

## **NOTICE**

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**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

Name: Bill Knollman

Date Interviewed: 7/15/98

Date Transcribed:

Tape: B-1

Project Number 20012

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**Tape FEMP023555**

00:00:30

A:

No not – not especially. No I don't think so. (Okay.) We'll probably get into it. (Okay.)

00:00:38

Q:

Then I guess we're ready (Great.)

00:00:42

O:

I'm rolling tape. You guys start whenever.

00:00:47

Q:

Can you tell us, um, how many generations of your family have lived in this area?

00:00:53

A:

Ah, we've had four generations live here. My great-grandfather, grandfather, my father, and now my generation. And I have two more brothers, a sister, still farming. All of them farmed at one time.

00:01:18

Q:

How has the area changed over the years – since you grew up around here?

00:01:25

A:

Well this was, um, a strictly rural area. Um, it was just small towns, um, a grocery store, maybe a feed store, something like that. Ah, we had, a, probably the closest town would be Harrison. And it was about 10 miles away. That would be my hometown, what I consider my hometown, 'cause, ah, that's where I went to high school, and that was the largest town around. The small towns of Ross and Fernald were always in this area, but ah, it was strictly rural. All – almo – all farms and ah, if, if anybody worked in town, they would drive to one of the large cities. But.

00:02:22

Q:

Can you describe the schools and maybe a little bit about what it was like to grow up around here?

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00:02:29

A:

When I started to school, I was in the first grade. And I went to the school they called the Scott School, and it was on New Haven Road and it was close to New Baltimore. And at that school, there was four, ah, just two rooms, upstairs and downstairs, and ah, they had four grades downstairs, four grades upstairs. So we went, ah, you would have gone to the eighth grade at that school and graduated from there and you'd go on to Harrison. But, ah, after the ah, my first year, then the ah, school district decided that they would put all of the four lower grades at the little town of New Haven, and so we moved to, we would ride the bus to New Haven. And then the four upper grades would be in ah, down at the Scott School, and you'd graduate from the eighth grade there. And then we would go on to Harrison to high school, and ah, I graduated from Harrison in 1953.

00:03:41

Q:

What was it like growing up on a farm?

00:03:46

A:

Well, we, I always enjoyed it. It was, ah; back then most every farm had, ah, cows, hogs, chickens, raised big gardens. Some of them would raise, ah, enough of a garden, or enough of a, um, produce to have some to sell. And, ah, you'd, sell milk from the dairy cows, also the beef, and a the hogs, they would go for to the slaughterhouse, and a the a chickens, we sold eggs right from the farm. And, ah, I remember my Mom used to do a lot of canning, from all of the produce that we'd raise in the gardens. So, we would have most everything we needed for, ah, wintertime and a, vegetables and that way, fruits and that.

00:04:46

Q:

How did the landscape change, um, when the area had – fewer farmers over the years?

00:04:56

A:

From that time, um, well – there were smaller farms, ah, then there were now because you didn't have the equipment to take care of the crops the way that you do now. So, but they were smaller farms, and ah, most everybody had a lot of livestock, and they, ah, you raised a lot of livestock, you'd have a lot of pasture. And, ah, you would raise crops that would feed those the livestock on the farm. So, um, I would say they were just smaller, but ah, a lot, a lot less people on the roads than what's, you know, over the years we've seen since the Fernald plant came in, we, ah, the traffic increased after that. And then it was more or less, you know, we had that touch of, like the urban life, I guess, because of all the cars.

00:06:04

Q:

When did you first hear about, um, the government coming into this area?

