Like, when I was a little girl, I sort of remember her talking about that. It was like a big day out for them.

P. Mother and Dorothy and Norma, Earl's wife, and I guess Norma McGaughey maybe, I think them all four went to St. Louis, not too often, once in a while. I ain't heard nothing of Bill lately.

J. I haven't either. Okay. Let's see, seemed like there was -- okay, I know, there was another thing I wanted to ask you, Dad, about do you remember the first time you ever saw a movie, like in a movie house, like you went somewhere or what it was like?

P. Well, I can't just get the date, but right close to it, but I'd say it was around -- me and Art Burjes went to Alton one time on the train. And we were looking for a job and we had to stay -- we got on a train

in Dorsey at 10 o'clock. We had to stay till the train came back that evening at 6 o'clock. So we bummed around Alton and we went to the Hippodrome. That was on the corner of Piassa and Broadway; it's all gone now. And we went to the Hippodrome there, saw a show. That must have been in about '24, '25, 1900s.

J. Do you remember what you saw any chance?

P. No. But I do know one time we drove an automobile. That was before I got married in '28. Had Arthur Murray's Follies, 21 I believe, girls all dancing, you know, arms around each other. Oh, boy, was it great!

J. Like a chorus line?

P. Yeah, that's right. Arms around each other and I think 21 of them out there.

J. Where was that?

P. In the Hippodrome.

J. What was the Hippodrome?

P. Piassa and Broadway there.

J. Just a huge theater with a stage?

P. Big wooden building, yeah.

J. Just a lot of entertainment and stuff?

P. Yeah. I think it burnt away and then they built and Kroger had a store there. And then Steven Foss had a paint store there. It's all gone now. It was right across from the Storybook Society on the corner there, yeah, right on that crossing there. And Dad used



to like to go down to the circus in the summertime, the Ringling Brothers Circus. He would drive to Uncle Ott's with a horse and buggy. And we'd see the big parade and, oh, I don't know how many wagons of stuff they had, tigers and lions and elephants leading the parade. And a band playing. It was quite interesting. I got a big kick out of it.

J. Did you ever see any or hear any of the political debates or anything down there on that Lincoln-Douglas Square?

P. I didn't, no. That was before my time.

J. That would have been long before.

P. I saw Nixon in Springfield. And I saw Goldwater. And I might have saw Johnson, too. Then I saw Agnew down when I worked the highways. I was down in Belleville. He made it here down there.

J. You saw them all in person?

P. Yep, you betcha. Nixon rode in a big convertible and he waved so nice when he went by. Barry Goldwater, I heard him speak at the fairgrounds, Springfield Fair.

J. I know another thing I wanted to ask you. You mentioned a while ago you were a bowler.

P. Yeah.

J. You liked to bowl?

P. Uh-huh.

J. And how did they do that? Did they have bowling alleys like we have?

P. Picnics, they had a --

J. They were outside type?

P. Yeah. They take them up after the picnic and put them in the barns till next year or there's some other church would borrow them if they didn't have one. And they were put together and you had ten pins, yeah, out in the corner. The alley was about this wide here, would flare out like that. And you had to have a pretty damn good arm to get across there. And I could do that, knock that pin off in the corner. I never forget Bill Schrieber, Kruckeberg, and me and Gus Bartels, I guess Ernie Meyer we'd tell the losers to pay for the games, see? I guess this was at Prairietown. Somebody, my buddy, had gotten a stand out there. Well, we'll beat you, take a pin to beat you, I said, I'll get him, I took a medium ball and, buddy, I took it low, never did know where it would go, how in the hell you could throw that hard enough to get that. See, they were set up that would come out like this, and you had to hop across there to get that outside pin. Then when you got them in the center, lucky you got them all around, one knocked the other down. Yeah. Then talk about shows, why, me and Mother went to shows quite a bit when I got the car there. That might have been in -- no, I didn't take her

out till that, yeah 27th, 19th of September, first date I had with her at a party. We went to shows quite a bit then, Edwardsville, Hippodrome, down to the Hippodrome, and Wildey, yep. And then the Grand was a going in Alton, and that was pretty good. The Hippodrome was shut at that time and we'd go to the Grand.

J. Do you remember, like, the first movie stars or so? Who was it that you and Mother liked?

P. Oh, God --

J. Anybody there, special stars or anything?

P. Jean Harlow and Carol Lombard, Mickey Rooney and Charlie Chaplin -- don't forget little Charlie Chaplin with his stick and all, little bozo about that tall. And, oh, I don't know just offhand.

J. Let's see, Abbott and Costello, they wouldn't have been around till --

P. Oh, God, you ought to remember them.

J. I do, yeah. I was just going to say those were the ones we went to as kids always.

P. Never missed Abbott and Costello. Dean and what was that --

J. Dean Martin?

P. Dean Martin and Jerry Lewis, they was good.

J. Those are the ones I remember we used to --

P. Till they broke up. Jerry got so nuts I didn't care to see him anymore. But that was good, Dean Martin



and Jerry Lewis. Then Abbott and Costello, you couldn't beat them, yeah.

J. Do you remember when you first got television, what year you bought your first television?

P. No. God, no. I know we was cutting wheat. Everybody had television already.

J. Were we in that new house? Seems like we were in the new house.

P. We could have been.

J. 1950 we moved in.

P. Yeah, yeah. '51. We moved in there in October of '51.

J. That's the only time I remember.

P. That was about it, I guess. It rained a shower. Everybody had television, so, by golly, we loaded up one day and Don, I guess JoAnn, I don't know, yeah, maybe you was along, sure, went down to Sallee Bros. in West Alton, bought a television.

J. I bet we were tickled to death.

P. Oh, God, yeah. I tell you what, we had that sucker 14 years. And I got -- I went to a sale up at Woodburn, a fella selling out and, I don't know, I was working on -- it was a Zenith, was working alright -- no, it was a General Electric, cause Sallee sold General Electric. That guy had a Zenith. I run it up to \$72.50 and a lady bidding against me, I didn't know her, said

\$75.00 and got it, lady, I don't need none. And I guess two months went past and I come home from work one night, and Mom says, hey, you want to buy a television, the one you bid on up there at that sale? No, I said, not offhand, why? Well, that lady bought it, she's a sister to that fella at the sale and she took it along to Springfield and it don't work right up there, they got poor reception in. Most of them all got 15, 20-foot towers on the outside. And the guy that looked at it, he said, you'd be money ahead if you bought one that will get these stations built in. And so anyhow, I should call her. So I called her and I said, well, that's all that's wrong with that? Yes, it don't get the reception up there and they said I'd be better to buy one locally with that all built in. So I said, tell you what, I'm not going to come and get it. Well, I got it in the car now, I'll bring it down in a half hour or so if you want it. I said, what you want for it? Give me my money back. Yeah, if it's in working order, I will. So, by golly, it was no time and she was down there with that on the back seat in her automobile. It was alright. I had that other one 14 years and I sold it to Ott Gusewelle. And I think his daughter had a divorce or had never been married. Anyhow, she was an old maid. No, I think she had a divorcee, they come over and bought. And you know, they had that thing years. Seems like every time I seen

him, I'd say, how's that television? By golly, he says, good picture yet. So one day they did break down and she told me that they got color for Christmas. Yep.

