

Orleans County Historical Association

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NAMES

Lewis Hollenbeck, father
Belle Perry Hollenbeck, mother
Ross Hollenbeck, brother (Sheriff of Orleans County...)
Beulah Miller Hollenbeck, 1st wife
Morris, Frieda, Lewis (changed to Louis), Paul
Esther Miller Hollenbeck, 2nd wife
Pauline, Avis, Nina, Richard
Betty H. Emerson, sister-in-law (Mrs. Ross Hollenbeck Emerson)



Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

Mr. Fay C. Hollenbeck
13443 Ridge Road
Gaines, New York

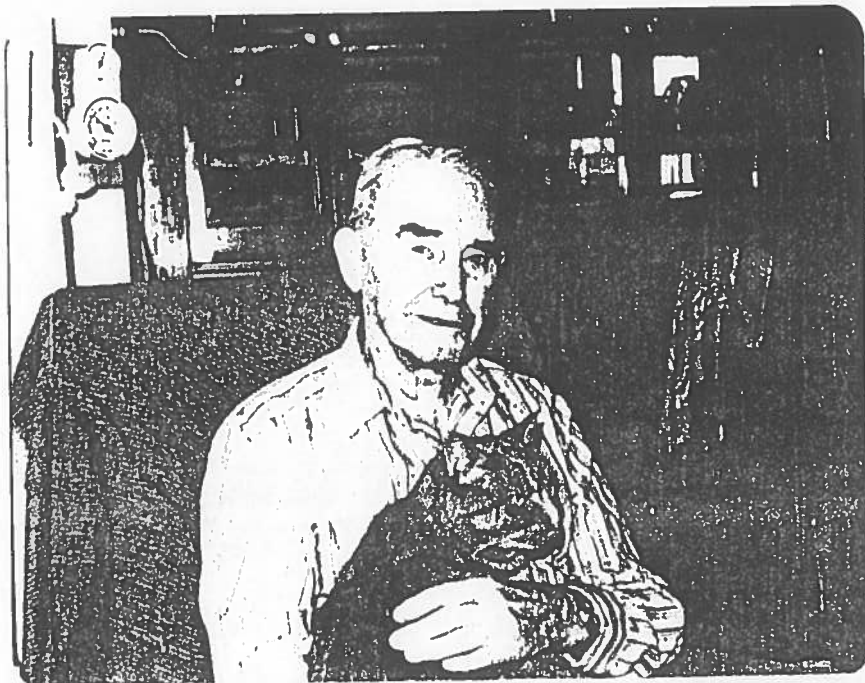
Mr. Hollenbeck was born July 31, 1889.

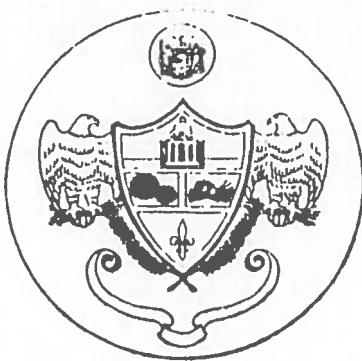
The interview was conducted by Helen McAllister, Medina.

H Hollenbeck

Mc McAllister

(NOTE: Mr. Hollenbeck was also interviewed by Mrs. Radzinski).





Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The purpose of this project 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 as educational resources and possible publication (all or in part).

I hereby release this tape and transcription to the Orleans County Historical Association.

Foy C. Hollenback

Signed

12-19-'80

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

12-19-'80

Date

For the ORLEANS COUNTY HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION, Helen McAllister of Medina, New York, is interviewing MR. FAY CARR HOLLENBECK of Route # 104 and Waterport, New York, outside of Albion, New York.

The date is December 19, 1980.

Mc Mr. Hollenbeck; having lived 91 years in Orleans County, your recorded memories and past experiences could be most meaningful to future historians.

Let's start out by asking you; what was your mother's maiden name ?

H Belle Perry.

Mc Your father's full name ?

H Lewis Hollenbeck.

Mc Did you have brothers and sisters ?

H I had one brother, Ross.

Mc Ross Hollenbeck.

H He used to be Sheriff of this county.

Mc During the Prohibition time and for how long a period ?

H During the Prohibition Time. One term.

Mc Was he voted into office or appointed ?

H Voted. At that time Sheriffs couldn't succeed themselves. After one term they were out.

Mc Would you tell us what it was like for him to be Sheriff at that time, as far as you know ? What were some of his responsibilities ?

H It was during Prohibition Time and his responsibilities were running down Boot-Leggers, and arresting them, and confiscating their liquor, their cars and horses and everything they used in those days.

Mc Did a lot of the Boot-Leg Liquor come across from Canada ?

H They all come across. They all come across by boat. They'd run in as close to the shore as they dared with their big power boats and then they'd use row-boats from there to the

shore. Then the farmers who lived along the lakeshore; different ones were contacted and they went along with these Boot-Leggers and they had their horses down there and "bobs" and "slip-boats" and things, and they loaded the stuff off from the row-boats onto the shore and these farmers drew it up to their barns. The *horses were* on the roadside and there the Boot-Leggers met them with their cars.

Mc Was the Boot-Leg Liquor in bottles ?

H Quart bottles; most all of it.

Mc What is Boot-Leg Liquor ?

H Whiskey and Champagne, mostly.

Mc It's Whiskey and Champagne ?

H Mostly Whiskey in those days.

Mc And that would be made in Canada ?

H Yes, and shipped across. These Boot-Leggers had a system, you know. They'd have lights on the shore where the boats were supposed to land, where farmers would meet them with their horses; so it was kind of a complicated deal.

Mc Did they have lights that they would flash ?

H They had lanterns on the shore. It was either one lantern or two or three; whatever they had agreed on.

Mc Was there any kind of police force out in the lake ?

H No.

Mc So they had to wait until the boats landed.

H Yeah. The *officers* and my brother and his deputies and State Troopers, they all hid down there and they watched this boat unload and they watched this farmer draw 'em up to his barn and then they closed in on them and got the team and the harness and the farmer. Then when the Boot-Leggers pulled in to get their loads, they all arrested them. They ended up by having eight or ten Boot-Leggers that they arrested that night.

Mc What about the people that were delivering it, from Canada; were they arrested ?

H They never got them. They were in that boat and they never come ashore.

Mc How did they carry the bottles ? Were they in large boxes ?

H No, they were in bags. Each bottle was in a cardboard protecting case and there were 12 bottles in a bag, burlap bags, and that's how they were carried.

Mc Would the farmer get some Boot-Leg Liquor too ?

H If he didn't, it was his own fault! (Laughter)

Mc Did he get more than the liquor for pay ?

H He got paid, sure. I don't know how much; never did know.

Mc Were there quite a few farmers on the American side that participated in this ?

H Oh, several along the lakeshore north of here that was in or this deal at one time or another. This particular one that knew the most about, he lost his team and his harness.

Mc He lost them because your brother arrested him ?

H Yep. The government wanted a place to keep the horses. You know, after they got them they didn't know what to do with them.

Mc How many horses ?

H Two. Just a team. And, they wanted a place to keep them and my brother said: "Well, maybe I^(FAY) would keep them for them." So I did. They paid me for keeping the horses here until they sold them. They finally had an auction here and sold the team and the harness.

Mc If the liquor came across in the boats, they had to be good sized boats.

H Oh yes.

Mc And the one or more farmers were there to load the liquor on to their wagons ?

H Well, it wasn't wagons, ~~in the winks~~ it was one wagon

Mc And they were going to take it from there up to their barn

H Yes. There was just one farmer involved in each transaction. There wasn't ever more than one farmer.

Mc But there were other Boot-Leggers that came there ?

H Yes, they must have had eight or ten that they arrested that one night.

Mc Would they be people from this area ?

H They come from Rochester.

Mc But they were arrested at the same time ?

H Yes. They were putting in after their loads and the police

arrested them and that's the way it went.

Mc Will you describe for us what was done with the liquor at that time ? Did you help transport it ?