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00:06:13

A:

Um, it was on my brother's, my brother Norman; it was on his birthday of March the 30<sup>th</sup> of 1951. And, ah, it came out on the news, on the radio, at that time we had a TV for just a couple of years, and ah, the news, ah, people all had it on all their news, a, um, programs. And it was rather stunning to us that, that we didn't really know anything about this that it was going to happen or anything. Um, after the news broke, then I guess we kind of put together, a, seeing some black cars with government license on, driving down Willey Road past our place. And we would, we would see them stop along the road every once in a while and they'd kind of, there'd be maybe two men in there, and they'd be looking over property, never giving it a thought that anything like that was going to happen. So, it was a real shock to us, then when we heard that. And, ah, when the first news came out, um, it seemed like, a, the farm that we were living on, which was my Grand, my Granddad owned it at that time, Henry Knollman. And ah, ah the picture that they had, a and, the drawing that they had, it included our whole farm. And, and it was March, and starting into spring planting and all of that. Ah, you, you're looking forward to that and here all of this, you know, they said they were going to take it immediately. And, ah, so we were scrambling to find someplace to go buy another farm. But we spent a lot of time looking around for farms. And, ah, I, we had gone probably 40 to 50 miles away looking at farms that were for sale, and ah, we ended up buying the farm adjacent to my Grandfather's farm, ah, ah, before that spring planting time, and ah, we got to move right onto it. Ah, the property lines of the, my Granddad's farm and the farm that he bought then, they joined, so it really made it handy for us that we did not have to move very, a, far away. We did have to move into different facilities, but we didn't have to move, ah, off into another part of the country, so it, we were lucky that way.

00:09:01

Q:

What about the neighbors?

00:09:03

A:

The neighbors, a lot of the neighbors, um, they didn't do anything that year. Ah, the farmers especially, ah, they just kind of had to wait and see what kind of settlement they were gonna' get from the government on, ah, property that they were going to, ah, to take by eminent domain. And the, a, a, so, therefore, there was families that, ah, moved off into houses that they rented for that summer until they could find a farm. And, ah, there were some of 'em that found farms then, the following year. And, ah, so, and they, some of them moved a substantial distance away. But, ah, yeah.

00:09:54

Q:

So was part of your Grandfather's farm taken by eminent domain?

00:09:57

A:

Yes, Ma'am. Um, right close to 200 acres I believe, um. I was young enough that time I just really didn't recall the acres that was involved, but it was at least 3/4 of the farm that he had and it left him with 56 acres, um, left. That was on the south side of Willey Road that they decided not to take, and ah, so, they took the majority of it, yes.

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00:10:35

Q:

How did your family life change when you had to move?

00:10:43

A:

Well, our family life really didn't change that much. We just, um, it was moving from one, ah, farm, set of buildings, to another set of buildings. Ah, the, ah, the milking facilities were a little bit different than what we had, had previously, and, and not all farms are built alike. And, but, ah that was really not a, not a big problem, ah, moving like that, and in the short distance that we moved, we had time to do that.

00:11:25

Q:

When construction started at Fernald, how did things change in this area?

00:11:33

A:

Well, I guess I could have added that to the other part. I g-, we just had so many, ah, cars we just couldn't believe it. Ah, they, ah, they had two or three, um, entrances that they used as temporary entrances to the plant before they built their main road going in there. And ah, when they started the plant, ah, that summer, that spring, and the following fall, they had lots of rain and, and they just had so much mud. And it was just a construction site, I, we can remember 'em pulling concrete trucks in, a, to the site with bulldozers to get it to the place where they needed to lay foundations and build buildings and stuff like that. But the traffic just increased, you know, it, it was every night and morning all these people coming to work and all of them leaving. That was just a, that was a major thing to our environment.

00:12:35

O:

Can we pause just for a second (Sure)? (Side conversation)

00:12:52

Airplane can be heard in background.

A:

Oh, this is a good time. (Q: Laughs) Yep, yep. If you want to, you tell me if you want to stop because of that. Okay. Oh, we don't want him in there.

O:

Johnny Still Photographer.

Q:

Are we ready?

O:

Whenever you're ready.

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00:13:15

Q:

How was the farm influenced, um, by the construction?

