

# Orleans County Historical Association

## TABLE OF CONTENTS: Dr. Ross Arnett Interview

### SUBJECTS

veterinary practice  
Cornell Veterinary School  
making barrels  
cooper shop  
The Depression (banks failed)  
World War I  
Gold Star Mother's trip to Paris  
VFW Lincoln Post, Medina  
Medina School Board  
Civil War  
foreign language  
Boy Scouts  
United Methodist Church  
Orleans County Veterinarian  
horses, cows, cats, dogs, pigs,  
pigs, birds, dog kennels  
pet cemetery  
State inspection man  
Bang's Disease Test  
Temperature Test  
Interdermal Test  
Short Method Blood Test  
T.B. , sanitation  
medicines , milking machines  
milk fever , tools  
dirt roads, early auto  
artificial insemination

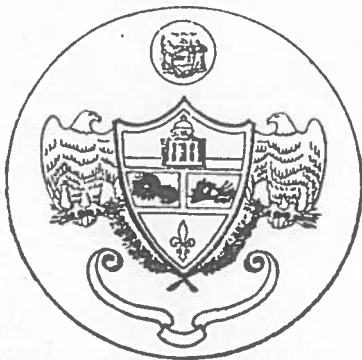
### NAMES

John Arnett, father  
Virginia Sherwood, mother  
Hazel Oderkirk, wife  
John Arnett  
Jess Arnett  
George Arnett  
  
Ross Arnett Jr., son  
Millie Arnett, daughter  
Georgiana Arnett, daughter  
Howard Pratt  
Howard Albright  
Dr. Munson  
Dr. Scott  
Dr. Wyler  
Millville, New York  
  
author, James Herriot

Swan Library

4 N. Main St.

Albion, N. Y. 14411



# Orleans County Historical Association

## INTERVIEW

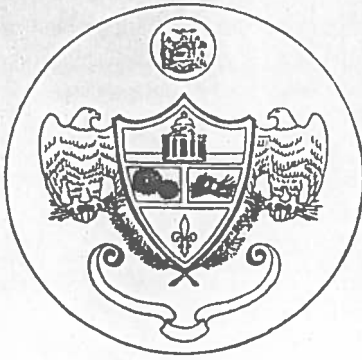
Dr. Ross Arnett  
138 Hedley Street  
Medina, New York

SUBJECT: veterinary medicine

Interviewed by:  
Helen McAllister  
November 9, 1977

A Dr. Arnett (born 1892)  
Mc McAllister, H.





# Orleans County Historical Association

## INTERVIEW

Mrs. Hazel (Ross) Arnett  
136 Hedley Street  
Medina, New York

Interviewed by:

Helen McAllister

December 12, 1977

SUBJECT: Living on a canal boat, as a young child

Mrs. Arnett (born 1893)

Dr. & Mr. Ross Arnett (husband) also contributed

to McAllister, H.



Orleans County Historical Association ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

This project is being conducted by the Orleans County Historical Association. Its purpose is to collect information about the historical development of Orleans County by means of tape-recorded conversations with people whose experiences reflect the county's growth. These tapes and transcriptions will be preserved for possible future use as an educational resource and for possible purpose of publication.

Ron A. Cornett

Signed

Nov. 9, 1977

Date

Helen M. McAllister

Interviewer

Nov. 9, 1977

Date

Mc Where were you born, Dr. Arnett?

A Well that's easy! I was born in Millville, R.F.D. I mean Millville. Not in the hospital. We didn't have a hospital then.

Mc You were born at home?

A I was about the fifth child. I was born in 1892; that's a long time ago. My father's name was John; mother was Virginia. My mother's brother was in the Civil War, in Virginia in 1860 when she was born. I was brought up on a 25 acre farm and went to Medina High School. (Virginia Sherwood: mother).

Mc What Medina High School was that? The old building? Where was it?

A The one that burned up; on Ann Street. They turned it into a library and it caught fire and then burned the library up... all the statistics.

Mc When did you graduate from MHS? Do you remember?

A January 1914. I "busted" my German and had to take it over.

