

Interview with F.C. "Ted" Bolt Taped January 6th, 1976

B-F.C. Bolt; K-Ron Kuiper

K: Which one is the Dutch school?

B: This is the Dutch school. That used to stand on the corner of where the Savings and Loan is now.

K: I see.

B: They used to call it the Dutch school.

K: Why was it so called?

B: The Christian School.

K: Is that the Christian School there?

B: Ya, the old two-story one, wooden one.

K: The one on the top.

B: Ya, in the corner. And then they made it into a printing shop; Pippel-Patterson printing shop was there.

K: Well, I'll be. I didn't know that.

B: Right where the Savings and Loan is. The Columbus Street School and the old White School. It stood on the playground on Seventh Street. That's the Beechtree School. That's where I went to school the first three years, on the corner of Pennoyer and...

K: Beechtree. Where Bolt Park is.

B: That's right. My dad taught school there for 15 years.

K: Yes.

B: And that one-gosh, what is that one?

K: They are labeled.

B: Ya.

K: On the bottom somewhere. You'd have to read that carefully down there.

B: Ya. My eyesight isn't that good. Ho, ho, ho, ho.

K: I got that picture from Mrs. Vanden Bosch, the elderly lady from our church.

B: Ya. That was before my time, when the school was here. That was 1912. (Noise) Oh, boy. Columbus Street. The girls' cloakroom and the boys' cloakroom.

K: Is that what you see there on the Beechtree School there? The girls' cloakroom on the left and the boys' on the right?

B: The front entrance. I wonder what that one is.

K: At the Beechtree School, did the boys and girls play on the same playground?

B: No, the girls were on this side of the school and the boys on this side.

K: Was there a wall in between?

B: Ya, a fence in between back here. There was a lawn up here. You didn't play on the lawn; you played in the backyard.

K: But there was a fence in between where the boys played and the girls played.

B: The girls stayed on this side and the boys on the other side.

K: Things have changed, haven't they?

B: (Noise) over the fence in the backyard. A pump in the back, in the kitchen, or in the woodshed on the back of the building.

K: You can still see where the pump was?

B: That's the back end of...

K: Oh, yes.

B: On the back end of the school, where they had the woodshed. A pump in the hallway.

K: Was that...was it the duty of the students to pump the water?

B: Ya, you helped yourself.

K: If you wanted a drink, you'd pump it. Was there a tin cup or something to drink out of?

B: If you wanted to get a drink, there was a pail, a pail and a cup. A pail and a dipper.

K: Oh, you'd ladle it out.

B: Ya, or pump it out.

K: And how was that school heated?

B: A stove, in the back end here.

K: Was that a duty of students to...?

B: No, the teacher took care of it.

K: The teacher took care of keeping the school warm, chopping the wood, etc?

B: Miss Cherry was the teacher, and my dad was the teacher for awhile-for about 15 years. He taught the ungraded school here on Jackson Street, too, for a time.

K: I see.

B: They had what they called the ungraded school. That was for the kids _____ and couldn't go any higher.

K: So here's some more pictures. I know they are familiar to you. These pictures have to do with the fishing industry.

B: The H.J. Dornbos.

K: Ya. Remember the nets, the way they used to dry those fish nets all the time?

B: _____ They'd widen them and turn the thing and dry them off, and get them ready for putting them in the lake again the next day.

K: Did you ever go out in one of those fishing tugs?

B: My grandfather owned a couple of them. Van Zanten. Van Zanten and O'Beck.

K: Van Zanten and O'Beck. I talked to Miss...to Marie O'Beck. She's a daughter of...

B: Her father and my grandfather were in the fish business together. At the end of...at the end of Franklin Street. That's where the fish house was, where the park is now, across from Wessel's.

K: I see.

B: Wessel's station.

K: I see. I see.

B: That was the old custom house.

K: And...and that...that, I understand, is where the fish store is now. It used to be the Pizzarea.

B: No. No, this...I don't think it's that one. It's one further up, at the corner of Franklin and Water Street.

K: Which...

B: I don't know, because they had a custom house here, too.

K: Mm-hmm. I got that picture from Cornelius Rink who was a fisherman. You know him, I'm sure.

B: Casey Rink.

K: A nice, old...a nice man.

B: _____ He had cancer, cancer of the throat. Bill Krause, Ed Kinkema. (Mr. Bolt is speaking in such low tones, it is impossible to understand what he is saying.) Orrie Poffen (?) was drowned off one of these tugs.

K: Do you remember that story?

B: He fell off the back end. See, they put the fish out in the nets, they'd lift the nets and then the fish would come out of there. Well, the fish nets would be all full of scales and stuff. So they'd wash the nets off the back end of the boat, let it go in one side and then the other guy would pick it up. He was washing the nets on...they did that on the way back home after they lifted the nets. And Orrie Poffen was out of the back end doing that. And they looked out and he wasn't there. There was a fish box floating on the rear of the tug so they turned around, too, but he had his rubber boots and oiled apron on so he couldn't survive.

K: Ya. Do you know which boat he dropped off...?

B: He dropped off the Dornbos.

K: Off the Dornbos?

B: I'm quite sure that was the Dornbos. I may be wrong; I've forgotten the details.

K: The fishing industry survived the Depression pretty well, didn't it? You know, it didn't...

B: Well, here about, oh, eight years ago-six or seven-they had botulism in the smoked fish, you see, and that just killed it.

K: Ya, that killed...

B: They wouldn't let them smoke fish anymore.

K: But back in the 30's, they were still...that industry survived fairly well, didn't it?

B: Ya. Ya, they were going strong in the 20's yet. That was before 1900 and after 1900 for about 20 years. Then the bottom started to drop out because they overfished. Everybody and his brother were fishing and you can't have that many boats out of all the ports that were here, you see, and maintain the _____ of the crop.

K: But unlike a lot of businesses, that one at least kept going during the Depression, maybe on a reduced scale.

B: Ya. But that had gone down pretty well because my dad left it in 1920 and went in the insurance business. It was running down then.

K: But you're saying then that it ran down more because of a lack of fish than because of the Depression?

B: Well, ya. (Noise) Now what's that a picture of?

K: Well, that's the burned fish house, the Dornbos fish house. Do you remember when that burned down?

B: Yes. Ya, ya, ya, ya. They burned out there, too. My dad's fish house was on that...right on Fulton Street here, two blocks down. The ice house and the packing house and the office was on Fulton Street then. DeSpelder Street wasn't through there then. The smoke house was on the back end alongside the Minnie ditch. The ditch ran where Fulton Street...or where Columbus Street is now. That's...that wasn't open.

K: But now by the fish house, you mean the place where they sold the fish?

B: Ya, that's where they picked them up from the river here and brought them and packed them. Or put them into brine so they soaked overnight in brine. And then they strung them up the next morning on long, black poles. Heads up by the gills, a string around the gills, and then put them over a fire built in the ground in the smoke house, you see. You'd carry them in the smoke house over a board and then when they had them strung up in rows, then they'd build a fire under them and smoke the fish. That's what's called smoke fish. It would give them a brown glaze.

K: And it also preserved them, didn't it, for awhile?