H Oh, I transported all of it. I had a truck-load. I had 100 bags of Whiskey, and 100 bags of Champagne, and two cases of Dry Gin on my truck. ~~and~~ I pulled it up beside the jail in Albion, between the jail and the Courthouse, and my brother left a deputy to guard it. We got to talking about somebody ~~thaxxx~~ that kind of liked liquor, so we figured that we might as well have some. And the funny part of it is, I wouldn't drink a *thimble* full in 100 years anyway, but I thought I'd have some friends that might like some - - - so this deputy and I, we took 11 bags off my truck and hid it around the jail! When my brother finally come back, he was down the arresting these Boot-Leggers as they pulled in, and when he finally got back, about day-light, I told him what we had done 'cause I thought he should know and, boy, did he hit the ceiling!! He ~~xxx~~ made us go get all that liquor and put it back on the truck. (Laughter) Of course, he didn't ball me out so much, *being just* the truck driver; but he balled out that deputy. He said: "I left you here to guard it, not to steal it !" But we'd grab a bag of liquor and look around to see that nobody was coming, and then we'd run out and put back on the truck. Of course it was day-light then. We finally put it all back on the truck and then we took it to Rochester.

Mc Where did you take it in Rochester ?

H We went downstairs in the Post Office. And in all the office buildings around, everybody was in the windows going through all sorts of performances: some were hanging out their tongues, some was praying for it and they were kind of begging for some of that liquor, you know.

Mc What did they do with it in the Post Office ?

H Put it down in the basement; that's all I know. I never knew about it any farther than that.

Mc How about the head of the Post Office there; was he involved with this at one time ?

H His son was one of the main Boot-Leggers; a man named Stoudt. When we went from Albion to Rochester - - - I *d*

that load to Rochester in my truck - - - and, oh, there was four or five cars of police ahead of me and behind me so we wouldn't be hi-jacked, you know. So I had a Police Escort all the way to Rochester.

Mc What kind of a truck did you say you had ?

H Oh, at that time I think I - - - that was after I had this *Rumely truck* - - - I think I had a Ford truck.

Mc Then you had police cars in front of you and behind you and you were the only truck carrying the liquor ?

H You see, at that time a quart of Whiskey was worth \$12.00 or \$15.00, and I had 100 bags with 12 bottles in a bag; so you see that load was worth thousands of dollars. If the Boot-Leggars could have knocked that off they'd have been "sittin' pretty".

Mc What ever happened to your brother, did he suffer as a result of making this big catch ? Did people wish he weren't Sheriff because of this and make it hard for him ?

H Boot-Leggars did. He could have gone out of that Sheriff's Office rich. He was offered all sorts of money by the Boot-Leggars, to just let them go. But he never took a nickel ! He was an honest Sheriff. Of course he didn't drink, himself, and he had no _____ sympathy for them. He "knocked them off", and then he "knocked off" several Stills right in Albion. *(arrested)*

Mc Were there quite a few of those around ?

H Oh yes. There were several Stills in Albion. And they'd get word - - - somebody would tip *them* off, you know, and they'd raid this place and find all this material and the Stills where they made the Boot-Leg Whiskey.

Mc What did they do with that when they found it ?

H I really don't know. I didn't get any of it, I know that !
(Laughter)

Mc Were Stills different than "Bath-Tub Gin" ? Was there a difference there ?

H I don't know. I never had any "Bath-Tub Gin". I don't know what that is. (Laughter)

Mc Your brother certainly had some interesting experiences.

H Oh, I guess he did. I say, he could have been rich he

left that job if he'd taken dishonest money, you know.

Mc When you were a young man, it's my understanding, you left High School to help your father on the farm.

H That's right. My father worked always for other farmers. At one time we lived in Lockport, and we lived in Olean. At that time when we lived in Olean he worked on the Trolley line that run from Olean to Bradford, up over the hills. Then when we moved back into the country, he worked for farmers. It run along ^{like} that for several years, he worked for different farmers. Then every 1st of April some other farmer would offer him more money and we'd pack up everything and move to another farm.

Mc Was the 1st of April the only time, really, that a farmer would move ?

H Well, it was the accepted time. It's when most farmers and their hired men changed.

Mc Why was that ?

H The 1st of April is about the time that work opened up and these people, like my dad, who wanted to work for another farm he would want to get there and be ready for work when the weather broke, you know. But, the 1st of April was the accepted time to move. There was farmers moving all over.

Mc You worked with your father and you must have married at quite a young age because you were telling about having a wife and child at the age of 22.

H That's right.

Mc What was the name of your first wife ?

H Beulah Miller.

Mc How old were you when you married ?

H I was 21 in July and I was married that fall. If I hadn't ~~made~~ my brags I wouldn't be married until I was of age, I would have probably been married quicker! But I waited until I was 21, then I was married.

Mc That was the time when you had to have your parent's consent when you got married, is that what you mean ?

H I don't ever remember getting my parent's consent. I

remember getting her father's consent. You know what he said ?

Mc What ?

H He said: "As long as you always behave yourself." And I said: "Well, we always have."

Mc You had a number of children by this first marriage.

H Four.

Mc Would you tell me their names ?

H Yes. Morris, Frieda, Louis, and Paul. Now, Paul Parsons was born Paul Hollenbeck.

Mc Now this brings me to another whole series of questions that I think future historians will really relish because in days gone by we used to handle this sort of thing differently than we do today. We used to have Orphanages; we used to have all kinds of things. Your children were quite young when your first wife became ill ?

H She died when Paul was born. She died with, what we called in those days, "milk-*leg*".

Mc Which is really a blood clot.


H I don't know.

Mc Well then, who adopted Paul ?

H Richard Parsons. Parsons' wife, Hattie, was a sister to my wife. And they took this baby, to take care of him, and they got attached to him. ~~and~~ They had no children of their own and they wanted to adopt him, and at that time I had no wife and a family of children and I knew he'd have a wonderful home, so I consented. It's a good thing for him that I did because now he's a rich man.

Mc Have you kept in touch with each other through the years ? You and Paul ?

H Oh yes. Just this summer he stood outside this window talking to me and do you know what he said ? He said: "I've got so much money that I don't know what to do with it."

Mc I'd like to meet him.  That's wonderful. I think that he was very fortunate and I think that you were fortunate to have someone in the family that would want a baby.

H Hattie, my wife's sister, she had no children and she couldn't have any so they were very pleased to get this boy. They educated him and sent him to college and he had a wonderful chance.

Mc Then you married again, your second marriage. What was your second wife's name?

H Esther Miller. She was an "own cousin" to my first wife. They were both school teachers.

Mc Did she teach after she was married?

H A little while, not much. They both taught a little while after they were married, but not much.

Mc Then you had children by your second wife?

H Four.

Mc Would you name them, please?

H The first one was Pauline, who is now dead. Avis and Nina and Richard.

Mc Your second wife and you were able to celebrate your Golden Wedding?

H That's right. We lived together over 50 years and then she had a stroke and she passed away.

Mc Well, medicine has certainly changed over the years and the care the doctors give us, and calling on us in our homes and everything. You were telling me of a tragic event with a young girl. Would you want to tell us about that?

H Well, Pauline, who was my second wife's first child, she played High School Basketball and every once in a while they have to take her out because she'd have a pain in her side and the doctor said it was Appendicitis. And one time we went to Albion and a surgeon - - - I call him a surgeon - - - horse doctor, I guess, - - - anyway he was in Albion to do an operation and he said he had time so he would operate on Pauline. And, she was just as well when we went to Albion.

Mc How old was she?

H 16. And she had never been sick a day in her life; only she

did have these spells of having this pain in her side. Anyway, we took her to the hospital and he took her into the hospital and in 20 minutes he was through operating on her, and in three days we brought her home, dead.

Mc This was the hospital in Albion ?

H Yes.

Mc What year would this have been ?

H Oh, I can't tell you; I don't remember the years.

Mc But this was before Sulfur and Penicillin and modern drugs ?

H It wouldn't have made any difference ! He ruptured one of her bowels and didn't know it and sewed her up tight and that was it. She was full of Peritonitis and there was no saving her.

Mc It was a horrible experience.

At that time the funerals ~~xxxxxxxxxxxx~~ were held in the home, weren't they ?

H Yes. The funeral was held right here. We had a big crowd.

Mc That was a horrible experience for you to go through.

H It was so useless too, you know; that was the trouble, it was so useless. If we hadn't of taken her to Albion, she might have been alive yet.

Mc Did she go to school in Albion ?