00:13:23

A:

Well I guess it was just the, ah, the traffic that was involved. Um, it a, we had to kind of work around the traffic situation. Ah, Some of our pasture was, um, across the r, Willey Road from the milking facilities, and we had to move cows across the road, and and that was kind of a headache at that time. We had to work that around the traffic that was coming through. Um, other than that when um, we raised a lot of chickens at that time. And they, ah, they produced a lot of eggs, and, and all the people going past it ended up being a pretty good egg market for us at that time. So, ah, but ah, we were not allowed to sell any milk or anything like that, but the, we sold a lot of eggs. People would, they would stop and get eggs and they would put an order in for the next week of how many they wanted. And they'd come flying in there and, and we'd have them all fixed up for them, and they'd take 'em and away they'd go and leave the order for the next week. But, ah, we, we ended up meeting a lot of people that worked back at the plant at that time.

00:14:42

Q:

After the site was in production, did you notice any differences -- living next door?

00:14:51

A:

No, I don't think so. It was um, everything we were kind of getting used to the traffic and, um, other than that, other than it being, what we, our family still refers to it as the Atomic Plant. And, ah, it was one of those places that was kind of a secretive type of thing. Ah, we, we had good friends that we associated with, and, and ah, really didn't even discuss with them, you know, what their jobs were or what kind of technical things were going on back there. But, ah, it was very secretive up until 1984 and 5 when, when things started up, getting to know more about what was going on. But up until that time, no, nothing ah, I don't know, it was just something that we just kind of grew with.

00:15:55

Q:

You said that, um, when construction, before construction started, that it was on the news. Um, what was the news saying that the site was going to be, and what did you know about the site?

00:16:12

A:

When it first came of the news, um, they had, I think the news people decided, well they, they mentioned that it was going to be around Fernald. So, the news people kind of picked it up and they came out and interviewed people around Fernald in a real close area. And um, nobody really knew how much area they were going to take, and therefore, you know, it was all up in the air until we really were contacted by somebody to show us what they were thinking about. And then the news people finally got it, and it, it came that they were going to keep it within some road boundaries and try to create less impact on some people that were on the east side that wouldn't be taking all of their property. So, ah, but, ah up the west side and the south side, it put all of those people, it took most of

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their property, or all of it. But, ah, it was less impact on some of the others. Some of the others lost, ah, some land, not a lot, um, there were people on the north side that ended up losing the whole farm and having to move also.

00:17:43

Q:

Can you tell me what kinds of livestock and crops that your farm had then, in comparison to what, what you farm now?

00:17:53

A:

Okay. Um, well back then we had, ah, dairy cows and we produced milk, and we had hogs, chickens, and then we, we ah, raised produce in the gardens. And we had field crops which was usually, ah, field corn, ah, that was for the cattle feed, and we raised, ah, hay for the cattle for feed, and we had wheat which, ah, we sold the wheat, the grain and, ah, we used the straw for bedding. Um, now, ah, we quit milking cows in 1994 and since that time we've gone to all grain crops, and we're raising, ah, ah, more acres of, of ah corn and ah, soybeans, wheat, and some, ah, hay. We still do have a few, ah, head of ah, young Holstein cattle that we're raising. But ah, basically it's grain crops now, your corn and soybeans, which right now we have about 1350 acres that we farm. We rent some of that land from other landowners.

00:19:26

Q:

How did, um, the site being so close to your farm affect your business?

00:19:33

A:

Well I guess that would be one impact that, ah, that we didn't enjoy because we were so close to the plant that there were so many people concerned about the milk that was being produced there. The cattle out eating the grass around the boundaries of the plant, and ah, then people had that concern that it would get into the milk. And, ah, so when those rumors were starting back in the 60's, in the late 60's, middle to late 60's, so the government, ah, the Fernald plant, ah, they decided that the best thing to do would be to, um, to a, a check on the milk. They'd take, come and take samples of the milk and about every three months they were sampling the milk and taking it and testing it. What they were doing, they were splitting the samples between their lab and another lab to run checks, and ah, and they never, ever found anything in, in our milk, at any time. And, ah, but, um, we had a lot of stories that came out about, um the dairy herd, and having contaminated milk and none of that was true. It, sometimes it just made us laugh the things that, the stories we heard.

00:21:16

Q:

When you found out, in the early 80's, um, that some of the well water in the area had been contaminated, how did you react to that? How did that affect your family?