B: Ya. Ya.

K: Probably better than...

B: Not forever though.

K: No.

B: Smoked fish, in hot weather, they were hard to preserve. The biggest trade was in Boston. They smoked them and put them in refrigerator cars in Grand Rapids, or even here in the interurban they had a refrigeration unit, and they'd carry them to Grand Rapids and they'd get the Michigan Central, New York Central, out to Boston where there was a market for the fish.

K: Well, that just tells where I got the picture from. That's...

B: Nancy Dornbos.

K: Right.

B: Her grandfather, H.J., was...you know, his brother, Gerrit.

K: Ya, now...

B: I'm trying to see who that is.

K: The Frank Edwards, that one is dated 1892. So you're right. That fishing industry was going at the turn of the century.

B: I don't know where this was unless it was at the end of Columbus Street, or at the end of Franklin Street. Around where that park is now, right across from the (noise) Dornbos on the flag.

K: Do you remember when Wessel's station wasn't there and when that building behind it ran way to the sidewalk? Now the Tip-A-Few Tavern?

B: Ya, and behind it was the old Riverview Rooms and they had a wooden building in front of that.

K: They called it the Andres House at one time.

B: That's right. Ya.

K: And that included what is now the Tip-A-Few, I think. It ran all the way to the...to Water Street and it had a big canopy coming over the sidewalk.

B: Ya, a long walk. A long canopy with chairs under the canopy so you could sit there against the back of the building. And they had a bar in the front of it, a hotel and a bar.

K: Ya, somewhere I have a photograph.

B: In those days, they called it a saloon.

K: Ya, in those days. Before prohibition they called them saloons.

B: There's Dewey Hill, across the river, I think, in this location over here. Gosh, that's an old one because it looks like the old railroad track is there.

K: Sure.

B: And it looks like the railroad barn.

K: And look at the fishing vessel. It's a sailing vessel.

B: Now, see, they had steam here by the time I came along. And then a Dutch family came over here from the Netherlands with their sailing vessel. They were going to show them how to fish here on Lake Michigan. It didn't go.

K: No. It was a thing of the past, wasn't it?

B: Ya.

K: Harry Lock's father was a fisherman, wasn't he? Or his grandfather.

B: Harry Lock?

K: Harry's grandfather.

B: Ya, Harry's father was a milkman out on Ferry Street here. Of course, the family later on moved to town here.

K: Yes. But his grandfather had one of...had a sailing vessel.

B: Ya.

K: He went out into Lake Michigan and caught fish.

B: Look at those old straight, up and down boards. _____ on this picture here. Well, that's H.J> Dornbos and Brother right on the building. That was before the day of trucks.

K: Mm-hmm.

B: They loaded them on wagons. Those white aprons was quite a thing. Who are those people? January '75-Dungry (?). I don't remember that name Dungry. That was 1907-I was 10 years old.

K: Some of the fishermen tell me that they used to help the car ferries out as ice-breakers.

B: Ya, that's right.

K: And the other way around, too.

B: Yup. Everybody helped the other fellow. There's the old bridge That could be quite a...I wonder what...they used to go from the end of Washington Street over to Ferrysburg to do what they called "slab up," you see. They had the lumber mills over there and that would be the remains of a log after you had cut all the boards off from them. Those were slabs and they made good heat for the boiler.

K: Oh.

B: Then they would buy it instead of coal.

K: Oh, I see.

B: And then, of course, they had coal. And gasoline followed coal.

K: That's interesting though. It was inexpensive fuel, wasn't it?

B: Ya, it was waste.

K: That was good ecology.

B: Sure.

K: They were using that slab material for energy.

B: For steam, ya. Then there's the old mill that stood in the Grand Trunk yards. What did they call that?

K: The elevator is what it was called?

B: Ya. And wheat came into here, you see. They used to raise a lot of wheat out in the country here.

K: And it was ground there into flour?

B: No, it was stored there and then shipped across the lake.

K: As wheat. It was shipped across as wheat.

B: It was shipped to Chicago and Milwaukee.

K: It was shipped across as wheat so it wasn't really a mill.

B: No, it was for storage. The old Johanna, Pete Fase's boat.

K: Ya, that was a steel boat.

B: They used to be open in the front here, you see. They had no decks or coverage here. It was just open. And the seas would hit you! Boy, there were terrible storms that you'd get caught in out there. It's a wonder we didn't have more accidents.

K: Well, what were the names of the boats that you used to go out in?

B: Well, grandpa had the Anna and the Meister. And grandpa Van Zanten was engineer on the Annie and O'Beck was on the Meister. They were the owners.

K: I have a picture of the Meister somewhere.

B: Grandpa wasn't the captain; he was the engineer.

K: The guy in the white shirt here is Art...?

B: No, I was wondering if that was Art Hopkins. That's the only one I can think of. That looks like Teddy Highland but, golly, he was killed in World War I in 1928. I used to sit in a double seat with him.

K: In school?

B: Ya. That looks like his face, but I don't know. Somebody would have to refresh my memory on them as to what faces those are. There's the old life saving station.

K: Adrian Fisher, after whom that boat was named, lived at 826 Washington before this house was here?

B: _____ the Fisher house and dad moved it back to the end of the lot here and put the new house here in 1913. And that burned the night I came home from Ann Arbor in 1918, February 8th or 9th. Oh, boy, that was some winter! I got caught in Grand Rapids; I couldn't get home. The last interurban, I chased it from downtown out Leonard Road. I saw it go over the hill. I went back to the Panlind Hotel and stayed there. I got out the first thing in the morning. The coal wagons were out delivering coal. I can hear those wheels-they didn't have runners on them-I can hear those wheels go over the snow yet when it's cold; you know, you get that crunch, crunch, crunch.

K: Mm-hmm.

B: And the next morning I was back in the _____. Oh, boy, three or four of them stuck there.

K: Those are Goodrich steamers and/or car ferries.

B: Ya. Four of 'em. That's a car ferry but I can't see the rest of them. _____ Vanden Berg was the principal of the Christian School. That's Doris Schmitt-she married Adrian Ringelberg.

K: Oh. She's still alive.

B: Sure. You betcha. Quite a woman. I don't know who that little squirt is there. Oh, man. Who did I say that was?

K: Vanden Berg.

B: Frank Vanden Berg? Yup. (Noise) And that's what they _____ when they came to have their picture taken. Miss Aldrink was the teacher. We had fourth grade. They had four grades in each Beechtree (?) then. And then when I got in the fourth grade, the school got too big so they sent us downtown the early part of the year. I got in Miss Aldrink's room.

K: Instead of...?

B: Instead of Miss Hiler's room. Who was that you said?

K: Miss Radeke.

B: Miss Radeke. Julia Radeke. Claude Van Hoef, he lived on Ferry Street. Oh, boy. That's my brother right there-Art.

K: The Congregational Church. And your brother Art is just to the...

B: Where the Fire Department is. Right here.

K: Oh, he's the second one to the right of that door?

B: The first one to the right of the teacher there. There's the teacher.

K: Oh, yes.

B: I think that's _____ Robertson. That's A.J. Now where's...

K: Miss Pickett is the teacher.

