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Interview with C. Elizabeth Stout and John Dinkel

Ward Patterson

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manuscript

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The following ~~is~~^{are} tape recorded interviews with Mrs. C. Elizabeth Stout of Hays, Kansas and Mr. John A. Dinkel of Victoria, Kansas. These interviews are being taped at 3 1/2 inches per second on dual track recording by Ward L. Patterson. The first is being recorded on March 30, 1959; the second May 12, 1959. The first at Hays, Kansas; the second at Victoria, Kansas.

I. You were telling me a little bit about how you ~~happened~~ happened to come out to Hays~~x~~ and would you...?

N. Well, my father was originally a civil ~~was~~ veteran. And there, at the time of the Saltana he was on the boat returning home from the war and the boat exploded. And his back was injured by the smoke stack falling on it and burning him between the shoulders. And after that, he never could work at his trade which was stone mason and brick laying. And finally he had to go, took up clerking in ~~stores~~. And ~~it~~^{because of} ~~caused~~ his ability to be a very fluent German speaker, ~~He~~ always carried his customers from one store to another. Then he was advised by Mr. J. U. Milner~~x~~, who had came to Hays and ~~settled~~^{started} in the real estate business, to take up the homestead out here ~~and~~ also a timber ~~plains~~^{claim}. And in 1877 he came out here and took up ~~a hundred and sixty acres~~^{160 acres} homestead and ~~a hundred and sixty~~¹⁶⁰ acres of timber ~~plains~~^{claim} four miles and a half northwest of Hays. And a, had 15 acres of ~~land~~ plowed land, plowed. And in the fall of '77, he had that planted to wheat. And the summer of '78, he raised the largest crops that had ever been raised in the County of Ellis. For 38 bushels to the acre. I'll take that back, that should, 32 bushels to the acre. ^{32, uh huh} And that is how, he wrote to my mother then to pack her clothing and come to Hays~~x~~. And that's how we came. And we arrived in Hays August 21, 1878.

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I. Did you come out on the train or did you. . .?

N. Yes. Took us three days. ^{we left,} We started Sunday night at 5~~00~~ o'clock,
 And we got here Wednesday morning at 1 o'clock. From Kansas City on up
 they had to fight their way through because they had a hot box.

I. Oh, they did.

N. And the train didn't travel ^{as} ~~xxxx~~ fast ~~in~~ those days.

I. You were telling me. . .

N. I say, have you got it turned on?

I. Yes.

N. Well, I wanted to talk ^{that} to you first. At the time ~~of~~ ~~the~~ one of
 the fires ⁱⁿ ~~xx~~ Hays swept the south part of Hays and part of the north,
 + there was a large prairie fire out in the country just a mile away from
 where my home was. One of our neighbors took his little child, wrapped
 it in a blanket, and carried it out onto the wheat field. Later on, his
 granery and 500 bushels of wheat was burned. He went out to look ^{after} ~~at~~ his
 child and found that the blanket had quite a number of spark holes in it,
 but the child was uninjured. Mr. Stout had left the house, and had told
 me to walk out if the fire came over the hill, to walk out onto a ridge.
 But the sparks fell right on the porch but never caught. And at the last
 draw, they finally managed to put the fire out. And in that way, our
 horses, who had been turned out, were not injured.

I. How was this, ^{that the fire,} how did the fire get started?

N. From a burning straw stack.

I. Uh, Huh.

N. In 1882~~x~~ when I was a young girl, here in, going to school here in
 town, the soldiers got into a fight on north ~~Main~~ ^S Street. And there was
 some shooting. One of men living on the south side of the railroad track,
 took down his guns and shot, and accidentally shot one of the colored
 soldiers. Afterwards, the soldiers came back and tried to burn the town,

And did set a fire. And quite a part ^{of it} was burnt.

Man N. Well, if you want that story I'll give ^{that} ~~it~~ to you.

I. Okay. Just start off on it.

N. Yeah, ~~he~~ was working there about 10 miles north of Salina.

I. This is one of your cousins?

~~This~~ ^{That's} ~~is~~ one of my cousins, yeah, yeah. That was Mike Koan. ^{Mikel} ~~He's~~

Koan rather. And a, so a, they had to go about 10 miles more north, put up some hay~~x~~ from the farm there. Ah, they's going back and forth. And a, one day they~~xx~~ was out there putting up hay. And my cousin, he was, ^{only} ~~he~~ was on the hayrack. And the boss, he was picking up hay. They loaded up hay and took two loads home every night when they went home. Went up there early in the morning and then a, ^{they} always figured the time. It takes so long to drive home. So they loaded up and took two loads home. But one day he was out there~~x~~ loading hay and just as he's a sitting, the boss hollered, "~~then~~ there's a snake!" And they, both of them was barefooted, they didn't use shoes. And so he chopped up that pitch fork~~xxxx~~ of hay there. And Hallard says, "~~Michael~~, come down here!" He says, "That snake bit me." Well, he ~~says~~ just rolled off the hay rack, went down. The boss pulled out his knife. He says, "^{here} ~~cut~~ off that toe." He says, "That's the toe ^{where} that snake bit in there. ~~xxxxxx~~" "^{boss} ~~No~~," he says, "^{he says} I can't do that. "Ah no, I couldn't do it." "Oh, come on," he says, "^{he says} do it and do it right now ^{before} that ever gets in my blood." "~~No~~," he says, "I can't do it." He says, "You're a strong man. You're quite a bit stronger than I am, and you could kill me if I'd a put, cut off your toe." So finally he says, "No," he says, "^{Mikel} ~~Michael~~, I won't hurt you a bit." "^{Mikel} ~~Well~~, ~~Michael~~ he says, "I can't do it." Well, finally the boss says, "~~What~~ do you like to see, see me die here or cut off my toe?" Well, when he said that why a, he says, "Okay," ^{he says}

"I'll cut it off." So he got him. He laid down and crawled in between these spokes of the wheels, the wagon wheels, and he clamped them in ^{his head} and turned his legs around, sit on top of his face, ~~and said~~. And took that knife and cut that toe off. He was hollering, oh, he was hollering. But still He kept on a going. Cut that off. Add when they had that cut off, they kinda scraped some of that leather on their harness and put that stuff on there and stoped the blood. And they had a, handkerchief wrapped that up. Well, then, after that they loaded their hay then went on Yep. and ~~went home~~ home. ~~Yah~~

I. They took care of it?

N. They took care of it. Yep. Next day they went out putting up hay. And a, one time, you always had to go out early in the morning after the cows. And sometimes you got a, the horses ^{wad} ~~were~~ out there too. Well, he got so used to it he knew just where to walk. There's a rock in the hill and a rock on top of hill, a great big rock laying on top of the hill. And he always walked on top of that a rock and looked where the cattle was at. So a, we seen them where they ^{were} ~~was~~ at. Well, one morning he walked out there. And he didn't think of anything else. He just done his morning prayers. He always done that when he walked out there and prayers. And a, he walked up; and when he was standingx on top of that rock there, it started to move. He looked down, And there was a great big snake rolling around. It was a, he mentioned it was something like 12 foot long And a, he was lucky enough, ^{barefooted} ~~He was prepared for it~~, he didn't have no shoes. But he was lucky enough, and he jumped off. And that snake ^{started to} ~~starting to~~ coming up head first. ~~Max~~ And he grabbed a rock and hit the snake just below the mouth. And then he killed it after that. The next morning when he walked out there, he stopped and looked before he stepped on that rock.

I. I bet he did.

N. Yeah, ~~yes sir~~ ^{yes sir}.

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I. Why don't you, since we have ^{got} the ~~xxxxxxxx~~ recorder going now, why don't you tell a little about this train wreck again so we'll have it on tape. I was kinda of interested in that, about your father and how. . .