H Oh yes. She played with the Albion High School girls; basketball.

Mc How did she get to school, was there a School Bus at that time ?

H That was just about the time that School Buses started and we had a School Meeting down here and before the meeting I went around the neighborhood and talked to some of the people and told them that I was going to bring it up. That we should have School Buses come into this district, you know. And I remember Vic Manning, for one, I asked him what he thought about it. And, of course, it was going to cost more money and he didn't have any children, never had any. He says: "By ——— Geez-wax, I don't think much of it !" "Well," I says: "I'm goin' bring it up at the School Meeting

and I wanted it noised around so the people would know." We had a big attendance that night. I brought it up and they voted it down. And I said: "Well, now I'm going to appeal this to Albany and I think they're going to up-hold it." And I said: "Do you want to make any provisions in our budget to pay the cost of it.?" And one of our neighbors, Elmer Moore, says: "We'll take our medicine when we're sick !": And I said: "Well, Elmer, I'm afraid you're goin' a be sick !" And it turned out that it was, it was appealed and that was the beginning of the School Bus. Before that, I used to take her to Albion.

Mc Were the first School Buses then paid by taxes or did you have to pay for each student to go directly ?

H Paid by taxes, the same as they are now. As far as I know, they were never paid for by any individual, I don't think. And we never paid any things to have a kid ride on them either; never have.

Mc So they ~~took~~ "took their medicine" ?

H Yeah. (Laughter) And now, of course, it's a common thing. That was the beginning. There was very few School Buses in those days, they were just starting.

Mc Was that before the time of Centralization or had they just Centralized and closed the Country Schools ?

H They closed this school, down here. They had closed this school. I think my wife, ~~Esther~~ Esther, was very near the last teacher down to this school.

Mc You said both your first wife and your second wife taught for a little while after they were married. Wasn't there a

H stipulation that married women could not teach for a while. Not in those days. In those days they didn't have to go to college, neither. My wife went to Albion to what they call Training School and went from there to teaching. Sometimes just High School graduates would teach Country Schools, you know. It wasn't quite so fussy as they are now-a-days.

Mc When you were working as a farmer, a hard working farmer, a young man, did you have a Hired Man help you ?

H Not when my father and I worked together, which we did in

the beginning. We didn't have any other help; just the two of us, that was enough. But after we separated; Father moved up here on the Ridge on the Bullard Farm, where Downeys now live, and I went to Clarendon. I was only 22 then. I moved to Clarendon, 18 miles from where I lived, and I had three teams of horses, two hired men, a hired girl, a wife, and a baby. That was pretty good for 22 years old !

Mc I should think so ! Having a couple of hired men didn't mean then that you were a well-to-do farmer ?

H Oh no. No, I never was that.

Mc But that was a common thing, to ^{have} a hired man working for you ?

H Oh yes, sure. You couldn't do all the work alone, you know. You couldn't work three teams of horses alone.

Mc Did the hired men live in the house with you ?

H Yes, these men did. They were both single. Single men, and we boarded them. They got their lodging and their board. Used to get up in the morning - - - five o'clock in the morning. Makes think - - - I was talking to a man down south one time and he was talking about that he had colored fellows working for him. And I says: "What hours do they work ?" He says: "They work from "can " 'til "can't" ". Now you never heard that; but you know what I mean? I didn't know either. I says: "What do you mean ?" He says: "They work from the time they Can see until they Can't see."

Mc Long hours.

H They work from "can 'til can't".

Mc You mentioned having a hired girl.

Did you ever have a Hired Girl come from the Reformatory ?

H Yes, several of them.

Mc How did you choose them or did you just tell them, at the Reformatory, that you wanted a hired girl ?

H They done the choosing. When we lived in Clarendon - - I say I lived in Clarendon three years - - - and that hired girl, up there, we had, was just a girl that we knew. At that time we had no girls from the Reformatory. After we

back on the Ridge here, that's where we got all our hired girls, from up there. We must have had, oh, half a dozen different ones, I guess. When their time would be up, they'd go free, you know.

Mc Was this just prior to their release from the Reformatory ?

H Yes. They had to ^{be} on their good behavior up here or they wouldn't be paroled, you know. They'd parole them out to a farmer, not only to me but to other places around; where ever they wanted help, they'd send out one of these girls. But they had to report back, you know, keep them posted on how they was.

Mc Did they come and stay for a certain length of time or did they have to go back every night ?

H No, they stayed right there. They never went back until their time was up and then they went free.

Mc And they stayed right in the house with you ?

H Yeah.

Mc Ate with you ?

H Yes, sure. Just like one of the family. In those days farmers always ate with their help, you never had any "separate tables", you know. They lived with us, just like one of the family.

SIDE 2, TAPE 1

Mc Mr. Hollenbeck, you said that you and your wife used to have hired girls that would come from the Albion Reformatory was ~~it~~ all girls, at that time, at the Reformatory ?

H Yes, they were all girls.

Mc Had they committed serious crimes for the most part ?

H They were unruly enough so that they were put in the Reformatory. We called it The House of Refuge then.

And, they were put in there for different lengths of time according to what their offence was. Some of them were real good workers and some of them were real nice girls. They always seemed real nice, anyway.

Mc Did they have to wear a uniform ?

H Not when they was out in the country.

Mc But at the school did they ?

H At the school I think they did; but when they got out of the school they dressed just any way they wanted to.

Mc Did you and your wife provide any clothing for them ?

H No. We had ~~our~~ expenses, how much do you think a week ?

Mc A dollar ?

H No, three.

Mc Three dollars.

H \$3.00 a week, yeah.

Mc And their room and board.

H They lived right with us just like one of the family.

Mc You never had any unpleasant experiences with them ?

H Never. We never had one run away. Sometimes they would run away from these farmers, you know; they'd get dissatisfied and they'd take off.

Mc Were the girls at The House of Refuge, for the most part, from this area or from all over ?

H From all over.

Mc Were they mostly white girls ?

H All we ever had was white. They had some black ones there, too. Years afterwards, after that, we had a Soft-Ball team down here to Waterport and I happened to be the Manager of it. One of my grand-daughters got me into it. Anyway, we went over to The House of Refuge; they had a Ball-Team over there and they had two or three colored girls on this ball team. We went over there and played with them.

Mc Were they pretty good ?

H Yep, very good.

Mc Someone asked me to ask you about the land just north of this farm on which you're living right now. Do you know anything about the land right north of here, who used to own it or was there a house on it ?

H There was a family named Breeze that lived the first place north of here. They wasn't too ~~prosperous~~ prosperous, maybe I shouldn't say this. They lived in a kind of shack and one of their grand-daughters goes now to Nutri-Fare. We go there occasionally and we sit at the same table where she does and she remembers going up here to my school. Up to the little school where my wife taught.

Mc Would that be the Cobblestone School ?

H No. Well, it is stone. You're probably thinking about Childs ?

Mc Yes I am, right.

H This was just down here a little ways. And my wife taught there and this daughter of Howard Breeze, who used to live down here, went to school to her. Now she's an old lady. She's probably well into her 70s.

Mc Do you think somebody in their 70s is old ? (C)

H No, not compared to me. (Laughter)

Mc Not when you're 91 !

H No.

Mc Well, what about the land ? Is there quite a bit of White Sand along through here ?

H North of here, right here close, on my land there's what we call the Sand Knoll. It was blow sand; so light that it would blow with the wind and it was stiff like snow, you know.

Mc Is there quite a stretch of it ?

H Not an awful lot, no. And just beyond that it's dryer than billy-o.

Mc What can you do with white sand ?

H It really wasn't White Sand, it was what we called Blow Sand. If you got a crop up on it, it would come along and you would make a crop. But lots of times when it would just be coming up there would be wind, shift sand right up and bury it right up and you would have to do it over again. But there isn't a great deal of sand north of my land. You get farther north, it's heavier land and stoney land and good land.

Mc When we lived up on the Ridge - - - we owned what was once the Evergreen Farm - - - and out in back, it was beautiful for strawberries. We had sandy loam, it was just beautiful.

H I had a lot of strawberries here at one time. One time on Decoration Day I had strawberries out in front for sale and people would come along and ask: "Where did you get them ?" "We raised them." And they wouldn't believe it. My wife, her birthday was the 3rd day of June; and on her birthday we usually could find a few to eat. But this particular year I

them on some early land and it was an early spring and Decoration Day, that's the last of May, we had strawberries for sale out in front of here. That don't happen, only once in a lifetime.