Mc They taught German in school then?

A Oh yes!....(speaks a German phrase). At that time we had to take at least two foreign languages. I took two years of Latin and got by on that; and looking thru the Sears & Roebuck catalog, I saw a book on the commentaries on Caesar's Galic Wars. That was just what I needed to translate the Latin. (laughs). We came, we saw, we conquered!

Mc When you graduated from MHS were you still living at home?(Yes) Did you go from high school directly to college?

A Well I did the next year. I got home from school and of course, we had to work. I went into the woods until spring came. I got \$1.50 a day.

Mc What do you mean: you went into the woods?

A Went into the woods: cutting down trees, firewood, etc.

Mc Was that on your land?

A No. Working for a neighbor. A dollar and a half a day... and that was top pay!

Mc How did you cut the trees? What kind of a saw?

A A saw that went back and forth! (laughs). One on one end and a big fellow on the other; a cross-cut saw. A tree that was really interesting: the boss and I worked the whole ~~afternoon~~ forenoon to get it cut down.... and I was reading an article in the

paper that some of those trees in the west, two men with a cross-cut saw worked three days to cut one of the trees down. This was a tree that was probably 150 years old and some of those trees out west are 1,000 years old.

Mc What kind of a tree was it? Do you remember?

A I think it was Soft Maple. I made an application to the State of New York for a certificate to go to school, to go to college and they took their sweet time and it hadn't come when school opened. I wrote to the Dean of the college. This was in a transition period... from horses to cars, tractors, etc. I wrote to the Dean and told him the circumstances and he said I could be entered conditionally until the "thing" came... which was about two months afterwards, so I missed about two weeks of preparatory work. You probably know more about that than I do?

Mc No. I'm not a college person so you'll have to tell me. You were going to go on a scholarship; was that it?

A Hell no! Going on hard work!. I didn't have anything except what I earned myself and what little Dad could afford to give me. My senior year I got \$165.00 from home.

Mc How much was the tution a year?

A No tution.

Mc Whereabouts was this school?

ACornell Veterinary School. (Ithaca, N.Y.)

Mc Was that a two year school at that time?

A That was a three year school then. I was in the last three-year class. The next year they had to go four years. Now they go at least six! A lot of the fellows graduate from Agriculture school before they go to Veterinary School.

Mc What year did you graduate?

A 1917; I graduated into the Army but I couldn't get in because I was so skinny!

Mc You couldn't get in today! You are still skinny!

A I weigh a little bit more. The first year I was in college, she (nodding to his wife, Hazel) was in High School.

Mc You met in High School? What was your maiden name Mrs. Arnett?

Mrs. A Hazel Oderkirk (Auderkirk). That's a Dutch name!

Mc I'll have to come back and interview you another time! So, you met each other in high school?

A Well, we got married while I was waiting for the decision for the Army in 1917. When the War (WW ~~1st~~ I ~~2~~) was over, in 1919, we moved here and ten days later Ross Junior was born.

Mc My husband (Arden) said that you had a brother that was killed in WWI.

A He graduated from Union College, I believe it was, near Albany. He took most of his work in Buffalo; missed his surgery and so he didn't graduate. He went back to Albany and got his senior year over and he got out into practice and went into the Army. We were married on June second and he was still practicing. He went into the Army and stayed in England for a year, then he went to France. He went in about January first and on April 16th he was killed, in France. His name was John. He was a doctor. He was a first Lieutenant. I would have BEEN a second Lieut., but I took the physical examination and the doctor wouldn't pass me. Then they reduced the weight ten pounds. I called up Dean Morse who was head of the college and he said to come back and he'd get another examination.... which I did and that fellow wouldn't pass me! So, I've got along for over 60 years without much fuss.

Mc How tall are you, Dr. Arnett?

A Six feet tall. I don't know how much I weighed back then. We didn't have scales. Well as I said, this was a time for transition. My Dad always used horses for power and a lot of hay made a lot of power! (laughs). So I went home and worked on the farm, our own farm, driving horses, the plow, the machinery, etc. I took the State Boards (exam) and passed them and started practice.

