

MILLER, IVAN AND ORPHA
JULY 19, 2005

IVAN: Harold Clendenning was my best friend. They lived over on Carter Road. There was two little yellow houses over there. They had [1|one] and I guess Grandpa Frank or somebody had the other.

ALAN: That wasn't the big white house that Ruth Clendenning lived in?

IVAN: No, no, no, no. Theirs was on down. It was on down past the Schloss farm.

ALAN: Down toward Eddie Tillett's way?

IVAN: No, it wasn't that far down. It wasn't too far. That was all Clendenning evidently. The old big house that Pete's in; and then next to it was -- what [due|do you] call -- Grandpa Frank. He had [2|two] grandpas. Grandpa Frank and then he had -- let's see. His [dad|Dad] was Ward, then Frank; and then I don't know what the [1|one] before that was, but he was still living.

ALAN: I remember Ward when he used to drive a little old Farmall tractor or something around.

IVAN: Yeah, right. Frank was actually a farmer. Ward was more of a carpenter.

ALAN: By the time I knew him, he was retired and didn't do anything. Well, were you born here at this house?

IVAN: Yeah. Yeah.

ALAN: Were you born at the hospital or born at the house?

IVAN: At the house.

NEADY: Meaning Uncle Ira's house?

IVAN: Yeah. My dad's house, the little house he built in -- about 1921; and now Francis, who was ten -- nine years older than I am -- he was born in Chester Wenger's house up there. That's where my Grandpa Miller moved down here from Pennsylvania and that's where he was born.

ALAN: Your Grandpa Miller moved down here first?

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: Because I thought Uncle Ira was here first.

IVAN: Well, his Dad.

ALAN: He come down with his Dad then?

IVAN: He come down with his dad about the same time the Buckwalters come down. All of them come down about the same time. He was a teenager and left Springs, Pennsylvania and my cousin, Alvina and Bill Livingood -- we go to Florida with them every year -- did. Anyway, they live in the house where my dad was moved from as a teenager and he said what he remembers of that -- he came down on a boat from Baltimore -- train from Springs, Pennsylvania, to Baltimore; and then from Baltimore on the steamer down here, moved stuff down; but, anyway, they ended

up there at Money Point. That was as far as the trolley came; and then he walked as a boy. Of course,

Dad -- I believe the way I understand it, Mother and him came down. Grandpa Miller was already here; and, of course, he went back in to get the stuff and then get Grandma; and there would have been room for Dad on the buggy, but there wasn't room for Jonie Keim. They're related to the Tennefosses. Mrs. Tennefoss was a Keim.

ALAN: He came down with them?

IVAN: He was -- yeah. Well, for some reason or other, he must have been on the same boat or maybe he was just in town. I don't know what he was doing here, but anyway there wasn't room for my dad and Jonie Keim. "Well, Ira, you just walk with Jonie."

ALAN: So they walked from Money Point?

IVAN: Walked from Money Point. He said he thought they'd never get here. Even as a boy, that was a right good little trudge. Of course, if everybody was doing it, guess it wasn't quite as bad.

ALAN: Do you remember when they opened up the airport down there or was that already opened?

IVAN: Yeah, I remember.

ALAN: The road went by Eddie Tillett's and cut across what is now the airport now, didn't it?

IVAN: No. Mt. Pleasant Road come by Bergey's, whipped in there and went by the Methodist church.

ALAN: Right. Back around old E. R -- was it E. R. Miller's store?

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: Where the school was?

IVAN: Past the store. The old store is about to fall down, I think.

ALAN: All right; but if you took Carter Road on back past Tillett's and made a left turn past the Tillett's and across what is the airport now, didn't you? You'd go to Cason Lane?

IVAN: You'd go across there. That was Cason Lane. That was one of the good -- are you recording? Parking -- that was a good parking spot back there.

NEADY: Of course, that lends the next question: Parking with who?

IVAN: Orpha lost her pocketbook there. Had to go back and get the pocketbook. I remember that. I don't know what the door was doing open.

ALAN: I was just getting ready to ask.

IVAN: Let it go there; and then you went -- and Hughes lived right there on the corner, the big two-story house. The road turned left, went right back across what is the airport now and then past Lehman's.

ALAN: That's Chuck Hughes's parents? Is that the same house that Albert Hughes now lives in?

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: They've moved that house about three times.

IVAN: Yeah. Abram Wenger -- yeah. Because they kept moving the road over; and Abram Wenger owned the house and the land there; and Arthur Lehman -- that would be Jake's brother -- lived in it -- Abram Wenger's house and -- I don't know what happened there; but, of course, Arthur died for one reason, so he's not living.

ALAN: Didn't John and Edith live there for a while? Because I remember going to visit them one time. I was a little fellow.

IVAN: I kind of believe you're right. When they were first married maybe.

ALAN: Yeah. I would have been -- I don't know -- five years old, six years old.

IVAN: I wouldn't have remembered that. Well, Abe Wenger's dad owned it so --

NEADY: Well, isn't Harold Lehman older than -- Harold Wenger older than you?

ALAN: Harold is, yeah.

NEADY: So it would have been longer than when they first got married, I guess.

ALAN: Yeah. Harold's four years older than I am, but I was old enough to remember it. I was young enough to be scared around strangers yet, but old enough to remember being there.

IVAN: It was a long lane. Of course, the road went right straight down towards the Methodist church. Like you say, they moved it over. There was a convict camp right there at the corner of Mt. Pleasant Road and that was called Cason Lane.

ALAN: Oh, really? Right beside the Methodist church?

IVAN: It was on further east. East, yeah. Further down, but not a lot further. It was kind of a ravine there at that time; but, yeah, they -- oh, the convict camp. I was trying to see where I was at. The convict camp -- they put it -- they had it there when they hard-surfaced Mt. Pleasant Road.

ALAN: So you remember when Mt. Pleasant was still a dirt road?

IVAN: I don't remember the dirt road, but I remember them building that big old slag that they put in there for foundation or rock; and I must have been the first grade or something because I'd walk down to Danner's store at the corner of Wenger Road and Mt. Pleasant Road.

ALAN: There was a store there?

IVAN: There was a store there.

ALAN: Danner's store?

IVAN: Danner, D-a-n-n-e-r.

ALAN: And that was at Wenger Road and Mt. Pleasant? Was that where Martin Yoder is now?

IVAN: No, on the other side. On Homer's side.

ALAN: Where that old house is now?

IVAN: Yeah. I'm trying to think whether that house -- don't look like there's hardly room there for a store and a house.

ALAN: Didn't that house come from Mill Landing? Wasn't that one of those houses that got torn down at Mill Landing and rebuilt?

IVAN: I kind of believe.

ALAN: Somebody told me it was.

IVAN: Francis would know that. Yeah. You're right.

ALAN: Was Mill Landing still operating in your memory?

IVAN: No. They'd already started tearing it down. It was already gone, but I remember a few houses that were down that way; but Francis remembers when they closed it down, when it was running. He was nine years older; but, yeah.

ALAN: What's the first thing you remember about Mt. Pleasant? Your earliest memory.

IVAN: Boy, I don't know. Probably that would be one of the earliest memories right there -- when they hard-surfaced that road -- Mt. Pleasant Road. I'm trying to think back. Well, Tenefoss -- okay. I can remember the Tenefoss house -- Tommy Tenefoss. You don't remember.

ALAN: I remember that.

IVAN: Two-story house. Well, they were our only neighbors.

ALAN: There was nobody else on the street?

IVAN: Nobody else on this street. Dad went to see Eddie Hudgins and some of the politicians and got the road. The state -- the county I guess -- took over the road and brought it back to our house and it stopped there. It didn't go through here. There was no road through here. It stopped at our house.

ALAN: When did they extend it on out to Blue Ridge?

IVAN: Oh, I don't know. A number of years later then they run it on through. Maybe when the mail -- at that time the mail didn't come back here.

ALAN: You know what I should have brought back and need to bring back -- I've got a map that I bought from 1899 that shows all the roads in Norfolk County and Princess Anne County and the city of Norfolk with a house where it goes. About 1899. It's a huge map, about 1899. It's interesting how the roads run because at that time it didn't have any roads. Maxwell Street and Bedford Street didn't exist at all.

IVAN: Well, probably right. Dad built his house about 1921, I think, back here. Him and Tenefoss bought sixty acres of land. Tom Tenefoss. You remember Tommy.

ALAN: Yeah, I remember Tommy.

IVAN: Yeah; and let's see. Oh, so they split it right down the middle. They bought this

sixty-some-acre tract; and so Dad got this portion here -- half of it -- thirty acres here -- and he got thirty on the other side, but they were our only neighbors. The next house would have been Shaddinger's house where Gary lives now. That was the next house coming in that way. We used to come right through from Grandpa Buckwalter's.

ALAN: Wenger Road came right through then?

IVAN: Wenger Road come all the way through, at least a field lane.

ALAN: Do you remember Walter's brother? The one that had the wooden leg?

IVAN: I didn't know him. Francis knew him.

ORPHA: Watch out what you say.

IVAN: Yeah, I know.

ALAN: We're going to put a Buckwalter twist on it anyway. If you don't say it, we are. When we were kids, we went in Walter's house. We used to go over there, especially with Michael and Jerry Kephart were around. We went up in his attic and we found an old wooden leg up there.

IVAN: Oh, is that right? Oh, yeah. Let's see. Yeah. It was Shaddinger's. Then the next house would have been the two-story house. Different ones lived there. Francis's lived there when they were first married. Melvin lives there now.

ALAN: That house was there then?

IVAN: That house was there then. It was one of the old Pennsylvania dutchman from up there and it has a -- yeah, it has a basement in it now.

ALAN: I was up there in the cold of winter fixing a furnace one night.

IVAN: Willie's had some of that too. Had to go over there and fix the pump or something down in the basement, so I know there's a basement there.

ALAN: What did your grandfather do when he moved down this way for a living?

IVAN: He must have been retired. I don't know that he -- I never met -- he died before I was born, so I never knew him. Francis remembers sitting on his lap. I'll hear Francis tell you. You'll have to check with Francis. He'll have a story to tell you.

ALAN: Yeah. We're going to go talk to him.

IVAN: Yeah, yeah. Get down behind him and he'll enjoy that but -- yeah. I don't know what he even planned on doing. Up there in Pennsylvania -- Springs, Pennsylvania -- is where he moved from and they called him Strawberry Eli. His name was Eli Miller, and he had a strawberry -- a big strawberry field. It wasn't a patch. A field right up above the house. The house is still there right now.

