

David Zook 2024 03 19

Dave: Sharon and I both, we didn't have such good memories of Deep Creek.

Alan: Oh really?

Dave: And from the time I was about 14 or 15 until I was about 23. Until I settled down. The only stability I had was the Navy years. And she grew up by herself back there on Number 10 Lane. Her mom didn't drive. She couldn't go nowhere. Like she was in a cage. And my mom died when I was 14 or 15. My older siblings were gone and that left me and my dad on a dairy farm. And just the two of us. And we didn't get along.

Alan: How come? I mean, what was the conflict?

Dave: I wasn't in the church and I couldn't see... They were very conservative and just about that time the church over there was split.

Alan: Now did your dad go to Pantego?

Dave: Almost everybody on my side was related to me. And we weren't here very long, maybe a year or two, until we went to Pantego. And that was even worse. We were two and a half miles from a paved road down there. There was nothing to do. I was related to everybody almost. And other than a lot of hunting and fishing, I don't have very good memories and Sharon,. She don't have any. Her mom and my mom were best friends. And my mom drove, so she'd take her out sometimes. Joe worked all the time. Olen worked.

And when the church split, all the Deep Creek side went to Deep Creek High School or Deep Creek Public Schools. And we opened up another school. There were about 15 of us, if that. . And we never had, except for my sister who taught two years, we never had a teacher that had a high school education.

Alan: Where was that school located?

Dave: Well, the first one was back off the road behind my grandfather's house.

Alan: All right, that's back on the Nike site or close to it, right?

Dave: Well, that was the first one. And the one I went to was, there was a dirt lane by Arvin Weaver's house. I went back in there, and there was... Tommy Overholt come over with a bulldozer and cleared a section of the woods out there. And we had some good recesses in the woods playing and everything.

And there was a, he left everything piled up in a stump pile called Pokeberry Hill, and that's where everybody played. It was on that stump pile. They didn't

play in the ball field. They played on the stump pile. We had some good times there.

Alan: Who were some of the other students?

Dave: I'll send you a picture, I think, of the other students that were in the grade school there. I don't have any pictures. Get down, cat.

Alan: Well, hello there (to the cat)

Dave: My daughter came in here one night. She said, I need to come over. And then she called and canceled it. And then she said, I'm coming over tonight. Set a box down in the middle of the floor, and he bailed out of it and went under the couch. He's four years old. We just got him not too long ago. And he was a street cat in Ghent

Alan: Huh. A pretty cat.

Dave: The people where he stayed, he came and went. But the people where he stayed had two Rottweilers, and he slept in their bed. So anyway, they wanted to get rid of him. And he had a tracking collar on, an Apple tracking collar. And they couldn't find him. They said, well, the thing wasn't working or what.

So they had to wait a couple days until he came home. And then he liked to get out. First chance he got, he got out and gone for three days. And we didn't see him. Pretty soon, one night, he came back. I set a trap out there.

I caught him in the trap. And then that was it. We couldn't catch him no more than that. But he'd come back during the night and want in. So finally, we got him about broke of that. But he's a little sleepy, but not real cuddly, but a little sleepy. Morning, late, about 8.30, and I felt something pushing on my arm. And he stood up and pushing on my arm on the bed. Wake up, wake up. He didn't have no food. 8.30. He was ready to eat.

But anyway, the Nike site split up the first group of people. A bunch of them moved to Amelia. And some of them moved to Ohio. They moved all over the place.

And then when the church split again, some of them stayed and went to the Hope church over there. But when we went to Pantego, there were two or three families there that left and went other places. So down there, the Kramers were about the only ones I weren't related to. And me and Marlon and Willis, we were always tight. We're about the same age. And we were the ones that got in trouble.

Alan: Marlon was Edna Kramers? [son]

Dave: Yeah. And so when the draft came along, Willis and I had left already. We were a little bit older than Marlon. I had left, come back.

Alan: Who was Willis?

Dave: I wasn't 18 years old, didn't have no driver's license. I come back up here and worked for Kenneth Miller. And lived at my brother's house.

And finally, I turned 18, I got a 1960 Comet. And I'd go back and forth and work down there for Marion [Miller] at Pantego Door every now and then. I'd live with them for a while. I'd come up here and work. I lived half a dozen different places and worked half a dozen different jobs. From Cargill Grain, hanging garage doors, you name it. And I was having a good time, but it was very unstable. I didn't have a permanent place to live. And I barely making enough to put gas in my car.