Mc Did you start your veterinary practice here in Medina?

A No. We did a little practice with the horse and buggy in Millville. Then we moved here, on Hedley Street, on the third of April ~~1918~~ 1919. Ross Junior was born the 13th; born here in the house. That's the way we did it!

Mc Did you have somebody here to help you?

Mrs. A Oh, he (Dr. Arnett) was out doctoring an old cow!

A You are probably familiar with Howard Pratt? Well, the morning that Ross Jr. was born happened to be on a Sunday and I was down to his place and delivered a calf. When I got home, Hazel was in labor and scared to death. A neighbor friend came in to pacify her and I remember we called one doctor. We had a community nurse then. We had money to spend; didn't have any debts. We called one physician and he said he would come as soon as he got his dinner. We waited 'till pretty near four o'clock and he didn't show up so we called another man and he didn't have time to put on his white coat even!. Grabbed up a sheet and put that on over himself. The doctor that delivered the baby was doctor Munson. (reply to Mrs. Arnett: No, not Dr. Scott). I called Dr. Scott and he didn't....well, when you needed a doctor, he high-tailed it out the door and disappeared! That was Sunday. Now they don't work on Sunday.

Mc So, you started being a Vet up in Millville? Did you start with the big animals?

A Horses. The first few years in practice about 90 percent of my work was horse work. Then they began to get cows; then the milking machines began to come out.

Mc Excuse me, but didn't most people have a cow?

A That's the trouble! They had two or three cows! Now they have two or three hundred .

Mc But you didn't get to do much work with the cows?

A Not at that time because there weren't any cows to do it with. When we moved in here, this was the poorest house in town. (He then tells about remodeling the house). We got far enough ahead so that when the man who owned the house died, we had to buy it or move, so I bought it!. Then the wind came along, blew a tree over on the front and smashed it up. I fixed it up; overhauled the whole house. (tells more on the house). No, I didn't do the work myself. I was too busy.

Mc Were there other veterinarians in this area at that time?

A Oh yes. There was a State man. I think he was one of the first State men.

Mc What do you mean: a State man?

A Worked for the State.

Mc Do they have vets that work for the State now?

A Thousands!!

Mc How do they differ from an ordinary veterinarian?

A Well, they came down to school. There is always a turnover every year. Vet schools... all those fellows go to work for a year; veterinarian or get a job working for the State, or go into general practice the same as I did.

Mc What does a State man do that you would not do?

A He didn't work full time on the State. They started testing: T.B. testing cows and he went around. If a herd had "reactors" in it, then the State would send him to test the herd. The local vet tested the cows and found a "reactor". Of course, they were taken out. Then he went and tested the herd for every couple of months until they were "clean". If they brought new ones in, why they were tested, and so forth. And milking machines came out. The first one I saw, they had a contraption like a bicycle lying down on its side and a big plunger on it. Then the fellow put the four milk pumps onto the cow and then he'd put them onto the others and then pump as fast as he could. That made this cylinder go down and made a suction and they sucked the milk out of the cows. That must have been about 1925.

Mc You wouldn't have one of those unless you had a pretty good sized dairy, would you?

A You could have a pretty good sized dairy because you could milk two cows at a time. If you were milking cows by hand, about five or six was about all you could manage. Your hands would begin to cramp and your muscles got used to doing it, etc. If a man had boys and they were old enough so they could milk, why some of them had 12-15 cows. Then the milking machine came and the stationary gas engine came along and they put that on the machine and they were in business! Then the electricity came, and that was that! We got the county practically "clean" and we figured it was less than a tenth of one percent of reactors in the county, or, in the State, so they only tested every three years. Then besides drawing blood for Bang's disease test.. Bang's disease, when it first started... sailors coming from some of the South Sea Islands got sick. Then the cows caught it from them I suppose.

Mc The sailors brought it and the cows caught it from the sailors?