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00:21:27

A:

Well, that was, we really didn't want to hear that. (Laughs.) Ah, we didn't suspect it. Ah, they had been testing the water for a long time and, ah, they were telling us that it was just for a safety measure, that they, they just didn't want anything to get off-site. And then, and we were getting the results from that and there was never anything to be alarmed at. And I guess it was about, um, in the fall of '84. I think it was, that, ah, they, they started saying that the elevation of the uranium in the water had been going up, and they were suspecting that some of it was getting out from under the, the property that, ah, they owned. And, ah, so ah, we di-, we didn't appreciate that at all, and then the first place that it was found was in a, a, the original homestead that we moved from, that was my Grandfather's place, and ah, it ended up being in the well there. And we, at that time were renting that, those houses to some renters and that was not a good thing. So, ah, you know, we, we just felt bad about it. There wasn't, there wasn't anything that we could physically do about that, you know. It was a, it was a pr, problem that had been created, and um, there was just nothing that we could do. But, ah, so shortly after that, I think within a few months, um, the, the Fernald facility decided to put down a deeper well for those people to use at that site. And um, that solved the problem there, but it's um, you know, that, the other problem was still there. So, yeah.

00:23:40

Q:

Did you ever have to deal with contaminated water where you were living, when that happened?

00:23:45

A:

Well the, ah, what they call their south plume kept getting larger and larger, and the uranium amounts were increasing all the time. We were getting all these results. They went from, ah, sampling wells from maybe three, every three months, to every month, and they were really keeping close check on it. Now, ah, since, since the plant was built, I lie-, when we moved to the farm that's on the corner of Willey and 128. Then when I got married. Then we moved, ah, off of that farm and then ended up building a house, ah, at the, my present location. And eventually, the contamination reached the well where I live, which was farther away from the, ah, the original house where it was first detected off-site. So, um, at that time they, um, they had dealt with other people that had high levels of uranium in their wells, so they put in ion exchange systems that would take the ur-, uranium out of the water, and then they furnished us with bottled water to drink. But, ah, they would test the well, the well water that we were using and for the amount of uranium that was in it, and then they were also checking it right behind the ion exchange filters, and it was, it was taking it out. So we were using it for, for washing facilities and stuff like that, but we drank bottled water that they furnished.

00:25:37

Q:

How, or do you, think that the site had effected the local community? Have you seen anything change over the past, say 20, 30 years?

00:25:56

A:

Well, ah, there were people that live around here that there was incomes coming from that. Now you, ah, that had to be something that was positive for, ah, the community. Um, I guess if we were talking



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in our terms, as the Knollman's, ah I would say the impact to our property would probably be a devaluation of value, and um, and um, they had a big lawsuit on that. And that, they determined that and there was losses, ah, divided up on that, but um, right now, with the clean-up, I would say it'd be several years before we would probably be out of that image of being too close to the Fernald plant to, to impact, you know, ah, to getting a fair price for our property, like, as some place else that might be five or ten miles away. So, ah, to us personally I'd say it'd be property value. But, other than that, there's a, there's been a lot of people worked there and a lot of incomes, ah, derived from that. So, ah, and a lot of housing developments and everything in this area, so you know, it has had an impact on the community.

00:27:28

O:

We'll pause.

[Interviewer recalls conversation off-camera: A discussion takes place about the pre-interview (previous conversation between interviewer & interviewee) when the interviewee related that headlines and news stories in 1951 stated that the AEC was building a uranium refinery. Interviewer asks if they should discuss that on camera, because in later years, there have been rumors of a cover-up at the site.]

00:00:17

No picture on screen.

Q:

Maybe later it was covered up. I don't know if you have anything significant to say about that or not. Maybe I just shouldn't even.

A:

Well, let's discuss it a little bit.

Q:

Okay.