So the draft was breathing down my neck. So I went over there and fortunately joined the Navy.

Alan; Oh, I didn't know you were in the Navy.

Dave: Yeah. Four years, yeah. We'll go over some of these pictures in a little bit. I showed this picture to my grandsons the other day, and they didn't know who it was.

Alan: Great day in the morning.

Dave: They looked at it, said, is that "Dad?" I said, no, because I'm the only one that ever wore a suit like that.

Alan: So what did your folks have to say when you joined the Navy?

Dave: Nineteen Sixty-seven.

Alan: What did your dad have to say when you joined the Navy?

Dave: He didn't talk to me in about four or five years.

Alan: Really?

Dave:I didn't get a letter from him the whole time I was in the Navy. And my brother supported what I was doing, but my sisters, Caroline did, but she was in Richmond. But no, not my dad. That whole gang, kind of like the Amish. One goes English and the other, they don't, they're mighted from then on.

Alan: Where all were you stationed? Where all were you stationed when you were in the Navy?

Dave: I was at sea duty for four years. So I went 19 different countries, but I was in Vietnam first year. And I got a picture of this ship in here.

Alan: What kind of ship were you on?

Dave: I was on two of them. The first one I was on was a major communications relay ship. And the second one was a combat storage ship. But that was the first one I was on. That was a one-of-a-kind ship that was built for Vietnam. It was a major communications relay. It wasn't air conditioned.

Alan: In Vietnam? And it wasn't air conditioned?

Dave: In the summertime. We'd sleep outside on the weather deck sometimes. And then the second one was a brand new ship. Picked that up in San Diego. Went up to Long Beach, had it refitted. Come back through the Panama Canal, and then went to the Caribbean a couple times, and to the Mediterranean a couple times, out of Norfolk. We were in the yard portion of it for a while. That was a brand new ship.

We were the first crew on it. And it was nice, air conditioned. And what we did was replenish the fleet. We had all the fresh groceries and helicopters on the back to move it, and high lines on the sides. Those were good times, but I didn't want to stay in. And when I got out, I didn't have much going on.

So I took my VA benefits, and I went to Ryder truck driving school in New Jersey. I drove a tractor-trailer for a couple of years, and I had a bad accident.

Alan: What happened?

Dave: I got hurt. I ran off the road and into the woods with a full load of 40-foot trailer load of refrigerators and cigarettes. It was late, and I had been sick, and I was taking some medication, and I kind of dozed off, and there was snow all over the place, and I hit the snow on the side of the road and piled up.

Alan: Uh-huh. Where were you? Where did it happen?

Dave: Zook's curve on 460 up there near Ivor. They've got a guardrail there now. Heritage. But anyway, they showed me the door the next day.

So we were already engaged. I had started dating seriously with her. We were engaged, and I had been working for Wayne in the door company.

And so I went over to his house for Sunday dinner, picked up the Sunday paper, and they were hiring firefighters in Virginia Beach. So I applied there in Norfolk, and I got hired in Virginia Beach three weeks later. And that was the start of my 26-year career there. And now this December, I will have been retired for another 26 years.

I bought back my four years in the Navy. It gave me 30 years in the VRS retirement system. But Jason, he went right after I got out. He went in. So that's six years. Then he went to Virginia Beach. So he's got 25 years in, five more to go, and he'll be retired.

But the Deep Creek days, they were unsettled, and the Pantego was even worse. The draft. Well, you know, you were in the 1W weren't you?

Alan: Yeah.

Dave: They didn't have a lottery. If you could breathe, if you could walk you were a cannon fodder.

Alan: Well, I got deferments for college until I graduated, and then my deferment was gone, and by that time, they had the lottery. And my number was so low, as soon as I saw my number, I said, I'm going to get picked. It was two weeks later, I got an Uncle Sam needs you letter.

Dave: I didn't want any draft cards from the get-go. I hadn't gone to high school. I dropped out. All we had was eighth grade, and the only way the church would let us go to high school was over to a correspondence course. So when I went to the Navy, I got GED and then transferred down to Virginia State Department of Education. Got my GED.

Alan: Well, was this the Deep Creek Church or the Hope Church that wouldn't allow beyond the eighth grade?