Mc Having been a farmer all of your life, you've seen lots of changes and you've seen that there are fewer farmers and bigger farms. What do you think about that ?

H Well, at the price they pay for this machinery now, they've got to have ~~xxx~~ a lot of land to pay for it. When I was young, my father and I worked 80 acres on shares. We only got half out of that 80 acres. The owner got the other half. Now for 80 acres, what would you do when you were buying a \$8000.00 or \$10,000.00 tractor, or \$15,000.00? Some of these machines costs thousands of dollars, you know.

Mc But what's that going to do to the small-time farmer ?

H Well there aren't any anymore. There's no small-time farmers around. There was a time when up this Ridge every farmer had a few horses, a few cows, a few pigs, and a flock of hens; now if you go up and down this Ridge you can't find a flock of hens. Nobody's got any hens ~~any more~~ even, nobody's got any pigs and if they have they've got a lot of them. They make a specialty of it. The same way with cattle. My grandson lives a mile and a half north of here.

Mc Now who is that ?

H Don Hobbs. He's Frieda Hobbs' son. He's got 100 head of cattle.

Mc Are those dairy cattle ?

H Yeah. All dairy.

Mc Now what does he do with the milk ?

H He ships it. The tank truck comes along, picks it up, takes it away.

Mc That's changed a lot too.

H We used to put it in 10 gallon cans. Then the trucks come along and we'd load the cans on and they'd take it in cans.

Mc They'd take it to the train ?

H No, they used to take it to the cities.

Mc Did you ever ship cream to the cities ?

H Yes, that's when I only had a few cows; four or five cows. Then we'd ship cream, had a cream-separator and we'd ship the cream.

When I was building here I lived over in this corner house and we kept saving our cream checks until we were getting ready to build here, and when we got enough we bought a living room suite with our cream checks.

Mc That was before the days of Credit Cards.

H Oh yes.

Mc That's another thing that's changed.

H Lots of things have changed in 90 years !

You know when I was young there wasn't a Telephone Pole ~~xx~~^{nc} a wire nor a telephone nor a - - - certainly no televisions, no automobiles.

Mc No airplanes. No walking on the — Moon.

What about your Social times. Did you used to get together with the neighbors and have dances ?

H Oh yes. Saturday nights we used to go to Waterport, when we lived down north; they'd have a little Ice Cream Social, had it in the summer-time, every Saturday night. We used to go over to Waterport and visit with our neighbors and all the farmers. And, if we wanted to make a real splurge we went to Albion and that was nine miles away. Now if you want to make a real splurge, to go to Rochester or Buffalo or somewhere.

Mc What did you do when you had Ice Cream ? Did someone have to make it or did you go to the grocery store and buy it ?

H They bought it. They bought it in cans, in containers and brought it in. All the churches used to put on the Ice Cream Socials and try to make a little money.

Mc Did you ever go to dances that were held in the homes ?

H Oh yeah. I danced all my life. My wife and I danced all the way from Buffalo into Palmyra.

Mc Was that your second wife ?

H Yes. My first wife and I never danced. My second wife, she was brought up in a strict home, and she never danced or played cards, but after we were married she played cards and danced. I guess I ruined her. (Laughter) (C)

Mc It doesn't sound like you ruined her too much, you had 50 years together !

- Mc What about the dances you went to that were in the homes ?
Was there more than a violinist ?
- H Hardly ever any more than that. But we done most of our
dancing in Grange Halls. In Gaines, you know; this little
village has got one of the best dance floors in Orleans
County. It's up there now. It's all narrow boards and it's
all laid around, across the end and down the other side,
across the other end. So on a round dance you are always
dancing with the boards, never across them, see.
- Mc I never thought about that !
- H I can take you down there now on the third floor. I don't
know what shape it's in; I haven't been up there in years,
but it was the best dance floor in the county.
- Mc What would the women wear when they went to a dance ? Would
they wear slacks ?
- H No, hardly any slacks in them days, no. I don't recall eit
one of my wives ever wearing slacks. The first wife surely
never did and I don't remember if Esther ever did or not,
I doubt it.
- Mc Did they wear long dresses, sometimes ?
- H Yeah, and then some of them they shortened up too, you know
Up to about their knees or close to their knees.
- Mc And you enjoyed dancing ?
- H Yes, I guess we did.
- Mc Did you ever Square Dance ?
- H Oh sure ! In those days dances would alternate; first a
Round Dance and then a Square one. And I've always said
a round dance, with a good partner, was a pleasure. But a
Square Dance, that's just fun. It don't make any difference
whether you do it right or not, you just have a lot of fun
- Mc Do you remember who did the "Calling" ?
- H Oh sure. Henry Rush, and Ken's orchestra that plays up here
to Gasport; I don't know what Ken's last name is. He had
orchestra and he "Called." Milt Johnson "Called".
- Mc Did you ever consider an Auction to be a ~~xxxxx~~ social time
when they had auctions at various places ?
- H Well, if they had a big auction they had donuts and coffee,
and a lot of people went to auctions ~~xxxxx~~ just to see thei

○ + □ = ⊕

neighbors. Other people would go to buy stuff, you know. A lot of it was sociability, yes. But there was lots of auctions. I've had two auctions in my day. When I left Clarendon I had an auction. I sold three of my horses; I kept three.

Mc Were those your big horses ?

H Two of them was. Not these registered ones. They were work horses I sold. I sold two work horses and a gray driving horse, but I kept this one here that I have a picture of. I always kept him.

Mc Who was your Auctioneer ?

H Ed Sayers. He used to live right down here a little ways. Bernie Ferris and I - - - Bernie was a friendly farmer down here and they had electricity as far as Gaines, and we wanted to get it up ^{on} the Ridge. So Bernie and I went up the Ridge and we got people to sign up for it and among others was Ed Sayers; besides Auctioneering he was a farmer too. And his wife said: "No I'm going to Albion to live, ~~on my farm~~ and I'm not going to put in electric lights for somebody else." So Ed comes out and he says: - - - his wife was raising trouble about it - - - he says: "Would it be all right if we take it off." And we says: "Yes, we have plenty of signers." So we took his name off. Well after a while when she made up her mind that she was going to have to live there, then she wanted electricity and then he wouldn't put it in! So they never had electricity while they were there.

Mc Once the line had gone through, if they weren't on, they couldn't connect in to it ?

H They could, but he wouldn't do it ! She made a fuss when he signed up, and then after he took his name off he wouldn't go for it again. That was married life for you. (Laughter)

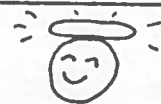
Mc Tell me about the Lodge that you belong to; the I.O.G.T., what was that ? That was the Good Templars ?

H Independent Order of Good Templars.

Mc Is that what you always called that ? I.O.G.T. ?

H I-Often-Get-Tight ! (Laughter)

Mc How often did you ~~meet~~ meet with the Knights of Good Temple



H I think we met about every week. Then I belonged to the Odd Fellows, for years, in Albion.

Mc Probably belonged to the Grange too, didn't you ?

H Yes, for years and years. I was Master of the Grange and I was Master of the County Grange. I was in two or three years. ~~and~~ I thought I wouldn't take it again so they put my son, Richard, in. So that's just about as bad off.

Mc Is the Grange going now ?

H No, it's gone. There is only one active Grange in the county and that's Barre Center. There used to be - - - well there was Murray and Clarendon and Barre and Gaines and Waterport, Medina, Lyndonville, Shelby Center; cripes, it was full of Granges, you know, at the time, but they've all gone.

Mc Is that because they've gone the way - - - it's gone the way of the small farmers ?

H Well no; it's gone the way of other forms of entertainment. Now it's so easy to get television and radio and things lil that. In those days Granges was about our only form or recreation you might say.

Mc Was it more recreation than education ?

H Both.

Mc They have Farm Bureau today, still, don't they ?

H Oh yes.

Mc But that's not a really lot of fun with that is there, or is there ?

H No, there's no fun to it.

Mc I understand you went on a tour once. Was that with the Farm Bureau ?

H Yeah.

Mc What was that, would you tell me ?