ALAN: In Springs, Pennsylvania?

IVAN: Yeah; and my cousins, Alvina and Bill Livingood, are living in it.

ALAN: Now, where were the schools then? Did you go to Great Bridge? I mean, Mt. Pleasant school wasn't there, so you went to Great Bridge?

IVAN: Yeah. I went to Great Bridge the whole time.

ALAN: How did you get there? Was there a bus?

IVAN: There was a bus come along -- and show you how ridiculous -- we'd ride the bus and the black children were walking. Our bus would pass them. They're going down there to the little school down here by Titus Bergey's. Right in front of Bergey's. Kind of hard to think that way now that they would be.

ALAN: At the time it was normal.

IVAN: Yeah. Thought nothing of it; and we'd, of course, holler at them and aggravate them and they'd holler back, of course; and I can remember that. That was -- I was in first or second grade. Francis started up -- he went to school up here. They called it Shaddinger's College. Old Man Shaddinger -- Walter's dad -- was the principal there, and it was just a little old one-room school.

ALAN: That was right at the end of Schoolhouse Road?

IVAN: Yeah. Francis walked -- or I think he was in the first or second grade. He'd catch a ride with Shaddinger maybe or something. Because I hear him tell about kids would sometimes grab ahold of this -- of course, he was riding buggy -- the old man, the principal; but pity the kids that started to grab ahold of the buggy and drag his feet. They say he'd reach back there and lay one on them then.

ALAN: What was Shaddinger's first name? Walter's dad.

IVAN: Wesley Shaddinger. That's my first experience into the real world of working carpentry. To show you how stupid -- well, I say I'd learned everything by the time I got in the eighth -- first year of high school -- would be eighth grade. I knew more than the teachers did by then. I mean, there wasn't no need me going any further.

ORPHA: You thought you did.

IVAN: And my dad -- bless his heart, but he wasn't too much -- education didn't mean too much. "I'll teach you to work," and he did just that. In the first year of high school right near the end, the teacher had sent a note home and apparently -- I think it was her fault -- but I wasn't doing quite what I was supposed to do; and, "Oh, well, if you don't want to work in school, go along with me carpentry." He was a carpenter; and -- yeah. Well, that suited me fine. Man, those other boys got to go to school. How stupid could I be? Because the first job -- that brings me back to Wesley Shaddinger. They were close to the nickel anyway. They didn't spend a lot. He had a big -- or not a big, but a barn there with rusty tin on it; and our job -- Daddy and myself -- take the tin off, turn it upside down, put it back on. Then you'd have the galvanized -- it was nice and clean on the inside. Had galvanized up at the top; and I can remember right -- I think my thumb still hurts; and that old tin -- I guess that stuff was -- I don't know how thick it was, but I couldn't drive a nail through that stuff. Tried to hit that -- of course, hit the thumb. "Oh, man. Isn't this wonderful? I don't have to go to school."

ALAN: Yeah, I can remember trying to drive nails through tin. That's a guaranteed thumb-hitter.

IVAN: That's that old corrugated, because it's rounded. You know; but, anyway, that was my --

ALAN: Wasn't there a time that [you're|your] dad worked at a sawmill down at the Lehman's?

IVAN: Walked from here; and that's how he built that house. He walked from where he built

his house to Pocatoy Road. Now how far down -- I think a mile or two down Pocatoy Road there was a -- of course, you could go right straight through. There wasn't no airport; but walked from here, put in -- he says -- ten hours. Ten-hour day on the sawmill and then walked back; and, there again, he had a little old horse that he didn't think was old enough for -- how was that -- to pull the -- he could have -- he could have either rode the horse or maybe the horse could have pulled the one person and buggy and Tom Teneffoss also worked there. Tom didn't want to use his horse, but he wanted Dad to use his; but they had a little discussion there. At least they didn't use the horse.

ALAN: So they didn't use anybody's horse.

IVAN: Didn't use any horse. "If you're not going to use yours, I won't use mine either and we'll just walk." Walk from here down to -- maybe not as far as McDonald's, but down in there somewhere; the sawmill -- and then the guy that owned the sawmill kind of looked out for him and said he'll get him enough lumber to build him a house. Give him a cut rate, I guess, on it. I don't know what the arrangements were.

ALAN: Who owned the sawmill? That wasn't the Ballance Sawmill, was it?

IVAN: No. That was down here on Centerville Turnpike.

ALAN: That's what I thought. Yeah. By Land of Promise, wasn't it?

IVAN: Yeah. Right there in the corner. Yeah.

ALAN: Do you remember the blacksmith shop at Great Bridge? Was that still there when you were here?

IVAN: Yeah, but I don't remember it. I remember going with Dad down to Myles Miller's blacksmith shop down -- and it was down somewhere close to -- well, it was on Land of Promise Road, but on this end of it. In other words, you turn right.

ALAN: Would that have been Orath Miller's dad?

IVAN: Either dad or some relative of his. I don't believe it was his Dad. It was a relative, I think.

ALAN: How about Junk Perry's junk shop? Nollie Perry's dad?

IVAN: Yeah. That was on down North Landing down past -- well, on North Landing Road; but, yeah, I remember very well going down to the blacksmith shop and here was this nice pretty little piece of blue -- real blue bolt or whatever -- a piece of metal he had cut off. That thing looked shiny; nice and blue. Guess what? It wasn't quite red hot, but it had just cooled off. I reached down and grabbed that thing. I can feel it right now.

ALAN: How old were you?

IVAN: I wasn't old enough -- I don't know if I was old enough to know better, but I do now. I did then. Gracious, that thing --

ALAN: That was on Blackwater? Down past Francis's?

IVAN: Well, now that's Perry; but if you went down Cason Road -- Cason Lane -- went right straight back to Eddie Hudgins' store, but not that far. Well, where the old -- remember there used to be a no-man's land kind of through there.

ALAN: Yeah.

IVAN: Well, it was back in there.

ALAN: Oh, back on that road? Where it cut through to Whittamore?

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: Now, the school in Great Bridge -- is that the old red brick school that's still sitting in the corner?

IVAN: Half of it. While I was there, they added another -- it was half that big. While I was going to school -- I don't remember. Right early in my career I think, they added exactly another half to it. It was three stories just like -- and that was -- and they had quit using -- is that -- I guess they tore that -- there was a four-room school there, brick school.

ALAN: It's still there.

IVAN: Is it still there?

ALAN: I think it's still there. It's on this side of that big building.

IVAN: Yeah. Right.

ALAN: There's just so much stuff around it, you don't see it anymore.

IVAN: Yeah. You don't realize. That's right; but when I got to the sixth grade, of course they'd quit using that because they had this big new school. Wouldn't never even need anymore, I don't guess; but when I got to sixth grade, they'd already overflowed that big school and I went a couple years there in that four-room school.

ALAN: Oh, really.

IVAN: They started using it again. And I'm sure Bro. Wenger and Abe Buckwalter and some of these older ones that went to that brick four-room school.

ALAN: Now they built that after they stopped using the little schools that were scattered up and down the highway?

IVAN: I guess so.

ALAN: Ruth Clendenning -- I had talked to her years ago for a while. Go to her house, you can't get out.

IVAN: Yeah, I know.

ALAN: But still learned a lot of interesting stuff back when she was teaching. Now, the next question is, How did you meet Orpha?

IVAN: Now, there's a story.

ORPHA: No. Don't, don't.

IVAN: Huh?

NEADY: Do we need an off-the-record conference?

IVAN: No, it was all above board. I accuse her of coming down here to find me. They lived in Ohio -- and give her old man Helmuth, her dad, credit. He thought that much of school and he had four girls at that time, and they were -- how old were you when you moved down to Harrisonburg?

ORPHA: I was in the fifth grade.

IVAN: Huh?

ALAN: You moved from Ohio? What part of Ohio?

ORPHA: Arora. Camp Revanna.

IVAN: She was born in Millersburg.

ALAN: Oh, really? You're from Millersburg?

ORPHA: Yeah. Then we moved up to Portage County.

IVAN: That's close to Cleveland. Plainview Mennonite Church.

ORPHA: And Pauline Lehman --

IVAN: Vernon's wife.

ORPHA: Vernon's wife -- lived right there in the same community. We grew up together.

ALAN: You all knew each other before you --

ORPHA: Oh, yeah. We knew each other.

IVAN: They used to play together.

ORPHA: But she was Wilma's age -- my older sister -- and my older brothers; and I was just little.

ALAN: Then you moved to Harrisonburg?

IVAN: Yeah. That's what I was going to say. Then he moved down to Harrisonburg basically so these girls could go to school. It wasn't a Mennonite school. It was a public school, but everything was Mennonite that went there practically. Then as she -- she graduated in 1938; and at that time right after graduation you worked in the factories and little bit -- but Smuckers --

ALAN: Dan Smucker?

IVAN: Dan Smucker's parents. Old man Dan. His name was Dan too. Dan Smucker you know -- his Dad was Dan. Okay; and they lived -- let's see. Who lives there now? None of our people. Right next to Crowlings there.

NEADY: Winnie? Eddie?

IVAN: No, Eddie lives on Wenger.

ORPHA: Winnie.

IVAN: Winnie. Next to Winnie.

ALAN: I don't know where Winnie lives. Where does Winnie live?

NEADY: Lockheed.

IVAN: Now, the next house. That big two-story house right next to him.

ALAN: Oh, the old house there?

IVAN: Yeah.

NEADY: Wasn't that Gregory?

ALAN: Down catty-corner from where the old school was? Gregory's lived there for a while.

IVAN: Well, you'd go by the school.

ALAN: Was it on the left?

IVAN: Yeah. It's on the left.

ALAN: Yeah. I know where you're talking about.

IVAN: It was just right back of our house, in fact, where we lived later on. The big house was right there.

ALAN: The house you built and Carson bought.

IVAN: Yeah. Right. That's it. Okay. Well, Smuckers lived there at that time; and somehow they knew -- well, there was a couple of the girls from up there in Harrisonburg and their excuse was to come down to see the Smuckers. I accuse them of coming down to see the boys; but they did anyway. The boys saw them, I'll tell you that.

ORPHA: You see what she's doing. Halt.