Dave: None of them back then. Well, when the church split, the Deep Creek, they didn't have enough for a school. So they sent them all to public school. But before that, we all went to the church school. The one behind, back there by the Nike site, was the first one, and then they moved it. And then when the church split, they claimed, the Deep Creek Church claimed the school.

They wouldn't even sell it to us. Amos Layman and some of them, they held on to it, and eventually sold it. But we built another one on the other side of my grandpa's house, and they had the church and the school in there until about a year and a half or so until they started moving to Pantego.

My dad bought 325 acres down there and split it up. Another community started. But I don't think any of the young people that were down there, teenagers and all, stayed there. My age. Everybody left, eventually.

Alan: I just read a book, or not a book, it was an essay, I guess. No, no, it was a study. Somebody was doing to get a degree, and they wrote it for their masters or their doctoral thesis on one of Edna Kramer's daughters. And her experience growing up.

Dave: Which one?

Alan: I can't remember the name now.

Dave: They're all dead except for Lois and Debbie. Debbie's a psychologist. Lives in Chicago.

Alan: Yeah, it's Debbie. Because she wound up in Chicago.

Dave: That was Debbie. That was the youngest one.

Alan: Okay.

Dave: All the others have died, though.

Alan: Really?

Dave: Anyway, Marlon, I was telling you before, Marlon, Willis, and I, we were three peas in a pod down there.

Alan: All right, now, who was Willis? Who were his parents?

Dave: Elam Peachey's adopted. They had three adopted kids.

Alan: Okay.

Dave: Willis and Phillip and Rhoda. And Willis was my age. And right after I went in the Navy, he went in the Marine Corps. And both of us wound up over there in the same place. He was stationed on the Kitty Hawk. And I ran into him one night in the Philippines going back in the Liberty boat and didn't even know he was over there.

He was on the Kitty Hawk. I was on the Annapolis. And so he got out. He always wanted to be a cop. And his dad was a Norfolk cop. He didn't even know him at the time.

Alan: Oh, his... Willis'...

Dave: Biological?, okay. Was a Norfolk cop So anyway, he went to work at Belle Haven in the police department and then Washington, a little Washington insurance department. And eventually got on a highway patrol. He stayed there for 36 years, I think it was. Retired lieutenant.

And Marlon, he got, he went ahead, he had gone to work down there in the North Carolina Forest Service. He got drafted and went in the Army. They sent him to Korea. He never went to Vietnam. He went to Korea and then Germany and then back here he was a recruiter.

He was a sergeant major when he retired. And all three of us went and went in the service about the same time. But he died of colon cancer a couple years ago.

Willis, he had a bad heart attack last year. Almost died. He lives in Tampa, Tampa, Florida. Married about six or seven times, I think. Twice to the same woman. Got one kid.

Marlon was married three times. But anyway, I was, I got a bunch of old, a few pictures I thought might be of interest to you. And I can interpret.

And then I got that Amish book. That'd be of great interest to you, I think. I already showed you that.

That was the first ship I was on. This is a, this is the house we lived in in Pantigo.

Alan: Okay. And your dad built that?

Dave: Yeah. And we was the first ones down there. My aunt, when we left, after my mom died, she died in October. We moved my grandpa and Maude lived with him. That was my aunt.

Alan: Maude Hooks?

Dave: Nellie's, Nellie. Maude Hooks. Yeah. And so, Maude and Grandpa moved in with us...well he died in January. Four months apart, we had two people die right there in our house. So, when we moved down to Pantego, Maude moved down there with us.

Martha Zook moved in with us. And Tommy Overholt had a trailer right next to the house. And he got killed crop dusting. He was a crop duster pilot. He was Will Overholt's son.

Alan: Okay.

Dave: Paul Overholt's cousin. And he got... they were, him and Martha were going to get married. And he got killed in a plane accident.

And so, we lived there. We were the only ones there until the others started building houses around Paul and Sarah, Marion, and John and Esther and all relatives. And they would build a house back in the lane where we lived. Everybody pitched in and built one for the Kramers. [Edna Kramer] they were always a lot of fun. I spent most of my time back there.

Alan: Oh, really?

Dave: They were a riot. They were like a bunch of cousins, you know. And there was never a dull moment back there.

Alan: What was Edna [Kramer] like?

Dave: She was quiet, calm. I've never seen her go off a deep end, but with those kids, they said that they got beat every now and then. Ruth... they were all characters. Ruth... I had a deer stand behind their house and I had a... pretty high...I had a string hanging down to tie my gun on. So I'd crawl up there in the morning and pull my gun up, you know. She goes back there one day and she pulls a string up to the top and leaves it and then climbs down.