B: Here's Sid Justema's wife.

K: I see.

B: He used to be in the insurance business. And prior to that, he was in the shoe store business.

K: The third from the right, first row.

B: That's Jeanette Vander Meiden. Where's...>Cora Van Coevering is in here somewhere, too. Mrs. Fred Beukema. Oh, boy.

K: The Second Reformed Church was used as a classroom, too?

B: Ya, where the Seventh Day Adventists are now, the old Second Reformed Church. They had kindergarten in the basement.

K: Oh. When were you at the Beechtree School? For what grades?

B: The Beechtree School? For first...uh, three and part of the fourth.

K: I see.

B: And then downtown from the fourth on. _____ they started to make barrels and stuff which wasn't a good venture.

K: That's what they made at the Kilbourne mill, too, didn't they? They made kegs and pails.

B: Ya. That's my dad and two uncles, Jake Dykema and Ed Kinkema. Dad took over because Uncle Jake was a...a...oh _____ buying Kilbourne's mill and continuing to make these kegs and barrels. Oh, boy. Oh, boy.

K: Ya, I don't know...

B: That looks like the old Kilbourne Mill there near the water but...whew...I can't place it.

K: Dr. Philander Palmer.

B: Ya, Doc Palmer used to live on the end of Washington Street here in the 1300 block, beyond where I was born. He used to make cough medicine.

K: He made cough medicine?

B: Yup. Dr. Palmer. We'd go for medicine for a cold and we always got a bottle of cough medicine there. He lived in the second house from the corner of Ferry Street, on the north side. _____ I wouldn't have recalled him if I'd met him on the street. Dr. Philander Palmer. Huh.

K: Ya, I have a lot of pictures of him. You see...you see, his granddaughter was Carrie Palmer who, I believe, was a friend of your sister.

B: Ya, ya. Carried lived right in our neighborhood. She had the Sweet Shop down here on the corner of First and Washington Street.

K: Where Smitty's Bar is.

B: Smitty's Bar is there now. Yes, she had a good place there. And then Van Wessem bought it. Jim Van Wessem came to town here. He had been in Grand Haven and came back to town. What did he...ya, he was mayor for awhile. He was on the Council.

K: Well, Dr. Palmer died in 1914.

B: was it that late yet?

K: Ya. He practiced medicine here for 30 years or so. He had really no medical training that I know about.

B: They called him Doc Palmer.

K: He...he was a great fisherman, people have told me.

B: Ya. Well, Presley was, too. The Presley that lived across from the bank downtown.

K: Do you know where Dr. Palmer's office was?

B: Ya, right in his house on...second house from the corner beyond Ferry Street. Not Ferry, come on...Griffin Street.

K: On Griffin Street, north of Washington?

B: Griffin and Washington, that corner. Griffin goes this way.

K: Yes. And it was the second house...

B: The second house on the right-hand side, across the...across Griffin Street.

K: The second house on the east side then.

B: Because I was born at 1221 Washington and he was...

K: But he also had an office downtown.

B: It could be. Could be.

K: Do you remember where Van I. Witt's Drug Store was?

B: Yup. Ya.

K: Is that where Jonker's Hardware is now?

B: Yes, just about there. Of course, Ver Kyle (?) was in there before? And the Cheap Cash Department Store was there-Vander Zalm's.

K: See, I think he practiced...I think he had an office there and I have his medicine kit right now and a lot of the medicines came from Van I. Witt's. The morphine and all that stuff. Some syringes.

B: Vander Veen had the other drug store down where Bob...(laughs)...where Johnny Mulder had his drug store afterwards. Old Hank Vander Veen, with his skull cap on. Van I. Witt.

K: Well, Jacob Barr had a drug store, too, didn't he? Now that was where Steiner's is.

B: Ya.

K: Wasn't it?

B: Ya, ya. Who did I say that was, Vander Veen?

K: Ya. I don't know where Jacob Vander Veen was. Jacob Vander Veen was a brother of Christian Vander Veen.

B: Mm-hmm.

K: Jacob Vander Veen was a tall, thin fellow.

B: Mm-hmm, as I recall.

K: Well, Palmer...Palmer was interesting. I have his medicine kit. I have his shingle.

B: Oh. Whew...they got that place...the resort...

K: The Bil-Mar?

B: Ya, the Bil-Mar. They're talking about cutting in two in order to meet the so-called requirements of an ordinance here.

K: But you see right now it's in the process of being moved.

B: Ya. That's the dancing pavilion.

K: This is being moved right now, you see. You see the horse and the capstan? And there's a cable there, and it's raised. And that's being done by Fred Palmer, the son of Doc Palmer.

B: Yup. Ya.

K: Carrie Palmer's father.

B: Yup.

K: He was in that house moving business for many years. And...

B: The old...let's see that's the walk there. (Noise)

K: The raffles weren't.

B: They couldn't play cards there. Let's see, what else couldn't you do? A couple other things. But you could go in the back door of a saloon and be alright. (laughs)

K: Ya. You remember Baker of the Beudry Laundry baseball team?

B: William T. Baker. That's the father...that's _____ father. Young Bill's father. And the older brother was Fred. Oh, boy.

K: Ya, I would imagine...

B: What became of that building?

K: I don't know. I wish I knew. I have some...

B: I don't know. Is that in the process of being moved further south here? There's the present building.

K: It looks to me...

B: Ya. Because there was another building there where they had the concession and the bath houses. Of course, they had two separate...at one time, they had some bath houses up here, as I recall, and then some down here, too.

K: Well, here's...

B: They had knot holes in them. You could see from one to the other. That was when that concession was open there.

K: Now that...(Noise) Steve Munroe?

B: Ya, Steve Munroe and two brothers.

K: Ya. Steve owned a lot of what is now Highland Park.

B: Ya. And was Steve the one that had the property where the Elks is now? The house stood out in the road and then they moved it up the hill on Third Street and it became George Olson's house. It's up there yet.

K: I think so. He was also the man who started the dummy line.

B: Ya.

K: That is, the steam-pulled thing. It ran from in front of the armory to Highland Park. It went right in front of the armory to Washington, down Washington to Water where it turned left and then went to Highland Park. And it ran from...(Noise)

B: _____ from there and the meals were served downstairs here.

K: Did the townspeople get in there to dance now and then, too?

B: No, not as a rule. It was pretty well restricted to the school. The girls used to dance with each other. We used to stand outside and watch them. That's where the teachers lived.

K: Ya, you went to church right across the street, didn't you?

B: Mm-hmm. The Yerkes sisters were the ones that ran it.

K: Mm-hmm. How did the townspeople look upon that school? Did they think it was just kind of elite?

B: Ya, on that order. They figured that, well, that the kids came from broken homes or people that wanted to send their children away to a school, a finishing school. There was a difference.

K: Well, wasn't it kind of a prestigious place, too?

B: Ya, a girls' college. A girls' private school.

K: Ya. It was not only broken homes, it was also a preparatory school for people who wanted their kids to have a good academic preparation for...

B: And not get too far away from home. The next thing was to see how far they could get away...send them away, see, before those days, because the girls as a rule didn't go on to the university. There were just a comparatively few. Now everybody and his sister goes.