ALAN: Where was the first place you laid eyes on her?

IVAN: Right there. Old Smucker's house. Whenever they would come down here, well, that was grounds for a party; but you didn't call it a party -- it was a gathering; and all the young people would -- that age -- would gather around right there because -- well, they had two boys my age. Both of them got killed. Dave was exactly my age. He got killed up here at the railroad; and then his brother, Jimmy, was two years older and he got killed on Christmas day with a milk -- they had a little old one-cow dairy or whatever down here, but they bottled it and carried it; and Christmas morning right down -- up here on Mt. Pleasant Road -- of course, there was nothing out there. It was just like you're out in the open field. No lights of any kind or nothing; but, anyhow, guess what? When he got there, there happened to be a train going across.

ALAN: This was where Butts Road School is now. Right?

IVAN: Yeah. Plowed right into that thing, killed him instantly.

ALAN: In the milk truck?

IVAN: Yeah. Their own milk.

ALAN: Was one of them on a motorcycle when he got killed?

IVAN: Yeah. That was Dave. This was Jimmy, the older one. Let's see. Which one was first? That one. Jimmy was first.

ORPHA: Yeah.

IVAN: Then Dave was working at Yoder Dairies like a lot of the rest of us had, and he was on his motorcycle, had left the dairy going out Virginia Beach Boulevard to catch one of the trucks. He didn't get there in time or whatever. He was on his motorcycle -- him and this here Weaver your dad knew.

ORPHA: Vernon.

IVAN: Not Vernon. Peter. (Note: Herman Weaver was known as Peter at the time)

ALAN: No, it wasn't Pete Weaver.

ORPHA: Vernon was the younger one.

IVAN: There was Soup and -- Soup and Ernest were the same guy; but Peter was in between. Yeah. He got crippled on that motorcycle. He was riding on the back of it.

NEADY: We were talking about Orpha. .

ORPHA: I figured you got off on another subject and I was glad you did.

IVAN: So we were at -- and I got -- I listened to it last night -- a tape, Phil and myself. In fact, you can take it home if you want, bring it back sometime. It's too long to listen to it now -- about forty-five minutes I think. You may have been up in Williamsburg when Phil and I give our -- you'll have to take it. Don't forget it. I've got it right here. I haven't looked at it in a long time.

ALAN: Well, I understand now. It's not very far from the Smucker house to Cason Lane.

IVAN: Yeah. Right. Yeah. Smucker's -- after they left that place here by the store, they started up a dairy down there -- be where Keith Harrison lives right now. A long, long lane back there. Ruts that deep. I tell you, it was terrible. Now back to where -- okay. Yeah. Oh, that will refer to it. Phil and myself went up to Harrisonburg. Of course, I'd already met her down here and Phil had -- no. I don't think Phil had met Verna Mae yet, but we went up together. Phil had an almost-new '41 Ford, shiny black, with fender skirts and white sidewall tires and fog lights and a spot light. Everybody had them.

ALAN: This would have been during the war then?

IVAN: Yeah. '41. Let's see. Yeah. Because we had to scrounge gas tickets best we could. That kind of refers to that too; but we went up. There wasn't no interstate. Went all the way through Richmond, all the stoplights and everything; but, anyway, it was real convenient. Verna Mae was living in Harrisonburg at that time, although they had lived down here earlier and I knew them. In fact, I think my dad is related some kind of way to the -- either the Tices or her mother. I don't remember which. Yoder. Her name is Yoder; and let's see. Oh, yeah. We made a couple trips up there too; and Phil played his guitar and I had the mandolin, and we serenaded these girls; and they didn't have the heart to tell us they didn't like it, I guess. Then her folks moved back to Ohio and this left her all alone there. If that's not sad; so she moved down here and lived with Olus and Christy in that house that Pete and Regina are in now. That's a nice house.

ORPHA: The Clendenning house.

IVAN: Olus and Christy had bought it and so she moved down here and worked in the -- for Mrs. Humphries in the post office out here at Fentress.

ALAN: Was Avis there at the same time?

ORPHA: Avis?

IVAN: Yeah, Avis worked there too. That's right; but at a different time. Did she go after?

ORPHA: I don't remember that she did.

IVAN: I believe she worked there after you left. I don't know. Anyhow, she was down here a year, two years maybe; and then her sister got sick in Ohio and she went back up to Ohio to take care of her sister; and when we got married, she was living in Ohio; and I had -- I had an airplane ticket to go up there. Nobody was flying those days.

ALAN: An airplane ticket?

IVAN: Airplane ticket. Be my first ride too. Man, couldn't hardly wait. Guess what? Went to the airport. Unh-unh. Some army colonel or maybe a private -- I don't know -- he was in the army. He went. He got my place. I had to hustle around and get on the train, and I went out on the train; but that wasn't the time we got married. That was before that. Now, I made several trips out there but --

ALAN: Did you get married before Vernon did or after?

IVAN: No. It was after. How long after? They had Philip and they had Wayne -- or about to have Wayne, weren't they, when we got married?

ORPHA: Yeah.

ALAN: Where did you live when you first got married?

IVAN: Where did I live?

ALAN: Yeah. Both of you.

IVAN: I lived at home.

ORPHA: No. Nettie's.

IVAN: Well, that was after we got married.

ALAN: Right.

IVAN: Right on Wenger Road. That honeymoon cottage. The Buckwalter house on Wenger Road. We lived on the north side and that was a -- you know -- it was during the war. You couldn't get anything hardly and didn't have any money either to get anything with.

ALAN: Were you working at Yoder Dairies then?

IVAN: Yeah, but I had to go -- had to leave Yoder Dairies and work for Titus Bergey on the farm. They would defer me on the farm, but wouldn't defer me for the milk route.

ALAN: So it was either go to dairies or go to -- what was it? CP camp?

IVAN: Yeah. Or the army, yeah; so, anyway, Aunt Nettie Buckwalter owned that at that time and she had that side all furnished, everything. She'd come out there -- she was nursing in town, but she never drove, never had a car. During the war she couldn't get back and forth to work nursing at these rich people in Norfolk, so she let us move in there and she just stayed in town; and that went on -- well, we had Merlin there. Merlin was born there, and Grandpa Buckwalter died the same week that he came home or right at the same time. Your mother was living on the other side.

ALAN: Oh, she was?

IVAN: At that time. Aunt Alice.

NEADY: Oh, grandmother.

ALAN: Alice. Grandmother.

ORPHA: She was living on the other side.

IVAN: Oh, age will do that, I'll tell you. Yeah, yeah. She was living on the other side there taking care of Grandpa --

ORPHA: Buckwalter.

IVAN: Buckwalter.

ORPHA: And he died the day I come home from the hospital.

ALAN: Oh, really? Was Marvin living there too then with her?

IVAN: Yeah, Marvin was there. I don't know Freddie or not. I guess.

ALAN: Were you in the bunch that came in and captured Marvin on his birthday and like to gave Grandma a heart attack?

IVAN: No, I don't remember that. I don't remember that.

ALAN: I've always heard a story about a turkey buzzard and dynamite.

IVAN: Yeah. I've heard that one too, but I don't know -- that was over in Denbigh supposedly.

ALAN: The story I heard was that you and Vernon did it.

IVAN: No. I'll deny that one.

ALAN: Oh, shucks. It was such a good story too.

IVAN: I did down there by Titus Bergey's -- I had a '36 Ford and at that time there weren't any curved windshields. I don't know if it made any difference. Just a flat piece of plate glass. A turkey buzzard was sitting in the road there. Me and Vernon were going somewhere. I said, "Watch me get him." I did. He jumped up and come right through that windshield. Broke that thing. I don't think it hurt either one of us. That was my only experience with the buzzard; but I understand over in Denbigh somebody tied a stick of dynamite and this thing -- he soared over top of the barn and they were afraid he was going to set the barn on fire; but I don't know any of the people there.

ALAN: Well, see in the story we heard or that I had heard over the years was that it was you and Vernon, and it was Uncle Ira's barn over here.

IVAN: No, no, no. I know that was -- Ray Hobbs and your dad helped build that big round-roofed barn that Dad had. He's got some stories in there.

ALAN: He does. Yeah. Didn't Uncle Ira go to Ohio or Pennsylvania somewhere to get plans or did he see it somewhere and say he wanted a round-roofed barn?

IVAN: He seen it somewhere, but I don't remember where. I don't remember.

ALAN: That was an unusual barn for this area.

IVAN: Yeah. It was pretty fancy; and then Clarence Miller's is just like it.

ALAN: Oh, is it?

IVAN: I think. I think Clarence -- I think he built his first and then built his own. He built Clarence's first and then built one for himself. He had an old wooden barn there.

ALAN: Were they still doing shiverrees when you all were coming along? When somebody got married, they'd come around -- the young folks?

IVAN: Yeah, and make a lot of racket. I can still hear -- we were upstairs in Aunt Nettie's house. Upstairs was our bedroom. Of course, windows are all open; and I can hear Fannie Troyer down on Mt. Pleasant Road -- "Be quiet. They'll hear you." You could hear her all the way from Mt. Pleasant.

ALAN: So you knew they were coming.

IVAN: I knew they were coming then. I don't know whatever happened after that, but that was one thing I remember.

ALAN: I saw her and Norman last week.

IVAN: Huh?

ALAN: I saw her and Norman last week.

IVAN: Oh, did you?

ALAN: Yeah. Well, I went to Harrisonburg to talk to Ann Kurtz and they were in the library at the old folks' home there reading. She didn't know who I was, but he did. I think she's got Alzheimer's.

IVAN: Yeah, that's what -- well, both of them -- how do you tell?

ALAN: Any interesting stories from when you all were young and catting around or boys or getting in trouble and doing things you all shouldn't have done?

IVAN: We didn't never get in no trouble, so you don't even have to go there.

NEADY: Now, if you don't tell us, we're going to ask Harold Clendenning since that was your best friend.

IVAN: Yeah. Harold -- he'll give you stories.

ORPHA: Were you down there?

NEADY: Not to do this. I went to notarize something.

ALAN: We're going to go back though.

NEADY: Yeah, we're going to go back.

IVAN: Yeah, you got to go back.

NEADY: That's what gave me the idea. Because I sat there an hour and a half listening to him and his wife.

IVAN: Yeah. We go there -- in fact, we go out to eat together sometimes still now yet.