N. These two men there?

I. Yeah, why don't you ^{tell} ~~xxxxxxxx~~ that on tape.

N. Well, this a, ^{90's} that was in the ~~the~~ 90's there, the first part of the ~~1890's~~ 1890's. The a, my dad and one of our neighbors, of course, that was before my time, so they two of them came together and started to talking. They ~~wax~~, they was looking for help down in Salina to work for the railroad. So another feller, which I don't know his name anymore, he wasn't, he got into with them. And so they walked down to Salina. And when he came down, then he started to work for the railroad company there. And that time it wasn't ^{the Union} ~~for the~~ Pacific. It was through the, ^{can't} I recall the name now. ^{those days} Well, whatever it was, it's now ~~Union~~ ^{under the} Pacific. So they's been working there for a short time. Well, they was laid off. ~~And~~ after they was laid off there, why a, they didn't receive their ^{checks} ~~pension~~ right away. They had to wait for their checks. But they didn't want to stay there and wait for that. So they made up their minds, they ^{were} ~~re~~ going home. And a, they figured they'd walk. My dad had a little money but a, in his mind he didn't feel that he could ride a train and let the other two buddies walk. So my dad told them, the other two, ^{he says} ~~that a~~, "Well, ride a freight train." He says, there "We'll go up there by the railroad ~~xxxxx~~ and watch that freight. And a, we'll catch three different cars." He says, "I'll take the first one, ^{and} you take the second, and you take the third. But be sure ^{and watch your step.} ~~about~~ ^{this} ~~you~~ is said. So a, when that ^{came} ~~the~~ ^{train} ~~xxxxx~~ was about ready to leave, why ^{they} ~~that~~ ^{three} all of them went out there and ~~xxxxxx~~ lined up. ~~xxxxx~~ And a, my dad took the ^{1st} ~~first~~ car, got up there. He looked around. The other two wasn't up there yet. They missed their car. And the train then was going too fast for him to go down there. So he stayed on it.

til he got down Brookville. And there that train stopped. So a, he made
 up his mind. He says, "I'd better get off." He says, "I'm riding this
 train and my two buddies they have to walk, so it isn't right for me."
 So he got off and a, that train and sat down in the corner there, ^{at} the
 depot there in the dark and went to sleep. And he kept on a sleeping
 there until next morning. And a next morning he woke up why he looked
 east and he looked west. And he couldn't see his buddies. Finally, he
 thought, well he, they might have passed already. I just start out
 walking. ^{slow and} ~~So a,~~ maybe they ^{are} ~~passed.~~ ~~##~~ If not, why they're gonna catch
 up with me anyhow. So he walked until he got up, up to that curb there,
 right a, ah a little ways west of that town there. And that whole
 dog gone train was laying down there. Everything; engine, caboose, and
 all cars was laying ~~down~~ there. Well, he passed that up. He just walked
 by. And then finally he thought, well, ^{be sure} ~~these~~ two buddies must be, must
 be gone. So I just decide I want to walk ^{faster} ~~past there~~. And he walked
^{faster} ~~past there~~, and finally he noticed something way up in front on the
 railroad there. And these two buddies of his, why they walked slow and
 was always looking for Andrew. When they came up to that, that train
 wreck there, that morning, they never stopped or never slepted that
 night, ^{through} ~~they just walked the old...~~ why ~~he~~ came up to that wreck. Why
 they searched every car along that rail there that was laying down there,
 looking for Andrew, their buddy. But Andrew wasn't there. Well, they
 knew Andrew must have been dead. Why that wreck they had there why a you
 couldn't get out alive. So when they was past the engine, why both of
 them started to pray for Andrew now because Andrew was dead so we'll have
 to pray for him. And we'll walk home and tell the bad news then. So
 finally when they was walking slow there, then a and still had their
 minds on Andrew. He might still, still might be alive, but never can
 tell. ^{But} ~~then~~ finally they seen him coming. Of course, they didn't know

him at the start. But as he came closer, they noticed him. And they just about started to cry, on account that they met again ~~there~~ on the railroad there. And then they walked on home all the way. And they asked Andrew, ~~then~~ they says, "How did you get out of that train wreck without being killed there and without even having a scratch on you?" "Well," he says, "I wasn't ~~even~~ on that train." "You went on that train in Salina." "Yes, I was on that train in Salina, but when we came to that little town there," he says, "I didn't feel that I should stay on that." He says, ~~"I was feeling like I didn't want to stay on that train."~~ "I was feeling you buddies should have to walk and I was riding that train easy. So, I just got off, sat down in the corner ^{there in the dark} and went to sleep. Well, they says, "We've just passed through that town ~~there~~ ^{during the} ~~last~~ night." Well, when they came home why they told the story around home here. And finally they says, "Well," he says, "We aint hope our prayers ~~aren't~~ lost." They'd be as good for somebody else.

I. ^{I'm glad it} ~~Everybody~~ came out all right. What did the early settlers do for entertainment? ~~none~~

N. Well, they didn't have no entertainment. Well, they builded a building or a house or something like that. Why a, they usually came together and helped these neighbors and friends. They came along and helped. And when they was finished, that person usually got a keg of beer. And that was their entertainment and a payment ^{they had to make for the} ~~of the~~ labor. ^{help} The a, there wasn't anything like a you'd have to hire a feller to ~~work~~ ^{to} build a house or so. In cases, they had to hire a man for a couple of days maybe, a carpenter who done the carpenter work, most of ~~the~~ best things, ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ the main things.

I. Would they be making the sod houses usually then or a . . . ?

N. Well, yes. It start in the sod houses. But then later on, they started on the building of these wood houses. On these wood houses, they had to have a little carpenter to help along. ^{for} That carpenter maybe had

a hammer and a ~~saw~~ and maybe one the old four-cornered nails. He made a chisel out ~~use of~~ of that. And when he built his window frames, well he took that chisel made out of an old iron nail and cut that groove in there below where the siding ^{is} suppose to go in after they put on the siding. Well, then the door frames, he made. ~~So~~ They always fit. Always something about them that wasn't ^{quite} straight, but then you'll see them nowadays, too.

I. Well, then how about their threshing then when they had their wheat? How did they go about that?

N. You mean this country here?

I. Yeah.

N. When they put up their harvest, their wheat there, they stacked it up in stacks. They had a, oh at first they had a two, three, four neighbors came together and maybe bought a machine, ~~header~~ ^{header} machine. And a then they cut that wheat together. The farmers didn't farm much wheat. only a, ~~not too~~ many acres. So a, they made that round. They cut this farmer's wheat and the other and so on. All ^{of} these pitched ~~in~~ in and cut together. And then when the a, the wheat was seasoned enough to thrash, the a, two went together. They had some outsiders come in with a thrashing machine. Of course, there's some machines around here too. They had a couple of them around here. There's still one of them up here north of Walker.

I. ^{Oh} ~~No~~, uh, uh.

N. Ya, there's still a machine there north of Walker. Of course, that wasn't one of the first ones. And when they started to pitch their wheat in front of the machine there, they would go through the machine. They had eight, ten to twelve horses each to a rig there, oh say about a, 40 feet or something off ^{of} the machine. And that do hickey there in German we call it a horsebower; but in English I can't ^{call it just} ~~just call it~~ now.

I know the name, but I can't call it. So this do hickey there, why a with these horses, hitched two behind each other. It was a round thing. They, this, there was a driver right in the middle, standing on the platform. And he started these horses going around, ~~and~~ around, ~~and~~ around there. And there was a big rod or a big cop wheel first right under the platform, great big one. And below there was this small cop wheel with a pipe on there. And that pipe went clear up to the machine. And on that machine, there's the a, thea, pipe there had another cop wheel there, the other end. And would ~~hold~~ ^{on} the machine. So this big cop wheel drove, drive this little one. And that pipe driving these two cop wheels there. And that drive the whole machine there, with these horses. And then they started to pitch in their wheat. And one man, or a woman or whatever it was, he always had to be on the side of the machine. The a, this wheat there, didn't ~~go~~ ^{But when} up, ~~and~~ it was all thrashed and ~~all~~ cleaned out. It didn't ~~go~~ ^{go} up in the ~~other~~ ^{elevator}. It came down, ~~and~~ came out on the side below the machine there. And they had always ~~xxxx~~ two bushel baskets there or rather half a bushel pails, they had. And they a, a feller always had to watch that. Just as soon as one of them was full why he pulled that out and set another one under there. And then he put that wheat in a sack. Somebody ~~has~~ had to be therex with an empty sack ~~and~~ to put that wheat in. And they usually put in three ~~sack~~, a three half of bushels of wheat in one sack, carry ~~it~~ ^{that} ~~out~~. So they, when he had these a bushels and a half of wheat in there, why he put that on a wagon. Well, he had to take another sack and put that in. Fill that up that much. So when they had their wagon loaded there, how many sacks they wanted on there, well somebody took that wagon, drove it up to the granery. Of course, we didn't, they didn't call it granery. They called it a umback.