A The cows caught it from the man who was taking care of them. The same way with T.B. I remember Dr. Wyler from Akron on Rout 5; he was testing cows and the herd went thru "clean" several times and then they got a couple of reactors. The next year he tested another herd and he got a couple of reactors out of that. Why, they hadn't had any reactors, well, forever! He was talking to the hired man. He asked him how he felt and the hired man said he didn't feel very good. He says, "you better go and see your doctor"; which he did.... and found he had T.B. Of course, he was spitting around and coughing and so forth. The cows contracted someway from this man who was working there. Put the man in an institution and got him better; the cows discontinued any reactors in the herds. But, there were 3 consecutive years that he picked up reactors where this man worked. They shifted every year, when they hired people, so it was highly contagious; there's no question about that!

Mc Well Dr. Arnett, you said that you worked with horses; now, besides giving them these tests, what other kinds of things did you do?

A Belly aches, calving, afterbirths: cows and horses. <sup>Pull</sup> ~~Road~~ horses. They got old and died and they didn't replace them. They (farmers) used tractors. Pull horses... work horses. I've got a set of tools .... that I bought over the years for fixin' horses' teeth. I bought them one at a time, as I needed them. I have one tool that I could put on the horses' mouth and it would hold it open and you could go in there with your hand and flashlight and see what you were doing. My brother George was ten years older than I. He was a veterinarian and when he died I confiscated his tools. Why if I knew somebody who worked with horses and needed the tools... why, they are listed for..... (amount of worth).

Mc Are some of the tools antiques?

A Well, they use the same tools today. I've accumulated them over the years.

Mc Even tho the tools are the same the medicines are quite different. Aren't they?

A Oh yes. And they've got Agway (farm store); and there's a man that goes around the country and he's got a supply of veterinarian stuff. He buys from the cheapest manufacturer in the country, and sells it to farmers and they manage to get a syringe. It doesn't make any

difference what might matter with the animals. They make their own diagnosis; so, I'm just as well satisfied that I'm thru. We've got them to contend with!

Mc Do they use Penicillin, Sulfa and drugs like that?

A They didn't have any such thing. They didn't have that until the Second World War. They use Penicillin now on the animals.

Mc Did you have to grind and mix up your own powders/medicines?

A I did when I first started. Now they come in boxes. They hire help at eleven dollars per hour and they put it all in boxes, so that fifty cents worth of medicine costs you \$2.50. The farmer has to pay for that! I killed a dog for a farmer the other day and charged him one of my "miserable" prices. He said a friend of his had one of the younger vets destroy a Saint Bernard dog and charged him fifty dollars. Yes, fifty!! All you've got to do is have guts enough to ask for it!

Mc What would you do... to "put a dog out", like that? Give him a shot?

A Yes. That's all this fellow did, the same as I would. If I got ten dollars, I'd be getting rich. But I haven't got any elaborate hospital to... one time when I rebuilt the house ( I built the office I've got) I had the best veterinary office in the county. But times have gone. I used to board dogs and so forth.

Mc When did you start doing that?

A Oh when I first started. The first kennels I had were boxes that stuff was sent to the stores that were supplied: dress goods and so forth. Put a door on the boxes and the dogs... they were three feet square. Big boxes!

Mc People probably didn't board out their dogs like they do today?

A Oh once in awhile they did. I started in with those boxes that people were glad to get rid of. They had to burn them up if they didn't give them to me. Now you can buy a kennel made of plastic with metal doors and so forth, for \$300. or \$400. Yes, times have changed. I bought the house next door in 1938, had it painted this summer and the bill was about three times what I paid for the house!

Mc Did you shift from horses to cows?

A Didn't shift. The horses disappeared!

Mc There are quite a few horses around here tho. Maybe they are coming back?

A Race horses or riding horses: they are just plain damned mean!

That is, except for the owner.

Mc They are quite different than work horses; right?

A Oh yes! A work horse can do anything for you if you treat him decently. I remember one that we had that loved to kick when we hitched her. She was a "buggy" horse, we called her. She was smaller than the regular work horse and when we harnessed her up so that Mother could ride to town, we held up one front foot, like this (demonstrates) and put a strap around it so she couldn't get it on the ground. With only one front foot she couldn't kick. We'd take it off after we got the harness on her. But you never could tell what they were going to do.