K: _____ you went to?

B: No, this is the one I went to.

K: You went to the middle one here.

B: Ya. Ya, and I was in the fourth grade here. No, the building around the corner, the fourth grade. The fifth grade across the hall here. The sixth grade up there, and seventh grade _____ on the end of Washington Street, and the Grand River. You could smell the smoke way out there. And finally I came home and found out the big church was burning and I walked all...ran all the way downtown there. They had these big red colored glasses in their windows and the kids used to get a stick and poke 'em out, you see. And they'd have something to remember the church by.

K: A souvenir.

B: Ya.

K: Henry Tysman told me that often some people from the Christian Reformed Church...in those days they sang...the services were all in Dutch and they sang Dutch songs, and he said that some of the younger people, like himself, used to, in the evenings, go to the First Reformed Church where they sang...they sang those lively hymns and...

B: Or the Second Reformed.

K: Or the Second Reformed...

B: The Presbyterian, you didn't dare to go to. I hardly dared to go to the Reformed Church either, but some of them did.

K: Mm-hmm.

B: What's this, Spring Lake?

K: The Sheldon mineral springs. It was also called the Cutler Annex or the Norris House.

B: That's right. Now is this part of that, too?

K: No, this was...

B: The Cutler House, it says.

K: No, this was in 1905.

B: It almost looks like the inside of the Highland Park Hotel.

K: I have pictures of that, too. Does that look like Dr. Vander Veen to you?

B: It could be him. He had a mustache. It looks like he's got one there. As I recall, it could very well be.

K: You don't remember the old Cutler House do you? That burned in 1889.

B: That was before my time.

K: That was before you.

B: This I remember here, the old picket fence that they had across here and the band concerts they had here.

K: They used to have band concerts in the...

B: Mm-hmm. In the park here, in the grass way. And they used to have walks around here.

K: Now did you get inside the Cutler House ever when it was a hotel? Here's what some of the interior looks like.

B: I don't think so. Isn't that sparse though? Gosh!

K: Ya.

B: _____ stuff and eat around the post.

K: Ya. You would have very little reason to get in there either, you know.

B: Boy, oh boy, oh boy.

K: Do you remember that?

B: We always had our Sunday School picnics up here on the grounds.

K: How would you get there?

B: On the interurban. Come around Grand Haven to the junction. And then you'd go to Grand Rapids from the junction or to Fruitport or Muskegon.

K: Yes. Did you ever take the Fanny M. Rose?

B: Ya.

K: For the Sunday School picnic?

B: Ya. And they they'd sing "Pull for the Shore, Sailor, Pull for the Shore."

K: Was that a song that people would sing in the boat?

B: Ya. I forget the rest of it. (Singing) "Pull for the shore, sailor, pull for the shore. Heed not the _____ but pull for the shore. Da, da, da, da, da, da, de, da." (laughs)

K: What was their signal for the Fanny M. Rose to pull for the shore? Would somebody...

B: Well, this was on the boat, you see. Everybody was feeling good and there wasn't much else to do from the time they came from Fruitport to Grand Haven, so you _____ by singing.

K: But there were a lot of stops along Spring Lake, weren't there?

B: Ya, ya.

K: ...For the Fanny M. Rose. Now would people just stand and wave? Did they raise a flag or something?

B: They'd put a flag up, or stand on the shore. Stand on the dock.

K: _____ that office?

B: Once or twice. We had the alumni banquet there. Soon after I got of high school, the year I got out, we had it at the Spring Lake Hotel. Then later on, we had it here in the dining room. And I was the chairman of the meeting that night.

K: Do you remember Captain McBride?

B: Yup. On the Goodrich. Captain McBride. He got blind. His story used to be, "I'll tell you when I see you."

K: Now he was a...

B: Civil War veteran.

K: Ya. In the battle of Shiloh, wasn't he?

B: I forget. Could be.

K: Didn't he used to come around to the schools and tell about his Civil War experiences?

B: Ya, ya. And Farr did, too, an attorney here. And Judge Soule and, oh, some of the others. It was quite a deal. They'd get them on Memorial Day to speak to your class in school. Yup. It was quite a deal.

K: Do you remember Nelson R. Howlett?

B: Ya. Ya, he lived up on Spring Lake.

K: Ya, he was...

B: In the winter, he'd come in town here. And they had a relative that stayed with them; Marie Grant was her name, as I recall it.

K: Well, Howlett also lived in the Cannon house for awhile, the house that...

B: That Ethel Cannon lives in.

K: The house that Ethel Cannon lives in now. But in, oh, about 1868 he married a girl named Sara Munroe who was a sister of Steve Munroe.

B: Mm-hmm.

K: And the marriage lasted about two years and it's shrouded in mystery. There was a divorce. At any rate, Marian Kline, who gave us these pictures...Steve Munroe was part of the transition in this community from lumbering to a small business economy, I think, along with Dwight Cutler.

B: Mm-hmm. About that time.

K: Around the turn of the century, lumbering was done.

B: I never saw these long boats on the water here. That was probably a good long time ago. The Sally...

K: William M. Savidge sloop.

B: Ya. It looks like the Sally. It seems to me I remember that name.

K: Okay. Here's a lumber mill located on the...on the...where Emlaw Boyson's store...it's right where those piles of coal are now by the power company. Now here's the South Channel and here's the Grand River.

B: Ya, ya.

K: Emlaw Boyson's store. I'm sure those names are familiar to you. You probably knew the Emlaw family.

B: There was a big ice house in here later.

K: I know that when George Kehoe came to Grand Haven, he roomed with a lady by the name of Emlaw. She rented him a room.

B: Mm-hmm. Did she live on the corner of Franklin Street here?

K: I think so. Yes. And it's probably...

B: Mrs. Boyce lived on (noise). Shem Boyce's widow.

K: Ya. Here's the Cutler-Savidge lumber mill.

B: Mm-hmm.

K: Now they had two locations. One was...

B: One was on Spring Lake.

K: They were both on Spring Lake...well, ya..._____ You once told me that he had a very classic signature, a nice handwriting. I think you once mentioned that to me.

B: As I recall, that was quite a signature.

K: I can show that to you. I'm sure you can find it too in bank documents, but I have a number of letters he wrote to his children.

B: His daughter-in-law was a Red Cross secretary after World War I for years.

K: Okay.

B: Lived right back of the bank.

K: This is Grand Haven Furniture.

B: Grand Haven Furniture Store. That's where the Grand Haven...the Ottawa County...

K: Road Commission?

B: Road Commission is now, as I recall it.

K: Okay.

B: And Kilbourne's mill was right in there, too. That's where my dad and uncle...Uncle Jake had their cooper shop for awhile.

K: The Kilbourne mill was farther west though.

B: Ya. Very likely. As I recall, it was.

K: It was farther west than the...where the Road Commission is.

B: It was...well, the railroad track is in there yet, I think.

K: Oh.

B: On this side of it. As I recall-but I could be wrong. Kilbourne...that's the...

K: That's the Silas Kilbourne.

B: Ya. Yup, yup.

K: The Challenge Corn Planter.

B: My, my, my.

K: Ya. The Greenhouses of George Hancock.