So I went back there and climbed up, dropped the string and I went back. That's just kind of crap they played on each other. But they were a riot.

Alan: Lois... was Lois one of the younger ones?

Dave: One of the middle ones. Yeah, she still lives in Delaware.

Alan: Yeah, she's got a... I talk to her occasionally on Facebook.

Dave: Yeah, yeah, she's a die hard liberal.

Alan: Oh yeah. Absolutely.

Dave: The only reason I keep her on there is because she has some good pictures.

Alan: Yes she does.

Dave: She make me so bad sometimes I wanna slap her. We were building our dairy barn about 1953. And, interestingly...

Alan: This is in Deep Creek?

Dave: Yeah, that was our farm over there by where Marv lives, on part of it. But, I had a sailor suit on there. And I still remember that thing. Little did they know I was going to get that real one. That's a rare picture of our entire family.

Alan: Paul was your dad's brother, right?

Dave: Yeah.

Alan: They went to Pantego too, didn't they?

Dave: Yeah, but then he got married again, because Bertha died down there. And he got married to Fannie and she lived in Grantsville. [Maryland] So he moved up there.

And then it wasn't long until the girls all moved out to Crockett, Kentucky to work for Rod and Staff Publishing. And there was two of them, Mildred's 93, I think, and she's still up there working and Catherine's still up there working. Miriam and Rachel died of COVID last year...within about a week of each other. They lived together. Mildred and Catherine lived together in a trailer.

That guy hanging on the wall over my head there. [a mounted deer head He] was over 200 pounds. They got him behind Olin's house over there.

And that one too. That's Sharon. Turn this light up.

Alan: Now, they lived on Number 10 Lane?

Dave: Yeah, their house is still there. It's built up around it now.

Alan: Yeah, Marvin...your brother Marvin, took me on a tour showing me all the old houses that were still there.

Dave: The only two surviving boys was Henry and Paul there.

Alan: Now, he's buried in Deep Creek, right? Your grandpa?

Dave: Yeah.

Alan: Where's your dad buried?

Dave: He's actually in Floyd, Virginia. But got him a single stone up there. But he already had a stone down here with my mother at Mount Pleasant. And had his name and everything but the date of death. And so we discussed it and decided to just go ahead and put the date on it. In case we ever wanted to move him or anything.

But for now there ain't nobody there.

Alan: Okay, because that confused me and I wanted to make sure to ask you that. Since I'm the grave's person I was looking at, I said, wait a minute.

Dave: The second from left is my grandfather and his brothers and sisters.

Alan: So not all of them were as plain and conservative as he was then.

Dave: He was the only one.

Alan: Really?

Dave: He was the only one plain when I was a bunch that I know of.

Alan: Were they raised Amish?

Dave: He was Methodist at one time but they were of Amish origin too. They were from Allensville and my mom was from Belleville. When I look back through the family tree she was related.

There were three Zook brothers come over from Europe and one of them didn't have any children and the other two she was related to and my dad's unrelated to one of the two of them. Our family tree was like a telephone pole.

Alan: Were they called Zooks in Europe or were they called Zugs?

Dave: They were pronounced about the same.

Alan: But was it spelled Z-U-G? In Swiss?

Dave: T-S-U-C-H I think was the way it was pronounced but it was spelled Z-U-G and then they changed it the same way with Bylers and Bieler and a lot of those got changed. That's Sharon's mom with the sheep back there at their old house. They had sheep at one time.

He had about 55 acres back there and had sheep on it. And that's Sharon. When you used to put her on the tractor you'd get in a ditch or something and

put her in gear and then go jump in whatever was in the ditch and she'd steer.

Some of the best times I can remember at Deep Creek were the two week summer Bible schools we had. Everybody coming out there were we had about usually about 80 and Charlie Warfel was always the principal and that's him standing in the window.

Alan: Marvin John... who's Marvin John?

Dave: My brother.

Alan: Oh, okay. And that's Charlie in the window. Do you remember my grandmother Grammy Hochstetler... Nettie Hochstetler?

Dave: Yeah, yeah.

Alan: She was a gossip and didn't have a very good opinion of anybody. But in revival services she would always sit in the back and watch to see who raised their hands and then check on them to see did it stick. And she always said she had her suspicions about Charlie because he really squirmed during the invitation. But he had this bobblehead thing he didn't have any choice but to squirm.