J. Oh, I know another thing I wanted to ask you was, I know you were a real good student. You and Mother were both good students in school. What were the best subjects? Like if you had to say what was your --

P. Oh, dear, I tell you, you can put that on tape if you want to. Is it on?

J. Yeah, it's going. This is all going. We want to know what you --

P. You going to put that in the Post-Dispatch or -- yeah, I'll tell you what, I'll have to give Rohloff, our minister, credit for getting me on the right track. I was in the 4th grade and I didn't know them teachers. They was all young, as a rule, not -- well, Lee McDonald wasn't, as far as that goes. She was a good teacher. But when you had 40 kids in school, you learned it or you didn't. If you didn't understand, you had a hard time. They couldn't explain it. They wouldn't explain it to you too much. But I went to parochial school for two years and Rohloff was our minister. And his wife passed away right before he come to our congregation from Canada. And he had a sister in Minnesota. And she came down here and kept house for him. He had a little girl, her name was Ruth, about, I



don't know, three years old, four years old, I guess. I don't think she's any older. And I went to parochial school there. And I'll have to admit, he made a student out of me. He says, your grammar, no wonder you kids don't understand grammar, that's high school grammar what they're trying to start you out with. So he ordered the grammar from Concordia Seminary. And I loved grammar after that. And there wasn't a sentence that we couldn't diagram or take out them verbs and adjectives and the pronouns and nouns, whatever is necessary to diagram a sentence. I tell you, I got a 100 many, many a times. And then on fractions, I didn't have no idea how to work fractions. And he put our arithmetic away and he says, I'm going to write fractions on the board for a while. And I guess for two solid weeks he wrote fractions on the blackboard. And there was no fraction problems that I couldn't work. And there was others just as good. When I got done with that, well, that set me on the right path in school and I had no problem. I loved history. I loved geography.

J. You were good in geography.

P. I loved grammar. And we had -- what did I just say before?

J. Fractions.

P. Fractions. Well, that come in with arithmetic.

J. The math, uh-huh.

P. Then spelling, that was a joke for me. I loved that. And reading, I never did hardly read my lesson. I laid the book on the desk and worked arithmetic problems a day or two ahead. And I had no problem with reading whatsoever. So I really enjoyed school from 5th grade on.

J. 'Cause it was fairly easy for you?

P. Yeah, I had to give him credit for -- he started us on the right path to understand things 'cause we didn't understand fractions and things before. And same way with interest. Some kids, they had such a time on how to figure interest. So many days at so many percent interest and so many years and so many months, you know. Break that down, it was no problem. I understood it. And I'll have to give him credit.

J. And that was Pastor Rohloff?

P. Paster Rohloff was Martha Christians' brother.

J. And whatever happened to him, then? Where did he go from there?

P. He died.

J. I mean, he went from the Dorsey --

P. He went to Nashville from Dorsey, and I think he died down there, if I remember right, yeah. Nashville called three of our ministers. Schlegel baptized me. And I don't remember when he left, but he went to Nashville. Then Rohloff came and Nashville called him

and he went down there. Then we had the Wagoner, he was our minister and they called him and he retired down there. And so I guess --

J. They all ended up in Nashville?

P. They won't call one from up there again, yep.

J. When was Middendorf here?

P. He was here when we got married.

J. Okay. When you and Mother, 1928?

P. 1928. We had built a new parochial school and he lived in there. And then we started on a new house. And lived in the schoolhouse that summer while they was building a new parsonage here at our church. In '47, we built the parish hall on the church.

J. How old is the church now? Dorsey church has just celebrated --

P. I think it was built in 1874, I think. 125th anniversary or something.

J. You celebrated, didn't you?

P. Yeah.

J. There was one other job that I remember a long time ago, and I think I was fairly young, but it was something to do with appraising. Did you take a course in appraising?

P. Yeah.

J. Was that a correspondence course, or did you go somewhere to take this class?



P. No, that was a correspondence course, yeah.

J. What school was that? Who sponsored that? How did you get into that?

P. I don't know. It was a mail order deal out of Nevada, Colorado, or -- (Doanes), I forget where it was from, but I did do it one summer, couple months for Illinois Insurance Appraisal Company. They didn't --

J. Was it not very much work for --

P. No, it was only so many, about four insurance policies to check. Then, my golly, you waste the whole day driving over there and looking at it and they didn't want to pay too much for it.

J. Did they just pay you by the miles?

P. They'd pay me by the policy, if I remember right, by the insurance policy, yeah.

J. So that didn't last a long time, but it was --

P. One summer, about four months I done it. Jerseyville and Sorrento, Mount Olive. I don't think any of them was around -- I think they're all up in that upper corner up there. Then the State, I worked for them one month missing on five years.

J. And what were those years? That was after you moved here to this last place?

P. No, two years on the farm.

J. Oh, while you were on the farm?

P. And when Nell got killed there, why then, I don't know how come -- oh, yeah, I wanted to quit, that's right. I didn't -- couldn't see where it paid to buy new equipment. And a lot of land was thin anyhow that you couldn't rent. And good land, generally the owner lived down there and built it up, kept it up. And I had a chance to get a job with the State. And I spent -- yeah, I started in May and I retired in April. I was 68 years old.

J. Did you have to take a Civil Service test --

P. Not till --

J. -- for that job?

P. Last year, no.

J. It was like --

P. ~~Who~~ You know. ~~who~~

J. Just being -- yeah, in other words, politics.

And you worked there almost five years and then retired?

P. Yep.

J. Did Mother ever have any outside jobs out of the house?

P. No, she never worked outside the house.

J. I know she worked a lot. She worked hard, though.

P. Yep.

J. Real hard worker.

P. Yep.

J. Another thing I wanted to ask you about, any kind of clubs or organizations pertaining even to church or with your life, what did you belong to?

P. Well, I was a member of the Dorsey church practically all my life. About two months ago, I got to be a charter member. You have a voting privilege even if your age and health doesn't allow you to attend meetings. If I want to go, somebody'd take me. I have a right to vote, where if you don't attend so many meetings in a year or, yeah, then you lost your voting privileges. But that was a new thing they started in our church. And they was over here a while back, Ruppel and Gene and -- I believe there was four of us.

J. Who were they?

P. I guess Catherine Johnson, I guess, would come in on it, if they count the widows, which I think they do now, and me and John and Annie Unterbrink. I guess that's about it. Oscar Johnson was always one, but he passed away about -- will be a year this fall now. Maybe it will be two years already. Could be two years already, I can't tell.