ALAN: Who was the deacon here when you all were growing up? Was it Kramer or was it somebody else?

IVAN: No. Kramer was bishop. Kramer was the bishop. Before that, all my growing-up years, it was Clayton Bergey and Bro. Wenger.

ALAN: They were the preachers?

IVAN: They were the preachers -- forever.

ALAN: I was going to say, they must have been. All my growing up too. They were still here.

IVAN: She has a nephew out there in Ohio that's a doctor now, writes good but -- and I was reading a book. I called him and talked to him and he was talking about one of these old Mennonite preachers been -- just sounded like Bro. Bergey; and she knew him. He was out there where she was, but anyhow -- oh, said, "They don't die. They just live on forever. They don't never go nowhere. They stay right on", and that was about right. Bro. Wenger; then Kramer come in there because we didn't have a bishop. Neither one of these qualified apparently. Bishop -- so the bishops come down from Harrisonburg, three different ones; and so then -- and Deep Creek was going pretty strong then, and so they had a lot and Kramer was the man.

ALAN: Was he already here or was he --

IVAN: He was at Deep Creek. He was at Deep Creek, but he wanted to bring his -- he was right straight out of the Amish and he wanted to make us Amish; but, of course, I was too young to -- well, I was married then already, but he had a little problem getting everybody to toe the line like he wanted it.

ALAN: I wasn't but that high, but it was interesting to listen to Mama and Daddy -- especially Daddy just going on and on and on. He had been wearing a necktie or something and that was not approved of.

IVAN: Yeah. Uncle Abe had them on that one. They used to ride him bad about that thing. Tim Wenger was a deacon.

ALAN: He died before I remember.

IVAN: Okay. He lived in that big house up there at Wenger farm. Him and his son, Powell -- now you probably remember Powell.

ALAN: I remember Powell, I know his boys. In fact, I just talked to some of the boys just recently. I talk to them on the Internet.

IVAN: When they left, I tell you what --

ALAN: They didn't come back.

IVAN: -- ever come back; but, anyway -- and how old -- I don't know where I was at. Talking about Powell.

ALAN: The deacon getting after your dad about a necktie.

IVAN: Uncle Abe.

ALAN: That's right. Uncle Abe.

IVAN: He was a ferry boat captain; and, of course, he dressed up and would go down there on the ferry. Because he was the captain, had his uniform on -- white shirt, black tie -- and he'd wear it to church; and so they'd ride him all the time about this, working on Sunday. Run the ferry boat -- all right. There you got a picture of my Uncle Abe there. I value that.

ALAN: Oh, that's him all right.

IVAN: Yes, sir. If that isn't typical. Of course -- you know -- we fished and hunted a lot together, and that's him out by the mailbox with his thermos bottle and -- I don't know. Does he have a gun or --

ALAN: It looks like he's got a rod and reel and box here with all his fishing stuff.

IVAN: Aunt Roberta would say --

ORPHA: On the back Roberta wrote. You can read that.

IVAN: She said he would be around there, couldn't hardly move, groaning and felt bad. One of us would call, "Hey, want to go get one?" Said he was up out of that chair, grabbed his thermos bottle, he was ready to go right then. Never too sick.

ALAN: That's neat.

IVAN: There wasn't that much difference between his age and Francis. See, he was the -- Uncle Abe was the younger one of the Buckwalters and Francis was the older grandson.

ALAN: How did you all come to get the cabin up in Harrisonburg?

IVAN: Through Abe's -- we'll go back to -- where were we?

ALAN: Abe and his necktie.

IVAN: Oh, I'll get that later.

ALAN: Let's finish Abe and his necktie and then we'll go to the cabin.

IVAN: All right. Then we'll go to the cabin. Yeah; so one time they had one of these meetings I guess before communion or something or other.

ALAN: Council meeting.

IVAN: Council meeting; and this thing come up about the necktie; and up until that time -- or I don't know. He didn't always wear it to church the first while I guess; but, anyway, he got on him; and he had an answer for him that time. He said, "I'll tell you." Said, "I leave -- on Sunday

morning, I get in my Sunday clothes, clean white shirt, tie. I go by Abram Wenger's. I see him going out to the barn with his knee boots, manure on them."

ORPHA: About working on Sunday.

IVAN: Yeah, yeah. Said, "I go up a little further. Here's Powell. He's going out to the barn. He's going to put in about four hours there in the morning before church and about four hours in the evening." Said, "Get up a little further." Here's -- let's see. At Powell's -- anyway.

ORPHA: Ernest.

ALAN: Ernest and Roy were up that way.

IVAN: Anyway, he had them all labeled. He said, "When I -- and I'm clean all day long. I put in eight hours, but that's all." Said, "They put in four hours in the morning, four hours in the evening. When I come home, they're going right back out there again." They're still doing it incidentally; and he said -- oh, well, they had an answer, they thought: "Oh, well, the cows got to be milked." Boy, he was waiting for them. He said, "Who said you have to have cows?" Now you get thinking about that one. Oh. I guess they didn't have an answer. I don't know. They didn't bother him after that anyway. Well, everybody else started wearing them then too, I guess. I don't know.

Let's see. How did we get that cabin? Yeah. That was through my Uncle Abe. Harley Rhodes was his brother-in-law, Roberta's sister. Lived up there and he had a share -- no, he didn't really have a share. He worked for Frank Harmon. Frank was a well-heeled gentleman from up there and he would come down here. Frank would come down here, do something with us. We'd go out to the beach, down to the beach and shoot geese and ducks and stuff; and, of course, that was all foreign to him from up there. This was great stuff for him. Well, we didn't have deer at that time around here so -- well, we did. We used to go over to Lake Drummond over to the Dismal Swamp and get them, but anyway.

ALAN: But there were no deer in the community here?

IVAN: No. No. Never seen a deer around here. Not until I don't know how -- when I first got married, we used to go down to the Dismal Swamp and stay back there. Abe and Vernon, Francis and Dad and different ones; and camp back there in the -- took you half a day to get back there. They didn't have roads back there then. We'd go back on these here canals and ditches and stuff; so now -- back off this trip.

ALAN: He was coming down here to hunt.

IVAN: Yeah. He came down to hunt. We didn't have deer, so we'd go back up there. Frank Harmon was a member of a pretty rich hunting club up there. Mennonites -- all of them; and for a number of years, we went up there. Harley Rhodes worked for Frank Harmon. He didn't have a -- Harley didn't have -- I don't know if Harley had -- I don't think he had a part in it; but, anyhow, that's how -- so they allowed us to come up there and they had -- it was an old mountaineer's house there; and we went up a number of times and the boys were just small.

ORPHA: Uh-huh.

IVAN: To that mountain and cabin. It was ideal. Right on the West Virginia line; and then Vernon's brother-in-law, Allen -- Allen -- Douglas Allen. Douglas Allen is Vernon's brother-in-law, married Pauline's sister; and he got looking for some land up there -- Douglas did -- and found this place up there. He lived up there -- Douglas lived. Incidentally, Douglas used to live in this house where Gregory's lived right down here and worked in Dwight's store.

ALAN: That's a name I remember from back when, but I don't know him.

IVAN: He was married --

ALAN: Philip and Wayne used to talk about Douglas Allen was coming down.

IVAN: Yeah, right. That was their uncle; and he lived in Denbigh for a little bit and then he moved over here; and then he moved to Harrisonburg and stayed up there. That's how we got the mountain up there.

ALAN: Is it still in the family? Is it still going?

IVAN: Yeah. None of us -- well, a lot of the old ones have died off and sold out; but, yeah, I still have a share up there.

NEADY: Didn't Francis about get killed on a tractor?

IVAN: That was my tractor. That was close, I'm going to tell you.

ALAN: What happened?

IVAN: That thing didn't -- it didn't get to me until we got up after this all happened. We got up to the cabin trying to wash him off. He was bloody from one end to the other. Took my tractor and a grader blade and we're going to work on the road. Well, it's a pretty steep climb.

ALAN: Been up there a few times.

IVAN: Been up there? Well, unload the tractor right here at the bottom. It can run up on its own power and I can pull -- with my truck, I was pulling the trailer up there; and Francis never drove a tractor. He worked at the shipyard all his life. He never drove a tractor. I thought all you've got to do -- you can steer this tractor up here. I'll get you going. You just follow me.

ALAN: Hard to imagine Francis not able to do anything.

IVAN: No, no. He wouldn't admit it anyway.

NEADY: He was an old man already. How old was he?

IVAN: No, he wasn't too old then yet. Well, I don't know.

NEADY: I remember it.

IVAN: Do you remember that?

ALAN: It's been a long time ago then.

NEADY: I think he was retired, wasn't he?

IVAN: I don't think so.

NEADY: Okay.

IVAN: I don't know. It's been a little while ago when you get thinking about it; but anyway --

ORPHA: He would know. Francis would know.

IVAN: Oh, yeah. He can tell you; so this old windy road -- you've been up there. I get on out front, went around the curve and look back. Well, he ought to be -- finally, I stopped. He's not

coming. I don't see him. He'll be around the corner here pretty soon. No, didn't come; so I parked the truck, started walking back. Well, guess what? Got to where I could see where I'd last seen him. No tractor or nothing. Nobody. Couldn't hear nothing. Wondered, "What in the world?" So I got walking back and I got about back to where I had left him back -- here he come crawling up there on all fours. This is steep, I mean.

ALAN: Yeah, it is.

IVAN: The road is alongside the mountain. Here I heard something coming; and, I declare, I didn't even recognize him hardly at first. Bloody from one end to the -- the head -- just bald-headed and that thing just shining red and wild-looking; and I said, "What happened to you? Where is the tractor?"

"Down there."

"What do you mean down there?"

By that time I kind of halfway got the idea that this thing had gone down over the edge. Boom. What he had done -- I think he tried to shift into another gear and hit what he thought was the clutch. Guess what? That was that left-hand brake and threw him right over there. Then he rode her down there a little ways and maybe far -- not quite as far from here to Willie's -- and the thing threw him off. That thing was bouncing and, of course, luck -- it was in gear -- in low gear, so it didn't just take off wide open. You know. That held it back some; and I had a grader blade on the back there, and he said he seen that thing go -- it threw him off and he seen it go back over his head.