H It's been so long ago, I don't remember much about it. I know we went over ~~xxxx~~ to Canada and since I got into the dairy business I went on two Dairy Tours. Looking at some of these outstanding herds, you know. And ~~xxxxxxx~~ specially to look at some noted bulls. Of course when I first started dairying there wasn't any Artificial Insemination and now very few farmers have a bull, you know.

Mc Well, they're quite dangerous aren't they, really ?

- H They can be dangerous, you bet, if you're not careful around them. You don't want to be like our friend, he used to tell me, he said: "I'm afraid of a bull from the day he's born." When you had that attitude, that wasn't dangerous. Just be always careful.
- Mc What kind of dairy cattle did you have ?
- H Holsteins. That what my grandson has too. You see my grandson has between 400 and 500 acres. That's Frieda's son. Frieda was up here and you met her. I used to introduce her as my oldest daughter, but she didn't like that so I don't do that any more. (Laughter) I think "Babe's" 67 or 68, I guess.
- Mc Now who is "Babe" ?
- H Frieda. I've got another daughter, Avis. She works for t County. I always call her "Chip."
- Mc Like a "Chip" Off The Old Block ? (Laughter)
- H I guess so.
- Mc Speaking of chips reminds me of wood chips. You have a nice wood fire going in your kitchen here. Do you also have central heating ?
- H Oh yes. We burn gas. Are you warm enough ?
- Mc Plenty, thank you. It's very comfortable here. You have a lovely home. I'm amazed when I think that you drew the for this and cleared the land and built this house.
- H I cut all the rough lumber; that's the frame, and the rou boards and the sub-flooring. These floors are all double you know. I cut all that stuff from the woods. I had an man that lived down here named John Ferris, Uncle John we called him, and he come along one day when I had the fram up and the partitions up and he says: "Fay, I'd like to look at your house." And I said: "I'd like to show you." So I showed him through. "Well," he says: "that's going to be all right." He says: "where did you buy your plan I said: "I didn't buy them. I drew them." He says: "Yo mean to tell me that all you've got to go by is plans you drew yourself ?" And I says: "Yes, that's all." "Well the old man says: "it must be you know more than it looks

you did." (Laughter) That's what you'd call a left-handed compliment. ☺

Mc Mr. Hollenbeck, you say that your full name is Fay Carr Hollenbeck. What is the story on Carr ?

H My grandmother on my mother's side had a sister and she married one of the Carr Brothers who lived in Pavilion and they were wealthy. And one of them had a son named Fay. And when I was born they thought, well, they'd name me after Fay Carr and maybe it would rub off some of their money onto me. It never happened that way. So I was named after Fay Carr who lives in Pavilion, and that was his name and I was named Fay Carr Hollenbeck thinking that some day I might get some of that money.

Mc Maybe it rubbed off on your son, Paul Parsons?

H Oh, he's got it rich ! You know Paul must be a millionaire.

Mc Well, don't you think it has something to do with being in the Oil Business ?

H Oh, it's all to do with it. He's got two homes. He's got a summer home in Carolina and a winter home in Florida and two automobiles, a Mercedes Benz they call them, one of these highest priced cars.

Mc Mr. Hollenbeck, do you remember when women first got the Vote ?

H Sure I remember. I can't tell when it was.

Mc Do you remember if your wife was excited ?

H No.

Mc Did she vote ?

H Yes she voted but she wasn't fussy whether she did or not. She voted because other people did.

Mc How about when the women first got their hair "bobbed" ?

H She never got her hair "bobbed".

Mc Did you have any feeling about women having their hair cut

H No. If they wanted it cut I didn't care. Do you want to hear a story ? (NOTE: Esther, 2nd wife, did cut her hair).

Mc Sure.

H I used to clip my horses, you know. I had a gasoline

engine and when I got up around their ears they didn't like it and we had to put a twist on them. We had a stick with ~~an~~ a hole in the end and a cord through it - - - it made a loop about that big - - - and we'd pull the horse's nose out like this and put that over his nose and twist it up until it got a little pressure on it on nose, you know. Then they'd pay more attention to that twist, the hurt on their nose, than they would with what you was doing with the machine. And I called my wife out. I says: "Come out and hold this twist for me." And so she'd hold the twist. All at once she said: "I feel faint." Well I jumped right down and shut the motor off and I turned around just in time to catch her. She had on a pair of pumps and she had on a pair of nose glasses and had a long braid of hair clear down below her waist. I picked her up and she fell out of her pumps. I picked her up and got her up to the back steps in my arms with her and she started to vomit, totally unconscious. I took her nose glasses off and I had her nose glasses in my hand and this darn braid I was keeping in the back so it wouldn't get plastered. You talk about a man having his hands full! she, at that time, probably weighed about 170 pounds; and I had her in my arms and her nose glasses and her braid, she was totally unconscious and she was heaving up everything she ever ate. That was a time when you heard about a man having his hands full and I sure did !

Mc I should think so. But you used to clip your horses ?

H Yes. Clip them in the spring.

Mc Why would you do that ?

H Well, to get all that dead hair off from them and it would be cooler. It was quite a common ~~praxix~~ practice to clip a horse in the spring.

Mc

Did you ever show your horses at the Fair ?

H Yeah.

Mc Ever win any prizes ?

H Yeah, I did because there wasn't much competition. I had more horses there than anybody else.


Mc Also because they were Pure-Breds, right ?
H Sure. I had stallions and brood mares and colts.
Mc How about the Fair, was it more active than it is today ?
H Yeah, but it was on it's way out then, the Albion Fair.
That's where I did my showing, the Albion Fair; never
showed them any where else.
Mc I think the 4-H Fair, though, is really exciting.
H Yeah, it's come along good. Too bad they didn't keep the
old Fairgrounds while they had it. They had a good
Race Track there.

Mc I understand they had some Boot-Leg property over that
way, too ?
H Well, yeah. The Italian fellows had most of the Boot-Leggin
business.
Mc In Albion.
H I used to be real good friends and sold a lot of stuff to
Stanley Barry in Lyndonville, and worked for him.
Mc What do you mean, you sold a lot ~~off~~ of stuff ?
H Oh, I used to buy stuff of him; fertilizer and seed and
everything, then I'd sell him my wheat and my cabbage and
my apples. He was a Produce Dealer. His building is just
north of the Waterport Railroad now, on the north side.
It's abandoned now. His sons haven't done anything with it.

Mc Thank you very much, Mr. Hollenbeck, for this second
interview. It's very, very helpful.
H Well, I hope I told you some good.

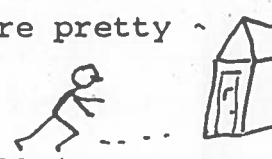
(NOTE: As Mr. Hollenbeck & H. McAllister continue
conversation, it is decided to continue
the taped interview. Mrs. Betty H. Emerson,
sister-in-law graciously serves coffee ---
and we continue ...).

Mc This is tape # 3 with Mr. Fay Hollenbeck, December 19, 1980. Helen McAllister is doing the interviewing.

Mc Mr. Hollenbeck, as we continue our interview, would you want to tell us how the home situation has changed, concerning the Privies ? You remember the Back-houses? 

H Oh sure. When I was young we didn't have any inside toilets at all. We had to go outdoors. My grandmother had a square carpet about, oh, about 14 or 15 inches square with a hole cut in it and she used to have it hung back of the kitchen stove and when we'd have to go to the toilet in the winter-time we'd take this carpet and roll it up, run out there and spread it on the seat, and sit on it. Nice and warm ! It wasn't bad at all. And then in the night-time we'd take a lantern and put the lantern down between our feet; boy, we were pretty comfortable, we thought it was nice !

Mc Was that quite a ways from the house ?

H It was usually far enough so you couldn't smell it ! You didn't want it too close. (Laughter) 

Mc Well, going back to early remembrances, do you remember when groceries used to be delivered by a local store ?