Dave: Charlie used to drive the same speed no matter where he was going... slow. my cousin Roy Phillip Payne... used to live with Clark and Hilda. He was retarded.

Alan: I remember Roy.

Dave: He was sitting in the church one Sunday and Charlie Warfel was preaching and he said, "these Mennonite boys they drive like they're demon possessed. One of them ran me off the road down there by the Herring Ditch Bridge." and right after church Roy comes up there to Pop and he said I bet that was Marvin John. And Marvin said it "wasn't me it was Paul."

But Charlie he was always the principal of that. And Joe [Slabaugh] would go around and pick up about two car loads of kids they'd be hanging out the windows and everything else up and down Route 17. We'd see people in the Seminole Bible School that we didn't see the rest of the year.

And everybody dressed up and had a good time. This was my maternal great grandparents. They were double second cousins on the Zook side.

Alan: So this was your mother was a King?

Dave: That was my mother's grandparents.

Alan: Oh okay your great grandparents.

Dave: And a story about him... he got injured in a logging accident and the doctor

amputated his leg on the kitchen table. And back then not many people survived an amputation. But he did survive and he lived up until I think it was the late 30's early 40's with one leg.

And then that was my grandmother and my grand mother's grandfather and grandmother Susie. They were both buried at Deep Creek. She was about 83 I think and he lived until 91.

I gave Paul [Zook} a copy of this and he showed it to his sisters and they didn't know who it was either.

Alan: It's Paul and Doris [Zook]

Dave: Yeah. He had a pretty 63 Ford and a red interior. Married outside the Mennonites. He wasn't very popular either.

Alan: Oh really? He got in trouble for that?

Dave: Well I don't know if he got thrown out of the church or not. I don't remember. But when he married Doris [Nash] I think we're still in Deep Creek. I don't know if he got thrown out of the church or not.

Alan: But they moved to Pantego...

Dave: He had a car with a red interior. Boy he was the talk of the town.

Alan: But they lived in Pantigo for a while too, didn't they?

Dave: Yeah, a short while. They made her wear black stockings and all that kind of stuff. And then one Christmas they had Christmas lights around their door and window and all. They got a visit from the local constabulary at church. So they didn't stay down there very long. It might have been a couple years or three years.

This was my family before I was born. My dad had a huckster truck and he'd go into town and pedal vegetables and stuff. So they were lucky to even get to church and that thing without having a flat tire.

Alan: That's Marvin there.

Dave: Marvin, yeah. I wasn't born yet. That was me when my dad worked at Yoder Dairies He had a Yoder milk milk route. Isn't this Chester...Chester Wenger? It's Mount Pleasant.

Alan: Yeah. It is at Mount Pleasant.

Dave: We had some kind of relationship going with him. We'd get cards from him and stuff. That's what I looked like him.

Alan: No, that isn't Chester. I don't think it's a Wenger. I don't recognize anybody in

those pictures.

Dave: Doesn't say anything on the back, does it?

Alan: It doesn't. Wait a minute. No, it isn't. That's not Mount Pleasant.

Dave: Not Mount Pleasant?

Alan: I think that might be Newport News.

Dave: Warwick River?

Alan: Right. See the steps? Mount Pleasant never had steps like that.

Dave: Yeah, they're brick. I was looking at that porch up there.

Alan: Yeah, the porch looks like it and the building looks like it. And Warwick River looked very much the same.

Dave: I bet it was. I don't know who that would be. I don't recognize anybody in it.

Sharon thought I was cute there. She wondered what happened to me. Now this one, can you name everybody in there? I think I probably can.

Alan: No, I can't. I've got this picture. And right now, and it's on the side...That's Marilyn.

Dave: You've got Carolyn May.

Alan: Yeah, I don't know who that is.

Dave: That's Catherine Zook. The next one is, the next one I'm not sure about. The one behind her is Ruth Miller.

Alan: Okay. This one is Roy Wenger's daughter, Ruth Marie. Yeah.

Dave: Okay. And then you've got Ruth Miller and then that's Viola [Dickerson] And Mildred Zook and Hilda Yoder.

Alan: This was at Marion's [Miller] wedding, right?

Dave: I think so. I'm not sure.

Alan: Let me write down while I've got it.... So that's Maryland. And who's the second one there?