I. Oh.

N. Yeah. So quite a few of these graneries there, they had a door on the outside. ^{near} And they had a door ^{near} and pretty close to the road. And the steps on the outside walking up there. And these farmers they just took these sacks ^{with} ~~of~~ wheat on their shoulders and carried up on these steps and dumped it down in the granery. They never thought about that they could dump ~~that~~ in down below. They always carried that up. And sometimes they ^{was} ~~was~~ thrashing by the sack, so many bushels in the sack. That's what they have to pay their thrasher man. So they usually was trying to get one man to tie these sacks. They ~~xxxx~~ always ^{figured that} ~~got~~ two bushel in a sack. And they had only but one man who could really tie a sack right close to the top. And this man, when he was available he usually received oh say maybe \$.50 a day just tying these sacks. ~~Or maybe some farmer gave~~ ^{all} overall or pants. him ~~overalls~~ ~~xxxx~~ It wasn't overall these days, ~~it~~ ^{it} was pants. Just for tying these sacks. Why these sacks, there was two bushel in a sack; and when he tied them, he always had two bushel and a half in there. So these farmers there ^{why} ~~why~~ he gained that much. So he could have spent ^{that} ~~that~~ money ~~that~~ ^{that} ~~much~~ ^{that} ~~little~~ it took. (?????)

I. Well, how about the schools in the early times? Did they have..? How were their schools fixed up?

N. Well, they hardly didn't have no schools. ^{Very little, very little.} Well, they did, ... ^{regularly.}

I.. Mostly, they just spent the time on the farms then?

N. Mostly. Yeah. Yeah. They went to school, well all they learned these days our people, ~~they~~ ^{that} was German. And they had a couple of months of school, but a, where ^{we} ~~they~~ lived.

I. Do you remember any songs that you used to sing either in German or English? Around?

N. Well, we used to sing that, oh what you call them, a ludalia spespa.

I. Can you sing it for us right now?

N. No.

I. Oh, you better try.

N. Oh, no. When you sing that, you got to have a couple of fellers together.

I. You got to have a couple?

N. Yeah. ^{yeah of them has} One's got to be a leader. The other.....

I. Oh, I see. Do you remember some of the words, or the chorus, ~~that~~ ^{do} you know? Do you remember what the chorus was ~~or~~ or the words?

N. Oh, yeah, I remember some. (When the aboller was snitch behind blinging

TALKING IN GERMAN

~~That's all.~~ I made a mistake. I should ^{that} have started ~~it~~ different.

I. Should have started in a different spot?

N. Yeah, that's part of it.

I. That's part of it there. What in English, ^{can} ~~could~~ you tell me a little of what ~~that~~ means in English?

N. Well, in English that means something like this. This preacher there, why he wanted more money. And so he kinda of made up a song. And it started out at first. In my German ~~here~~ I've tried to explain here that should have been pretnear the last. The preacher says, "Now farmers if you don't give me anymore pay, ^{is on} I won't sing anymore of the vespers for you." Well, finally the farmers made up their mind, ^{well} ~~and~~ give him a goose. So when he had that goose there, whya, ^{well} he says, "That's something." But he said ~~that ain't~~ enough, ^{is} got to be more." Well, finally they made up their mind; they gave him a hog, a pig. "Well," he says, ~~That's~~ "That's something, but still that's not enough." So they made up their mind to give him a calf. "Well," he says, "That's helps along, but still there's got to be more." Well, they made up their mind. They gave him a cow. Well, the cow was pretty good. ~~Why~~ he could use that. He could milk that cow and have milk, cream, ^{butter, there.} He could use that. ^{But still he wasn't} quite satisfied yet. He still wanted more.

Well, he says ~~well~~ a, farmers there came together and talked it over. He says, "Why not ^{let's} give him a horse, yet." So they gave him a horse. So that preacher started out. He says, "The farmers, they a, they gave me a goose. The goose, he's got a ~~flat~~ foot. Then after that they gave me a pig. The pig's got a split foot. And then after that, why they gave me a calf. And he says, "The ~~car~~ ^{if always} hollered 'maaaaa!'" And he says, "After that," he says, "they gave me a ~~xxx~~ cow." He says, "I was satisfied with a cow. I got use out of that, but that cow always hollered 'mooooo!'" And he says, "The ^{they} horse they gave me to sell." He says, "But I know ~~x~~ should use that money for the drink and drinking whiskey." He says, "That's the only place ^{where} I should spend that money ^{that's} to have a good time is on whiskey." And the preacher said, "That's what I'm doing."

I. That's the song then?

N. ^{Yeah,} Yeah, that's about it.

I. Sounds like that would be a lot of fun to sing.

N. Oh it is. It was. It was. Real fun. Yes sir.

I. ^{Well} ~~Was~~ there any ~~xxxx~~ other songs that you remember that you used to sing ^{or} heard sing?

N. Well, we used to have songs ^{just like} which you would talk here. ~~We~~ would start it out at one end of the town. Well, one of them done the ~~la~~ading. Well he says, "Was you ever at this man's house?" Called him by name. And the other ~~xxxxxx~~ of the, says, "No ~~x~~, we've never been." ^{Well,} ~~so~~ they walked on. So they just walked one street down, ~~the~~ other street up. ~~The~~ ^{the} many streets as there was and always kept on a singing. ^{Was you ever} by this family ^{here?} And the other says, "No, we've never been." And then the next fellow why, the next house why a was you ever by this family? "No, we've never been."

~~Well, they walked on. So they just walked one street down; the other street up, as many streets as there was. And always kept on a singing. Was you ever by this family here? And the other says, "No, ^{we've} never been." And then the next fellow, why the, the next house why was you ever by this family? "No, we've never been."~~

I. Just as you went by the house?

N. Went by the house, *yeah*.

I. Uh huh. On this first song, ^{that} you were telling ^{about} us just a minute ago when ~~did~~ you especially sing ~~it~~? Do you remember anytime that you...?

N. Well, we usually sing that in the fall.

I. Uh huh.

N. Most times. ^{See,} When we ^{went} out a farming, ^{why} when we was out farming, we had ~~had~~ different farms. And these days we boys, not just we but ~~pretneer~~ all boys, they had to go out on a different place farming. And then we bachelors. ~~was back there~~ We batched. And I usually had to do the cooking. And in the evening especially on Sundays, Sunday's evening when we didn't have anything to do, well a bunch of boys got together out on the farm way out in the open ~~there~~, and ^{then} there's the place where we most of the time sing there. Especially one place there, it was, well it's a place. It's up in the air base now. There's a family there. There's a little relation to me yet. And we used to go there quite a bit and on Sunday nights or so, when we was out there. And there was a time around 8 o'clock, something like that, this a, the children of their families they had to go in praying. Got to go in ^{the} house and pray ^a the rosary, every night. Of course we had to do that at home too, when we was home. And when they was in praying, why we usually started that song, ^{and} just as loud as we could. And one of the boys came out again, he says, "Whatever you do," he says, "don't sing that song ~~again~~" anymore when we have to go in praying."