H Oh yes. When I went to Clarendon I was a total stranger and I went down to the village store and there was a man named Floyd Gillis run it. ~~and~~ I'd never seen him before and I told him where I lived and how much of a family I had, and I said: "Now we're going to have some butter and some eggs, but I'll want more groceries than we'll have stuff to pay for and I'd like to run a bill and pay for it next fall." And I says: "Will that be all right with you ?" And Floyd looked at me a minute and he says: ~~XXI~~ "You look as though you'd pay." He says: "Come and get anything you want." And that was my introduction to Floyd Gillis. That was in April, and when summer come

he used to drive a wagon up by there and he'd stop and my wife would buy stuff off from the wagon. And, when fall come I'd go down and pay him after I had my wheat sold and my cabbage and apples and things like that - - - before I would have some money; then I would go down and pay my bill. But that was my introduction to Floyd Gillis and I always liked him after that.

Mc When the grocery truck came around; I assume your wife didn't go shopping every day to the grocery store.

H She didn't even go once a week ! The grocery cart come every week anyway, and they used to come with a whole stock of stuff and then in later years they got so that they come around and took orders and then the next day they would deliver.

Mc When they brought things around, would they be packaged up or were they in the bulk ?

H They were packaged. Bulk - - - when I was young sugar, I guess, it come in barrels - - a barrel of sugar, all loose, you know; brown sugar and white sugar. And crackers come in a big barrel, a barrel of crackers. Lots of times the barn cat would have a nest laying on top of the crackers.

Mc What was this ?/

H The cat ! He would be laying on top of the crackers. We didn't think nothing of that, we didn't mind it. They used to bring bread around in big blue boxes, when they first commenced to deliver bread; it come in big blue boxes, about once a week. And you would go there and they would sell you a loaf of bread. But in those days the wives baked all our bread; they didn't sell much bread.

Mc And, you made your own butter and had your own eggs ?

H Oh yes.

Mc And your own milk ?

H Yep.

Mc And cottage cheese and butter.

H They can have the cottage cheese. They made it but I never ate it ! I never could go for sour cheese or sour milk - - - that's what it was. But I always liked milk

and butter.

Mc You said something about the crops you were growing, such as cabbage and I guess you grew a lot of tomatoes at one time.

H Oh yes.

Mc Did you have Transient Workers help you at times ?

H Yes. A lot of them. A lot of them fellows come along and we'd hire them - - - never see 'em before. Some would stay all the season, some would stay just a few days, but lots of them would come back the next year, the same men looking for work.

Mc Now would these be in addition to your hired men ?

H Yes. You didn't have hired men enough to pick a crop of tomatoes. You have 15 or 20 acres of tomatoes, you know, and it would be a lot of hand work and you wouldn't have enough help to do that.

Mc Where would Transient Workers come from ?

H The cities, most of them. In fact they were all from the cities. Most men in the country had work but lots of men in the cities didn't have work, and they'd come along out in the country looking for work, and they'd find apple picking and tomato pickin' and down in the hopp country they used to go down and pick hopps, where they made beer, you know. I heard them tell that these hopps ~~very~~ were very loose and they'd pick them in boxes and sometimes one of their friends that didn't like them would give this box a kick and the hopps would settle down and it would make them mad, you know. They would get their box all full and somebody would kick it and it wouldn't be full any more.

Mc How did the Transient Workers get from the city to here ?

H Walk !

Mc From the city ?

H Sure ! All the Transients that I ever hired was from walking down the road. In those days they didn't have no other way but to walk ! Only walk. They didn't own a horse and there was no automobiles.

Mc What about "riding the rails" , like "ho-bos" ?

H Oh, they would do that but they would get off at these littl

places like Waterport and branch out and walk from there. Some of these "ho-bos" were pretty good guys. They'd have camps, you know, in the woods. They used to have a place we called the Gravel Pit, up west of Waterport, and they had a permanent camp out there. Sometimes there were be a dozen or more men camping there and going out to work. The people complained about it and when my brother was Sheriff, he had a big police dog and ~~it~~ was savage and he had what you would call a ~~shack~~ choker collar on him, you know, ~~and~~ They called Ross, and Ross went down there and he took this dog with him. ~~and~~ He went back to the camp and he told these boys, he says: "Now fellas, there's been complaining about you and you've got to get out of here." He says: "Now I'm coming down tomorrow and I'm going to turn this dog loose." Well he went down "tomorrow" and there was nobody there. They had all cleared out! They didn't want any part of that dog.

Mc What would the people complain about ?

H Oh, stealing stuff. They'd go out and dig their potatoes out of the fields. They had to eat, you know, at these camps. They'd go out and beg from the farmers; get a hand-out here and there. They'd go out in the field and dig a few hills of ~~potatoes~~ potatoes and take off with the sweet corn; anything to live.

Mc This would be before the time of Welfare or Food Stamps ?

H Oh, yes, My Gosh, yes !

Mc So if you didn't know how to get something, you really starved.

H Yes. Well, you're talking about Food Stamps; that's a new wrinkle, that hasn't been going on very long. And Welfare, there was no such a thing as that. If it got real bad, you went to the Poor House and that was a disgrace, to go to the Poor House. Now they always get Welfare. Social Security, that's Welfare !

Mc Not really, because we pay in-to it.

H Well I didn't !

Mc Well, I think most people who worked for wages paid in to it

H Yeah, that's true. But it's come to me and I didn't ever pay in to it. And Morris, when he - - - I tried to get

(son)


Social Security for him and I took him to Batavia first they asked: "do you support him." And I said: "sure I've always supported him." "Well why do you support him?" And I said: "'cause I've had to." "Well I don't think he can get anything, but I'll try." So they sent in the papers. Then they sent me a letter and I had to take him down to Rochester to a specialist down there. So I took him down there and come back and run along a while and then out of a clear sky he got a check for \$1000.00.

Mc That felt pretty good.

H And since then he's had Social Security, same as I do. He gets a check every month and I do too, and Betty does too. It's all Welfare, you know, in a way.

Mc When you were a younger man do you remember Gypsies being around?

H Oh sure. Yeah, I can tell you a story about that. My wife and I come from Albion one day and we drove up in front of the garage here and there was a couple of Gypsy women in there with Floyd Woolston; he run the garage. And when I went in there one of them took me and they pulled us back away from the door so my wife wouldn't see us; 'cause they knew ~~xxxxxxx~~ that she'd see what we wasn't thinking about. And we was having a lot of fun! ~~we thought~~, This woman that I had, ~~xxxxx~~ she just had a skirt or a loose dress on. You could pull her dress out and you could look right down all the length of her. And after a while they left and I got to thinking: "Gee I found her hand in my pocket once and I took her hand out and put my hand in my pocket." I got to thinking: "Maybe she was in there once before?" And I looked and sure enough I found ~~xx\$5.00xxxxxxx~~ my \$5.00 bill was gone. So I told my wife - *and* I suppose Floyd, that son-of-a-gun, she took \$5.00 out of my pocket. And he said: "She did?" And he looked into his pocket and they had taken all of his money and he hadn't even missed it. When we came up through Gaines they were there in front of Bern's Garage and my wife wanted me to stop and I says: "No, I'm a big enough fool to let a woman take \$5.00 out

of my pocket. She's welcome to it. It won't ever happen again, I can promise you that." 

Mc Do you remember the Gypsies traveling in any kind of a Caravan ?

H Oh yes.


Mc What was it like ?

H All horse drawn carry-alls. And they'd camp; ~~if they let you~~ - - - they'd pull in someplace and set up a camp. Some people wouldn't let them camp. They'd say: "Go on, get out of here !" Because they stole a lot of stuff, you know, those Gypsies did. They'd go into your fields and take corn and dig potatoes and do anything, they had to live, you know. If ~~xxx~~ they couldn't steal enough money to buy stuff that they wanted, they stole it.

Mc You had "ho-bos" come along. Are "ho-bos" and Transients the same thing ?

H Well, I don't think so. Some of these "ho-bos" were "professional ho-bos". They didn't work, they just lived off the country as they went along. Others of them were pretty good men; some of them were family men that were out of work, and lots of them that would work for me would send their money to their wives when they would earn money. They say: "Send it to so-and-so." And I would.

Mc What did you tell me - - - there was a saying: "Working From Sun-up To Sun-down". How was that ?

H That was in Virginia. I was down there and he had colored boys working for him. And I said: "Well, what hours do they work ?" And he said: "They work from "can" 'til "can't" ". And I said: "Gee, what do you mean ?" I never heard that." He said: "They work from the time they can see until they can't see." That was their hours. I never heard that before work from "can" 'til "can't". 