00:00:30

A:

Ah, they were going to be processing uranium, but to what degree I didn't, I really didn't know. Ah, ah, we never, never ever had a feeling that they were producing bombs or anything like that, but ah, from what we understood it was an enrichment process where they got the product in and enriched it. They got it down to a, to greater, ah, density and ah, it would be an enriched product when it would leave the site. Um, not really, um, I guess we knew it was, you know, what they were working with, but, ah, really didn't, what? We just, we just didn't understand how powerful, or what the problems that would come up later on in the years, just didn't really understand that at that time. And I don't think a lot of other people did, because of, just some of the things that they're cleaning up at the plant right now, ah, I don't think they really knew how to take care of the byproducts safely, and now, now they're in a process of cleaning all that up. Doing something with it. So, therefore, ah, back in the 50s or 60s, there just wasn't that concern, and ah, I guess it really didn't come out until in the 80s, you know, what, what was really happening, and ah, the contamination levels and that.

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00:02:14

Q:

Are we going?

O:

We're rolling.

Q:

Oh!

A:

Always. (Laughs.)

00:02:30

Q:

You mentioned earlier, um, that farming today is different than it was back, say, when your grandfather farmed in this area, um, because of technology. Can you elaborate on that a little?

00:02:48

A:

Yeah, it's, farming has come a long ways. Now um, when I as a kid, I can remember driving horses, and um, and doing a lot of the field work that was hand labor type things, and ah, the mechanical things, the tractors came along, and that made it so much easier for people to be able to farm more land and a lot easier, and a lot better. And then the technology of your ah, the ah, hybrids that you're growing now-a-days, you just, your production far exceeds anything that was ever going on back then. But, it, it went through the, that I went through, the things of the horses, and, and then into the tractors, and, and um, finally we got a combine, and these things were all new things that were going on. Today, you ah, you're farming more acres, you're using a lot better hybrids that produce a lot more bushels or tons per acre, um, they're getting into the global positioning phase of it where there's, there's a lot of that being used where the, um, you can apply this to your equipment, your combines and, and it keeps track of yields in different sections of the field, in the different grids, as the equipment's going through the fields. And it also, when you're putting fertilizer on, ah, the equipment is all geared for that. They can put more, ah, fertilizer and seed in, in the better areas, and cut back on it in the other areas, so the technology is there that a lot of, you know, things are happening that way.

00:04:44

Q:

What do you think that your grandfather would say about the land has changed since he farmed it?

00:04:52

A:

Well I think one of the first things he'd say is, "them boys!" (Laughs) But, ah, he loved farming, and um, ah he never liked milking cows that well, but he always had cows that he milked. My Dad, ah, came in, and he kind of came into the farm and, and took over the farm then and my Grandfather sold it to him. Ah, my Dad did like the dairy herd. And so, ah, but I think he would just be amazed at the crops that we raise now-a-days and what they look like and the yields that we get and that's what I think mainly what he would be interested in. My wife's father is 102 years old and he loves to get in a

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pickup truck and ride through the fields just to see the crops, and, and he, he talks about the, ah, corn being planted too close together, which they used to plant it at, each plant used to be about a foot apart, and now we plant about two of them in there, and, ah, but we're getting more yield, and the whole thing.

00:06:18

Q:

When you found out about the Fernald Living History Project, what did you, what did you imagine, and um, maybe you can tell me what you think the value of a project like this could be?

00:06:38

A:

Well, I think that the um, I was interested when I first heard about it and I still am. The um, I enjoy seeing other people go back and tell how, you know, the history of other phases of, ah you know, like large businesses, factories and that, and ah, in this project, ah, this has been something that there..I know of people that have driven past the Fernald plant on the outer boundaries and never even knew what it was, and um, and then when it came out in the news in '85, then there were still people asking, "Where is Fernald?" you know, so I think it's, it has a place, the, the history thing, I think, um, it would be something that I think other people can learn from. I think it would be interesting to people. Yeah.

00:07:45

Q:

I'm going to go back a little ways, um, can you describe to me the original town of Fernald? Do you remember what it was like?