J. So you're considered like an honorary charter member?

P. Yeah, honorary charter member, lifetime member of that congregation. And I belonged to Farm Bureau for I don't know how many years, quite a few. And then it



seemed like they wasn't too strong for what the farmers should have anymore like they were when I joined. And I joined Square Deal. And then I retired and quit farming, so I was out of that. And I belonged to the Sanitary Milk Producers Association. And after several years, why, I signed up with the Square Deal. And I was just thinking the other day some of my old buddies. There was Chris Molney has passed away. Erwin Wein, I see him yet occasionally, he still remembers me. And Ray Isenberg, I guess he's still living, I wouldn't swear to it. And Elmer Klenke, I think, is out of the farming business. And that's some of the old cronies that I had business with. Yeah. Let's see, something just slipped through my mind here.

J. When you belonged to the Square Deal, you mean?

P. Yeah.

J. Was that like the Milk Producers?

P. Yeah.

J. Okay. Where you used to go to those ice cream socials they had down there?

P. That was Square Deal, yes. And Sanitary, that was a federal business out of St. Louis. I don't know, they were more interested in getting milk cheaper than paying the farmer a little more for it, the way I felt about it. Farm Bureau went a little bit like it, started out it was going to get 60 percent of the consumer's

dollar for the farmers instead of 40, never did get near it. Old T.W. Meyer, is he living?

J. Did you have anything to do with any of, like, the World War, or can you remember anything special about the war, draft or anything?

P. I remember quite a bunch of them that went, our young 18-year-olds went, ready to go, and then they -- influenza broke out and, boy, they cancelled everything right now cause they was dying like flies over there in the -- in the barracks. And I was too young, but I remember we used to raise money, have auctions at the school to raise money for them, to help the Red Cross and them take care of the soldiers. Take an old rooster and maybe a half a dozen hams and they'd auction them off, you know. And then that money went for -- well, they called it -- in World War 2 they called it USO. That time it was, I don't know, helping the war cause I guess, close enough. And then in World War 2, I registered, but I was deferred because I was farming ground, a lot of ground, a lot of land at that time and I didn't have to go.

J. Do you remember anything about the Pearl Harbor situation? Do you know where you were that morning?

P. I remember like it was just yesterday. That morning I went to church. That afternoon I picked up Whitey Stunkel and Cliff and Al. And we was down in

Haxes Timber going to go fox hunting when it come over the radio in the automobile that they bombed Pearl Harbor, yeah, 1941. You betcha.

J. Then when you got back home, I guess Mother was all upset about it?

P. Yeah, I guess they were. And maybe they didn't even know we had little radios in the houses at that time. That's right. Yep.

J. Did you know anybody that had fought, had been down there? Was there anybody from around Dorsey that was down there?

P. No, not that I can remember, but Virgil Bertels was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. And Vernon hid under the brace rods of the back of the front wheels on a boxcar. He laid flat on there and the Germans went past him so fast, they didn't see him. He says, I was just looking for bullets to come any time. And Roger Christians was on KP duty and they needed fill-ins, volunteers -- not volunteers, but replacements when that battle was on, the Battle of the Bulge. And they put him in a bomber to help out, tailgunner, and he came back riddled. And, oh, I don't know.

J. What about Roger's father, was he killed in the war, too?

P. No, he died natural death.

J. Bill Christians, okay.



P. I remember he had asthma so bad. And he went in the chicken business and he was culling chickens and he got too much of that scale off of the feathers and stuff. With his asthma what he had, why, he suffocated and died from that. Emphysema got him.

J. Were you pretty much of a Republican all your life? Would you say you were?

P. Yeah, pretty much. Well, years ago it seemed like that was the best times when there was Republican times, but Hoover was blamed. He was guilty as far as that goes. Claimed we never had it so good. But when the hogs got down to \$2.50 a hundred and milk \$.45 and wheat \$.36 a bushel, it wasn't too good unless you were a politician.

J. But you kind of remained a Republican always, didn't you?

P. Pretty much, yeah. That's how I got the job on the highways.

J. Yeah, I figured that.

P. You know, I was on the election board in Moro Township at that time and voted for Wendell. I'd have got kicked out of there, and you know, when I applied for that job out on the highways, if somebody went down to Edwardsville and seen how I voted --

J. That's the first thing they did?

P. That's right. And I'd never got on there if I -- if they had found out I had a Democrat ballot, yes, siree.

J. Do you ever -- let's, see, when's the first time you remember seeing airplanes and the jets and things?

P. Oh, first airplane, that's a long, long time ago. I had an old bobtail shepherd dog and he was about as good as any coon hound.

J. How old were you?

P. And in 1918, what would I have been at that time, 12 or something, 60 years and that would be 1918?

J. Ten years before you got married, so you had been about 12 you think?

P. Just about close to it. Because I remember one noon we heard a roar, run outside, we didn't think it was an automobile. And that dog, he liked to chase birds. And I can remember right well it was an airplane come over the house and was going southeast. Where he was headed for, I don't know. Maybe Scott Air Force Base was going already a little bit at that time. But that dog was laying there by the gate and he saw the airplane go over and that shadow, he thought it was a chicken hawk. I could see him, he run that blooming thing clean over there in our pasture about two 40s away, that would be a half mile. And he was barking and running for all he was

worth through the creek and up the hill. I could see him going over that other thing, barking at the blooming airplane. I know I was plowing one day and he was chasing birds. I know some kid was riding a bicycle come by and says, is that a bird dog? I says, no, he's just chases them. He's nothing but an old shepherd.

J. Do you remember the first time you rode up in an airplane?

P. Yeah.

J. When was that? What year, or about when?

P. Down at Bethalto Airport in March on Sunday afternoon they was giving rides for \$2.50 a piece. And Bernice said, you're scared to ride in one. I says, I'll show you. And I take the \$2.50. And I believe it was the windiest day in March. And that blooming plane, I swear it was going to tip over any time. But that wasn't too bad. But the guy said he flew the hump in China. Was that in World War 2? Yes, it was, cause they built it for supplies to some battlefield over there. And that was something unusual when you flew the hump in China. There must have been a lot of down draft in some of them mountains for some reason. And that was pretty good. And I believe Don rode in one, too, that afternoon. Yeah. So we spent a lot of money, \$5.00, to ride in an airplane, \$2.50 a piece.

J. Where did he take you, over the farm or --



P. No, went down southwest. Went over St. Louis, part of it, and then come across the river back and ride over. I guess it was a 10 -- 15-minute ride for that. Yeah. Yeah, that was a little Piper Cub.

J. Could you tell us anything about, say, over the years when you were farming any insect plagues or hard times that hit the farm area?

P. Yes, we used to have chintz bugs. I don't know what happened to them. They disappeared all at once when Mother would bring -- my Mother would bring lunch out to you, you'd be shucking wheat, you could empty the bugs out of your shirt pockets. And you might have lumps in your shoes that you'd have to take your shoes off at dinnertime and scrape the bugs out of there.