Mc Was there any special breed around here?

A Well, there was a Pirchen and a Clydesdale; big horses. Mr. Forrestel had a bunch of them up here. He used to have a four horse hitch; horses weighed over a ton. Boy! If they stepped on your foot they'd just about ruin you! I 'member one he used to have, got to be 'bout 3 years old and he got mean. He called me up and said, "I got a mean horse and I want to get rid of it." Forrestel was a road contractor, building roads. There's another thing: the roads came in. Automobiles had to have roads. I 'member going out West Center Street in Medina, you had to pick out the rut... you had to get out of the car and go ahead and look and see which of the ruts was the most shallow.... more shallow.... and follow that rut. If somebody else happened to be in that one, one of us had to back up and get in another rut.

Mc That was a dirt road; before it was paved?

A Oh yes. When doing this testing work (that's what we called it) when I first started doing the T.B. test I did what we called the "temperature test". We'd get on the farm about four o'clock in the afternoon and take the temperatures of all the cows. We used thermometers. The ones I used were bigger and heavier.

Mc They probably didn't put it under their tongues? (laughter)

A No; they put it under their tails. We'd take their temperatures... the whole bunch. Then we'd come back in two hours and take them over again. We'd do three sample tests before... about 8 o'clock we'd inject the tuberculin and we'd get up early the next morning and get on the job and take the temperatures again. The normal temperature of a cow was about 102, and that would go up to 106-108 and by 4 o'clock it would drop back to normal. Then we would put a brand on their jaw; they went to market and we ate weiners!

Then they came out with the "interdermal test". Instead of injecting tuberculin under the skin, we'd put it in the skin. A little tiny needle, and just put 2 drops in the skin. If they react in 72 hours, you'd get a swelling as big as the end of my thumb; a hard bunch that was sore and we'd put a brand on their jaw, a special tag in their ear..... and the farmer took his lickin'. The State paid some of it and the guys that bought the beef. Some were so bad they went in the tank and they made fertilizer.

Mc Has helping them "calf" changed?

A Only a very small percentage have to have any help. If the calf is misplaced, maybe coming wrong end to with just his butt showing, then you've got to push the calf ahead. You've got lots of room there anyway; then get the feet out and they come out without any trouble. Yes (reply) you have to be pretty strong to do that. You do if you make a living at it. Sometimes it took several hours. I've got a set of tools to cut a calf up. Sometimes the calf was too big to be delivered; I'd cut the calf up in small pieces. Yes (reply) the mother could have another delivery the next year, just so long as it came straight the next time.

Mc I'm presently reading a book by a veterinarian, James Herriot, "If Only The Could Talk". In there he tells of tying a loop of wire around an unborn calf's jaw. How was that? Did you do that?

A Yes. First I used a rope cord (as are used in windows) and pull on that. But I was strong enough so that I could pull one of those cords in two. Then I'd get a light chain, about 5 feet long, made a loop in the chain, put it thru their mouth and over the top of the head. You'd pull straight on that, get the feet out and the head out. If it was too big you'd put on a set of pully blocks and put the extra pressure on. They do alright. When I first started, they had what they called "milk fever" and then we didn't have anything to give them. Some of them would recover, pushing some medicine down their neck. I 'member one particular Sunday morning near the county-house, a little Jersey cow was trying to calve out in the field and she couldn't. I gave her a dose in the jugular vein and it took half an hour for it to work; then I delivered the calf. When I started to wash up, the cow turned her head around... (here Dr. Arnett tells a story re: President Roosevelt and Gov. Cary...) like we didn't have anything to worry about... money... (etc.) Didn't say anything about what the interest would be or how many years... the kids would have to repay it.... (etc.) (END OF SIDE 1).

We'd T.B. test the cows every 3 years, and the Bang's disease; they'd take a sample of the farmer's milk every morning when they'd pick up the milk.

Mc They didn't used to do that. Did they?