B: Mm-hmm. That's where Frank's greenhouse is.

K: Where Frank's greenhouses is, is that it?

B: There's the Catholic Church, that used to be the Catholic...

K: Until they put the highway in.

B: There's the Congregational Church. That could be the German church, too.

K: Ya, there are two churches there. And that would be the Evangelical and Reformed Church. That's what you mean by the German church?

B: You see, the street didn't go through here then. It stopped at Pennoyer.

K: Mm-hmm. Okay.

B: That greenhouse is there yet, I think.

K: That was on Ferry Street, D.W. Miller's...?

B: We walked down the railroad track, and that's the big barn they had.

K: The piano factory, during a holiday or something.

B: Ya, that almost looks like the place on Franklin Street where the Old Presbyterian Church was. It almost looks like a church steeple behind there.

K: Yes, it does.

B: Now what did you say this was?

K: The piano factory, probably before they went for a picnic or something. They used to get on the Naomi or the Nyak and often they'd go to Jenison Park in Holland. There's the Story and Clark baseball team. I think that's Henry Tysman right there. You know him, don't you?

B: Ya. And Neal DeGlopper and McGilvery. McGilvery used to pitch for...let's see. McGilvery was pitcher, and let's see. Who was the catcher? "Right in the hole, Mac. Right in the hole. Put her right in the hole, Mac. Put her right in the hole." Gosh, who was that? DeGlopper was (noise)...

K: Do you remember when they used to have picnics at Pottawatomie?

B: The farmers' picnics.

K: The farmer's picnics. Now do you remember the German Arbiters Union, or the Arbiters...

B: Ya, that was across from Story and Clark down here on First Street.

K: They used to have picnics up there too, didn't they?

B: Ya, I guess so. I remember more the farmers' picnic than the Arbiters.

K: The farmers' picnics were held on the Highbanks.

B: Ya. There was the Highbanks and Germania Park. There were two different parks there. One was on the left side before you went around the bend, across the channel _____, and the other was right down there...

K: Well, wait a minute. Let's go...you go up Mercury Drive and you cross Pottawatomie Bayou...

B: Before you get to Pottawatomie, on the left, where George Kehoe lives.

K: What was there?

B: That was Germania Park, as I recall. Or was that Pottawatomie? There were two. One was Pottawatomie across the channel there, and the other was on this side. You could have a picnic in either place, as I recall it.

K: Oh, that's interesting to me because that's where I live.

B: Where George Kehoe lives, his house. Does George still live out there? _____ on the train from Chicago. He was on there and I couldn't remember what his name was and finally afterwards, I found out who he was.

K: George Kehoe.

B: George Kehoe. Oh, boy, is that a long time ago! Whew!

K: Ya, he...he really is...

(End of Side One)

K: Do you remember Nat Robbins, the...?

B: Nat Robbins and Al Johnson was the ones that ran the Milwaukee...were in charge of the Milwaukee station here. This was the Milwaukee boat and across the road was the Robbins one, the Chicago boat, the Alabama. I was down there the night the Naomi was towed in, the morning after burned out in the lake.

K: I'll show you some pictures of that.

B: I remember seeing them bring the first body off the boat.

K: Oh, really?

B: Ya. There were five or six of them that burned, I think. I remember that I was in the fourth of fifth grade and went back to school and told Miss Van Dyke that the Naomi had burned in mid-lake. She said, "I know it." (laughs) And that looks like a Broekema almost.

K: And those men couldn't get out of that boat because the portholes were too small, right?

B: They were down in the hold, you see, engineers and...Old Henry Tysman. He's thankful for every breath he draws, I guess.

K: Ya. He's a...Yes, I think he is thankful for every breath he draws. He has a...he's always in a good mood and...

B: A gentle person.

K: Yes. I like him. I like people like that.

B: All there was across here was a life saving station.

K: Well, do you remember how you got back and forth?

B: Mm-hmm.

K: Do you remember the little boat?

B: Sure. And there's the boathouse. That's where the boats went up the slide and they were stored, the lifeboats.

K: Yes.

B: And when you wanted to go across, why you would flag them and then they'd come over and get you. And if you wanted to leave something, you'd put a nickel or a dime in the bottom of the boat when you got out-whatever side you were going, here or coming back. Lifesavers...that's what they did for recreation. Of course, they walked at night up and down the shore, you see. They had to watch on shore every night.

K: Oh, did they?

B: Sure. Sure, they'd come across the lake here and then walk south toward Holland then come back. That was the patrol.

K: You mean along the beach?

B: Sure.

K: They'd walk just like they were doing guard duty, just to watch out for a boat that was in trouble?

B: Yup. They'd patrol.

K: Wasn't this adequate? Couldn't they see from that?

B: No. No, that was just a lighthouse. That was too far away in case anybody...they had to have somebody on the shore.

K: In order to...if you look carefully on here, there's a little boat coming across. I kind of think that's the taxi boat. This is the lifesaving boat, I believe.

B: Ya, that's the crew in it.

K: Ya. But the only way people had to get from one side to the other was that little boat.

B: Ya, otherwise they had to walk way around Ferrysburg.

K: Ya.

B: There was nothing on the shore. It was all open space.

K: See, this picture came from the Steve Munroe collection, too.

B: Judge Soule owned most of that North Shore here, you see.

K: Judge Shoal?

B: Judge Soule.

K: Soule? S-O-U-L-E?

B: Ya. A Civil War veteran. And he owned that whole beach. And young Ed...that was Charles that he _____ . Ed was an attorney here in town. He didn't have much _____. He went to California.

K: Do you remember Leo Lillie?

B: You bet. Ike Lillie.

K: He, among other things, represented Eagle Ottawa, I believe, during that big strike in 1936.

B: Ya.

K: He and his young partner, Howard Fant.

B: Yup.

K: I think that...

B: Harvey Scholten was...who was his first partner, Harvey or Howard?

K: I think...well, Fant was involved in that strike. He was probably there before Harvey Scholten.

B: One was ahead of the other and I forget which one it was now.

K: Do you mean who was the attorney for the other?

B: No. Harvey and Fant both served in Leo Lillie's office.

K: I see. You don't know which one was first.

B: As I recall, one was earlier than the other.

K: Ya.

B: I think it was Ike...or...I don't know whether it was Howard or...

K: Do you remember that windmill?

B: That was Roossien's on Ferry Street. No, wait. This was on...ya, Ferry Street. I was thinking of Beechtree. This is Ferry Street, over here where the shopping center is. That house still stands there.

K: That windmill is on Ferry Street then.

B: Ya, across this way. This is to the west of it. They had...we used to get skating on a pond-we called it Emil Bos's (?) -and I fell in there. I got too near the edge and went through the ice...ran all the way home. That was on Ferry, North Ferry.

K: North Ferry, near the end of Ferry?

B: Ya, sure. There's the river. The house still stands there. The greenhouse is on Ferry Street.

K: Oh, yes.

B: There are greenhouses to the south here and there are greenhouses to the north.

K: Okay. Now what was the purpose of that windmill?

B: It was to pump the water off the land, to keep the water level down.

K: I see. Who was your physician when you were young?