At first he was going to try to catch the thing. I don't know what he was going to do when he had it. It would have been like a dog chasing a car. He wouldn't know what to do if he caught it; and that thing kept going and kept going and didn't hit any big trees. Anything it hit wasn't big enough. It'd slow him down and it just kept going and it ended up near about -- do you remember that -- well, you probably don't know, but it comes up and then it makes a turn and goes on up the mountain; and that thing kept going and ended up near about down where the road is until it finally hit something big enough to hold it but -- you know -- it didn't do anything to that tractor major. I'm still using the same tractor.

ALAN: How did you get it out?

IVAN: We were down there by the road and there's a bank there about ten or -- ten feet high; so, of course, George Brunk -- all the Brunk boys -- the whole crew were up there, so we had a lot of advice. Put a chain on this thing. I think we went down to a farmer down there in the bottom and got some chains. Anyhow, chained that thing to the draw bar, took a wrap around a tree and let it run right out; and that thing hung out there -- just like this is land, the thing hung like that. Let her down -- right down on the road and it still run. We used it.

NEADY: How about Francis?

IVAN: Yeah. That was another story so -- yeah. This was later that we got the tractor. Right away, I seen this guy. He needs some help, but he wasn't crippled. I mean, he was still on his own. Walked on up to the truck, went on up to the mountain to the cabin to the spring there and washed him off. That's when it really hit me. I started -- that thing -- I got a lump in my throat and I just -- well, I don't know if I boo-hooed or not, but I tell you, it scared the mischief out of me.

ALAN: Could have been a disaster.

IVAN: It could have killed him just as easy --

NEADY: Well, didn't he have some broken bones?

IVAN: Yeah, but he didn't know that. Well, he had -- so we went to the doctor. Went to the

hospital there and they, of course, told him take off -- he ain't never been to the hospital in his life, never listened to anybody anyway. Yeah. Of course, got to take your clothes off. Vernon took him down there. Vernon could hear him in there. Said when the guy come in there to get with him and after he had this little nightie on, said, "You're supposed to take your shoes off." Said, "My feet ain't hurting me. It's my head hurting me." I don't know if he kept his shoes on -- those big old brogans -- or not, but anyway; so they wrapped his head. He looked like an Arab. I mean, they had that thing all wrapped up because he had glasses on and he had busted his head on a rock or something there; and we went back and found his glasses. They were broke and he had cut his face; so Edna, when he got home, we drove in there to Edna's, of course he had this turban on.

ORPHA: Yeah, but you missed the doctor.

IVAN: Oh, yeah, the doctor. After he finally -- he wrapped up one hand -- one arm, said, "Well, that one is broke." Got that wrapped all up. The doctor come out to Vernon and said, "You got a hardheaded brother." He said, "Tell me."

Anyway, got him back. Me and him drove home in the truck. Got home to Edna. She come out. "What happened to you? Did you" -- I forget what her expression was. "Did a tree fall on you or something?" I don't remember what her expression was; but, anyway; so, yeah -- well, his arm broke and the next day or two he had to do his garden. Man, his garden's got to be worked. Got that old rotor tiller and that thing is shaking; but for some reason or other, he was to go back to the doctor to have this thing checked. He had been out rotor-tillering. Yeah, well, this other arm is broke too; so both arms were broke and he was out there running that rotor tiller. He had to go. Oh, great day.

ALAN: Did he shoot those eagles he had down there or did somebody else shoot those?

IVAN: The eagle? Yeah. That was quite a feat back in those days. Along about -- I don't know what year. Must have been around the forties, they outlawed -- I mean, they were protected; but up until that it was quite a feat to shoot a -- everybody got one. Vernon shot one right behind a haystack over here at -- and Francis -- I don't remember where he got his. Johnny Wenger -- here's a guy that never hunted -- but he got an eagle and, of course, you get them mounted. I shot one. I said, "I bet I'm the only one that ever shot an eagle and didn't draw any blood and captured him."

ALAN: What happened?

IVAN: He was right down here on this ditch that runs between Wengers and us and I seen him sitting up there in a tree; and I didn't know if I was -- I didn't have a gun. I went and borrowed Francis's gun. Come back. Eagle was still sitting there. I got down in that big lead ditch, and he couldn't see me; and I got as close as I thought I dare without him seeing me. It was a good shot, and I just almost missed him. It cut the long wing feathers off his wing; and, of course, then he tried to fly; and he just circled around -- yung-yung-yung -- down. Now, what do I do? Because when I got to him, he laid up on his back with the claws and that beak up there, he could have tore your hand all to pieces. I put the gun on top of him and I managed to capture him alive, bring him home. Now what do I do with him? I got him. Now what? Good lands. Because he was mature. They don't get that white head until they're four years old. We lived down there where Carson at that time and so -- yeah. Well, I'm going to mount -- I'm going to have mine mounted, but I'm only going to mount the head and the claws. Dad did a lot of taxidermy.

ALAN: Did he mount Vernon's and Francis'?

IVAN: Yeah, he stuffed all of them. Francis did some. I don't know. He may have done his own, wouldn't let nobody else do it. I don't know; but mine hung in the old shop here for a while, and about that time they were protected. I said, "I better get rid of this thing." I didn't need an eagle about then and never did get mine mounted or anything.

ALAN to Orpha: How hard did you find it to fit in around here? I've heard other folks talk about when they'd come into this community from somewhere else, they'd feel like the people here were kind of standoffish or something.

(Orpha shook head negatively.)

IVAN: Well, she had the right connections, after all. Yeah.

ORPHA: I don't know what you're talking about.

IVAN: He said, "Did people accept you?"

ALAN: In other words, I've had other people who moved here after being adults and just feel like they weren't really --

ORPHA: No, I didn't feel like that.

IVAN: I accepted her and everybody accepted her.

ORPHA: That's all that was necessary.

ALAN: So it was home from the very beginning?

ORPHA: Yeah.

ALAN: I talked with Ann Kurtz. She said this never felt like home until just a couple years before she moved to Harrisonburg, and then it felt like home.

IVAN: Oh, good night. I don't know. I wonder if she -- I wouldn't have ever thought about that. Because her -- her and Jim, Vernons, Francis and Johnny Wengers -- and who else? Oh, about the same age -- you know -- and I thought they were all compatible.

ALAN: Yeah. She said they spent a lot of time with Vernons or that she thought Jim and Vernon were friends, but she didn't really know anybody outside the community.

IVAN: Jim worked at the dairy I think before Vernon did.

ALAN: Oh, really.

IVAN: About the same time. They were about the same time. Vernon had a horse and wagon to deliver his milk the first couple years. They didn't all have cars, but the dairy could have a truck if they put it in the driver's name; so they had a number of trucks -- only two or three maybe -- and carried the milk into town and then unloaded it onto the horse and wagon; and, of course, everybody got milk. You didn't go to the store to get milk; and, man, like there in Colonial Place, just one house after another. Shoot, man. Those horses worked fine. I went with him a time or two on it, but I never -- I was lucky enough to have a car. He said, Don't let anybody kid you that the horse can make as good a time as the truck.

ALAN: Now you built the house down there on Mt. Pleasant?

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: You went from Aunt Nettie's down there and then from there to here?

IVAN: No. From Aunt Nettie's, we went to that little house of Clarence and Carrie's across the road there where --

ALAN: Oh, Clark Yoder's and them lived? Little white house?

ORPHA: Russell Neal?

IVAN: No. That's Clarence and Carrie's house. They owned a house and Della Culpepper and the girls lived there.

ALAN: Just across the street there.

IVAN: Your dad knew one of the girls pretty good. He writes that in that book, so I know I was safe there.

ALAN: You know they went to see her shortly --

IVAN: He told me he did.

ALAN: And I hadn't seen Mama -- Mama looked like a teenage girl when they got back.

IVAN: Said she didn't have nothing to worry about because the girl done lost a leg.

ALAN: That's right. It was good tonic for both of them.

NEADY: I always admired Mama that she had the guts to do that. Because we did hear about Margerie a lot when we were growing up. The yellow dress and the black stockings is what we heard.

IVAN: I don't know if I knew your mother went along, but I knew he went and looked her up.

ALAN: She went too.

IVAN: Yeah.

ALAN: Well, you worked with Uncle Ira then until you went to the dairy?

IVAN: Yeah, yeah. I worked maybe two, three years; at least that. I said -- you know -- I didn't really learn much I don't guess, but I learned a lot of carpenter, painting and whatever he did. He started at the bottom of the house -- you know -- and worked all the way up to the top; and your dad did too. I think he mentions that in the book.

ALAN: Oh, yeah. He used to tell me about working for Uncle Ira.

IVAN: Lot of these guys. Robert Mast and different ones worked with him. Oh, awhile ago you wanted to know about -- and I was going to bring that up. You wondered about the airport, whether I had seen -- I was working with Dad on Dwight Miller's big store -- that was to be a supermarket, not an apartment building -- and he did, first year maybe; but it never went too great. We built these self -- and up to that time, the old store, you'd tell the clerk you wanted a pound of sugar or you wanted a shirt or whatever, and they had shelves all around and the clerk would go get it for you; and then they come up with this serve yourself and this was his idea. He was going to have a big supermarket there; but, anyway, we built the first floor and had it all decked over and we could watch those big pans and bulldozers. We'd never seen any kind of -- that was big equipment them days and they were -- that old heavy dirt. I remember right now they had bulldozers there. This pan was self-propelled, I guess; and he'd get it far as he could go, and then that stuff would stop him and the bulldozer would come up behind him and -- boom -- he'd hit him; and, anyhow, they built the airport and I watched them.

ALAN: Was this before 1941? Before Pearl Harbor they built that?

IVAN: Let's see. They were already doing the draft. I guess it must have been after Pearl Harbor. We were married in '44, and I was -- I didn't work for Dad afterwards. Yeah, I did too. I was working for Titus when we were married. I'm not sure about the dates there.

ALAN: Well, somebody -- somewhere somebody has -- I've heard a story that an airplane landed in the back of your -- where -- where Uncle Ira and you all were living and said there was going to be an airport down here, and that was the first anybody ever seen an airport around here.

IVAN: No. One crashed -- a number of them crashed along about then. Them guys were green coming through here. Shoot, they were cracking them up. Well, one landed right in Ernest -- by Ernest Miller's big dairy barn, that long dairy barn, right out in that field out there between the airport -- come in there. I don't know what happened, but crashed right there; and there was -- I seen two run together.

ALAN: You saw it?