H I told you about the Boot-Leggars having an extra spring on the backs of their cars ?

(one was fast at end of ride.) - (see next page)

Tape # 3, Side 2

- Mc Mr. Hollenbeck, what can you tell me about Boot-Leggars cars ?
- H These Boot-Leggars had this extra spring under the back of their cars so that when they were loaded with liquor their cars would ride about level and they wouldn't be so noticeable. That how they used to get away with things - - put these extra springs so their cars rode pretty high when they were empty but when they were loaded they rode about level.
- Mc Those bottles probably weighted a lot.
- H Well, a quart of liquor - - they'd get 12 bottles in a sack - - - they used to get it by the sack-full.
- Mc The bottles didn't break very easily ?
- H No, they were covered in ~~xxxxxxx~~ cardboard, corrugated wrappers.
- Mc What were you telling me about the horse drawn wagons that had the large wheels in back ?
- H And smaller wheels in the front. All Lumber Wagons were that way. All of them - - the front wheels were always smaller.
- Mc Was that just Lumber Wagons ?
- H Well, the Democrats, - - - any four-wheeled wagon - - so when they cramped around to turn, the wheel would cramp underneath the body - - if they were high ones they couldn't get under there, they couldn't turn short. All Lumber Wagon had the smaller wheels in the front.
- Mc What do you remember about the Circus as a young man ?
- H Well, when I lived in the city my dad used to get me up mornings and we'd go down and watch the Circus unload.
- Mc What city ?
- H Lockport. They used to come in there on trains and sometime it would be the wet time in the spring - - anytime ^{it} would be wet and these wagons would get stuck and they'd hook these big horses on and if they couldn't get them out they'd bring

an elephant around. He'd put his head to the back of the wagon and push them right out.

Mc How did they come, on more than one train car ? Did they have a food car ?

H Oh, they had several cars. They had cars with cages in the had animals in and flat cars, where the wagons were on. In those days they always would have a Parade, you know, and parade through the city to advertise the Circus - - - some animals in cages and they always had nice horses.

Mc And a band ?

H And a band.

Mc Or a Calliope ?

H They used to drive a stake, you know, and there would be three men, with sledge hammers, around this wooden stake, and they'd be hammering on that stake all the while. The would go right around, just like that. The three would all be in time. They never hit each other.

Mc Good ~~xxx~~ rhythm.

H Good rhythm. First one, then the other and the other - - - three of them. I say, that stake would just disappear right into the ground.

Mc That was when they were putting up the tents ?

H Putting up the tents, yeah.

Mc Did they have more than one tent ?

H Oh yes. They had several tents; but they had the big main tent where they had the rings in, the circus rings. Then they had the tents where some of the help stayed and some of the animals were in ~~xxxxxx~~ separate cages. A lot of cages and a lot of tents because they had just one Big Top, they used to call it, and that's where they had the rings and the circus performance. But they the animals in other tents around. Elephants would be staked out with bands around their legs and staked out around the grounds and the be fastened by one foot.

Mc Did you ever carry water for an elephant ?

H No, I never did. No, I never carried water to an elephant

Mc But you used to enjoy going ?

H Oh yes.

Mc You've been active in the local church up here, the Gaines Congregational Church. Now what did you tell me about the construction of that building ?

H Well, I can tell you lots of things.

Mc Did you help design that ?

H Yes. I guess I practically did.

Mc Did someone ask you to do that or was it your idea ?

H Well, it just worked around that way, I guess. After our church burned, we had to build another one and we just went at it and built it, that's all.

Mc There had been another church there before ?

H Oh yes.

Mc What happened to it ?

H It burned. Betty can probably tell you more about it. I don't want to blow my own horn. I had quite a bit to do with building the church.

Mc Well, tell me about it. You designed this house. Had you designed this one first ?

H Yes. Well, the studding on that church is all 2 by 6s and we got that in Lyndonville, ~~and~~ It was an old coal elevator and they tore it down, and it was made up of 2 by 6s laid flat on top of each other and they were 8 foot tall, ~~and~~ We got them and they're all in this church down here now. And then I went to Rochester with my son's truck, Dick's truck, and we bought the doors and the windows down there, and the knotty pine and all. I had quite a bit to do with it, I guess, when I think about it.

Mc And, you're quite proud of it, really.

H Well, I kind of got over that. The pulpit down there - - my son and I got it out of Albion - - - it was discarded over in Albion. Got it out of an old barn over in Albion. And the Communion Table down here is made of my own cherry; my boy and I cut the wood. We took it down to Carlton Station and a man down there made it. On the front of it it says: "In Remembrance Of Me." And, I took it over to Albion and ~~an Italian fellow over there~~ - - - ~~no~~ a Polish fellow - - - Catholic - - - he put this stenciling on there. And when I went to pay him, I says: "How much do I owe you ?" He says: "Say a prayer for me." He wouldn't take

any money. So I know where the Lectern come from and I know quite a lot of things about the church, come to think about it.

Mc It's been a big part of your life then, hasn't it ?

H Well, I been more or less interested in it, and I'm not religious a bit.

Mc Oh, I find that hard to believe!

H Well, I never ask the Blessing at the table; I never did, I don't ever pray, I like to go to church; one of my girl friends said: "Don't you get an up-lift ?" I says: "No." I says: "I'm just the same when I come out and I do when I go in." And I do. And she says: "What do you go to church for ?" "Well," I says: "I like to hear a smart man talk. I like to hear the people sing and I like to see folks." But as far as being religious, I'm not religious a bit.

Mc Well, I think that depends on your definition of "religious" and I think you're a good man and you've lived a good life and set lots of good examples, so I would call you religious

H Well, I don't know.

Mc Not religious with wings and a halo, you know, not that kind of religious.

H One of our preachers, I was talking to him about it and I says: "I'm not religious." And he says: "It's too bad there aren't more like you."

Mc Yes, a good example.





Mc I wonder if you could tell us anything at all about the Ashwood train ~~wreck~~ wreck ?

H Well, there was two train wrecks down there. The one I remember was just west of Waterport, it wasn't really in Ashwood. What I remember about it - - - about every farmer around there, including my father, got a cheese out of there. There was a car load of cheese. Big round cheeses. That car was wrecked and the cheese was scattered around and every farmer around there had cheese.

Mc Then that wasn't the Ashwood train wreck with ^{the} passengers ?
 H No, no, I don't remember much about that.
 Mc That was before you time, maybe.
 H I guess it must have been.

Mc You were telling me a little bit about a friend of yours,
an Italian man, who worked for you, who didn't like your
 cooking ?
 H That was the Italian, yeah.
 Mc Tell me about his eating habits .
 H I hired him one year and I liked him; he was a good man, and
 I wanted to hire him again, and he says: "I like to work for
 you but I don't like your board." He says: ~~XXXXXXXXXX~~
~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ "Potatoes, potatoes, potatoes ! Over in Italy
 we feed them to the pigs !" And when my wife would make a
 pie with a meringue frosting, he'd scrap that frosting all
 off; he wouldn't eat that! He even hate to eat the pie. But
 I said to him: "Well Joe, I got a refrigerator down cellar
 and a gas stove; why not work for me and board yourself ?"
 So that appealed to him and he did. And he'd go out and
 get burdock leaves and chicory and everything and pile up
 a big dish of green stuff and then he would cover it with
 black pepper and oil, and that was his dinner. Didn't appeal
to me !

Mc What was it you said you liked to eat, oysters ? 
 H I like oysters, you bet !
 Mc Maybe that's one reason you've lived to be this age?
 H I don't know; and I like raw oysters.
 Mc I do too, with vinegar.
 H Yeah, vinegar and salt and pepper. That's the only thing I
 ever doctor them up with. I never put salt and pepper ~~on~~
 the table, never. I never put pepper on anything in my life
 only raw oysters. And, I like Cod-fish gravy. When ever
 they have Cod-fish gravy or scalloped oysters, I don't want
 anything else, I make a meal of it.

Mc Right, that's right. 
 H That's what for dinner tonight.
 Mc I think I'll stay.
 H O-K, you're welcome. We've got lots of Cod-fish and

we've got lots of ~~potatoes~~ potatoes.

Mc I'd love it ! My husband would disown me.