J. They were the chintz bugs that were just --

P. It was a little insect about the -- a little larger than the head on a pin. And the old ones were white and gray and spotted and could fly. And the young ones was red. They would get on the green corn so thick, maybe two, three foot -- two foot, especially at a corn field off the ground, they sucked the sap off of that. That was nothing unusual for four, five, six rows to just fall over limp in a day. And people, we had such a bad year one year they ruined the corn. And five of my neighbors put up silos to salvage a little bit for food for the cattle. And when we cut, I cut bands with a

knife and cut with a corn binder and sliced them bands in two. Why, they went into a blizzard that bloated up the silo because you didn't want them strings in a silo which would kill the cattle. And by 10:30 or so, lunchtime, them bugs was so thick under that blizzard that the apron that elevated -- that pulled that corn into that blizzard would drag them out. They were two and a half feet deep under that blizzard, bugs, chintz bugs.

J. Was that just one year? Do you remember that?

P. No, that was several years. And you'd cut wheat, they'd be in the wheat fields, which they didn't damage too much because they didn't get plentiful till about the wheat was ready to harvest, but they would cut out of the wheat and go in oats. Them oats was very succulent and full of sap, a lot of times would kill them, might be the oats would just die, turn white in a few days. But it all killed the bugs, cause with them in the hot sun and full of that green juice, it would destroy them. And a lot of times you had corn along a wheat field. You'd plow a furrough and take a post or pole and drag that along in there and make a dust and then they'd fall in that and they couldn't crawl up that bank because that dust would fall down with them. But eventually in a couple days, that trench would be full and they crawled on top of each other. And then they also put tar there and make a ridge and work it down real

smooth, put tar on there and then it gets tight in that tar. I remember them days real well.

J. What years were those, do you think, like, approximately?

P. I'd say in the '15, '16 there.

J. 1915 or '16?

P. Yeah, I can just remember it.

J. So you were a kid?

P. Yeah.

J. Did they ever come back again, like later on?

P. I don't know. People don't believe -- a lot of these young ones wouldn't believe it because you just can't understand how they could be so plentiful and destroy corn fields like that. Then they came out with corn. You had a calico; it was a blue and white. And bloody butcher was a red and white corn. Somehow or another, they didn't like that too well. And yellow corn, I know I had -- wait, I was married. They'd had -- it was kind of bad because I had 15 acres down on Bevin's farm down there. And I planted -- I mixed the corn. I went up to Fleming up at Shipman yet and got some of that blue calico corn and I mixed it in with my yellow. I had about three acres only into that 15 acres that there wasn't a yellow corn in there. Bugs would kill it, but they didn't bother that blue for some reason. And that



bloody butcher was a red and white was the same way,  
yeah.

J. Were there any other plagues over the years?

P. Yeah, Army worms would come in once in a while and eat. Kirby lived up there on Dorthea's place. He called one morning. He says to tell you and Mother come up here, I want you to hear the Army worms eating. And I never did have them too bad down on the farm, but up there more, they had them. And we went out in the wheat field and we could just hear them, little tick, tick, tick, tick. And they was up on them wheat stems clipping them leaves off there. This was a fact them leaves would fall down while you'd watch them and they'd eat, eventually, the heads off, yeah.

J. Did you ever have a locust problem? Were there ever --

P. They had a few grasshoppers. One time I remember we had an awful lot of grasshoppers on a field south of the house that was in red clover. Dad cut it for me yet. There was hardly none, no second crop left for seed. Why, it was just like a fog going ahead of the horses and neck yoke when he's mowing. And I don't know if they got them all or what, but somehow or another, there's a flock of crows came in, kind of towards the middle of the week, and all at once the grasshoppers was gone. Now, if that was a cycle or limit of life, but if

them crows really ate that many, they must have gained a couple pounds and ate that many grasshoppers.

J. Did Grandpa Heuer come, like, your Dad come back and work for you quite a bit?

P. Quite a bit, yeah.

J. When you left the farm, he -- no, he left the farm, he just kind of deeded it over to you and then you --

P. I just took the farm, paid him so much rent.

J. 'Cause you were the only child?

P. Another thing I can tell you on grasshoppers. Bill Johnson lived south of me and he had a field of timothy back away from -- he had two boys helping him haul hay in the barn for the horses. And it was on a Saturday and he said, well, I'll leave our forks stand out there by that big shock of timothy hay, we won't have to carry it home to get them up on the wagon. And when they got there Monday morning, they couldn't use them forks because the grasshoppers got up them fork handles and they ate rough places in there for where the hands fit. And they said they had to get different fork handles because they couldn't slide them through their hands. Yeah, I remember old Bill telling me that very well. So that was three plagues, but we haven't had them for years. I don't know -- I don't -- we used to see grasshoppers when I first moved here. I don't even know

anymore what a grasshopper looks like here in our flowers, yeah. And Army worms, that must be 20, 25 years since we had Army worms. Well, now, wait, they did have the black Army worm, that's a little different type down around Bethalto. Finished planting corn one Saturday evening and he said, boy, that first plant sure is coming up nice. He come back Monday morning and there was hardly no corn left. They hatch and they come and they go just like that. Yep. And weeds have changed. We used to have smart weeds and jimsonweeds. Today it's foxtail and johnson grass. That's worse yet than them smart weeds ever were.

J. You used to raise sugar cane, too, didn't you?

P. Yeah.

J. And then you made molasses. Did you make molasses there or just cut it on the farm and take it and have it processed?

P. Yeah, raised.

J. How'd you do that? I remember all the molasses that we used to have.

P. Raised sugar cane and then we'd strip it and about September take it to Woodburn, haul it up there and he'd make molasses maybe till practically the first of November before he'd get done. And several times we had 125 gallons of molasses.

J. Didn't we sell it?



P. Yeah.

J. People came out --

P. \$1.25 a gallon, that was a pretty standard price. Taters, raised 125 to 150 bushels of potatoes in a year. Them days, you could peddle potatoes in town, and even Tri-City and them would buy potatoes from you, maybe 10 bushels or so, cause they was pretty nice potatoes. Today they wouldn't even come out and look at them.

J. You didn't really have to buy that much in, everything was raised. Years ago we didn't buy that much?

P. That's right. Had an apple orchard and peach orchard of trees, about two acres. And we'd peddle apples in Alton and peaches. And people come out and get a few bushels occasionally. And that's all changed.

J. And the vegetables were all raised right there, so the only things you really had to buy were, like, sugar and flour?

P. Yeah. Blackberries were plentiful; they grew out in the timber and pasture. Cherry trees, had 10 or 11 cherry trees around the yard. And I was glad when they was all ripe and didn't have to pick anymore. Like Dave with his strawberries. I remember when his dad had a -- oh, I guess about a quarter of an acre or so, pretty nice strawberry patch.

J. That was right there in the middle of Dorsey?

P. Uh-huh.

J. They raised a lot of them. Did you tell me one time about a watch that you'd receive, the first watch you ever got, wristwatch?