IVAN: I saw them hit up here. I could hear it. You know. All at once these things just -- motors started running wild. You know. Something different. Looked up, and one of them came down right in -- right there in Chester Wenger's yard, old Mrs. --

ALAN: Back behind where Carson is now you're talking about?

IVAN: Yeah, yeah. Yeah. Right there; and I think one pilot or whatever was -- still strapped in his seat maybe and the other one came down over on Butts -- over there on Elbow Road. I went over there and seen that one where this guy -- where the thing had come down and these guys -- a couple of them floated out in the parachutes.

ALAN: Do you remember where you were December 7, 1941, when you heard about Pearl Harbor? Or did it make any impression on you?

IVAN: Yeah, it made impress -- let's see. No, I don't know. No, I don't think -- of course, we didn't have a radio, we didn't have a TV, we didn't have a --

ALAN: You didn't have radio?

IVAN: Well, I probably had one, but I didn't let them know it. Had it in the car but --

ALAN: Ann Kurtz said you had or were supposed to.

IVAN: Well, she probably figures I did. I did.

ALAN: I think she said Vernon had one. He wasn't supposed to, but he did.

IVAN: He already had his own house; and I had one back there at Dad's; a record player, big twelve-inch. I don't remember. I used to go down to Dwight Miller's store -- now this would have been when I was a teenager then -- every Saturday night, go down to get groceries -- Dad would -- and people gathered up there and I'd go back -- Dwight had a radio back of the store there. He wasn't trying to hide it; and I'd listen to Nashville. Could get Nashville on that thing.

ALAN: They were still doing that when I was a kid.

IVAN: Is that right?

ALAN: If you could hide in the back of Daddy's car without him catching you on Saturday night, he'd buy you a Pepsi-Cola and let you stay.

IVAN: Okay. Yeah, your dad worked there one year.

ALAN: Yeah.

IVAN: I got -- it ain't here. Back there. The speakers are out here and it will play all -- it will play the big twelve-inch, it will play the tape, it will play the compact disk and also play -- no. I can play the new DVDs on this one here, but not on that one.

ALAN: Come a long way.

IVAN: Ain't they? Good night. How in the world they can take that little flat disk and have a picture.

ALAN: What's the most amazing events or thing you've seen in all your life so far?

IVAN: What?

ALAN: The most amazing invention or new thing that just --

IVAN: Oh, yeah. Yeah. Well, I don't know anything about them because it's electronics. I don't know them, don't understand them. I can hardly run my own here enough. I can get music out of it. That's about it. I guess that would have to be the top of the line.

Of course, the airplanes come in -- you know -- in my lifetime. I ran over here to Harold Clendenning's. There was a piper cub or some kind come down in one of them open fields over there. A guy kind of -- not a crash landing, but an emergency landing; and, man, that run -- I can remember running over there. Me and Harold run over to the airplane. From then on I don't remember any more about it.

How about -- you might want -- I rode in Ray Hobbs's. He never got that one that he built -- he never had that one off the ground, but he sold it. Cletus had an airplane, but Cletus couldn't fly it; but Ray could, so Ray was the pilot. Cletus -- I think that was their big hangup in later years. Anyhow, Ray was living over here where his house is and he would start up over there what was the Teneffoss's place at that time right back of where that Yoder boy lives where Kenny Kurtz had that house there. Not way over there. Kenny has a house --

NEADY: Dale has the house now, right?

IVAN: Right there back of Dale's. Yeah. Right there by --

NEADY: By Dale's shop?

IVAN: Right. That big ditch. Anyhow, he'd take off over there and come all the way through and over my dad's farm and could barely get that thing up over the hedgerow there between Teneffoss's and my dad's place, but that was his runway; so, "You want to go for a ride?" "Well, sure, I want to go for a ride." He managed to get it up over that thing, flying all around. Went over by the Lehman's and seen somebody down there. I don't know who. Lehman's; so, yeah, we ought to go down there and we'll land in this pasture field. Yeah. Well, that's great. Yeah. Let's go down and talk to them. Hadn't seen them since last week, I don't guess; so come down and, of course, woods all around there. He's got to bring that thing in right steep. Hit that pasture field and it had froze during the night, but it had thawed during the day. It was just like grease. You couldn't even feel when he hit. I tell you, that thing felt like it picked up speed. Went right up -- going right straight for the barn. Oh, my goodness; but he managed to steer that thing some kind of way, went up over a lumber pile and knocked the whole wheels and everything out from under that thing and luckily it didn't do that number or I wouldn't be telling it, I don't guess; but they carried it away from there on a trailer. Yeah. We'd been flying.

ALAN: Harold Clendenning flies too, didn't he?

IVAN: Yeah, he did; and he flipped one right out here on Mt. Pleasant Road. Yeah. Hit the -- he hit the electric lines and it flipped him. It like to killed him too.

NEADY: How old were you when you were flying with Ray down at Lehman's?

IVAN: I suppose I was married.

ORPHA: Old enough to know better.

IVAN: Yeah. Because Ray already had his house here, so I had to be twenty-five; and he already lived back there, so I was probably thirty years old. Had too many kids to be doing funny things such as that. Gracious. Good old days. Good they're gone.

ALAN: What time is it?

NEADY: Looks like 8:16.

IVAN: Eighteen minutes past --

ALAN: I just didn't want to overstay our welcome.

IVAN: Oh, good gracious. No. I feel honored.

ALAN: Well, you haven't seen it written out yet.

IVAN: I know anytime Neady --

ALAN: Before we publish anything, the idea -- we're going to have everybody we'll talk to will have their own chapter; and before we publish everything, give back to them to read and make sure --

IVAN: You don't want a lawsuit on your hands; but you are going to try to put it in a book?

ALAN: We are going to put it in a book.

IVAN: That will be interesting. Will you be able -- hardly get it ready by --

ALAN: No. This will take a couple years.

IVAN: No way.

ALAN: Between the hours I'm working and -- you know.

IVAN: I see -- talking about you working -- Ray Bergey come over here and picked up his signs over here today.

ALAN: Maybe they sold it.

IVAN: Guess they did. He picked up the signs there this morning.

ALAN: I'll have to check and see.

IVAN: I thought you were in real estate, you'd know where they were. You don't know exactly what you're competitor is doing.

ALAN: It's hard to keep up with everything. I've got enough to even keep track of my own stuff.

IVAN: I imagine. They say it's -- but if it closes this airport down -- well --

ALAN: That's going to be a disaster.

IVAN: That's going to be a mess.

ALAN: But it will be ten years or so before --

IVAN: Well, I believe they'd do it.

ALAN: I think they probably will too.

IVAN: They don't have no options. They get those bigger and bigger planes and get more and more houses.

ALAN: The thing to do is go to North Carolina where they're buying all that land up and buy some down there because that's going to be a pretty good size city by the time they get done twenty-five, thirty years from now.

IVAN: Yeah. Wherever they build one, it will build up right around them.

ALAN: During the war, did they have a lot more people stationed down here at the base? Did they have planes stationed there?

IVAN: Did they keep planes? Seemed like they kept planes here some and they had barracks. I know they had barracks down there and they kept men there so, yeah, they had planes here and men.

ALAN: More than what they do now.

IVAN: And, of course, this is later that this here -- that Ken Kuykendall was down here. That's how he got acquainted down here. He was stationed -- he was the chief down here at the airport; and he said Melvin used to come down there and watch TV, and then finally Melvin would go to sleep and they'd all go off and go to bed and he don't know when Melvin would get up in the morning.

ALAN: Melvin gets in some of the strangest places.

NEADY: That must have been when he had a lot of them working for him. Remember, he hired a lot of navy guys.

ALAN: Oh, did he?

IVAN: Oh, yeah.

NEADY: They used to hang out. Dorothy would cook for them. Oh, yes, they were very thick with the navy boys.

ALAN: Well, think of it. If you were a young fellow away from home and a home-cooked meal is probably worthwhile.

NEADY: And she could cook.

ALAN: Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you about. Softball or baseball. When you were coming up, they played what? Baseball rather than softball, right?

IVAN: Baseball all the time.

ALAN: Where was the baseball field then?

IVAN: The main one was down there right by Emery's on Lloyd Stutzman's place there.

ALAN: Between Gramps' and Lloyd's?

IVAN: Yeah. Right there. That was home plate right there by Mt. Pleasant Road; and -- yeah. Every Saturday night. Every Saturday night, I mean, during the summer. I see these kids going all -- good lands. Must be an awful job, but we used to do the same thing every Saturday night and play until -- man -- completely dark, seemed to me like. Nobody ever got hurt real bad I guess, but they always had a ball game down there; but, like you say, when softball first come in, that was kind of sissy stuff. We were used to playing hardball and -- but we did. Later, as I was older, we played softball too; and we'd always go over there to Denbigh and that was about as -- well, in fact, it was frowned on when I was a teenager. Yeah. Playing -- the way they put it -- organized ball. Go out and have a sand-lot game -- all right -- but now you don't go have organized. That's big league stuff.

ALAN: Oh, really. To get a team together.

IVAN: Yeah. They kind of frowned on that. That wasn't nice, but we could go over and play Denbigh because they were also Mennonites.

ALAN: That was okay, but not go play in the league.

IVAN: No; and branch out, which we did. I know we went over there to South Norfolk, Cascade Park.

ALAN: Oh, really; so there was a Mt. Pleasant Mennonite softball team long before this one?

IVAN: Yeah. I think most of us had -- probably had a few others in there. Mostly Mennonites.

NEADY: What position did you play?

IVAN: I was catcher. I was always catcher.

ALAN: Was that fast pitch then or slow pitch?

IVAN: No. Slow pitch. Yeah. No, I never -- I never played in -- now Philip -- when he come along, they played fast pitch.

ALAN: For a while, yeah.

IVAN: For a while; but, no, I never played that.

ALAN: Who all was on the team?

IVAN: Oh, boy. That guy, Soup Weaver -- Ernest Weaver. He was heavy into -- and then Vernon; and Francis -- he was always working and had kids. I don't think he ever got down there too much, but I don't know. Your dad, of course.

ALAN: Was Marvin Keffer old enough then?

IVAN: Yeah. Marvin, but not on a regular basis. I think he had moved somewhere else or something. He must have lived in town or something. He wasn't around here.

ALAN: What was the name of the team?

IVAN: I doubt if it had a name. Mt. Pleasant.

ORPHA: Was that Weaver boy's name Peter?