Dave: Carolyn May. that's Marianne's sister. Carolyn May Miller. Mildred Zook. She's the oldest. She's still living. Ninety-three. Still works up there at that publishing house. Kentucky. Paul's sister. And we always had an aviator in the family. That was Paul. Uncle Paul. He used to build models and fly planes.

Alan: So this is Paul's dad?

Dave: Yeah, Paul Sr. And this is Virginia Beach General Hospital on I think it's 25th Street or something. I can't remember exactly where it was. And that's my dad's Yoder's milk truck parked in front of it. He had that milk route down there at the oceanfront. Do you remember the old beach general hospital?

Alan: Uh, vaguely.

Dave: I had an operation there one time on my hand.

[

Alan: Oh yeah. Who actually owns that now? Who actually owns the church now?

Dave: That's a long story. We we owned it when when Deep Creek abandoned it and the preacher at the Mount Pleasant Methodist Church rented it. They were paying like \$1,200 a month rent and I was a trustee... Kenny Kurtz and Mike Brown. And they were collecting rent. I don't know how they were doing the maintenance. so we got a call from the ...

Alan: Who was Mike Brown?

Dave: Mike Brown is Nellie Hook's husband. And he was he was attending there. Him and Nellie. Anyway we got a call from the church council over there. they wanted us to be there. Phil [Miller], he was getting senile all the time. He had he said the Calvary over in Newport News was still in the conference. They left soon after.

But Phil promised it to to them and he going to give it to them. We disagreed. We said not a good place for all black church in an all white community there and they're going to be coming in all the way from Newport News. Why don't you sell it and use the money to support Landstown or something like that.

They all fell right in behind Phil. Some of them disagreed but they all fell right in behind Phil. So we wouldn't sign the deed so they fired us and they signed it themselves and they gave it to Calvary and the thing stood empty for a year with the doors unlocked. The cemetery grewed up.

Finally they got a guy, he was from South Africa come in there and he started black congregation and he got deported so it stood empty again for a while. Then they rented it out. I don't know what happened to them and now it's rented again to a different black church but Calvary owns it.

Alan: So they just deeded it to Calvary as a gift.

Dave: Deeded it to Calvary free.

Alan: The Slabaughs were some of the first people to Deep Creek, weren't they?

Dave: That was an Amish house, an Amish farm that he bought back there. They came from Mowiak. They moved down here with the original Joseph C.Slabaugh, his son Neal Slabaugh,. Neal Slabaugh's children, Joe, Levi, Al, and I can't remember her name now. There was one daughter.

They were the first ones down and so they were some of the first ones in Deep Creek. The Mast's, I think, were probably the first.

Dave: You know who that is?

Alan: It's Annabelle [Hobbs]

Dave: She was my fourth grade teacher. She had a rubber hose about that long. She used to wear us out with that thing. And everybody knew her and Martin Yoder had something going on. They'd always walk home from school together.



Annabelle Hobbs - late 1950's

Alan: Her and Martin. He was quite a bit younger than her, wasn't he?

Dave: Martin was in school. He was a student. He was about seventh or eighth grade I guess. I was in like fourth grade and we all knew what was going on. You knew Cletus Hobbs, right?

Alan: Oh yeah.

Dave: His wife, Ruth, had a sister, Rosa. She was married to Keith Mollett down in Pantego. They moved there from Montana, but they were from Harrisonburg.

And you know, he [Eli Kramer] was so hard on his members of his church and everything. And so he tried to straddle, he was raised older Amish, he tried to straddle the fence between Mennonite and Amish. Anyway, they had four kids and only one of them turned out plain. That was Martha [Hochstetler].

Dan, he was a shyster from the get-go, been in the army and then he left Edna with five kids and then he had, can't think of the other two's name, but they turned out just about like that.

This is Uncle Paul and his second wife Fanny. She had a big motel up there in Grantsville. We used to stay there sometimes and go to Spring's Festival. Good restaurant like an Amish restaurant and a big hotel there and everything going through Grantsville. She had a big house right near there.

Alan: What was the name of the hotel?

Dave: I don't remember the name of it.

Alan: Is Grantsville just across the line from Springs?

Dave: Yeah. Grantsville is...both in Maryland, right?

Alan: No, Springs, Pennsylvania.

Dave: I don't think it's 20 miles.

Alan: It's about five miles. I wonder if that's the hotel we stayed in because there's one right downtown.