P. Yeah, I believed in Santa Claus a few years, and the Easter Rabbit. I remember one time it was raining and I made an Easter Rabbit nest and put a stick under the window sill. And would you believe that he come through rain that night, he got muddy, wiped his feet on the window sill and the mud off of them and laid eggs in the box full of grass? Then one day, Santa Claus would come around to see if you were a good boy or girl. And one noon hour, we had just finished dinner, Dad went outside. I figured he went to the barn, but I heard a tap on the window and I quick run and I seen a pair of boots going around the corner of the house, but I didn't know who it was. And I looked on the window sill and there was a pair of nice cufflinks.

J. Oh, gold?

P. Santa Claus had been there, see? Yeah.

J. That's how he did it, I see. That was your first jewelry?

P. Yeah. I'll tell you a joke on him. I got a little cork gun for Christmas I wanted and it was one that would shoot a BB, but it was more a little rubber

ball I pushed in the end and you could put a nail in. It wasn't very dangerous, but it come by mail and he went in the granary to put it together. And I remember him going with a lantern and I wondered what he was looking for, but he didn't say what. Had some good excuse. But he put the little rubber ball in the end of that gun to see if it would work or not, pulled the trigger, and it went farther than he thought, hit the wall in the ~~wheat~~ bin, bounced back, and he could have had an awful time of finding it. He had to go get a lantern. And he was lucky enough he found it in the wheat bin.

J. He was out there putting it together?

P. Yeah, otherwise I wouldn't have no complete air gun.

J. Is that your first little gun you got?

P. Yeah, that's right.

J. What were you, just a six-year-old or ten-year-old or --

P. Maybe five, I don't know.

J. When did you get your first hunting gun?

P. I got my first rifle, I guess, about when I was 10, yeah.

J. Just from your Dad or --

P. Yeah.

J. Like a present or something from him and you started hunting then right away?



P. That's right. Unlucky for the first rabbit that I found sitting.

J. Dad, can you remember your favorite -- maybe your confirmation song or favorite religious music over the years that you have really liked?

P. I was the last one in church confirmed in German and my confirmation song was My Shepherd Stay Near By, My Maker Leadeth Me. I guess it would be in English. And boy, there's Rock of Ages, Onward Christian Soldiers, and How Great Thou Art. And, oh, there's a dozen of them, if I could just think of them at this time, yeah.

J. And what was your favorite prayer?

P. Well --

J. Do you remember what that would have been as --

P. It all depends on.

J. Did you have a confirmation prayer or anything like that or a favorite Bible passage?

P. Now I lay me down to sleep, I pray the Lord my soul to keep. If I should die before I wake, I pray the Lord my soul to take. That was an evening prayer. And The Lord's Prayer, God Bless our Home, that was more or less a slogan or a litany that was put up in the room in houses of people.

J. Was all your background, your family background, was that all Lutheran religion always? Were they always, most of them?

P. Mostly, yeah.

J. Like all your grandparents, they were probably all Lutherans?

P. Yeah. Well, Dorsey and Prairietown used to. That's about all there was, Lutherans, see. A few of them moved in when automobiles came. Then there was a few more moved out because they had transportation. Usually in the wintertime mud would be actually deep and they -- I knew people that put their automobiles, jacked them up and put them on blocks in the wintertime, took the battery out of them. There was no alcohol to put in the radiator; many a one froze every year, forgot to cover it or drive in the cold and wind and air got cold and froze the radiator, yeah. No, that was nothing unusual for a lot of them to jack the automobile up in the wintertime, put blocks under it cause they wasn't going to use it.

J. Can you tell us a little bit, Dad, about the way you did -- I know you used to butcher a lot on the farm, the neighbors would all get together. Tell us about that.

P. You raised a couple of hogs for meat or you kept them out of two, three -- whatever you needed for the size of the family for meat for the next year. You'd butcher in the wintertime. A couple of neighbors helped you and then you'd make sausage and get a washtub full of

pork sausage. And you had head sausage and you had blood sausage. I tell you, I guess I'm about one of the last ones that knows how they made that and how to go about it.

J. How did you do it?

P. Grind it up, you know, and cook it, stick a hog when you killed it, butchered it, or shot it, or clubbed it or hit it with the axe, whatever you done to kill it. Then you stuck it, put the blood in the pan and you took it in the house and they put it in a crock. And then you added some lard to it, some did, and some put something else with it, a little rice, this or that, to make it thick, and they put it in casing. Women generally cleaned the casing and afterwards you could buy casings.

J. What are casings?

P. That's where you put the sausage in.

J. How are they made?

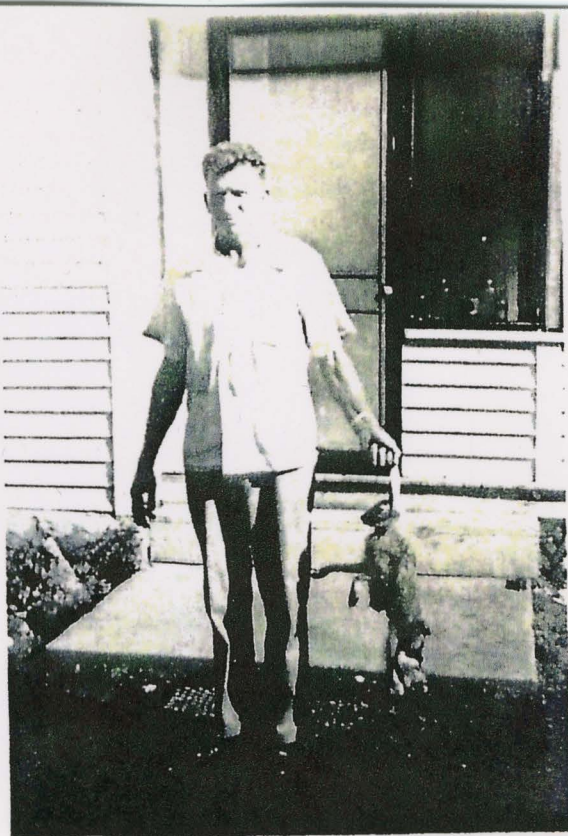
P. Intestines out of cows or hogs. You clean them, take some hot water, you tip them up, put a stick on each side and let the inside of the casing go through there with the weight of the water. See, then you scrape 'em to get that clean, wash 'em good to get the manure out. And you can go to the butcher shop and buy regular casings from the butcher shop. They're generally cattle. They're better. And you made your sausage and --



On The Farm



Mid 20's



30-40's



On Connemara at Don's

Straw-Bales Round Silo



(see 110A)