IVAN: Yeah.

ORPHA: And Vernon.

IVAN: Yeah.

ORPHA: Which was which?

IVAN: There's only three of them.

ORPHA: The one that got killed was Peter.

IVAN: No, didn't none of them get killed. That was Dave Smucker got killed.

ORPHA: But he was in the accident.

IVAN: Peter was riding behind.

ORPHA: He was in the accident and got crippled.

IVAN: Yeah. Crippled all his life. Yeah, I knew them both well. Peter Weaver never was much of a player, but now Ernest -- we used to always call him Soup. I don't know where he got that name, but he was pitcher and he was long-legged and long-armed. He was wild but -- and Johnny Wenger.

ALAN: I remember Daddy talking about Johnny Wenger pitching. He hated to bat against him because he was wild as all get out.

IVAN: Yeah, he was wild.

NEADY: Daddy used to say, "The darker it got, the wilder he got."

IVAN: That's probably right.

ALAN: Was there much back and forth between the Methodist church and the Mennonite church?

IVAN: No, no.

ALAN: If you knew them in the community --

IVAN: But there was some -- boy, I know I remember a couple that came from over Princess Anne courthouse way. There was a guy that pitched from over there; and then a couple guys from Kempsville, so it was kind of a mixed -- it wasn't just a Mennonite team, but it was mostly Mennonite.

ALAN: There was the fellow whose name I can't remember, but he lived with Gramps and Grammy for a while; and he wasn't Mennonite, but he was here in the Mennonite community.

IVAN: Lived with who?

ALAN: Gramps and Grammy. Emery and Nettie.

IVAN: Oh, okay.

ALAN: I wish I could remember his name.

IVAN: Hochstetler.

ALAN: Yeah. He lived with them and he worked at Yoder Dairies as a helper. It's while Avis and Mama were still living there because they sewed his -- they washed his uniform or his clothes and they sewed his pants shut one morning. It was a joke.

NEADY: I never knew any of that.

ALAN: I ran into -- his daughter is about my age. He's dead now; and I ran into her at church one morning and we got talking. She said she knew Mt. Pleasant. "How do you know Mt. Pleasant?" "Well, my dad used to live out there in the Mennonite community."

IVAN: I don't remember anybody ever living with them. Milan and Carson -- and when -- when they first moved around here -- now that was the greatest thing. These two girls coming into the community like that. Man, that was big news, I'm telling you.

ALAN: They came in '35, I believe; '36; somewhere in the late thirties.

IVAN: Probably.

ALAN: I think Mama was about twelve or thirteen, and Avis was a little older from what they tell us.

IVAN: Yeah. Vernon and Avis -- they kind of had a crush.

ALAN: I thought Avis had a crush on everybody.

IVAN: Yeah. She wasn't too shy. Ryland Matthews.

ALAN: That's a new name. I hadn't heard that one.

NEADY: How about Dan Smucker?

IVAN: Yeah. He was kind of --

NEADY: And Avis.

IVAN: Let's see. Well, I don't remember that, but that was the same time frame so -- I suppose. Knowing Dan and knowing Avis.

ORPHA: Avis and Stanley Warfel.

IVAN: That was pretty heavy. Yeah.

NEADY: Well, Dan Smucker and Avis are writing to one another right now.

IVAN: Oh, yeah. Okay.

NEADY: That's what Mama says.

IVAN: Right, right. I heard that. I didn't know if that was true, but Dan is older than I am.

NEADY: Well, it's not romantic. It's just friends.

IVAN: Just writing. What else do you do at that age? He's about four or five years older than I am. He was about Vernon's age.

ALAN: After his wife died -- I kept in touch with Jeanne over the years. She said after her mother died, all these little old widows come out of the woodwork, would be calling on him, bringing him dishes. She said it went on for years. They kept trying to get close to Dan. He had more friends than he knew what to do with and he wasn't the least bit interested.

NEADY: Who was the neighborhood clown when you all were running around? Who was the life of the party?

IVAN: Later, but I wasn't in that crowd at all -- Ray Hobbs was a real nut, they say. Him and Pauline -- you remember -- or you don't remember, but him and Pauline Teneffoss Miller -- Crowley Miller -- they were pretty thick for a long time, they say; but they were -- we were having babies by then. I don't know.

ALAN: I wonder if that's who Daddy was talking about. He used to talk about that they would get together -- the old group would get together to play guitars or -- you know -- like young folks have forever when you get -- want to get together and do something -- whatever it is -- get together. He said Ray was so busy playing guitar, he didn't know that somebody was in the car smooching with his girlfriend.

ORPHA: Probably right.

IVAN: About right. Yeah. We used to play a lot. The Troyer girls -- both of them played the guitar and -- let's see. Who else? Of course, Phil, myself.

ALAN: Both Troyer girls? Fannie --

IVAN: Fannie and Mary.

ALAN: Oh, okay.

IVAN: I don't think Edna -- I don't know that she ever --

ORPHA: I don't think so. She quilts.

ALAN: Actually, most everybody played something or sang something, didn't they?

IVAN: Yeah. Seemed like it.

NEADY: How about the Miller Quartet? What year did you all start that?

IVAN: Well, I'd been twenty so -- let's see. What year? It would have been '43. Oh, about -- yeah. Probably '42, '43, along in there.

ALAN: Did Harold sing with you from the beginning?

IVAN: Right at first, yeah. Pretty much when I got into it. Now, Francis will tell you that up until that time it was him and Vernon and Paul Wenger, I think he says, and maybe Uncle Abe. I don't know. Harold and I -- when he got out of school -- it was about the same time. I got in it -- Dan Smucker had -- Dan Smucker was in it for a little bit. It was him, Vernon, Francis and I don't know who the other one would have been, but maybe Uncle Abe; but somebody got married and Dan was living up in Harrisonburg or somewhere away. He wasn't here to practice, so I was supposed to practice for Dan. Well, Dan wouldn't have it. When Dan got down here, he said, "No, you go ahead." That's when I got into it; and Harold -- he was just fresh out of school, I guess. Anyhow that would have had to have been twenty -- in '43. Of course, I got an early start in life. I wasn't but -- I was twenty when we got married.

ALAN: Now you all were living down at the other house when Carolyn was born?

IVAN: Was Carolyn born there?

ORPHA: Yeah. The one that we sold to Carson then on the other side of the road.

IVAN: We only lived -- we lived in Clarence's little house there for probably about a year and then we built that as a garage. That was supposed to be a garage. I had bought an acre of land from Lesley Swartz; and, of course, Dad being a carpenter I had to -- he never was much for renting, so we built a garage with the idea of building a house there; and then this opened up, this twenty acres here -- twenty-some become available and I bought this.

ALAN: Who owned this before you bought it?

IVAN: Colored guy. Davis back here. You probably know him. He died not too long ago. His parents. I think they called him Preacher Davis maybe, I think. I didn't know him. Well -- you know -- he couldn't make his payment at the bank. I bought it from the bank and twenty -- it's called twenty-two acres, more or less; and I think I paid about \$2200 for it, I think. \$100 an acre; and we lived in it when -- then sooner -- I wasn't here -- as soon as I bought it, well, then we managed to borrow enough money -- which was only \$2,000 -- to put it up and wrap it up with tar paper; and then about -- lived in it about a year like that; and then Harold and Uncle Abe laid the brick before he went into 1-W service at Williamsburg.

ALAN: I remember that. I remember being back here and playing with Carolyn at that end when the brick was about that high up.

IVAN: Yeah. Okay.

ALAN: They were working on it.

IVAN: Merlin got a scar from it right now. Merlin was down here and, of course, they were laying brick up over the -- and throwing chips out or whatever. Guess what? One hit Merlin right in the forehead. He's got a scar there right now. Boom.

NEADY: Weren't you all the only ones to have a horse?

IVAN: I was the only one, yeah.

NEADY: I mean when we were growing up. Well, I guess Buckwalters had a horse, but Loren had a horse. That was sort of unusual.

IVAN: My dad just loved horses and we always on the farm there had an old horse but -- yeah. Long before I ever moved -- long before. When I was a teenager, I always had a horse. The other guys had to pedal their bicycles. Shoot. I just -- the first money I had saved and spent was for a saddle. Sent to Sears Roebuck, got me a saddle and I rode and rode that horse everywhere.

ALAN: What was the horse's name?

IVAN: I remember running right down Mill Landing Lane, on out into the water. She would swim right on out there.

ALAN: What was the horse's name?

IVAN: Beauty. Yeah. That was --

ALAN: What was the first car you ever had?

IVAN: '36 Ford. Didn't have one until I got married.

ALAN: Oh, really.

IVAN: No. Didn't have one. I had Dad's car. Dad had a '38 Ford. That was the courting car. Up until that time, he had a '38. He probably got it in -- it wasn't new, so he probably got it '39 or -- but up until that time, he had an old Model A Ford, a '29, I think it was; and that's the one that we took on a trip to the West Coast, gone all summer.

ALAN: Isn't there a diary somewhere about that?

IVAN: Yeah. I got it right here. I just got it back from Merlin tonight.

ALAN: You ought to publish that.

IVAN: It was published.

ALAN: Oh, really?

IVAN: Oh, I put it right here. Yeah. I had to call Merlin. I thought about it. I said, "Maybe there's something in there," but I said, "Well, it's all family stuff so" --

NEADY: That used to be his insurance office, didn't it? Isn't that why you all closed it in or built it on or not? Didn't it used to be a porch?

ORPHA: When we built the house, but they didn't screen it in.

IVAN: Yeah, it was just this porch and then the Mast boys come in here and put this on so this was my office.

ORPHA: Laurie worked in there and later on he says she left and she took his business and our son. Then they took it over when he didn't want it anymore.

IVAN: There it is. What happened, Dad -- of course, everybody wasn't doing it in 1935. Took that old Model A Ford, took it over to Barteas and got them to completely overhaul the motor. This was '35 and that was a '29. The thing was six years old already; and pulled a trailer, but not a camping trailer. Just like one of these smallest U-Haul trailers to haul our tent and groceries and clothes in, and headed for the West Coast.

My dad had a sister out there -- Aunt -- I don't know. What in the world was -- Allen Good -- my aunt out there in Oregon.

ORPHA: Fannie.