Dave: It's a place to stay right downtown. Got a good restaurant. It's like a one-storey hotel. There was a wrecker sitting out front that said Zook's Hook.

They lived in Greenwich over there on Parliament Drive. They moved down here...See, my dad and Paul came down here to work for the Wengers when they were teenagers. And the rest of the family lived in Pocomoke.

Alan: Well, which Wengers?

Dave: Well, Pop worked for A.D. and Paul worked for Tim. And then he went back, Pop went back, they went back to, now Paul stayed here. He worked for Ford Plant for a while. Pop went to back to Pocomoke and got a farm, got married, had a couple of children there. Three were born there. And he lost the farm during the Depression so he came down here to work at Yoder's. That's how it all wound up there. And they lived on Parliament Dr over in Kempsville.

Now Maude's husband, she was married up there in Pocomoke, had three children and had a shyster of a husband and left her. He'd been in the army and he come up there and joined the church and got everybody thinking he was a good guy. He married her and worked her like a slave practically. He had a farm nearby and finally she'd had enough, left and went to live with Grandma.

Alan: How did the Payne's wind up... 'cause the Payne's were Maryland too weren't they?

Dave: Who?

Alan: The Payne's, Hilda and Roy.

Dave: Yeah, well that was my Aung Grace they lived there and that's where Hilda was raised. Grace died in childbirth with Roy Payne.

He remarried somebody in Pennsylvania, up around Allensville and they had children too, so they moved up there. And eventually she [Hilda] came back and married Clark Yoder.

Do you remember Alvie Yoder? Alvie Yoder was Fred Yoder's brother, Dan Yoder's brother. And he married Iva, and they had seven kids and he got killed in a truck accident, burned to death up there in South Hill. And she was widowed with seven kids and my dad was widowed. His kids all gone. So they got married. She had seven, they had two more, Judy and Daniel. And then

they had 42 foster kids, kind of like your mom was doing over there, making a little extra income with it. But anyway, they left Pantego because they wouldn't let them draw social security on those kids. She was drawing social security on seven kids. And so they moved it back up to Gladys.

But Pop thought Caroline ought to go out with him. I think she went out with him one time, but she didn't like him. She, he was, all he could do was pop kids. He was lazy. They were dirt, dirt poor. I mean, poor as the church was. They used to live down there on Herring Ditch Road in a little four room house, right next to Eli Kramer on Herring Ditch Road before they moved to Gladys.

Dave: That's my dad and the one on the left is Jonas Mast and he was one of the first ones that lived back there...they lived right on Rt 17 and him and his brother Harvey had all of that land where the Nike site was



Jonas Mast & Henry Zook 10/14/1997

Dave: Marvin's wedding. And they're at the reception. And this one, I can tell you who they all are. That one on the left is Annabelle [Hobbs] and the next two were from Ohio, they were cousins of Laura Catherine and, I can't think of her name now. The other one.



Marvin & Laura Slabaugh Zook wedding - Aug 22, 1959 - Annabelle Hobbs, two cousins, bride & groom, Olin Slabaugh, Paul Zook Jr, Noll Sears

Alan: That's Laura and Marvin

Dave: Olin Slabaugh, Paul Zook, Jr and Noel Sears...he was from Richmond. He was one of Bernard Sheets' good friends. They went in 1W together. But Annabelle was, him and Noel Sears used to like date Annabelle whenever he'd come down.

Alan: Who's that beside Olin between him and Noel Sears?

Dave: That's Paul Jr. And he had, it was a hot day. It was about 100 degrees in that church. And Paul bought a cheap suit. You can see him, he sweated through it. But when, by the time they got to the reception, the sleeves were up to here. I don't know. I can't remember the other one from Ohio. Catherine and Betty. Catherine and Betty.

Alan: I didn't realize that Annabelle was involved with the Deep Creek Church.

Dave:

I don't know that she was. She was taught school over there for one year. And Noel Sears would date her when he came down. That's how she wound up in that wedding. Noel Sears and Bernard, they lived on the south side of Richmond. And Warwick River [Mennonite Church] used to have tent meetings up there on a vacant lot.

Bernard liked the singing, so him and Noel went down there to the tent meetings and both of them got saved. And they didn't have a Mennonite church up there yet. So Ralph Ziegler was the first preacher. They finally founded a Mennonite church. I think they had it in his house, in Bernard's house for a while. I think his dad had died young of a heart attack.