So we asked ~~right~~ ^{why}. ????????? "Well," he says, ~~xxxx~~ ^{know} "you ^{you} our dad, he's a great singer and, he likes to hear them songs, and he stops a lot of times ^{with his} ~~when he~~ praying and listen to ~~it~~ ^{you} out here. But then we have to kneel there and wait til he prays again."

I. Do you remember any other songs ~~2~~ like that, ~~yes~~ that you might have sung?

N. Oh, I wouldn't know just ~~how~~. I wouldn't know any now. Oh, we had quite a few of them, but still not....

I. They kinda get away from you?

N. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

I. Do you remember ~~any~~ ^{and} remember any cures that you might have had, that were handed down, you know, for different things? When you got sick, did especially they try anything ~~xxxxxx~~ on you like turpentine or anything like that?

N. Well, yeah, you just say it happened that there was there once. One night there where myself and a buddy of mine, we was running around the yard. It was on my dad's home ~~set~~ ^{stead}. We was running around there, and he wanted to catch me. And my oldest brothers, they ~~xx~~ put a fence, one wire fence, And it was up about oh three feet high from the ~~xxxx~~ ground. ~~xx~~ And that buddy of mine ^{he} wanted to catch me, and I just dodged him. And I dodged the fence. And I hollered, "Nick, there's a fence! Nick, there's a fence! Nick lookout there's wire!" Well, he didn't hear me. So he just run along into that wire. And he cut his face and ear. He cut that ear in pieces there. And so we went up to the house. And we came up to the house, oh blood was running all over. Well, all they did ~~was~~ ^{They} just grab ^{bed} an old shoe and scraped the shoe sole, the bottom. Scraped that fine leather off of that and put it on there. Couple of minutes, the blood stopped.

I. Is that ~~a fact~~ ^{right?}

N. Yeah, yeah.

I. Do you remember any, well you mentioned ^{that} ~~these~~ not too much entertainment. ~~Were~~ ~~was~~ there any games that you especially played?

N. Well, we had a game there where we played. It was, oh we had a stick ~~xy~~ there. And a, ~~that's~~ ^{there's} maybe four, five, six boys or girls together there. And we ^{had,} took an old tin can. It, that kind of ^a round little. And a we had as many wholes as there was boys and girls there. And we had sticks about oh three to four feet long. And we played ~~these~~, that a, that a, game we called "Housal!" So we had one of them, ^{he was in the,} ~~he~~ had to stay in the center. And whoever hit that can ^{there,} and another party could get in ^{each} hole. Each one of them had a hole around the ~~but~~side of the ^{that} center hole. And he always had to keep his stick in there. And then the one in the middle with ^{the} ~~this~~ can there he hit that can. ~~Either~~ way, didn't matter which way, but he hit that can. And wherever that can went through that feller had to hit that can and so he ^{got} ~~was~~ to go someplace else. And that person in the middle ^{he} when he had a chance, he just put his stake in this fellow's hole there. So ~~this~~ man, boy had to go in the middle. And a lot of times it took a long time before this boy got out of the middle. Once he got out, off and on. And then we had another game. We called that ~~Caruker~~ ^{"CARUKER"} ~~"Callicer."~~ So we took a round piece of wood, ^{that} we cut them off ^{from} ~~of~~ trees, about six inches long and about an inch and ^a half, two inches thick, the diameter. Then we had a, let's see two, seven, ^{well} no, no, we had two ends. Seven on the ^{saw on the} west end and seven on the east end. And they was apart about 20 sticks, something like that. And ^{then} there ~~were~~ ^{was} two or four or ~~six~~ players. Well, each player had a stick. We cut them from the trees too. They was sticks ^{and a half} about oh maybe an inch or little over an inch thick and about two feet long. ~~Well~~ we made a ring around them, ^{the} them small sticks. We set them up. We ~~ligned~~ laid one on the ground. And then we set up three of them with the ends up on top of ~~that~~ one's laying on the ground, back end down in the ground. And then we set, laid

up in
 another two on top of them and one ~~on top of~~ ^{that was} of the middle. And so both
 ends ~~was~~ ^{was} the same. And then we tried to throw them out of that ring.
 We threw our sticks, what we had. And whoever had them all out first,
 them short pieces of wood out of that ring, he won the game. Then they
 had to change. They always had to change. Whenever somebody won a game,
 they had to go to the circle, but the parties on the east end had to go
 west. And the parties on the west had to go east. And we played a lot of
 that. And we played that ~~XXXX~~ "Carnica." ^{Well that,} And we played that a, oh there's
 another game. I can't call now.

I. ~~Do~~ ^{Do} you ever ~~have it~~ ^{remember how it was} played?

N. Well, ~~we~~ ^{they} still got it, ~~yes~~ yet now, what they played ~~with~~ with these,
 these a wooden balls here that a.....

* I. ^{th or} Crochet is it?

N. Ya, crochet. Ya, ~~we~~ ^{they} played that. Ya, that one farmer up there
 the ~~farm is~~ ~~stuck there now~~ the air base now, they used to have the black-
 smiths out there too. And he was a real sport with crochet. And when
 there was a couple of fellers came there, they had some ~~now~~ ^{now} shears to be
 sharpened. Well, finally he says, "Why not go out there, and let's have
 a game of crochet first." Well, so they went out and played ^{a little} ~~crochet~~ ^{crochet}. And
 then they went back ~~in~~ ^{big} and sharpened ~~the~~ shears.

I. Did they ever get in horse races like they do now with cars?

N. The horse races, ^{there's} there ~~was~~ ^{was} quite a bit. Oh ~~yes~~ ^{yes}. There ~~was~~ ^{was} quite
 a bit.

I. Do you remember any ^{sort of} especially that ~~stuck~~ in your mind?

N. Well, there's a myself. When I was a bachelor, I used to bach
 there for 18 months. And boy I had some chickens and ~~some~~ ^{and cows,} hogs

~~It took me some eggs~~ I took a little cream or eggs to town. And one day I took cream to town and always when I drove to ~~town~~ I'd pass my dad's farm and that day my mom, mother, she went along with me. So we went to town. And I had a little colt, ~~my~~ my pony had a little ~~colt~~ colt. And I had that tied up right side of that pony there. I had that hitched up to a one horse buggy. So one of the neighbor's boys came along, and he passed me up. Well, I couldn't take that. So I just made up my mind. I says, "Pony, come on let's go." So he started out. Well, we raced ~~there~~ ^{the} quite a bit. Of course, my mom stopped me. She says, ~~honest~~ ^{honest} ~~(?????)~~ ^{she says} that's not the way to do it." She says, "Take it easy. Drive your horse slow. You'll get home anyhow. Let him go," she says.

I. Well, back on this matter of cures, do you remember anything else like ^{well} cures for warts or rheumatism or things like that ~~that~~ that people had?

N. Well, I had experience there myself.

I. Oh?

N. This, that was in ~~the~~ nineteen hundred and seven or eight or nine, one of the three years now it was. I had my hands full of warts, ~~four~~ ^{both} of them, completely, fingers and all. I couldn't wash myself clean anymore. It wasn't possible. Well, one morning I started the medicine but I don't know how ~~and~~ ^{or} why I done it. I always had, in the morning I always had to take ~~xxxxxx~~ my pony and ride back in the pasture and ~~our~~ ^{met} cows and horses. And there's some of that snake milk we'd call it. This grows up straight; and when you break it, it's just like milk. And that morning there, I never thought of anything at all, not a bit. I walked along, and There's so much of that weeds there. And I just broke off a piece and started to dip ~~gk~~ my ~~warts~~ warts. And I ~~dip~~ ^{dipped} everyone of them on my ~~hand~~ ^{the} hand, on both hands there. So I got my horse and went back there, got in ~~cattle~~ cattle and horses. And, well, my mom had breakfast ready by that time. I went in there

to eat. Of course, I washed myself there. And then we ate, and ^{we} ~~want~~ out and done our farm work. Well, next morning I done that, the same ~~!~~ [!] without thinking of anything. I never thought of anything at all. So I broke off ^{some of} that weeds and did my warts. ^{And the third morning I went out there} And the ~~third~~ morning I'd ^I wanted to do it then. I broke off a piece there and ~~started~~ ^{trying} to dip them. Well, there wasn't a ^{one of them} ~~wart~~ left on my hand. They was gone; everyone of them was gone. And some of these boys, when they had these boils, well some of them ~~xx~~ just went to work and got one of these we used to call them a horse plier. Well, we'd cut off the horse's hoof. Well, all they did, they just took that plier ~~then~~ and then reached around and ~~pinched~~ ^{pinched} that boil off. Yes, sir.