A No. And if it showed a reactor in the herd, which we thought we all cleaned up (we were vaccinating calves); down along the Adirondacks somewhere... a fellow bought 40 heifers out of the dealer's herd and took them home. When they were old enough, they were bred. When they calved, they started to abort and so forth. He had a test run on them. Not only those but some of the older cows had it. He had 400 and eventually, even tho some of them didn't have it, he had them sent to market He got rid of the whole 400 head of cows. He figured he lost \$4,000.00. Of course when they went to market they brought beef price; then the government pays so much. Actually there isn't too much, but you are in confusion all this time.

Mc The sanitation in the barns and all... this has changed over the years; hasn't it?

A Yes. It has changed entirely. Well, they were reasonably clean but they weren't polished and dry and so forth. Today we have a place to test, and a pen by themselves to calve. Used to be you could find the calf in the gutter behind the cow. Now they are taking care of the animals; they cost so much. The average cow sells for six or seven hundred dollars up to fifteen thousand dollars!

M How about artificial insemination? When did that come in?

A Well, Howard Albright was practically the first one around here (to introduce that practice). He must have worked at it 20 years. No, I never tried to do that. No (reply) there's no trick to it; but you get up in the morning and there's 4-5 calls. Then if somebody calls you and wants a cow bred in another part of the county you just don't get your calls done. We had a deal where we used what we called the "short method" of testing the blood.(repeats telling about the reactors, etc.). That's another thing that is out there (in his veterinary shop). It cost me \$25. - \$30.00 and I never did enough. Other things came along and outlawed that. I never did enough to pay for the material.

Mc You have always treated our cats and dogs. Do you still practice veterinary work?

A Oh yes. I haven't done any surgery in over a year. I have done a

few tom-cats; did some pigs this afternoon. The farmer brought them to me. I don't go out to the farms now. I sold my car today; the one I used for my business. Took the stuff out of the car, that I worked with, and it is on the garage floor and takes up as much room as the car did! The pigs? Well, I neutered them. All the male pigs are neutered.. and that's another thing. When I started practicing, there was a bunch of young Englishmen came in, tenants, and worked for farmers and started neutering the pigs, dogs. A competitor I had down in Albion, and he "did" female dogs without giving them anesthetic. Had the farmer hold the dog and he'd give them the operation. I never could do that!

Mc One time some years ago when I was here with our dog, you told me of two little dogs that you used to have. You were very fond of them. They went thru a little swinging door that was all their own.

A I had a couple of female dogs. I kept them in the kennel. I left the kennel unlocked and they'd go in the kennel and sleep. If they heard a noise outside, they'd come tearing out. I put a door-pull on the bottom of the door, left the side door to the office open and out they'd go, out to the road, and do their barking, and come back to the kennel and go to sleep. One dog was a pure bred Scotty and the other was a fox terrier. Funny; one would pull the door open and the other would jump over his back; the other would hold the door, scoot out, go out the door and do their yaking.

Mc Did dogs have to have licenses?

A Yes.... Some people spend more money on their pets than they do their kids! We knew a fellow in Rochester; he had a farm out in the country and they had a funeral procession with a coffin they'd put the dog in. They had a pamphlet advertising it!! I guess they did alright. He was in the city, had money to spend and the taxes weren't too high.

Mc One of our daughters has a picture of a "Pet Cemetary" with tombstones and pictures of the cats and dogs on them. Imagine!!

A Well, if you can afford to do that, you can get \$50.00 for killing a dog.

Mc Do you see that there will always be a need for a veterinarian?

A That's hard to tell. We've got a "chain-up" deal now, here in Medina. Maybe in another 5 years they will ban all pets being outdoors, etc.

Mc What about the smaller animals, and birds? Ever fix any birds?

A Well, every spring the kids come to the door with a bird that's fallen out of the nest, or something and want me to do something

for them; may have a broken wing or something. I patch the wing together and they take it home. They let it loose and then the first cat that comes along eats it up.

Mrs. A. One time you fixed my bird. You bandaged his leg with tooth-picks as splints! That worked.

A Well birds get diseases, and they are so small and hard to handle.

Mc What about rabbits and smaller animals?