00:07:56

A:

Yeah, there were um, let's see, there were three houses, and ah two feed mills that, that um, the Walter Coursin (?) Feed Mill, and there was a Co-op, Hamilton County Farm Bureau Co-op had a feed mill, and they had feed and fuel and, um, and all farm supplies, and ah, but they were both there because there was a railroad went through the little town of Fernald, and I'd forgot, there was a railroad station there. And, ah, so ah, it was just the three houses, two feed mills, and a railroad station. And, ah, but there was quite a bit of traffic on the rail line at that time, and ah, so, you know that, it was just a small town, Fernald was.

00:09:01

Q:

Can you, do you know anything about the Willey family?

00:09:05

A:

No ma'am, I sure don't, um, other than that they owned property in this area, and then, um, some of the family ended up running some gravel, ah, pits, on the other side of New Baltimore, and called them the Willey Gravel Pit. I can remember that very well. And it was one of the only ones around at that time where we could go get gravel, and for construction projects we might have. But, um, that was, I really didn't know any of them, but from what I understand at one time there was a graveyard on our

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place that had some Willey gravestones in it, but I think that was moved early, early on, before I knew about it.

00:10:05

Q:

Have you, or has anyone in your family been involved in more recent activities at Fernald?

00:10:14

A:

No, not really, um, I've attended some of their meetings, um, not very many. They have them on so many different phases of what's going on, I would pick out some things that I was interested in, that might impact our family operation, and, and I would attend those, but ah, other than that for the whole, the whole project of that, I didn't really get into that, attending all of those meetings.

00:10:47

Q:

Does anyone at the site ever come to you for help with anything? I know you were helpful to us, identifying pictures.

00:10:56

A:

Um, I guess they, some of the people back there, we have enough contact with people that they'll come down once in a while and just want a little input from us, on what, of something that, some project they might have that, um, they would just ask us what we thought of it. Um, other than that, um, no not really. They've been responsive to our, some of our wishes, that ah, different things around the site that, that we were just concerned about. But, ah, they've been helpful. They would always get answers for us.

00:11:45

Q:

And one last thing. You said that you stopped raising dairy cows in the early '90s. (A: '94.) Why was that?

00:11:57

A:

We had been thinking about this for several years. Now, the one um, it was just a management decision that we made that we wanted to, ah, get into the grain crops more and ah, at that particular time, we had, ah, the price of the dairy cattle were high, at that time, and the ah, the milk price was ah, to the dairy farmer was good, so that that impacted the price of the dairy cows, going into another herd, and ah, we had, we had been thinking about this for several years. It's a real labor-intensive operation, where it's, it's every day, every night and every morning, and then during the day you would always be working on doing things to ah, um, just getting more crops around, during the summer especially, getting the crops in for feed for the cows, and it was just a, it was a labor-intensive thing, and, and we just made a decision that if there was ever a good time to do it, that particular time would have been an ideal time, and so we started scouting around and kind of told some people around that we, we were thinking about selling the dairy herd, and ah, it got picked up by several different people and there were some dairies ah, wanting to get larger, and so we had several different people interested in buying the

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dairy herd, and ah, so, it was in ah, the fall of um, '93, I guess that we had, the summer of '93, that we'd made our decision, and so just slowly we were putting it out, the information that we were thinking about getting out, and ah, the ah first of March in 1994, that's when they moved all of the milk cows that were on-site off to another dairy herd. Ah, they were wanting to get larger, and ah, at the time, we felt it was a real good mo, mood, ah, move for us to do, and it just, it really worked out well for us, and changed our lives drastically. (Laughs.) It was, it just more or less turned it into a, a nine-to-five job, except when we're harv, ah planting and harvesting. So that was the main reason. But it was not, I stress this, it was not because any contamination in any milk, or anything like that. Ah, interesting thing, ah, that's in the reports that they came out with every year, but we'd get 'em, ah, every month, they were, ah, testing our milk, they would get samples from our milk, and also another herd from around Sunman, Indiana, which would be about 25 miles straight west of here, which would not, Fernald would not have any impact on it at all, and they were, the samples would always come back, ah, just so close that there was very little difference in them at all, but it was kind of funny to us, the very last month that they tested out milk, the one in Indiana tested just a little higher than ours. (Laughing.) So that was, it was kind of ironic that, but all the rest of the time, it was all about the same.