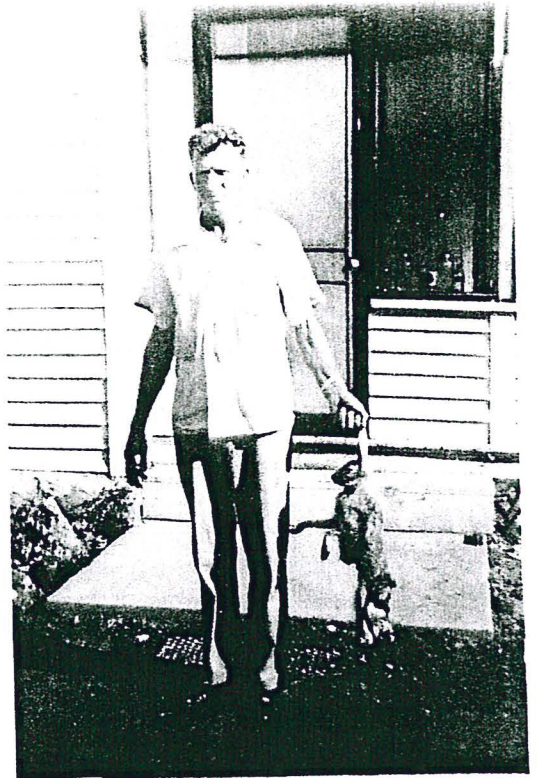
1988



*On The Farm*



*Mid 20's*



*30-40's*



*On Connemara at Don's*

*Straw Bales Round Silo*





J. How did you finish that blood sausage, you just filled the casing with that blood sausage?

P. Took the large casing out of hogs, and guts, or sometimes they used to sow up strips out of a flour sack together, oh, I'd say, make about a three-inch circle and fill that with blood. Then you cooked it, see, in a pot or you take it out and then butchered it. Your head sausage, too, that was made by -- you cooked the head well done and then the meat would all fall off. And then you ground that. Then when the hogs got cool by evening, some of them would come back and maybe it was cool enough, about zero weather, you could work on them right away after dinner. You cut 'em up and you had back bones, split your hams and your shoulders and your sides and split the ribs. And then you hang them up in a smokehouse. Generally you left them lay a few days. And if you built a summer kitchen, whatever you had went on the table and you salt it, put a little salt on, then you'd run a twine string through the end of the ham or so, hanging 'em up in the little smokehouse or coal shed. You only had a little room in there, about 6 by 8 or so. And then in the spring, about February, you started a little fire in there in a can, bottom of a milk can or anything. And they put some wood on there, usually hickory, but it wasn't necessary. Then you'd cover it with a little sawdust and make it smoke good and close



the door. And sometimes, people would go by and see that smoke coming out and they'd think your coal shed was on fire. And you'd smoke it good and brown, generally two or three times, let it run for about two hours, keep it smoking, and that would keep your meat from spoiling. Then they put it in a flour sack or wrap it with paper, and a little salt and pepper around it, that would keep the flies off. Meat kept very well. But I don't know, the last 15, 20 years already, it was commercial feed that you fatten hogs with that, had something to do with it, it won't keep anymore, it'll spoil on you. I don't know what the reason is, but something about maybe some say too much pollution in the air. That was a real drudgery, getting up at 4 o'clock in the morning and milking and then have the water hot to scald the hogs. Everybody come and -- four or five people butcher that day and get it all done.

J. Was that what it was, a community thing?

P. Mostly, yeah.

J. Neighbors went from house to house?

P. Neighbors butcher and everybody would go over there with full force and help him butcher two, three, four hogs, whatever they needed. And then we butchered beef, that was a cow, steer, whatever you wanted.

J. All the same, same week or --

P. Any time, when the weather was cold enough.

Yeah.

J. And you made all your own sausage?

P. Uh-huh, you betcha. So you didn't buy no meat. You had your own potatoes, you had your own jelly, you had your own peaches and apples canned. In fact, you didn't have to go to town for a week if you didn't want to. And sometimes it was no use because you didn't have no money anyhow. Yep.

J. What was it I used to see Grandpa Heuer putting down in his well before they had refrigeration when I was a little kid? What did they do?

P. Well, if you wanted to get your milk, you had a little chain or a little rope and then you'd go get a fruit jar full of milk or gallon jug or whatever you had. You didn't have no plastic jugs, you had glass. And you put it in that sack and tied a rope around it and let it down in the well, just touch the water or close to the water, and that would keep your butter or milk and everything cool, see.

J. Did you make your own butter, too, on the farm?

P. No, uh-uh, we used to make butter once in a while when there was a milk strike or something, but no, as a rule, we always bought that.

J. There were some little tabs you used to bring home, like coloring, food coloring or something. You drop it in --

P. That was butter color, yeah. Once in a while there was a milk strike or something and you had some milk left over and you had cream maybe, and put a little coloring in, then churn it. Yeah.

J. And she made cottage cheese.

P. Yeah, don't forget that good old cottage cheese.

J. How'd you do that?

P. Well, you let milk sour and then you pour it in a flour sack, generally as a rule, about the only one we had, hang it on a wash line and let the water run out of it. Then in the morning, you'd have nothing but the curd left. And then you take that and squeeze it dry and put some salt with it, add a little whole milk or cream to it, and that was your cottage cheese. I made a many a box of that down at the dairy when I worked them couple months. Around 240 boxes of this in one-pound boxes.

J. How'd they do it down there?

P. We had a big kettle in a wooden frame that held -- well, I guess it had to have been a butcher kettle maybe, but anyhow it was clean. We'd made the cheese in the summertime when there was a lot of milk, take it down to the cold storage place, Massey's Cold



Storage in Granite City. And then when milk got short in August of so, and otherwise we'd made our clabber up there, called Bulgarian buttermilk, and put the skim milk in it in a glass tank, bring it up to boiling or hot temperature for a little bit, and put in about a gallon of sour milk, lactic acid we called it, and in the morning we'd drain the water off of it, bottle that, and that was Bulgarian Buttermilk. Then sometimes we had too much milk and we'd make it into cottage cheese. That was the same way. It was sour in the morning and we'd run the water out from under the curd, then take that cheese and put it in 25-pound butter pails and take it down to the storage place. But otherwise, if we'd have enough, then we'd put it in that big, oh, about a 35, 40-gallon kettle that I had. And I'd fill that and I put it, a couple gallons of the whole milk on 'cause we had some storage, and they would buy, as dry as they could get it, and they'd buy skim milk because they could buy that for \$.10 a gallon. It weighed 8 pounds cause that was clear profit. And that wasted that dry cheese. And a couple of them down there in Wood River I knew, they'd raise heck all the time that it wasn't dry enough because they couldn't add enough skim milk to it, see. I always used whole milk, then maybe a little cream if we had some handy, and it give it good flavor. I started there, was making about 100-125 boxes. And when I left, we had

about 240 boxes a day. So lot of them always would say I was always great for putting quite a bit of salt in it. Something bought up the business and some stores would buy, maybe, a -- oh, a gallon, couple gallon of buckets, tin buckets we had, and some would be a granite pot that held maybe 15 pounds. The milk driver would bring it to stores; he'd dish it out of there himself. Then there's quite a few of them bought it already boxed in pound boxes.

J. I know what I wanted to ask you, too, is about the -- I remember the feed sacks that you used to get. Where did you get those, when Mother used to make --

P. Cattle feeding, poultry feed, feed store in Dorsey.

J. So some of it you bought?

P. Yeah.

J. Like up at --

P. There for a while I bought it all the time. They had these print color sacks, they made pretty dresses, couldn't have been nicer. It was colorfast pretty well and they didn't fade too easy. But the last years, I always made my own up, dairy feed things. I'd make -- started putting so much chopped straw or whatever all was in there, and filler, then add enough soybean meal to get the protein up.