H That's all I'll eat tonight. I drink milk and Cod-fish and potatoes, that's it.

Mc Again, thank you very much for this "little P.S." that we've added on. ~~and~~ I appreciate it very much Mr. Hollenbeck. And thank you Betty.

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This taped interview was transcribed by
Lysbeth Hoffman of Lakeside, New York.

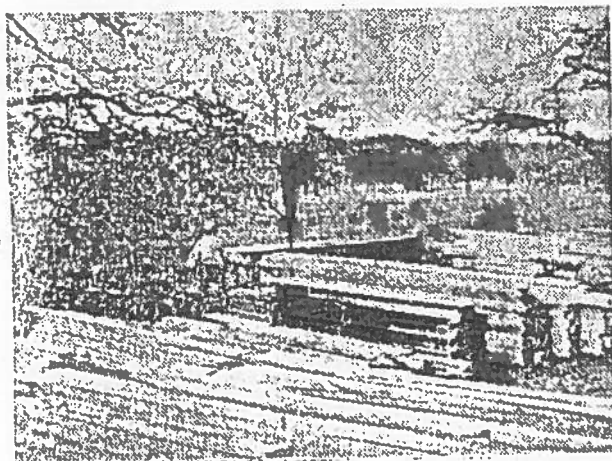
Talking Things Over

By Eleanor
Weeks Wilder

(The author of this column has written periodically for the Journal-Register over the past 15 to 20 years and draws on a storehouse of knowledge and "curiosity" gained during her tenure as a historian.)



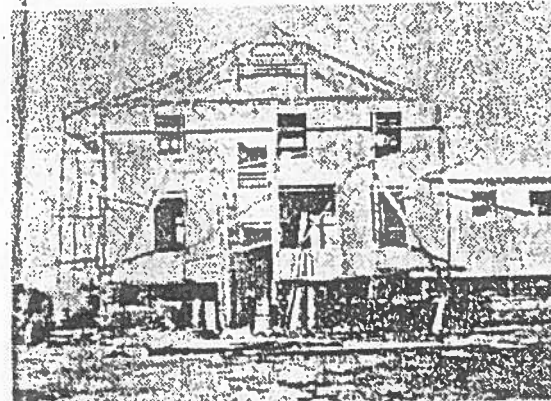
Fay C. Hollenbeck still enjoys living in the house he build from trees he cut down in the woods a half century ago.



1938--Foundation of the house.



1979--The half century old house stands at the fourquare northeast corner of Waterport Ridge Roads.



Pine sheeting is the step before shingling.

STORY OF A HOUSE

Albion - There was a twinkle in his eyes as he said "You know writing this story was not my idea". Fay C. Hollenbeck, Ridge Road, Gaines is a modest man. His six children, 19 grandchildren and 20 great grandchildren are all pretty proud of the fact that fifty years ago he cut down trees in the woods to build the house he still lives in. Then, too the house site grew from 30 to 400 acres, there was the large Holstein dairy herd and the half dozen years he raised prize Percheron horses, sometimes 30 a year and brought home ribbons from the Orleans County fair.

It took some doing but the family finally got him to write the story of building the house that still stands four-square at the intersection of Waterport and Ridge Roads. Fay C. Hollenbeck will celebrate his 90th birthday July 31, 1979 and expects to play baseball at the family reunion.

His story follows:

History of My House by Fay Hollenbeck
Fifty years ago I went into the woods looking for enough hemlock trees to build a house. After some searching I found a group of hemlocks in Johnny Walker's woods. So we started dickering. We appraised one tree at a time and as we agreed on price we marked the tree and listed it in my book. When we finished dickering we had marked all the hemlock trees in his woods.

Having drawn the plans for the house I had a pretty good idea of the number of and size of the trees to saw out enough lumber to build the house I had in mind.

Hemlock doesn't warp and no matter how long it lays around you can always drive a nail in it.

I hired Dick Neal, a boy in his teens, and we started for the woods carrying our axes, saws and lunch my wife had packed for us. It was very cold and too far to walk home for lunch, so we would build a fire and stand around it to keep warm while we ate.

As we cut down the trees we sawed them into logs measuring the small end and making a record in my book. I needed 2 x 10s, 2 x 8s and 2 x 4s and several hundred feet of one inch boards. We snaked them to the house site with a team of horses, and I kept a record.

Reese Owens of Eagle Harbor came with his portable sawmill and I carried the lumber stacking it in piles, each length and size by itself.

January the problems began to crop up. In attempting to dig a well and the foundation of the barn I had discovered a layer of quicksand on the clay hardpan.

I dug the cellar for the house with a horse-drawn scoop. Knowing the quicksand was there we drew in several loads of stone and started digging a trench for the foundation of the house. Everett Hobbs (later my son-in-law) helped. We would shovel out the quicksand and put rocks down before it ran back on the clay hardpan, so the foundation of the house reached three feet deeper than the cellar bottom level. The chimney was built on a four foot square bottom of rocks and cement.

I then made a lumber form for the foundation walls. It was mild that February and we had a bee pouring the cellar wall. There were the Canham twins, Cecil Park, the Rush boys, Glen Miller and Hobby. They fed the mixer and then wheeled the cement in wheelbarrows to pour the cellar walls. It turned cold but when the cement had set I tore away the cribbing and we were ready to build the house.

My neighbor, Bill Banker, a very good carpenter and worker helped me build the house. The first two floors were double laid, the sub flooring of rock elm timbers, two 2 x 8s laid end to end with supporting posts reaching across the cellar, north to south forming a joist for the floor laid corner to corner of one inch boards.

To The Editor:

Last month I received a copy of your publication. I was amazed at such complete coverage and wish to compliment you and your staff. I believe you edit one of the most outstanding newspapers we have ever had the privilege of reading — a complete and widespread knowledge of all current topics, national, state and local.

Your article re: Fay Hollenbeck by Eleanor Weeks Wilder was very interesting and memorable. I might add if Eleanor had delved further into Fay's past it, too, could have been very interesting. He was a man whose activities in the interest of young people were unusual. I am sure if some parents were alive today, they would not be remiss in relaying the comfort and pleasure they enjoyed in knowing their sons and-or daughters were at Gaines Grange practicing or playing basketball or baseball with Fay as their leader. He instilled such enthusiasm in the teen-agers in the late twenties and thirties.

I also want to thank you for your article on our Indiana Sycamores and "Larry Bird" of whom we Hoosiers are so proud. At that time, our Indianapolis Star had not covered it.

FRANCES (HOBBS) HOGATT
Odon, Indiana
Senior Citizen and
Former Native of Kenyonville

Gerald Miller and I did the wiring. The plumbing and heating supplies we got from Gerald Parsons of Lyndonville, my wife's cousin who kept a hardware store there. John Peters came over to help install the material.

I lined the whole house with sheets of one half inch thick rock lath.

George Daum made all the window sash and glazed the panes at Mallory's wood working shop, corner of West Ave and West Academy St. Mallory was getting ready to go out of business and offered me a good deal on the doors if I would take them all. There were 19, just enough.

I was lucky to get Ermo Tibaldi of Albion, a mason trained in Italy. We set up a mortar box in what is now the living room. I mixed every bit of plaster in the house and carried it to him. The work got harder as the chimney rose from the cellar and I had to carry material up stairs onto the kitchen roof and up a ladder to the main roof, plaster, tile and brick. And the chimney is as good today as when it was built.

Seager Bros. painted the inside walls. They chewed tobacco, spit in the paint and then mixed it in but I never saw it do any harm.

As I look back I remember that all the lumber in my house is full size, the two inch boards are full two inches and one inch thickness.

In those days there was not much said about insulation. You might say there is not a bit of insulation in this house but the cold doesn't see through the walls.

But if you started digging into the sidewalls you would go through double shingles, two thicknesses of building paper, sheeting of one inch hemlock boards, a four inch air space, one half inch rock lath and the plaster.

You know I would not be surprised if I were the only man hereabouts who was living on a house built from trees he cut down himself. Of course I had help at the other end of the crosscut saw. I had to buy shingles, the hardwood floors, the inside and outside trim but that is about all in the line of lumber that did not come from the woods.

How much did it cost to build this house? Well - I'm not very good at remembering figures any more and couldn't say, not rightly.

Ermo