IVAN: Yeah. Fannie. Anyway, they lived not too far from where Loren lives now in Oregon. Right close to Mt. Hood; but we took off soon as school was out because I had been eleven at the

time. I turned twelve when we were out there. Because I was a month late getting back to school. Took the whole summer; and my dad and Vernon and Francis worked in Iowa in the grain fields, shocking grain; and I guess that's where he got enough money to make it all the way there and back. Because he didn't have no money when we left here hardly. He had worked at the Ford plant and the Ford plant shut down and he took off for the West Coast.

ALAN: I didn't know that. He worked at the Ford plant for a while?

IVAN: Oh, yeah.

ALAN: Was that at the same time Lesley Swartz was there?

IVAN: Uh-huh. We didn't -- myself -- didn't find out anything about the Depression -- this was 1935 -- because he had a job at the Ford plant; and the Ford plant even at that time paid the best wages around, and he would carpenter some I think. They would shut down every year to change models. They'd change down for a couple months and so anyhow we went out west; and when we come back, he never went back to the Ford plant. He went to carpenter full-time. You might want that if you want to bring it back.

ALAN: You don't mind if I take it with me and read it? I'd love to read it. I really would.

IVAN: I know it would be interesting to you.

ORPHA: Merlin just took pictures out.

ALAN: Words are more interesting than pictures.

IVAN: He's going to put them on the computer or something or other.

ALAN: Scan them in.

IVAN: I don't understand, but yeah. He's going -- you'll want to read it too. I have one -- another copy. What happened -- he would write -- he would write letters back home. Of course, in 1935 how many people were in the community? You know. There wasn't that many. He'd send them to Carrie Miller -- Clarence and Carrie -- and then she would give them to probably Uncle Abe's and Lehman's and they'd kind of make their circle around. He'd write every couple of weeks. If he'd known he was going to put it in a book, I'm sure he'd wrote it a little different; but, anyway, after we got back, Carrie had seen to it that she got all these letters back and she had them all. There they are.

Then his sister was up there at Scottsdale. In fact, her husband worked in the publishing house. I'm not sure if she did or not; and she typed all those letters. That was a major undertaking if you'd seen his writing. His writing wasn't the greatest in the world.

ALAN: But he wrote stuff in the Budget too, didn't he?

IVAN: Yeah, yeah. My cousin up in Pennsylvania -- Alvina Livingood -- has all of those I think -- or most of them, she said.

ALAN: Oh, really.

ORPHA: Esta. Wasn't she the one that typed it?

IVAN: Yeah, yeah, yeah. Married to Yoder. What was his name?

ORPHA: Ed Yoder.

IVAN: They were both right there at Scottsdale. In fact, Dad worked there at the publishing house there for one winter or something.

ALAN: Oh, really?

IVAN: Not long.

ALAN: You never know whatever would happen then was ordinary stuff, but seventy years later it's not ordinary anymore.

IVAN: That's true. That's true. Yeah. Anyhow; so that's how the book came about. Then here not too many years back since Loren's married, Michelle was here and looking at it; so she gets busy and takes it up to the library, I think. I didn't have a copier at that time. Took it to the library and took the thing apart, copied all of it and made several copies; so we've got -- I've got another copy. Harold Bergey's got it right now. The pictures aren't as good. This is the original; so the pictures didn't come out as good -- you know -- but she copied the whole thing. She's got a copy, I've got another copy and I don't know if she made any others or not; but that's how the book came to be and it's interesting if you know the people. It's just strictly family; but, like I say, he wrote it and they passed it all around the community.

ALAN: How old were you when they took that trip?

IVAN: Eleven. I turned twelve in October and we didn't get back until October. I was a month late getting back to school. That suited me fine; and the only work I did -- I said I was just old enough to have a lot of fun and didn't have to work, but I did. Pick up prunes in Oregon. We were there right during the prune crop and they'd shake the trees; and they had anybody they could get I guess to pick up these and put them in a lug, they'd call them. It was like a bushel, like a basket; and he says in there that I picked up 100 lugs. I don't know. I know I was having more fun just throwing them because there were girls out there picking up prunes too; and Francis and Vernon and Dad worked in the prune dryer and this was -- they'd run them through a vat and wash them -- just bushels and truckloads of prunes -- of plums -- and this thing run twenty-four hours a day; and they worked nights doing whatever they could do in that dryer drying these plums. They'd come out wrinkled up like a prune and one thing -- the only thing I remember about that is there were wire trays where these plums were on and they were that far apart -- you know -- and he'd pull them through there and dry these things. Well, juice would drip down on this here -- on this screen. It was kind of like taffy. The stuff was kind of dry; but you didn't need to eat it but about one night, about one time and you knew you'd done wrong. You didn't eat any more prunes for a long time. That was concentrated prune juice.

NEADY: Oh, that was funny.

IVAN: Francis -- he turned twenty-one when we were out there, and we went -- in the book you can follow it along -- but went to Iowa. We had some relatives in Iowa. This wasn't in the original plan to stop and work. Yeah. Well, they were right into the harvest and there wasn't no combines or anything in those days. You shock it; so here are three laborers right here and that was -- you know -- instead of Dad making all the money, we had three making money there in Iowa; and that put us across the top, I'm sure; but even Dad -- he wasn't great for spending a lot of money. He could stretch a dollar pretty good.

I know we went to Yellowstone. Went on out to the West Coast. Some of those places I still remember when we went out there later -- when Loren moved out there. We've been out there a dozen times, I guess. A lot of those places I still remember that trip. Redwood trees and --

NEADY: Didn't Keith do the same thing with his boys last year or the year before?

IVAN: Yeah. So did Brent. Brent went not last year but the year before, and Keith went the year before that.

ORPHA: And we went last year.

ALAN: You mean just followed the same basic route and just made the trip?

IVAN: Yeah. Kind of.

ORPHA: Yeah. They went down to California and all the way down.

IVAN: Went to Colorado and Yellowstone and pretty well the whole thing.

ORPHA: And stayed at Loren's about ten days, but then they headed for home. Then it was time. The children too.

IVAN: There's a whole lot of cement between here and Oregon.

ORPHA: You know we went out there with Harold and Rose.

NEADY: I know.

ORPHA: And we had a good time.

IVAN: That was kind of interesting.

ORPHA: We got in there late at night, went in there to Loren's. They took us right down to the house from Portland.

ALAN: Did you fly out or drive out?

IVAN: Flew with Harold and Rose; and then he rented a car when he got there to Portland. Flew into Portland and then drove -- it's about ninety miles to Loren's from Portland, and they went on and got a motel the night and went down to the redwoods, down into California and we stayed there at Loren's. Then when they came back about a week later, then they stopped by there again; but we met -- no, didn't meet James's girlfriend. What's her name?

ALAN: James?

NEADY: Harold's youngest son. Hannah? No. Audra.

IVAN: Baker is the last name. Hannah.

ORPHA: She only lives about three miles from where Loren's live.

IVAN: Yeah. She just lives across the field there from Loren.

ALAN: Calling Mama to get some clarification.

Hey, there. Need two questions for you. What was the name of the guy who stayed with you all that I had mentioned to you a couple of weeks or months ago? You and Avis sewed his pockets shut or something. The one I met his daughter at church. He hung around with the Mennonite boys and he lived with Gramps and Grammy for a while. He boarded there.

Oh, he worked with Gramps. Maybe that's what it was. He worked with Gramps and you all washed his clothes.

Bill Tubbs. Okay. Did he stay with you all or did you all just wash his clothes?

Oh, he stayed with Arthur Lehman and you all just washed his clothes and he worked with Gramps. Okay. I was getting my stories mixed up here.

The Weaver that was injured in a motorcycle accident. What was his name?

Herman Weaver. Okay. That's all I wanted to know. Thanks. Bye-bye.

IVAN: Yeah. Peter was his nickname.

ALAN: Okay. I hadn't heard Peter. I know I've heard of Herman.

IVAN: Herman. That's right. Herman.

ALAN: And there's one in Harrisonburg whose name is also Herman.

IVAN: And he went on to school.

ALAN: He's a doctor.

IVAN: I doubt if Herman ever went past seventh grade.

ALAN: Well, he was a doctor of psychology and was teaching school and when I was just up there I just saw Jeanne when I was there and she said, "Well, he stopped teaching school. He's going back to doing roofing."

IVAN: Oh, goodness sakes. Oh, Bill Tubbs. He was around here plenty. Bill. He wanted to know who was the life of the party? He would qualify. Me and him double-dated some.

ALAN: Now, where was he from?

IVAN: Right here in Norfolk.

ALAN: What was the connection?

IVAN: How were the Tubbs --

ORPHA: I don't know.

IVAN: They lived not too -- maybe around Butts Station or somewhere for a while. Then later moved to -- but -- and they got going probably to our Bible school or something and church; and he -- Bill Tubbs -- Chester Wenger was living in Chester's old house. Chester owned that house up there at Wengers -- you know -- and Bill -- and he was baching by himself; and Bill Tubbs stayed there, lived there with him for a little while. They roomed -- they lived together in Chester's house. Boy, if there were two opposites, that was it.

ALAN: Really?

IVAN: Well, Chester -- he's a missionary and preacher; and Bill Tubbs would be the opposite or whatever the synonym is. He was. He used to go down there to Moyock -- or at least one time I remember definitely he went to Moyock. I think I had the car and he went with Lizzie. Lizzie Troyer would have been an older sister -- a little older than Edna.

ORPHA: The oldest of the girls.

IVAN: No, because you had one married Roy Miller.

ORPHA: Oh, Malinda.

IVAN: Malinda, then Lizzie, then Edna, then Fannie and then Mary. There was quite a crop of them there.

ALAN: Moyock must have been a popular designation.

IVAN: Yeah, it was. Orpha came and bailed me out from that little jaunt.

ALAN: Who bailed you out?

IVAN: Thank goodness.

NEADY: So what happened?

IVAN: You can see it.

NEADY: No. I'm talking about the Moyock and the Tubbs and –

IVAN: We didn't get into that, did we?

NEADY: I know. That's what I was asking. I knew there was more to that story.

IVAN: But Francis was going down there on a regular basis and I was always kind of flying -- I was nine years younger. I was the little kid brother -- you know -- and I was kind of in the way most of the time I think as far as Francis was concerned. Now Vernon and I were a little nearer age and we made out better. Francis didn't have much patience for this kid on the block I don't think. He tolerated, let's put it that way. He tolerated.

THE END