J. So you just started making your own then?

P. Had my own hammer mill. We'd made our own laying mash and run it through together and that did a pretty good job of mixing. And I think the cattle feed, too, you could make your own dairy feed. They done better on that than you could buy.

J. Would you say the three -- there were two or three main stores in Dorsey all the time, like Dietzel's would have been -- what was in that building before Dietzel's?

P. At the beginning, Bolin had a saloon and Koeneman (Kolneman) had a grocery store. I said that about looking out the door seeing if anybody was around.

J. Yeah, that was across in McGaughey's.

P. That's McGaughey's there.

J. Was that the very first store.

P. Very first store. Bill Kuethe and Uncle John run that for years. And they had everything, I tell you. I don't understand how they got so much stuff in there. They had Sunday straw hats for men. They had felt hats for men. And they had summer straw hats for men. They had a few blouses and shoes for women. They had shoes for men. They had stockings for women. They had underwear for women. They had underwear for men.

J. So it was dry goods only, or did they have food, too?



P. Why, no, they had sausage hanging on the ceiling, up along with the harness and things. And when you wanted a length of summer sausage, they had a stick with a hook on it, raised one off a nail up there. Farmers set under there when they brought milk in the morning and smoked their pipe and things. That smoked it.

J. Oh, my gosh.

P. And nobody got sick from salmonella poisoning or anything like that.

J. So was that called -- what was the name of that store?

P. General Merchandise.

J. Merchandise, but owned by those --

P. Koeneman (Kolneman) started it years ago. That's the first one I can remember. And then Bill Kuethe took it over and bought it. Then Uncle John was the brother-in-law, he worked for it, see, for years. And then Gus Dietzel started one across the street. And Ed the brother had a tavern, or saloon they called it, and that was -- tavern was too mild, called them a saloon.

J. Where was that?

P. That was right on the same -- on the west end of the building across the street from Kuethe's. Then Gus had a grocery store on the east side of it.

J. Okay. It was all one big building?

P. That's right. Then Ed Dietzel run the store for a while. Saloon business didn't go no more, prohibition come along, so they closed down the saloon and used that a little bit as a store house for his storing boxes and stuff. Then they built a big feed seed grinding place where you could bring -- well, Louie Bertels had the first feed grinder there, a shed, and you'd bring your load of corn or stuff up there and -- I don't know, one or two days a week he'd grind corn feed, see. Then Ed Aljets built a feed shed and he had a big grinder in there, quite modern. And then they got a portable hammer mill on a big truck and they'd come around among the farmers every day here and there. They had routes, you know. Yeah.

J. And when did they build? When did they put the first post office up there then?

P. That's way before my time.

J. So that was in one of, like, Kuethe's store or something probably?

P. Oh, yeah, probably there.

J. That's how it got started?

P. Yeah. Then Kuethe's went out of business and they moved it to Ed Dietzel for a while. Then they built a little post office there where it is today, where Hessie Deen built that. And when -- I guess the first

post office came with the railroad. Yep. And then there was a depot up there. Likeford was the agent. And there's a guy got off the 4 o'clock train one afternoon and the conductor told Likeford, he says, I think he's the guy that's breaking in these depots at night. And he walks a little bit and he's got the same limp he had someplace else up the line, Gillespie or Beneld, wherever it was. Likeford went back that evening. He bought an old single barrel shotgun from my uncle when he quit hunting. He put a load of buckshot in there. And sure enough, when he got up there, the man was already in. He saw him a little match or a little flashlight. When he come out of the door, he hollered halt. The guy didn't stop. He shot and he killed him. And sure enough, he had a little crow bar, a jimmy, in the side of his pants leg. That's the way he'd break in them windows and doors, going into depots and find a little money. And there was something come for him at the post office, but he got killed before he got down to the post office. He never got that package. I don't know what he had in there.

J. He was a bum, huh?

P. Yeah. A shirt and a pants, seems to me, was in there. Yeah, but old Likeford killed him.

J. Did you have any bums come to the farm or anything?



P. Gypsies years ago. I can just remember them, maybe 12, 15 head of horses and, oh, half a dozen wagons and real brown Indian women and children. And it would go in the school yard in the summertime and park in there and camp for maybe a week and steal all the chickens they could in the community there. They lived high on the hog for a while. And generally about four or five would come to the house saying, I got a sick baby, I need a little sugar, I need a little milk. I'd just go to the corn crib, fill a sack full of corn, or go to the wood bin, or whatever was handy, and get feed for their horses. And generally two, three come to the house, and while he was getting something for the sick child, they sneaked through your house. They could do that so doggoned quick, it was like a shadow. Then you'd miss your pocket book or you'd miss a clock or something like that. But that all vanished. I can just remember them. But they quit all at once. I guess the public got after them. And they just faded with the time. Yep.

J. Okay. We've been at this about three and half -- three hours and 45 minutes. I think we'll take a break now and let everybody have a rest.

A few years later, Dad told me about the first girlfriend he had and recalled a catechism class on a Saturday morning where they discussed how the Romans would "persecute" the Christians. And his girlfriend, Helen Deist, had remarked, yeah, "Percy is cute." She told her parents. The story got around and he was teased quite a lot by the other kids. Helen had died of an unknown illness soon after that at the age of 14.

He also recalled the first people who were buried in Dorsey Cemetery, a blind couple named Alms. They had lived on Grandpa Johnson's-Aden's place. They were buried in wooden coffins, probably now gone, and were the first two graves on the left as you entered the gates.

In June 1994 Dad developed "walking pneumonia" and was hospitalized in July '94 for a prostate condition for one week, after which 24-hour care was recommended by Dr. Wuellner with assistance from Memorial Home Health Care Services. Carol, Tammy, and Mary were his three extra care providers from the Home Health Service, besides children, grandchildren, Mrs. Olive Allen on a regular basis, and occasionally Evelyn Dalton Holliday. One special friend and regular visitor was Minn Rousseau, who was his companion since 1983.

Dad spent his last one and a half years of life on various medications and with a catheter insert for prostate complications. He very rarely complained of

pain, was very agreeable to visitors and family, and was confined mostly to his home, with the exception of family celebrations or doctor visits. He seemed to accept that life was nearing the end for him, and he often said that he and our Mother had enjoyed a very fulfilling and good life together and seemed ready to meet loved ones in heaven.

Dad loved singing to anyone who would listen and/or join him. Three of his favorite and often repeated songs were Among My Souvenirs, Let the Rest of the World Go By, and Heaven is My Home.

Dad was proud of having been baptized and confirmed a member of Emmaus Lutheran Church of Dorsey, Illinois, and attended there regularly all his 89 and 1/2 years, except the final 1 and 1/2 years when it was necessary for Pastor George Gude to serve communion to him and visit with him monthly at his home.