I. Sounds like it would be pretty painful.

N. It ~~was~~ painful^x but for a short time. But then after that it ^{why} was free.

I. When you had a cold or anything like that, did your mother give you anything ^{to} especially ^{to}...?

N. Well, when we had colds, why in these days they usually had whiskey shipped in. And there's where we ~~would~~ ^{got} ~~get~~ our whiskey. So I remember....

I. You never faked a cold, did you? You never put on like you~~x~~ were having a cold? did you?

N. No, no. ^{Just} When somebody was kinda sick like that with a cold or something like that why we went to work and ~~then~~ got us a oh say a good drink of whiskey. And then we put that in boiling water. Put a little sugar in there. And then drink that just as hot as you could get it down there. And then go to bed and cover up~~x~~ ~~completely~~. And stay there and sweat. Well, if you stayed there ~~xxxx~~ let's say if you took a drink ~~xx~~ like that in the evening, by the next morning you ~~was~~ ^{usually} fresh up. Okay to go to work.

I. How about dancing? Was there folk dancing or square dancing or any kind of dancing then?

N. Oh, yes. Yes. But it didn't bother me at all.

I. Uh, huh.

N. I danced once when I was a kid. I was 13 years old. And my oldest brother and sister, they got married. And there's a lady there, I don't know who she was. I never knew that laddy before, and I didn't know her afterwards either. She grabbed me, and says, "Come on." She says, "We'll ^{we} have to dance onex." I says, "No, ^{I say s,} not me." Well, she was a strong lady so what could I do? I had to go along. So we made three rounds there. And after they quit playing for the third time, why somebody mentioned to me now you have to ~~makexxxxxxx~~ ^{pay} pay the musicians. You see, in these days they didn't hire the musicians. The dances, they always had to pay them.

I. Oh, I see.

N. And I told them, I says, "Nothin' doing." I says, "I'm not going to pay anything for." I says, "I have to work too hard for the dance here and pay on top?" I says, "No," I says, "That's my last." And ~~that's~~ ^{there's} where I quit. No, I never been on... ^{well} I take that back, I was on a dance once. But I was there for something else. I wasn't there to dance. No, I didn't go to dances at all. Of course, we had some dances, they was like barn dances out in the country, ^{But very few.} ~~But~~ In town here they sometimes when they came together, they might dance a little in the evening. But if the priest ever got around, that's too bad.

I. I've heard the expression "play party games". Do you remember if, you ever familiar with something called "play party game?"

N. Well, there's play party games, ^{well,} but still I couldn't explain them just the way we should. You see, we had one of them, ^{and} we'd tie 'em up, blindfold them. ^{and} then we'd walk around.

And we hit ~~on~~^{him} on the back. Well, he had to guess who that was. Well, if he couldn't guess it, why he got another lickin'. And sometimes he got ~~himself~~^{himself, had to be} blindfolded ^{maybe} 10 or 15 minutes before he ever got the right feller ~~who~~^{shot} hit him.

I. He might get pretty sore.

N. Oh ya. ~~Oh~~^{Oh} ya.

I. Well, did they have these "play parties" very often?

N. No, not too often. ~~No~~^{No. No.}

I: Patterson, Ward L.

N: Mrs. C. Elizabeth Stout &
Mr. John Dinkel

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The following are tape recorded interviews with Mrs. C. Elizabeth Stout of Hays, Kansas and Mr. John A. Dinkel of Victoria, Kansas. These interviews are being taped at 3½ inches per second on dual track recording by Ward L. Patterson. The first is being recorded on March 30, 1959; the second May 12, 1959. The first at Hays, Kansas, the second at Victoria, Kansas.

I. You were telling me a little bit about how you happened to come out to Hays and would you. . .?

N. Well, my father was originally a civil war veteran. And there, at the time of the Saltana he was on the boat returning home from the war and the boat exploded. And his back was injured by the smoke stack falling on it and burning him between the shoulders. And after that, he never could work at his trade which was stone mason and brick laying. And finally he had to go, took up clerking in stores. And because of his ability to be very fluent German speaker, he always carried his customers from one store to another. Then he was advised by Mr. J. U. Milner, who had came to Hays and started in the real estate business, to take up the homestead out here also a timberclaim. And in 1877 he came out here and took up a 160 acres homestead and 160 acres of timberclaim, four miles and a half northwest of Hays. And a, had 15 acres of plowed land, pkowed. And in the fall of '77, he had that planted to wheat. And the summer of '78, he raised the largest crop that had ever been raised in the county of Ellis. For 38 bushels to the acre. I'll take that back, that should, 32 bushels to the acre.

I. 32, uh huh.

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N. And that is how we, he wrote to my mother then to pack her clothing and come to Hays. And that's how we came. And we arrived in Hays August 21, 1878.

I. Did you come out on the train or did you. . . ?

N. Yes, took us three days. We left, we started Sunday night at 5 o'clock and we got here Wednesday morning at 1 o'clock. From Kansas City on up they had to fight their way through because they had a hot box.

I. Oh, they did.

N. And the train didn't travel as fast those days.

I. You were telling me. . .

N. I say, have you got it turned on?

I. Yes.

N. Well, I wanted to talk to you first. At the time that one of the fires in Hays swept the south part of Hays and part of the north, there was a large prairie fire out in the country just a mile away from where my home was. One of our neighbors took his little child, wrapped it in a blanket, and carried it out onto the wheat field. Later on, his granery and 500 bushels of wheat was burned. He went out to look after his child and found that the blanket had quite a number of spark holes in it, but the child was uninjured. Mr. Stout had left the house and had told me to walk out if the fire came over the hill, to walk out onto a pine. But the sparks fell right on the porch but never caught. And at the last draw, they finally managed to put the fire out. And in that way, our horses, who had been turned out, were not injured.

I. How was this, that the fire, how did the fire get started?

N. From a burning straw stack.

I. Uh huh.

N. In 1882, when I was a young girl here in, going to school here in town, the soldiers got into a fight on north Main Street. And there was some shooting. One of the men living on the south side of the railroad track, took down his guns and shot, and accidentally shot one of the colored soldiers. Afterwards, the soldiers came back and tried to burn the town, and did set a fire. And quite a part of it was burnt.

Second Interview

N. Well, if you want that story I'll give that to you.

I. Okay, just start off on it.

N. Yeah, he was working there about 10 miles north of Salina.

I. This is one of your cousins?

N. That's one of my cousins, yeah, yeah. That was Mike Koan. Mikel Koan rather. And a, so a, they had to go about 10 miles more north, put up some hay from the farm there. Ah, they's going going back and forth. And a, one day they was out there putting up hay. And my cousin, he was on, was on the hayrack. And the boss, he was picking up hay. They loaded up hay and took two loads home every night when they went home. Went up there early in the morning and then a, they always figured the time, it takes so long to drive home. So they loaded up and took two loads home. But one day he was out there loading hay and just as he's a sitting, the boss hollered, "Mikel, there's a snake!" And they, both of them was bare-footed, they didn't use shoes. And so he chopped up that pitch fork of hay there. And Hallard says, "Mikel, come down here!" He says, "That snake bit me." Well, he just rolled off the hay rack, went down. The

boss pulled out his knife. He says, "Here," he says, "cut off that toe." He says, "That's the toe where that snake bit in there." "No," he says, "Boss," he says, "I can't do that. Ah no," he says, "I couldn't do it." "Oh, come on," he says, "do it and do it right now," he says, "before that ever gets in my blood." "No," he says, "I can't do it." He says, "You're a strong man. You're quite a bit stronger than I am, and you could kill me if I'd a put, cut off your toe." So finally he says, "No," he says, "Mikel," he says, "I won't hurt you a bit." "Well" Mikel, he says, "I can't do it." Well, finally the boss says, "What do you like to see, see me die here or cut off my toe?" Well, when he said that why a, he says, "Okay," he says, "I'll cut it off." So he got him. He laid down and crawled in between these spokes of the wheels, the wagon wheels, and he clamped them in and turned his legs around, sit on top of his face, his head. And took that knife and cut that toe off. He was hollering, oh, he was hollering. But still he kept on a going. Cut that off. And when they had that cut off, they kinda scraped some of that leather on their harness and put that stuff on there and stopped the blood. And they had a, handkerchief wrapped that up. Well, then, after that they loaded their hay and then went on home. Yep.