B: Dr. Vander Veen.

K: Dr. Vander Veen.

B: A Civil War veteran. And Dr. Hoffman.

K: Dr. Vander Veen was one of a few...

B: He lived in that big house across from City Hall.

K: Ya. He was one of the few early physicians who had some training, wasn't he?

B: Ya.

K: Unlike Dr. Palmer, Vander Veen had been to a medical school.

B: Ya. They called him a kid doctor though in the Civil War. He was a Civil War veteran.

K: Well (noise)

B: _____ the water over the lake and see if any of the ships were coming in, so they said.

K: Well, the story...there is also a story that when Dr. Vander Veen was needed, his wife would put a signal up there, of some sort.

B: Ya. That's the old Deutcherverine (?) on First Street, isn't it?

K: Well, I think that's the big Boyden house on the corner of Sheldon and Lafayette.

B: Ya, that's right. And there's the barn. Ya. Sure. Now that's the old Deutcherverine isn't it? The Ferry house.

K: Is that it? Now that was torn down...that was torn down when they put the piano factory in there, I believe.

B: Ya.

K: But is that where the Deutcherverine met?

B: Ya, as I recall it. Ya. They used to have the beer barrels piled up against the building. This is the Boyce house on Fulton...on...let's see. This is the bank here. That's where our parking lot is, of course.

K: It says, "Residence of G.W. McBride." And here, Sherman Boyce.

B: Right. That's the Boyce. Yup. That's McBride. That's on the corner. This is gone.

K: Is that Cap McBride?

B: Ya. That was Cap McBride's house. (noise) Mrs. Boyten.

K: Do you remember Mrs. Boyten?

B: That's the one on...No. That's the one on Fifth Street.

K: Do you remember the marble fountain in the...

B: Sure. They had a front...a blue room and a red room, I think, wasn't it? They didn't always have that back room open. You had to be pretty smart to get in there. (laughs)

K: Oh, you had to have a drag with Carrie Palmer.

B: Kids weren't allowed to get in the back room for every old purpose. It was only a reserve, as I recall it.

K: Ya. That was the inner sanctum.

B: Ya.

K: Now was that place called Candyland?

B: I think so.

K: That's what George says it was called.

B: George would know. And that rings a bell. I wouldn't have come up with that name if you hadn't asked me what they called that. I couldn't have come up with Candyland, I'm sure. But the minute you say it, then I associate with that.

K: What would you buy at that concession?

B: Oh, candy.

K: Candy?

B: Ya. Candy and ice cream.

K: Ice cream.

B: Ya. And knickknacks. And, of course, the bathing compartments were there...what do you they call them? You rent them and you get four or five or six people in 'em and you change your clothes and suits. You can get three people in a suit.

K: Now that building, you feel, is located about where the Bil-Mar Hotel is or the Bil-Mar restaurant? Or neither?

B: Right in there. There were two buildings in there at one time. One was further up and one was further down. And then it seems to me they moved the two of them nearer together.

K: But that building is not this building. I'm trying to get that straight.

B: No, I wouldn't say so. But again...

K: This is early now.

B: Because this is so narrow and that seems to be so wide. The same motif is there with a walk around it. So if you chipped that down, you see, to here you'd have a much narrower building. People by the name of Perry, it seems, owned that for awhile. And they lived in this cement block, or this brick house in the middle of the next block here. Perry was their name. Carrie Palmer and Perry. I'll have to ask John Van Schelven to refresh my memory.

K: Alright. That bakery, Kniphuizen.

B: Kniphuizen, ya. Was that on Seventh Street here?

K: It was on the corner of Elliott and Sixth.

B: Elliott and Sixth. That's one block over. I had them on Seventh Street.

K: They have bakery spelled with two k's there.

B: Ya, bakery.

K: Ya, that's Dutch. That's the Dutch way of spelling it, I suppose.

B: And Kniphuizen is a Dutch name, Hmm.

K: Did you ever go in there to buy something?

B: No. No, we never got anything from the bakery. My mother baked it all. I never had a loaf of bakery bread until I got to Ann Arbor. (laughs)

K: Do you remember when the ribs of an old boat appeared? This would be...

B: That looks like Jim Peters, doesn't it?

K: ...Below Stickney Ridge. Well, that one's Fred Palmer.

B: Ya. Fred?

K: And Adam Slagel.

B: Ya.

K: And that's supposed to be the ribs of Perry's flagship.

B: Doggone.

K: Did you ever hear that story?

B: Nope, never.

K: Well, I don't know if that's true or not.

B: I never heard that one.

K: George gave me that. His father...one of those is his father. I don't know which. His father-in-law.

B: I think the Thumb place was back on that. I know Tom Thumb had the sticky fly paper.

K: You mean there was a man named Tom Thumb who lived in there?

B: Ya. Ya, I'm sure it was Tom Thumb.

K: And on that point, Nelson R. Howlett lived in there, too?

B: Well, no, it was more on the end here. I'm sure it (noise) Board of Light and Power.

K: This boat, the Ensing?

B: Ya, that's a launch.

K: They called it a launch.

B: I don't know if this was the Ensing...ya, sure.

K: Do you remember the Ensing? Now was that a boat that was privately owned or was that owned by a...

B: No, as I recall, that ran up and down the lake for passengers.

K: Like the Fanny M. Rose. Was the Fanny M. Rose...would you also classify that as a launch?

B: Ya...no, that was a bigger boat than the Ensing. The Fanny M. Rose, as I recall, was replaced by the Ensing. Or could it be the Ensing first and then the Fanny M. Rose? I don't know.

K: Do you remember that dock? Do you remember the things people used to climb up on and...

B: Sure, and come down on these little scooters, wooden things? Is that what you refer to?

K: Well, there were two things. One was kind of a slide that people would slide down into the water. And another was a cable running down. You'd get in something and the cable would slide you down into the...

B: No, I don't remember the cable.

K: ...Down into the water. Do you remember the old floating bridge on Deremo Bayou?

B: Ya.

K: That's it. See that Model "T" Ford there?

B: Ya. Now where is this, on this way or up the other side of Spring Lake?

K: Oh, it's on this side.

B: This one here is Deremo's?

K: Ya, the other side of Spring Lake would be Lloyd's.

B: I wonder whose place this is here?

K: Oh.

B: Smittigan's place?

K: Sam Rymer's.

B: Oh, is that Sam Rymer's? Well, that's up the river quite aways. Rymer. He's across the road...across the river.

K: We can see that farm from our property. From George Kehoe's place.

B: But that's across the...

K: Do you remember when the Ku Klux Klan was burning crosses around here?

B: Yup. Do you remember who was active in it? What names?

K: I...I know some.

B: Mm-hmm. Who are some of them?

K: John...a man by the name of Vander Meiden was active in it.

B: Ya. Mud Hen (?)?

K: Is that what he was called?

B: Mm-hmm. And...oh...whew...gosh, the minute that you spoke of that...

K: Charlie Goldberg's parents were active in it.

B: Fred Hieftje.

K: Fred Hieftje?

B: Ever hear of that name?

K: No. Are any of those people still around? The Vander Meiden man died sometime ago.