On Thursday, February 22, 1996, Dad was taken to Alton Memorial emergency room and admitted later that day to the ICU where <sup>he</sup> died at 1:57 a.m. Saturday, February 24, 1996. He had developed acute double pneumonia and having previously made a Living Will, he did not wish to be placed on extreme life-sustaining measures.

Visitation was at Jacoby-Wise, Bunker Hill, Illinois, February 26, 1996, and services were February 27, 1996 at 11:00 a.m. at Emmaus Lutheran Church, Dorsey,



Illinois, with burial in the Heuer Family Plot at the church cemetery.

END OF AN ERA



Vital statistics found in old German Bible belonging  
to Herman Heuer after sale of Dorsey home:

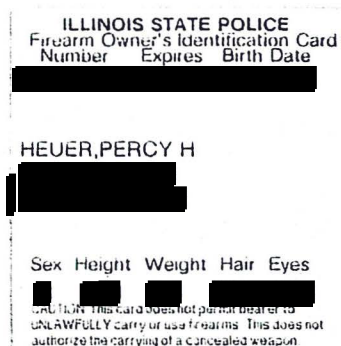
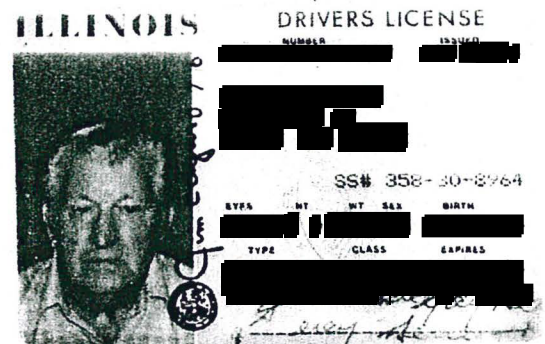
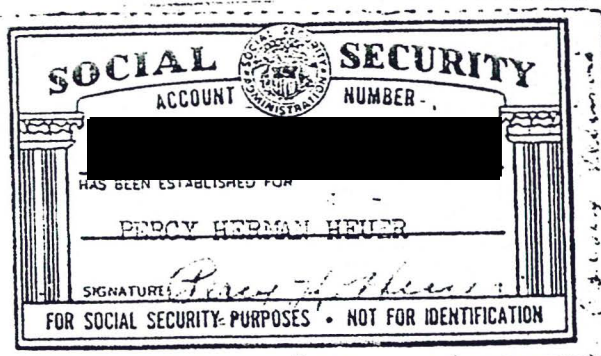
Herman W. Heuer

Father: Herman Heuer  
Mother: Louise Obermueller  
Birth: December 5, 1876, Foster Township  
Died: July 19, 1962  
Buried: Dorsey Cemetery  
Baptism: January 17, 1877, Dorsey, Illinois  
Confirmed: March 30, 1890, Dorsey, Illinois  
Wedding: September 4, 1918, Bunker Hill

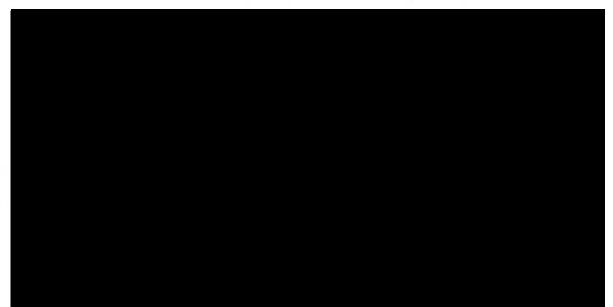
First Wife: Anna M. Johnson  
Born: September 23rd, 1880  
Died: November 18, 1915

Mrs. Gesena (Sena) Heuer

Family Name: Mansholt  
Father: John Mansholt  
Mother: Dena Mansholt  
Birth: November 28, 1885, Moro Township  
Died: May 6, 1963  
Baptism: January 31, 1886, Dorsey, Illinois  
Confirmed: March 26, 1899, Dorsey, Illinois  
Wedding: September 4, 1918, Bunker Hill



Health Insurance





*To every thing there is a season, and  
a time to every purpose under heaven:*

A time to be born, and a time to die; a time  
to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is  
planted;

A time to kill and a time to heal; a time to  
break down, and a time to build up;

A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time  
to mourn, and a time to dance;

A time to cast away stones, and a time to  
gather stones together; a time to embrace, and  
a time to refrain from embracing;

A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to  
keep, and a time to cast away;

A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to  
keep silence, and a time to speak;

A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of  
war, and a time of peace.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-8

## Percy Heuer

ALTON — Percy H. Heuer, 89,  
formerly of Dorsey, died at 1:57  
a.m. Saturday, Feb. 24, 1996, at  
Alton Memorial Hospital.

He was a prominent Dorsey  
farmer and also worked for six  
years for the Illinois Depart-  
ment of Transportation.

Born Sept. 11, 1906, in Dorsey,  
he was the son of the late Her-  
man and Anna (Johnson) Heuer.

He married the former Ber-  
nice Henke Aug. 15, 1928, in  
Midway. She died April 22, 1981.

Surviving are a son and  
daughter-in-law, Don and Cor-  
leen Heuer of Bunker Hill;  
three daughters and two  
sons-in-law, JoAnn and Herb  
Leseman of Dorsey; Janette  
Ingram of Edwardsville and  
Joyce and Jerry Bort of Rose-  
wood Heights; 18 grandchil-  
dren; 17 great-grandchildren;  
and two stepgreat-grandchil-  
dren.

Preceding him in death were a  
daughter, Janelle Heuer, and a  
grandson, Gyles Heuer.

Visitation will be from 4 to 8  
p.m. Monday at Jacoby-Wise  
Funeral Home in Bunker Hill.

Visitation continues from 9  
a.m. Tuesday until service time  
at 11 a.m. at Emmaus Lutheran  
Church in Dorsey. The Rev.  
George Gude will officiate.

Burial will be in Emmaus  
Lutheran Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to the  
church, where he was a lifetime  
member.

In Loving Memory of

PERCY H. HEUER

Date of Birth

SEPTEMBER 11, 1906

Date of Death

FEBRUARY 24, 1996

### Services

Tuesday morning, February 27, 1996,  
at 11:00 o'clock at  
Emmaus Lutheran Church  
Dorsey, Illinois

### Clergyman

REV. GEORGE GUDE

### Interment

EMMAUS LUTHERAN CEMETERY  
DORSEY, ILLINOIS

### Interment

JACOBY-WISE FUNERAL HOME  
BUNKER HILL, ILLINOIS

1995 SPONSOR

LUTHERAN HOUR MINISTRIES OUTREACH

Mr. Percy Heuer  
Friend  
097518/#27-02-027

*Dale A. Meyer*  
Speaker, "The Lutheran Hour"

Dr. Dale A. Meyer

Lutheran Hour  
Ministries



*Pastors in my life*  
*Peterson*  
*Rohloff*  
*Rosener*  
*Strohm*  
*Wagner*  
*Stevenson*  
*Zedies*  
*Whitaker*  
*Gude*