Bernard had a bunch of brothers and sisters and his mom was interested in it. But anyway, Bernard was in the National Guard at the time. And him and Caroline, Caroline taught Bible school up there and they wound up getting married.

Funny thing about Caroline, she was the only one in our family that got to go to high school. She went to EMHS and she wasn't doing nothing with it. And they needed a school teacher down there. So my dad volunteered her for two years. She decided it was easier to get married, so she got married Lutheran. They lived here for a while.

But where was I going with this? Anyway, I can remember that they had gotten married and he got a draft notice. He was in the National Guard and he was already a member of the church and everything. So I remember Eli coming down there and talking to him one night to see how conscientious he really was. They wound up sending him to, got the 1W, went to Brattleboro, Vermont. And that's how Marvin and Cleodos Miller, and I can't remember who else went up there, but they had a Mennonite, a house where the Mennonites boys could stay there. And he stayed up there for a while after he got out of the 1W.

This is the Holly Grove church as it looks today. My grandpa built the original church. And the floor of it is still in the, when you go in the front door, that's the original sanctuary. And then they built the new sanctuary off to the left. But the floor is still the original lumber. He got somebody to donate a tree, took the sawmill...he didn't have any money, he wanted to get a church built. And took the donated tree, and somebody donated the sawmill labor, and he built the church.



Holly Grove Mennonite Church, Westover, Somerset Co, Md

Dave: You were talking about how you never thought you'd be doing something like this. I never thought I'd be playing music. And about the time I retired, I got into this band. They were a great bunch of guys and for close to 20 years, we played together. All over, playing nursing homes, assisted living, churches, bluegrass festivals, bar mitzvahs, you name it.

Alan: Well, what did you call the band?

Dave: It was the Sunshine Express Band. The leader of it's not in there, he had died, but he was the one that had started it.

Alan: What year was this?

Dave: I think that was probably about 2019. It was just before the COVID. They were, three of them were in their 90s. They're all dead now, except for... he's almost 90. That was before Jonas [Miller] joined our group. It was probably about 2018 or 17, something like that.



David Zook on mandolin with the "Sunshine Express" - 1990's

But man, we were all different religions and we never had one discussion about religion. I mean, they were all good Christian people, too. They had Baptist, Church of Christ, Pentecostal, Mennonite, and we never argued or discussed anything other than the scriptures. We just didn't do it. We got along for years.

Now, this is Paul and Henry when they worked down here, and I think that's Tim Wenger's house.

Alan: Yeah, Tim Wenger's house. That would have been across from the school, because that was a two-story.

Dave: Paul, he used to like to ride Harley Davidson motorcycles. He was a little older than Pop, so he had one when they lived up in Pocomoke, and he was wild. He'd ride, stand up on the seat with his arms out and all that kind of stuff.

Pop always wanted to ride that thing. He wouldn't let him, so one day, Paul was gone. Pop got that motorcycle out of the garage, got it started, went down the road on it, doing pretty good, and coming back, passed Paul standing in the yard talking to somebody.



Henry & Paul Zook Sr at Timothy J. Wenger's farm on Mt Pleasant Rd, Chesapeake, Va - late 1920's

He'd come back, and he was so proud of himself, he went to go in the shed, and he forgot which way to twist the throttle, and he opened the thing wide open and went right up to the back of the shop, a little bit, and forks there. And he thought Paul was gonna kill him, but Paul come down, Paul come home, looked at it, and he just bent over laughing. And then I had one years and years later, after I left home, I rode it down to Pantego one day, and he got on that thing and rode it down the road only two times I think I ever rode a motorcycle.

He got it, rode it down the road, and back, and got off of it, that was it. And then I had a pickup truck that I bought from somebody I worked with at Cargill. It was a '55 Chevy pickup truck, cameo, it had the fiberglass body, and the guy had used it for drag racing out of Crees.

Got 348 in it, three deuces. Back end lowered, front end jacked up, Hurst shifter and all that. I needed some transportation, he wanted to sell it, so I bought it, and I drove it down there, and it didn't have no mufflers on it. I mean, it was loud. And one Sunday morning, Pop's car wouldn't start, so he loaded, Iva, and all seven of them kids in the back of that truck went to church. David, Iva's son, David, he was the only boy in the family, he still laughs about that day. He said they went rumbling down the road, they were hanging out the back of that truck.