B: Mud Hen. It was a comparatively few months ago. About a year. Mud Hen. A cement man. John Vander Meiden.

K: Did anybody ever invite you to a Klan meeting?

B: No, I was scared of them. (Noise) once in awhile, in Muskegon or out here somewhere they got the idea that they could light up a cross.

K: It didn't last long.

B: Thank goodness.

K: It wasn't...1922,1923. And I think that was about it.

B: Yes.

K: But I wonder, do you think that was the case. That it was kind of an anti-Catholic thing here?

B: No, I never had that feeling. I don't think it lasted long enough to come to any conclusion as to what it was all about.

K: Did...did you ever see the robes? Did you ever see any Klansmen in their white robes?

B: No, I don't recall that, other than the pictures. But I don't recall that I ever saw them riding around or _____ the ground. I stayed away from them. I didn't want anything to do with them.

K: They also used to meet in the top of what's now Steiner's Drug Store. There was a third story on that building.

B: _____ First Reformed.

K: Skippers. Did you hear that?

B: No. That church right across from the bank.

K: Ya.

B: Henry Skippers.

K: I don't think that there were too many Christian Reformed people involved in it, simply because it was a secret society and the church has always been kind of negative towards...

B: Ya. They had an oratorical contest here when I was a senior and junior in high school. And Skippers was one of the judges. He came right down the line-I think there were eight of us with declamations. And he came right down...the first one was the best or otherwise was the worst, and he followed them right down, or either up (laughs heartily). So the guy in the middle didn't have much chance.

K: Do you remember the May Graham?

B: You bet. It went way up the river here toward Grand Rapids, up in the Allendale area.

K: Did you ever ride on it?

B: Uh-huh. It was a side-paddler, or side-wheeler, wasn't it?

K: Yes.

B: It was quite a sight to see her come down the river at night, you know. In the summer, they'd pick up the berries from the farmers along the way. They had quite a load by the time they got to Grand Haven.

K: I bet it was riding pretty low.

B: Ya. She was pulling the water. (noise) Steve because Lynn was the one that lived right across from the bank, as I recall.

K: Now here's...here's the Naomi that you saw.

B: Ya. When she came in there. I saw her when they brought her in. She was pretty well burned down. Hmm, hmm, hmm.

K: I'm sure you remember clearly October 24 of 1929 when the stock market faltered badly and then a bunch of bankers got together and they...they pulled things together a little bit, restored some confidence in the afternoon. Five days later on Tuesday, things really got bad. What were...what was the effect in Grand Haven, if any? I mean, were people apprehensive or did they just think that was something going on in New York or it won't affect us?

B: The result was...or the cause was over-speculation. Everybody was going to get rich by not working but by investing and making a killing out of whatever their investment was that might amount to something. And it got entirely out of hand. There was a vacuum between where the prices were and where the values were. So it is inevitable sometime the balloon breaks and you get a level. That lasted from '29 until I think it was in '27. '29, that's when you had those wild days. And, of course, it was a good thing everybody didn't sell everything right off the bat because each one, whatever the level was, there was a buyer and a seller or there would be no market. So you had people who were optimistic and thought they hit the bottom and would get in. There were people who thought that the bottom hadn't

come yet and they were getting out, but that formed a cushion there so that the trend of the market was down because people had over-valued. But they were buying. So it had to come down until it reached a level. That was a pretty long spell and it wasn't until we got in a war with New York before things started to pull out.

K: But what about the attitudes in Grand Haven? Was there...did people think in '29 that, well, this is something that is happening in New York and it isn't going to affect us too much? That is, the common people. I know that you bankers knew the seriousness of what happened. I suspect you were aware of that, but...

B: Well, it was serious because you saw a crisis which was a measure of people's estimate of what values are. It's a wrong estimate or feeling as to what values are. It's a price at which people are willing to buy and sell.

K: Mm-hmm.

B: And there were more people that wanted to sell and that's why the market went down. And then there were periods when people felt, well, that it can't go any lower so they start to buy and you get a little fill up (?) in the price. And there was more buyers than sellers, confidence was established at these levels and _____ until it was pretty much out of sight.

K: I read that Michigan declared a bank holiday, you know, before the national bank holiday was declared. Michigan declared it during the Hoover administration yet. Is that...is that true? Did they close down all the banks for awhile?

B: Ya, they were closed almost a month, weren't they? There were fifteen banks in Ottawa County when this trouble started to show up, see. And here and there, they would close because they couldn't stand the withdrawal. People wanted their money and a lot of it was tied up in long-term investments. The banks took the money and put it into mortgages and you don't get your money out of mortgages if you want it tomorrow; you get it as people are willing to pay. There was no way to get advances on all that money that was tied up that people had coming, had saved and wanted; when they felt the squeeze come, they got scared so that adds to the fear, of people wanting their money and the banks unable to pay out as they needed it. Later on, they got the RFC going, the Reconstruction Finance Corporation. It was a government corporation that took these assets and advanced money on them so that if they needed their money out of their deposits that they had saved, why they got it. But the damage had been done prior to the time that they got to that point where that could be done. We had fifteen banks in the county here at one time. Then the bank holiday came and there were only three of them that were open and that was the Spring Lake Bank, the State Bank and ourselves. All the other twelve in the county were closed.

K: Including the ones in Holland?

B: That's right. There were three of them in Holland. Two of them were reorganized and one of them never was, as I recall.

K: Neither Grand Haven bank failed, did it?

B: Neither one. Nor Spring Lake.

K: I told you...

B: In a telegram I got late in the night, Western Union said the telegram court ordered from Washington. "What does it say?" He read it...I got the telegram yet-it was delivered the next morning. I said, "Did you get any more?" He said, "I got one for Mr. Sherwood." I said, "Good!" (laughs)

K: Ya, it was to your advantage that both banks were open, wasn't it?

B: Oh boy! Of course, we only had a million four hundred thousand total. And it shrunk, as I recall, to about a million dollars. Now we got \$67,000,000-\$60,000,000 to \$67,000,000. So you can see where the dollar has gone to and where the wealth of the country is represented in dollars, it's deposited in banks and invested as it is. It was no picnic.

K: When people came into the bank for their savings, did the bank have a policy for a period of time for giving them only part of what they wanted?

B: No. No, we never cut down. What they wanted, they got. Some places, of course, had lines, you see. We never had a line here for which we were always thankful. The other banks had them. It could only last so long because you can't liquidate a bank 100% without the laws that enable one to do it and the provisions to make it possible. When it got out of hand, like most things do, they go to extremes one way or another. When too many people wanted their money, too many people couldn't pay back to the banks and savings and loans, in order to get it to pay off depositors. But, thank goodness, that got ironed out.

K: Who organized the Peoples Bank? It had a different name when it was initially organized, didn't it?

B: It was Peoples Savings Bank. That was the original name.

K: Who were the organizers of it?

B: Dr. Hoffma was the president and, oh, we had 70 or 80 stockholders. Dad was one of the original organizers and directors in 1910. It was organized in 1919...or, 1909. It opened in February, 1910 with \$50,000. Now the capital and surplus in undivided profits is over \$4 million.