I. They took care of it?

N. They took care of it. Yep. Next day they went out putting up hay. And a, one time, you always had to go out early in the morning after the cows. And sometimes you got a, the horses was out there too. Well, he got so used to it he knew just where to walk. There's a rock in the hill and a rock on top of the hill, a great big rock laying on top of the hill. And he always walked on top of that rock and looked where the

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cattle was at. So we seen them where they were at. Well, one morning he walked out there. And he didn't think of anything else. He just done his morning prayers. He always done that when he walked out there and prayers. And he walked up and when he was standing on top of that rock there, it started to move. He looked down, and there was a great big snake rolling around. It was a, he mentioned it was something like 12 foot long. And he was lucky enough. He was barefooted. He didn't have no shoes. But he was lucky enough, and he jumped off. And that snake started to coming up head first. And he grabbed a rock and hit the snake just below the mouth. And then he killed it after that. The next morning when he walked out there, he stopped and looked before he stepped on that rock.

I. I'll bet he did.

N. Yeah, yes, sir.

I. Why don't you, since we have got the recorder going now, why don't you tell a little about this train wreck again so we'll have it on tape. I was kinda of interested in that, about your father and how. . .

N. These two men there?

I. Yeah, why don't you tell that on tape.

N. Well, this a, that was in the 90's there, the first part of the 90's, 1890's. The, my dad and one of our neighbors, of course, that was before my time, so they two of them came together and started to talking. They was, they was looking for help down in Salina to work for the railroad. So another fellow, which I don't know his name anymore, he wasn't he got into with them. And so they walked down to Salina. And when he came down, then he started to work for the railroad company there. And

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that time it wasn't the Union Pacific. It was through the, I can't recall the name now in those days. Well, whatever it was, it's now Union Pacific. So they's been working there for a short time. Well, they was laid off. And after they was laid off there, why, they didn't receive their checks right away. They had to wait for their checks. But they didn't want to stay there and wait for that. So they made up their minds, they were going home. And a, they figured they'd walk. My dad had a little money but in his mind he didn't feel that he could ride a train and let the other two buddies walk. So my dad told them, the other two, he says, "We'll go ride a freight train." He says, "We'll go up there by the railroad there and watch that freight. And a, we'll catch three different cars." He says, "I'll take the first one and you take the second and you take the third. But be sure and watch your step. So when that came, the train was about ready to leave, why they all three of them went out there and lined up. And my dad took his car, got up there. He looked around. The other two wasn't up there yet. They missed their car. And the train then was going too fast for him to go down there. So he stayed on it till he got down to Brookville. And there that train stopped. So he made up his mind. He says, "I'd better get off." He says, "I'm riding this train and my two buddies they have to walk, so it isn't right for me." So he got off and that train and sat down in the corner there at the depot there in the dark and went to sleep. And he kept on a sleeping there until next morning. And next morning he woke up why he looked east and he looked west. And he couldn't see his buddies. Finally, he thought, well, he, they might have passed already. I just start out walking slow and maybe they're passed.

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If not, why they're gonna catch up with me anyhow. So he walked until he got up, up to that curb there, right a, ah, a little ways west of that town there. And that whole dog gone train was laying down there. Everything; engine, caboose, and all cars was laying there. Well, he passed that up. He just walked by. And then finally he thought, well these two buddies must be, must be gone. So I just decided I want to walk faster. And he walked faster and finally he noticed something way up in front on the railroad there. And these two buddies of his, why they walked slow and always lokking for Andrew. When they came up to that, that train wreck there, that morning, they never stopped or never slept that night, they just walked through. . . Why they came up to that wreck. Why they searched every car along that rail there that was laying down there, looking for Andres, their buddy. But Andrew wasn't there. Well, they know Andrew must have been dead. Why that wreck they had there why a you couldn't get out alive. So when they was past the engine, why both of them started to pray for Andrew now because Andrew was dead so we'll have to pray for him. And we'll walk home and tell the bad news then. So finally when they was walking slow there, then a and still had their minds on Andrew. He might still, still might be alive, but never can tell. But finally they seen him coming. Of course, they didn't know him at the start. But as he came closer, they noticed him. And they just about started to cry, on account that they met again on the railroad there. And then they walked on home all the way. And they asked Andrew, they says, "How did you get out of that train wreck without being killed there and without even having a scratch on you?" "Well," he says, "I wasn't on that ~~train in Salina, but when we came to~~ train." "You went on that train in Salina." "Yes, I was on that train in

Salina, but when we came to that little town there," he says, "I didn't feel that I should stay on that." He says, "I was feeling you buddies shouldn't have to walk and I was riding that train easy. So, I just got off, sat down in the corner here in the dark and went to sleep." "Well," they says, "We've just passed through that town during the night." Well, when they came hown why they told the story around home here. And finally they says, "Well," he says, "we hope our prayers ain't lost." They'd be as good for somebody else.

I. I'm glad it came out all right. What did the early settlers do for entertainment?

N. Well, they didn't have no entertainment. Well, they builded a building or a house or something like that. Why a, they usually came together and helped these neighbors and friends. They came along and helped. And when they was finished, that person usually got a keg of beer. And that was their entertainment and a payment they had to make for the labor. The a, there wasn't anything like a you'd have to hire a feller to help to build a house or so. In cases, they had to hire a man for a couple of days maybe, a carpenter who done the carpenter work, most of the best things, the main things.

I. Would they be making the sod houses usually then or a. . .?

N. Well, yes. It start in the sod houses. But then later on, they started on the building of these wood houses. On these wood houses, they had to have a little carpenter to help along. Too, that carpenter maybe had a hammer and a saw and maybe one the old four-cornered nails. He made a chisel out of that. And when he built his window frames, well he took that chisel made out of an old iron nail and cut that groove in there

below wher the siding is suppose to go in after they put on the siding. Well, then the door frames, he made. They always fit. Always something about them that wasn't quite straight, but then you'll see them nowadays, too.

I. Well, then how about their threshing then when they had their wheat? How did they go about that?

N. You mean this country here?

I. Yeah.

N. When they put up their harvest, their wheat there, they stacked it up in stacks. They had a, oh at first they had a two, three, four neighbors came together and maybe bought a machine, header machine. And a then they cut that wheat together. The farmers didn't farm much wheat. Only a, on not too many acres. So a, they made that round. They cut this farmer's wheat and the other and so on. All of these pitched in and cut together. And then when the a, that wheat was seasoned enough to thrash, the a, two went together. They had some outsider come in with a thrashing machine. Of course, there's some machines around here too. They had a couple of them around here. There's still one of them up here north of Walker.

I. Oh uh, uh.

N. Ya, there's still a machine there north of Walker. Of course, that wasn't one of the forst ones. And when they started to pitch their wheat in front of the machine there, they would go through the machine. They had eight, ten to twelve horses each to a rig there, oh say about a, 40 feet or something off of the machine. And that do hichey there in German we call it a horsebower; but in English I can't call it just now.