A No. I've never taken ~~a~~ care of them. Things have changed. Do you know how many dogs there are in Orleans County? Over ten thousand. Yes, that's quite a few. One fellow brought in 8 for me to vaccinate for rabbies, so he could get a license for them. Yes (reply) there used to be "show" dogs then. Some people have always had money. On the t.v. there is a Sunday morning program, "Hour Power" and they plan to put up a new church.... One lady gave a million dollars!!...  
...Price of bread today.... well, there was a man, John Dresser, used to board down here. He was from Millville, went to school here before I did. On the way home, he'd stop and buy 6 loaves of bread from the bakery for 25¢. Now one loaf of bread is 69¢. When the banks all failed.... my Dad died and I had to bury him; about '29; no, it was '31. Our youngest girl was born in '31. Mother had the "Gold Star Trip to Paris", and I had two old-maid-aunts that ran out of money.

Mc What do you mean: your mother made a GOLD STAR TRIP TO PARIS?

A Well, my brother John~~w~~ was killed over there, and she went over to his grave. Yes, he is buried over there. The Veteran's Post down here in Medina is named after the other boy that died first. What is it's name? It is down on East Center Street. LINCOLN. I don't know whether they are still functuning or not. The VFW. The one on the corner down there, contractor here built roads; he owned that house and he gave it to the Veterans of Foreign Wars. The Second World War, they could join it too, I guess. And the fellows from Vietnam can join too. Anyway, Mother went to France and my two aunts ran out of money. I had to pay their keep. One of them died and I had to bury her. Then our daughter Millie was born (Dec. 25, 1931). No, she was not born at home; the only one that wasn't. There wasn't any Medicaid or Medicare then: had to pay the whole shot. T'was terrible! The guy that operated on my eyems (recent operation) got \$900.00 apiece. Fifteen minutes work!!

Mc Did the Medina bank close in 1931?

A Yes, both banks "died" that winter. I got two checks from the state

and she (Mrs. A.) had her account in one of the banks and I had mine in the other. I put one month's work in my bank and the next month I got another check and I put that in her bank. Then that bank "died". I got hooked for about a thousand dollars. That's when a thousand dollars was a lot of money!

Mc In the "Gold Star Mother's Trip to France", how long were they there?

A They were there about a week or ten days. Yes (reply) they went by boat. Mother had a birthday while on the boat. She sat at the Captain's table; had her cake there!!

Mc Let's see. You were on the Medina school board, weren't you?

A Yes, twenty years. I was in Boy Scouts (Rhaiman). One time I took a group down to the lake, to the beach. Came time to come home and one boy had gone for a long walk, alone. I gathered up his clothes and we piled in the car and came home. About 8 o'clock the father went down and got him, then he came up here and gave me hell because I didn't get the boy! I said, "If you'd bring up your boy to mind his own business and stay where he belonged, you wouldn't have any such trouble!" He didn't like it of course. Well, I drove a horse the first two winters I was here.... (tells of making children mind their parents, including the grandchildren).

Mc I cannot remember about your children. Please tell me about them.

A We have three. Our son, Ross Junior, has his PhD. He has written more than 7 books. (Shows them, proudly). He is teaching at Seana College, near Albany, New York. He writes about antomology and biology. He has 8 children: 4 boys and 4 girls. During WW II he was in the Army. Georgiana was our next child. Her name was Reynolds and now it is Pound. They live in West Henerietta. Then there is Millie, married Bob Matson and live near Jamestown. We have 17 grandchildren and 9 great-grandchildren. Millie had twins. I can't tell one from the other!

Mc You are a Methodist; right?

A I guess so. We go to the Methodist church when we go. We were always Methodist. My Dad was chairman of the committee that built the church over in Millville when I was about 4 years old, and so high.

Mc Were you married in the church?

A No. We were married in my brother's home. It was war time and everything was in such a state.... I was County veterinarian for 10 years. Anybody else that had a herd of cows and had a reactor, we had to go and test them "till the herd was "clean". Now they have a "State" man who comes along and does it. It really has been cleaned up.