00:15:48

Q:

I have no other questions.

O:

I have a question, actually.

Q:

Sure.

00:15:52

O:

If you could just talk to Rhonda when you answer this question, but um, can you tell us about our, about your relationship with Marion Fuchs a little bit?

00:16:02

A:

Yes, um, Marion is, well we were neighbors that as kids, um, I lived on the farm on the corner of Willey Road and 128. And, my father rented that from a Dr. Simmons, and in 1940, we moved from that farm onto my Grandfather's farm, which the, was the adjoining farm, and um, but while I was growing up. Marion and I would walk down the road, or I would go up the road, and we would visit, so we were close neighbors and we always have been friends, and um, still when we get together we talk about all kinds of things that are going on and people that we know, so yeah, it's he, he's been a, he's been a good friend all my life. He was about four years older than I was, I believe, and but ah, we had a lot of, lot of fun. But, ah, when I moved away, then we'd commute back and forth with bicycles then. (Laughs.) So, ah, we were, we were good friends.

00:17:20

O:

I've got question (laughing), ah,

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O:

I'm feeling pressure to come up with one.

O:

Again, you can answer to her if it's a valid question. I can't imagine having my land taken by eminent domain, again, I just own a really small, little house and little, you know, a little bit of land, um how was that presented and how did your family take that, I mean when, I'm assuming some sort of government official came to your house.

00:17:45

A:

Well when that happened, we were immediately hunting another farm because we really needed that if we wanted to stay in the business, especially if you have dairy cows. You, you had to milk those cows now, the ah, Marion Fuchs, that you, he and his family, they had a dairy herd and they had to sell theirs, because they didn't have any place else for them to go. Now with us being able to find this farm as quick as we did, we did not have that impact right then. But the thing of the eminent domain was that, you know, they, they came out and told us that they were going to take it and then they, we would to try to agree on a price. Well they didn't agree on a price, and it went to court, ah and, it was in court about two days and then the government attorneys, or the real estate people, came up with a, an offer that was, ah, I think through the proceedings they could maybe see how things were going, and they came up with better offers that the people that was involved in the, in the, lawsuit, that they agreed on it. Um, ah, I've heard of, you know, the eminent domain all my life, of other places being taken and ah, for roads and power lines, um, crude oil lines and things like that, and they will just, they'll go ahead and take it and it'll eventually be solved by agreeing on a price sometime down the road. At that time I think there were um, there were three peop, three owners for sure, maybe four that were in that lawsuit and they, they ended up agreeing, um, at the courtroom on a price then. So that's, did that answer your question?

00:19:58

A:

But it's, it's not a good thing. The people that did not find other farms right away, you know, that was a big impact on them, they just, they were not able to do anything with their equipment that they had, or livestock, or it just we, ah, at the time, ah, after they got construction going back here there were buildings sitting around the outside that we, that different farmers owned, and they gave them the first chance of moving some um, moving buildings. Now, we have two barns that were moved from the north side of Willey Road over onto the other property that my Grandad still had left out of that farm, um, one big barn and a grain bin, a grain building, so we still have those they're still standing.

00:20:59

O:

How did they move those?

00:21:02

A:

Ah, big rollers. (Laughs.) They put timbers through them, um, they put big long timbers through the whole building, and then they'd set a set of wheels underneath of it, and just pull it away, just rolled it across the road. The two buildings, the two barns that are down the road here, they were on the other

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side of the road, they just rolled them over. And there was one up here on, ah Marion Fuch's parents farm, that we ended up having somebody move it, and they moved it down over the hill to us, and we used it for a chicken house, that's what they were using it for. And the, ah, Raymond Erwin house on Paddy's Run Road was moved over, and I think you had some pictures of them using that as a lab or something up in for a short time until they got other facilities built back there.

00:22:06

O:

It must have been weird to see your barn rolling down the road.

A:

Yeah, yeah, yeah.