K: I had to start banking somewhere and I knew nothing of either bank. I took an account out at Security First. After living here for awhile, I got the feeling that Peoples Bank was a bit more of a bank for, oh, the common people. Security First was a bit more for the more affluent and more for dealings with industry. Now I might be entirely wrong here. I draw those impressions partly from the fact that when I walk into the, say, Robbins Road bank I see people in blue jeans. I see a lot of common working men. I don't see too much of that in Security First. And partly for that reason, I switched from Security First to Peoples. Is there any...is there...well, I don't know how to ask that question. Do you think that the Peoples Bank originally sought to serve the common people?

B: I think there is a different atmosphere. Each bank has got an individuality, you know. They aren't all the same. They're doing the same business but it isn't all the same kind of business.

K: So in your mind, there is some validity to the feeling that I have.

B: I think so. I think we represent the people in general.

K: And then people have told me that, too. Bud Swart told me...now Bud was, as you know, involved in that strike in '36 at the tannery. But he told me that before that, he said that Peoples Bank kept him going. And Joseph Seifert told me about what the bank did for him. He said that-I think I told you that story. He told me how he just couldn't pay his taxes any more so he went and said...and gave the stuff to you and said, "Here it is. I can't meet my bills. It's yours." And you said, "I don't want it." And he said the bank paid his taxes for him for a period of time.

B: I asked him what he was going to do for a living. We had others the same way-they were ready to quit. I said, "You can't afford to quit. You've gone this far now. See it through." So that's always been...it's a nice thing to have someone recall those situations, you see. It wasn't all roses. There were plenty of thorns.

K: Can you recall some more of those for me? Would you be willing to do that? Would you be willing to tell me some stories of how some people were helped who desperately needed help during the Depression?

B: Sure, there are plenty of those. Everybody needed help, needed understanding, what it was all about. We were supposed to know a little more about some things than other people. We didn't know how to run their own businesses but we felt that if they couldn't run them, nobody could. They had to make a living. And they were best trained for what they were doing. If they stuck with it, they could come through it. That was the overall philosophy of it. You had to work for a living. They'd come in with their key and say _____. We knew how a lot of them felt that never got to that point. I wonder how they got by. _____ Van Velten came through-worked out of it. The world could have gone to pot many, many times in the history of this country, especially the way the tempo at which business is geared. Today it's nothing compared to what it was 30, 40, 50 years ago. Now if you don't get out of the way or watch your step, you get run over. So it isn't all fun but it's always been very interesting.

K: Ya. Which, in retrospect, which generation would you rather live in? Supposing you had the opportunity to be 30 years old now, or 30 years old in 1920. Which do you think would be more exciting of the two existences? Did you like the old days better than you like the way things are now? I guess that's what I'm asking you.

B: Well, it would be a hard question to answer offhand, because things aren't the same. Changes have been so gradual overall so from here, the jump here is a tremendous step and there's a big vacuum in between if you haven't been through it all. But if you've been through it all, then you're right up to date here where we are now. You have to live today. You can't live last year, or yesterday, nor tomorrow for what you do today or tomorrow is what you did _____ or what you're doing today or

what you're going to do tomorrow. So take it as it comes. And all this time that's been put into these activities have made lives that set a period. If you've had your health and something worthwhile to do, I guess you can be pretty thankful. Something worthwhile to do means exactly what it says: what is worthwhile. And no people are exactly alike...if we were all alike, what kind of a world would this be anyway? We all couldn't get in the same place. We've got to be spread out. You don't want to be too far apart (noise). So some can make a lot out of a little and some can't make much out of everything.

K: This is a slide. But also, people climbed up here, and you can't see it, but there is a cable going down into the water.

B: Ya, ya.

K: Do you remember it now?

B: Ya, it seems to me that they had that there too. Yup.

K: I would imagine that people made a little noise when they went down that thing in the water and the water was cold.

B: I can remember they...well, you didn't get in the water so often when it was cold, you know. The last day of school in June was one of the early times that you got in. You didn't always go in the lake-you went in the river first here. At least, anybody that lived near the river.

K: The river was clean enough to swim in those days too, wasn't it?

B: Oh, _____ at least, you swam in it. Of course, the sewer ran into it right where we _____ when they first put it in. Sure, they had the slide. First it was high in the water here and you climbed up there and then went down. Then we got up here again and went down into the water.

K: Do you remember a big...when they drove a shaft down the top of Five Mile Hill because somebody thought there was some treasure down there?

B: Ya, there was a hole there but they didn't get very far with that as I recall.

K: That was in the year 1900.

B: Oh, boy. That I didn't remember unless that was being talked about when I was a kid. But I don't recall that actually being done. Hmm.

K: Also in 1900 the local newspapers reported that a man from Chicago wanted to establish a college in Grand Haven for negroes, a vocational college to teach them trades.

B: What year was that?

K: 1900. And there was a series of about three or four articles in the Tribune, and it was going to be located on the corner of Sheldon and Lafayette, right across the street from where the old Boyden

house was. But all of a sudden, the paper stopped talking about it and I've tried to trace down the...to...oh, some black colleges and so forth, the organization that was sponsoring the thing, and I've been unsuccessful.

B: (noise)

K: Yes. Ya, that's where people would change. Isn't that where Cap Walker lived? I think so. I think that's where he lived.

B: It could be. (noise)

K: Here.

B: Ya.

K: That wreck.

B: Yup.

K: You saw them haul a body out of there, huh? In 1907.

B: Ya.

K: Were you ever inside the Naomi? That's the dining room.

B: Ya. Ya, the first...I went to Milwaukee with my dad and spent the day riding up and down in the elevator in the Wells Building. Steve Brower was a Grand Haven boy here and his father had a shoe store here and Steve went to Milwaukee and started a shoe store downtown in the Wells Building-in a hole in the wall. And he stuck with it and it got to be quite an establishment. He had a big building afterwards. And the purser on-what boat did I go over on?

K: The Naomi? Nyak? Alabama?

B: And who was the purser on that? By golly, I almost had it and lost it. I can see him. Hmm. Steve Brower wanted to do something with his lot there and being a Grand Haven boy, this fellow had a few stockholders over here in Grand Haven: the two Dornbos brothers and Captain Ver Duin, and Steve had a store in the Wells Building. Hmm.

K: The car-ferries.

B: Ya. It had an open back end.

K: Yup.

B: And they'd let the gate down if the weather got bad.

K: Here's the way the loaded those car-ferries. There's the slip.

B: Yup. _____

K: Mm-hmm.

B: Ya, there's the steps going up to the second deck, you see, where the staterooms are. That's the stairway.

K: Did those car-ferries carry passengers, too?

B: Sure. Sure. Yup. That helped bring in revenue, you see.

K: Yes.

B: The whole upstairs there was vacant. Use it. Get some passengers.

K: Do you remember Captain McKay?

B: Sure. Captain McKay was in school with his son, Hank. Or...ya, Hank. He had two boys and a girl. Captain McKay. Captain Cavanaugh. Captain Trail and...

K: Hanrahan.

B: Captain Robertson. Hanrahan was a purser. He took care of the tickets and stuff.

K: This is a nice picture too.

(End of Interview)