With the Bang's disease, we put on a calf vaccination. The calves were vaccinated about the time they were 6 months old and that prevented them from catching the disease, even from their own mother. Veal? Well, (reply) veal 6 months old; before they are maybe three months. Then they become calves. Now they can get by without Bang's. That's another thing that sanitation has done: get rid of inflammation of the udder, which we call mastitis.

Mc Now let's see. If my figures are right, you are 85 and still practicing; well, not really practicing any more!! (laughter).

A Yes. I will be 85 come December 19th. Well, I made \$10.00 today, that's all. "Did" a cat and some pigs. The cat was wobbly on his hind legs and his eyes were discharging puss, and so forth. Very quiet. I washed his eyes and he never offered to resent it. They must have been awfully sore. There's nothing instantaneous about it. There's people that come and they want a "shot". They don't know what they want it for, but they want a "shot" and they expect when they go out the door, the animal is well. He's had a "shot". The medicine works the same on animals as they do on people. Penicillin is destroyed in the stomach. You can take a barrel of the damned stuff and it won't do you any good, to amount to anything! Dispense it by the yard. But intravenously. Well, we don't use it intravenously. We use it in the muscle and then you get full benefit from it.

Mc I neglected to ask if you ever took night calls?

A Lord yes!! First night we moved in here. I got my telephone in the afternoon, and I got into bed. Then at 4 o'clock in the morning... that was the biggest day's work I ever did! And for about \$15.00.

Mrs. A. The animals were always uppermost in his mind. I heard a woman once say, when they wanted to know what she did: she said, "I play second fiddle to an old cow!"... They asked her, "how's that?" She replied, "I'm a veterinarian's wife!" But that's changed...

Mc Dr. Arnett, please tell me about your making barrels.

A My brother Jess was an expert barrel maker. He did make 100 barrels a day. That was in Millville. They made the barrels, then when I was big enough so I could see into a barrell, he went West. He left his tools home. I took the tools and went down to the Cooper (sounds like snooper) shop. I must have got about 10¢ a barrel. He started in; had a neighbor who was partially crippled, and made barrels. Then Jess started setting the barrels up. How you going to start a barrel? That's the problem. Jess used to set up a number

of barrels and when he'd finish one barrel, he'd have another one on the stove. When they'd get hot, why you'd... the wood that they used was a special wood. You could work on the inside of the barrel and tap the things. Some of them would lap over, and you'd push them back and get them so that they'd match and would be round. After you'd get the first one on, you'd take the hoop (which was about an inch square), the sides of it, put the staves in one place (demonstrates: one here) and hold it with your finger and up against your knee, and go around this hoop until you got the last one. Then you'd put the last one in and it would be that wide (demonstrates) You'd push that down tight, then you'd put on another hoop and so on. Then you'd turn the barrel over, put it on the bench, put a rope around it, fasten to a lever, put your foot on the lever and push it down and that pulled the other end of the barrel together. Of course, the barrel was bigger in the middle, then you put that on the heat, on the stove, which was a special-made stove, and put a cap on it. When it began to smoke, you took it off and get the staves all straightened out and then get some more hoops on it, put it back in the space made for it (which was round) and had a tool about this long (demonstrates); one handle came out this way and one handle came down that way and you'd get your arms inside the barrel and clamp ~~xxx~~ around the side and make the grooves on the top. Then you turn the barrel and champ (?) more until you got clear around. Then you had another tool, a rather triagnle tool on it; put that on the top of the barrel and pull it around and tear (?) the place where the head went in. Then you turned the barrel over and do the same on the other end. Then you put the head in the barrel, drive the hoops down tight. Of course it has been hot and that barrel ia juat ~~x~~ about ready to burst into flames, and summer-time too!!... so the head wouldn't fall out.... You did all that for 10¢.

(Conclusion of taped, edited interview).

(typed and edited by Helen M. McAllister)

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Medina Register

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Medina Police Dept. sponsor Explorer Scout Unit in law enforcement procedures.

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✓ Dr. Ross Arnett Given special honors by WNY Veterinary Medical Assoc. for 55 years in his profession.