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I know the name, but I can't call it. So this do hickey there, why a with these horses, hitched two behind each other. It was a round thing. They, this, there was a driver right in the middle, standing on the platform. And he started these horses going around and around and around there. And there was a big rod or a big ^{cop} wheel first right under the platform, great big one. And below there was this small ^{cop} wheel with a pipe on there. And that pipe went clear up to the machine. And on that machine, there's the a, the a, pipe there had another ^{cop} wheel there, the other end. And would on the machine. So this big ^{cop} wheel drove, drive this little one. And that pipe driving these two ^{cop} wheels there. And that drive the whole machine there, with these horses. And then they started to pitch in their wheat. And one man, or a woman or whatever it was, he always had to be on the side of the machine. The a, this wheat there, didn't go up when it was all thrashed and all cleaned out. It didn't go up in the elevator. It came down and came out on the side below the machine there. And they had ~~always~~ two bushel baskets there or rather half a bushel pails, they had. And they a, a feller always had to watch that. Just as soon as one of them was full why he pulled that out and set another one under there. And then he put that wheat in a sack. Somebody had to be there with an empty sack to put that wheat in. And they usually put in three a sack, three half of bushels of wheat in one sack, carry that. So they, when he had these a bushels and a half of wheat in there, why he put that on a wagon. Well, he had to take another sack and put that in. Fill that up that much. So when they had their wagon loaded there, how many sacks they wanted on there, well somebody took that wagon, drove it up to the granery. Of course, we didn't, they

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didn't call it granery. They called it a umback.

I. Oh.

N. Yeah. So quite a few of these graneries there, they had a door on the outside. And they had a door and pretty near close to the road. And the steps on the outside walking up there. And these farmers they just took these sacks iith wheat on their shoulders and carried up on these steps and dumped it down in the granery. They never thought about that they could ~~ump~~ that in down below. They always carried that up. And sometimes they was thrashing by the sack, so many bushels in the sack. That's what they have to pay their thrasher man. So they usually was trying to get one man to tie these sacks. They always figured that two bushel in a sack. And they had only but one man who could really tie a sack right close to the top. And this man, when he was available he usually received oh say maybe 50 cents a day just tying these sacks. Or maybe some farmer gave him an overall or a pants. It wasn't overall, these days, it was pants. Just for tying these sacks. Why these sacks, there was two bushel in a sack, and when he tied them, he always had two bushel and a half in there. So these farmers there why he gained that much. So he could have spent that money _____ that it took.

I. Well, how about the schools in the early times? Did they have. . .? How were their schools fixed up?

N. Well, they didn't have no schools. Very little, very little.

I. Mostly, they just spent the time on the farms then?

N. Mostly. Yeah. Yeah. They went to school, well all they learned these days our people, that was German. And they had a couple of months of school, but a, where we lived.

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I. Do you remember any songs that you used to sing either in German or English? Around?

N. Well, we used to sing that, oh what you clal them, a ludalia spespa.

I. Can you sing it for us right now?

N. No.

I. Oh, you better try.

N. Oh, no. When you sing that, you got to have a couple of fellers together.

I. You got to have a couple?

N. Yeah. Yeah, one of them has got to be a leader. The other. . .

I. Oh, I see. Do you remember some of the words or the chorus, do you know? Do you remember what the chorus was or the words?

N. Oh, yeah, I remember some. _____

_____. (Talking in German)

No, I made a mistake. I should have started that different.

I. Should have started in a different spot?

N. Yeah, that's part of it there. ^{1:17}What in English, can you tell me a little of what that means in English?

N. Well, in English that means something like this. This preacher there, why he wanted more money. And so he kinds of made up a song. And it started out at first. In my German I've tried to explain here that should have been pretnear the last. The preacher says, "Now farmers it you don't give me anymore pay, this a, I won't sing anymore of the vespers for you." Well, finally the farmers made up their mind, we'll give him a goose. So when he had that goose there, why a, well he says, "That's

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something." But he said "Taata ain't enough, got to be more." Well, finally they made up their mind; they gave him a hog, a pig. "Well," he says, "That's something, but still that's not enough." So they made up their mind to give him a calf. "Well," he says, "That's helps along, but still there's got to be more." Well, they made up their mind. They gave him a cow. Well, the cow was pretty good. Why he could use that. He could milk that cow and have milk, cream, butter, there. He could use that. But still he wasn't quite satisfied yet. He still wanted more. Well, he says a, farmers there came together and talked it over. He says, "Why not, let's give him a horse, yet." So they gave him a horse. So that preacher started out. He says, "The farmers, theya, they gave me a goose. The goose, he's got a flat foot. Then after that they gave me a pig. The pig's got a split foot. And then after that, why they gave me a calf. And he says, "The calfs' always hollered 'maaaaaa'." And he says, "After that," he says, "they gave me a cow." He says, "I was satisfied with a cow. I got use out of that, but that cow always hollered 'moooooo'." And he says, "The horse they gave me to sell." He says, "But I know they should use that money for the drink and drinking whiskey." He says, "That's the only place where I should spend that money to have a good time is an whiskey." And that's the preacher said, "That's what I'm doing."

I. That's the song then?

N. Yeah, yeah, that's about it.

I. Sounds like that would be a lot of fun to sing.

N. Oh it is. It was. It was. Real fun. Yes sir.

I. Were there any other songs that you remember that you used to sing or heard sing?

N. Well, we used to have songs which just like you would talk here. We would start it out at one end of the town. Well, one of them done the leading. Well he says, "Was you ever at this man's house?" Called him by name. And the other of the, says, "No, we've never been." Well, they walked on. So they just walked one street down; the other street up. As many streets as there was and always kept on a singing. "Was you ever by this family here?" And the other says, "No, we've never been." And then the next fellow why, the next house why a was you ever by this family? "No, we've never been."

I. Just as you went by the house?

N. Went by the house, yeah.

I. Uh huh. On this first song, that you were telling us about just a minute ago when did you especially sing it? Do you remember anytime that you. . . ?

N. Well, we usually sing that in the fall.

I. Uh huh.

N. Most times. See, when we was out a farming. When we was out farming, why we had different farms. And these days we boys, not just we buy all, pertneer all boys, they had to go out on a different place farming. And then we was bachelors. We batched. And I usually had to do the cooking. And in the evening especially on Sundays, Sunday evening when we didn't have anything to do, well a bunch of boys got together out on the farm way out in the open there, and then there's the place where we most of the time sing there. Especially one place there, it was, well it's a

place. It's up in the air base now. There's a family there. There's a little relation to me yet. And we used to go there quite a bit and on Sunday nights or so when we was out there. And there was a time around 8 o'clock, something like that, this a, the children of their families they had to go in praying. Get to go in the house and pray a rosary, every night. Of course we had to do that at home too when we was home. And when they was in praying, why we usually started that song and just as loud as we could. And one of the boys came out again, he says, "Whatever you do," he says, "don't sing that song anymore when we have to go in praying." So we asked why. "Well," he says, "you know our dad, he's a great singer and he likes to hear them songs, and he stops a lot of times with his praying and listen to you out here. But then we have to kneel there and wait til he prays again."

I. Do you remember any other songs like that, that you might have sung?

N. Oh, I couldn't know just how. I wouldn't know any now. Oh, we had quite a few of them, but still not. . .

I. They kinda get away from you?

N. Oh, yeah, yeah, yeah.

I. Do you remember any, remember any cures that you might have had, that were handed down, you know, for different things? When you got sick, did they try anything expecially on you like turpentine or anything like that?

N. Well, yeah, you just say it happened that there was there once. One night there where myself and a buddy of mine, we was running around there, and he wanted to catch me. And my oldest brothers, they put a

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fence, one wire fence. And it was up about oh three feet high from the ground. And that buddy of mine he wanted to catch me, and I just dodged him. And I dodged the fence. And I hollered, "Nick, there's a fence! Nick, there's a fence! Nick lookout there's wire!" Well, he didn't hear me. So he just run along into that wire. And he cut his face and ear. He cut that ear in pieces there. And so we went up to the house. And we came up to the house, oh blood was running all over. Well, all they did they just grabbed an old shoe and scraped the shoe sole, the bottom. Scraped that fine leather off of that and put it on there. Couple of minutes, the blood stopped.

I. Is that right?

N. Yeah, yeah.

I. Do you remember any, well you mentioned that not too much entertainment. Were there any games that you especially played?

N. Well, we had a game there where we played. It was, oh we had a stick there. And a, there's maybe four, five, six boys or girls together there. And we had took an old tin can. It, that kind of a round little. And a we had as many holes as there was boys and girls there. And we had sticks about oh three to four feet long. And we played the, that a, that a, game we called "Housal." So we had one of them, he was in the, had to stay in the center. And whoever hit that can there, and another party could get in each hole. Each one of them had a hole around the outside of the, that center hole. And he always had to keep his stick in there. And then the one in the middle with the can there he hit that can. Either way, didn't matter which way, but he hit that can. And wherever that can went through that feller had to hit that can and so he's got to go some

place else. And that person in the middle, he a, when he had a chance, he just put his stake in this fellow's hole there. So this man, boy had to go in the middle. And a lot of times it took a long time before this boy got out of the middle. Once he got out, off and on. And then we had another game. We called that "Caruker." So we took a round piece of wood that we cut them off from trees, about six inches long and about an inch and a half, tow inches thick, the diameter. Then we had a, let's see two, seven, well no, no, we had two ends. Seven on the, say on the west end and seven on the east end. And they was apart about 20 sticks, something like that. And then there was two or four or six players. Well, each player had a stick. We cut them from the trees too. They was a sticks about oh maybe an inch or little over an inch thick and about two and a half feet long. Well, we made the ring around the a, them small sticks. We set up three of them with the ends up on top of that one's laying on the ground, back end down in the ground. And then we set, laid another two on top of them and one up in the middle. And so that was both ends was the same. And then we tried to throw them out of that ring. We throwed our sticks, what we had. And whoever had them all out first, them short pieces of wood out of that ring, he won the game. Then they had to change. They always had to change. Whenever somebody won a game, they had to go to the circle, but the parties on the east end had to go west. And we played that "Carnica." Well that, and we played that a, oh there's another game. I can't call now.

I. Do you remember how it was played?

N. Well, they still got it, yet now, that they play with these, these a wooden balls here that a. . .

I. Oh a, crochet is it?

N. Ya, crochet. Ya, ya, we played that. Ya, that one farmer up there the farm the air base now, they used to have the blacksmiths out there too. And he was a real sport with crochet. And when there was a couple of fellers came there, they had some plow shears to be sharpened. Well, finally he says, "Why not go out there, and let's have a game of crochet first." Well, so they went out and played a little crochet. And then they went back in and sharpened his shears.

I. Did they ever get in horse races like they do now with cars?

N. The horse races, there's a there was quite a bit. Oh yes. There was quite a bit.

I. Do you remember any especially that sort of stuck in your mind?

N. Well, there's a myself. When I was a bachelor, I used to bach there for 18 months. And boy I had some chickens and hogs and cows. I took a little cream or eggs to town. And one day I took cream to town and always when I drove to town I'd pass my dad's farm. And that day my mom, mother, she went along with me. So we went to town. And I had a little colt, my pony had a little colt. And I had that tied up right side of that pony there. I had that hitched up to a one horse buggy. So one of the neighbor's boys came along, and he passed me up. Well, I couldn't take that. So I just made up my mind. I says, "Pony, come on let's go." So he started out. Well, we there for quite a bit. Of course, my mom stopped me. She says, "Ernest," she says, "that's not the way to do it." She says, "Take it easy. Drive your horse slow. You'll get home anyhow. Let him go," she says.

I. Well, back on this matter of cures, do you remember anything else like well, cures for warts or rheumatism or things like that that people had?

N. Well, I had experience there myself.

I. Oh?

N. This, that was in nineteen hundred and seven or eight or nine, one of the three years now it was. I had my hands full of warts, both of them, completely, fingers and all. I couldn't wash myself clean anymore. It wasn't possible. Well, one morning I started the medicine, but I don't know how or why I done it. I always had, in the morning I always had to take my pony and ride back in the pasture and get our cows and horses. And there's some of that snake milk we'd call it. This grows up straight; and when you break it, it's just like milk. And that morning there, I never thought of anything at all, not a bit. I walked along, and there's so much of that weeds there. And I just broke off a piece and started to dip my warts. And I dipped everyone of them on my hand, on both hands there. So I got my horse and went back there, got the cattle and horses. And, well, my mom had breakfast ready by that time. I went in there to eat. Of course, I washed myself there. And then we ate, and we went out and done our farm work. Well, next morning I done that, the same without thinking of anything. I never thought of anything at all. So I broke off some of that weeds and did my warts. And the third morning I went out there, and the third morning I'd, I wanted to do it then. I broke off a piece there and trying to dip them. Well, there wasn't a one of them left on my hand. They was gone; everyone of them was gone. And some of these boys, when they had these boils, well some of them just went to work and got one of these we used to call them a horse plier. Well, we'd cut off the horse's hoof. Well, all they did, they just took that plier and then reached around and pinched that boil off. Yes, sir.

I. Sounds like it would be pretty painful.

N. It was painful but for a short time. But then after that why it was free.

I. When you had a cold or anything like that, did your mother give you anything especially to. . .?

N. Well, when we had colds, why in these days they usually had whiskey shipped in. And there's where we got our whiskey. So I remember....

I. You never faked a cold, did you? You never put on like you were having a cold, did you?

N. No, no. Just when somebody was kinda sick like that with a cold or something like that why we went to work and then got us a oh say a good drink of whiskey. And then we put that in boiling water. Put a little sugar in there. And then drink that just as hot as you could get it down there. And then go to bed and cover up completely. And stay there and sweat. Well, if you stayed there let's say if you took a drink like that in the evening, by the next morning you usually was fresh up. Okay to go to work.

I. How about dancing? Was there folk dancing or square dancing or any kind of dancing then?

N. Oh, yes. Yes. But it didn't bother me at all.

I. Uh, huh.

N. I danced once when I was a kid. I was 13 years old. And my oldest brother and sister, they got married. And there's a lady there, I don't know who she was. I never knew that lady before, and I didn't know her afterwards either. She grabbed me, and says, "Come on." She says, "We'll, we have to dance one." I says, "No," I says, "not me."

Well, she was a strong lady so what could I do? I had to go along. So we made three rounds there. And after they quit playing for the third time, why somebody mentioned to me now you have to play, pay the musicians. You see, in these days they didn't hire the musicians. The dances, they always had to pay them.

I. Oh, I see.

N. And I told them, I says, "Nothin' doing." I says, "I'm not going to pay anything for." I says, "I have to work too hard for the dance here and pay on top?" I says, "No," I says, "That's my last." And there's where I quit. No, I never been on..well I take that back, I was on a dance once. But I was there for something else. I wasn't there to dance. No, I didn't go to dances at all. Of course, we had some dances, they was like barn dances out in the county, but very few. In town here they sometimes when they came together, they might dance a little in the evening. But if the priest ever got around, that's too bad.

I. I've heard the expression "play party games." Do you remember if, you ever familiar with something called a "play party game?"

N. Well, there's play party games. Yeah, but still I couldn't explain them just the way we should. You see, we had one of them; we'd tie 'em up, blindfold them. And then we walked around. And we hit him on the back. Well, he had to guess who that was. Well, if he couldn't guess it, why he got another lickin'. And sometimes he got himself, had to be blindfolded maybe 10 or 15 minutes before he ever got the right feller that hit him.

I. He might get pretty sore.

N. Oh ya. Oh ya.

I. Well, did they have these "play parties" very often?

N. No, not too often. No. No.

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