

# Orleans County Historical Association

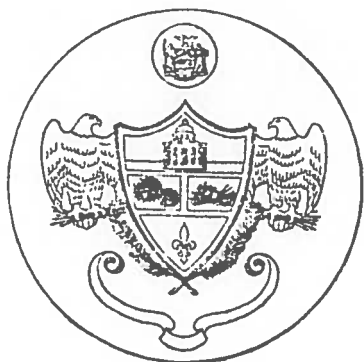
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### NAMES

Wm. Henry Neal, father  
Ruth Fearby Neal, mother  
Howard Neal, brother  
Howard Norton, uncle  
Charlie Neal, uncle  
Mary Watson, aunt  
Will Fearby, uncle  
Ruth Irene Dunkleberger, wife  
Rhea Dunklerber, wife's sister  
Lowell Neal, son  
Marian Gratricks Neal, dau.-in-law  
Marlo N. Huey  
Carolyn N. Hill  
Rhea N. Martin  
  
teachers:  
Winnie Myhill  
Otto Grinnell  
Sadie Potter  
Mr & Mrs Martin Price  
George Hess  
Ben Hill / Herbert Hill  
Grant Mundeon / Gaily Pask  
Charles Steilow  
Sophie Fisher  
Charles Phelps  
Howard Kohler  
Miss Wolcott  
Mrs. Hummlestein, New York City  
Dr. Eckerson/ Dr. Munson  
Dr. LeSeur / Dr. Waters  
J. Gardner Berry  
George Gregory  
Frank Berry  
Ruth Mullen  
Daisy, Rosie, Pansy Mintie  
"Johnny Bull"  
Harold Hill  
Irv Weet / Mr. Sinz  
Mr. Napper / Mr. Busch  
Pastor Kenneth Baker  
Pastor Rawson



# Orleans County Historical Association

## INTERVIEW

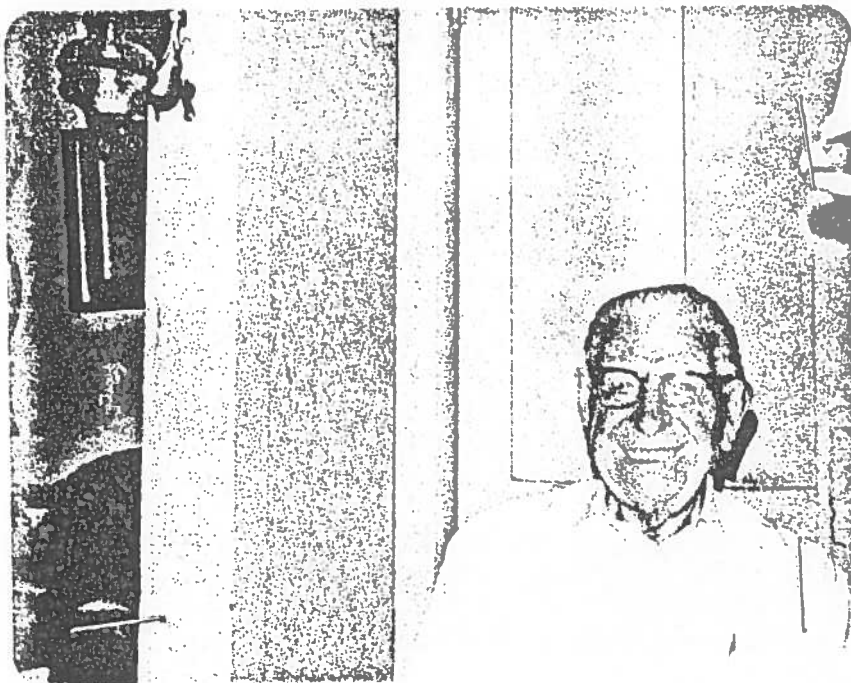
C. (Charles) Glenn Neal  
Shelby Center  
Medina, R.D.# 1, New York

C. Glenn Neal: Born December 28, 1888

Interviewed by Helen McAllister, Medina, N.Y.  
June 4, 1979

N \* Neal

Mc = McAllister





# 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.

B. Glenn Neal

Signed

June 4, 1979

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

June 4, 1979

Date

- N I was born in East Shelby, December 28, 1888. My father's name was William Henry Neal, and my mother's name was Ruth Fearby Neal.
- Mc Did you have brothers or sisters?
- N One brother, Howard.
- Mc What did your father do for a living?
- N A farmer; grain, fruit and some stock. His farm was in East Shelby and the last one he had was only 64 acres. I grew up on the farm.
- Mc Where did you go to school?
- N Right in East Shelby. Got all my schooling right there, in a one-room schoolhouse.
- Mc Do you remember your teachers?
- N Several of them: Winnie Myhill, Otto Grinnell, Sadie Potter.
- Mc And this was a one-room schoolhouse?
- N Yes but it was full of kids!! (laughter)
- Mc Is that the only school you ever attended?
- N Well, I went to one on Lee Street one time when we lived down there. That was a country school.
- Mc Where is Lee Street?
- N Going out of Millville, the right hand fork.
- Mc What did you do after your school days? Did you continue to work for your father?
- N I was on the farm until I was 20 years old, and then I went to Alabama Center and worked for my Uncle Howard Norton, on his farm for one year.
- Mc Somewhere along the line you made friends with another young man who had a sister. Or was it your brother Howard that made friends with a sister? And eventually two brothers married two sisters, is that right? Would you tell us about that?
- N Well, I went to a dance one night, had a young lady with me. When I got to the dance and we had been dancing for a little while, I noticed this young lady sitting over there by the wall.
- Mc This was another young lady?
- N Yes, this one! (nods toward his wife, sitting nearby). I went and asked one of the girls who knew her, if she'd take me over and introduce me. And that was all it took!! (laughter). I've been with her ever since!

Mc What was your wife's maiden name?

N Ruth Irene Dunkleberger (born 1893). My brother Howard married her sister. I went to going with Ruth and my brother went along and got to going with Ruth's sister. So that's how it all started. I have a granddaughter named Rhea, like her sister's name.

Mc You have shown me many pictures in your album, one of the four of you sitting in the porch swing.

N Yes, that was before we were married (March 26, 1913). I am sitting there with Ruth in the hammock.

Mc You used to take horse and buggy rides?

N Always! That was the only way we had to travel.

Mc You had a famous little horse named Alice, and you called her a "clipper"?

N Well, I said she was a clipper because she was a tiger to go! She never let up, you know; she'd keep right on trotting all the time.

Mc When we were looking at the picture of the horse and buggy, you said that the buggy was made In Cortland, New York?

N Yes, I think so.

Mc Would you want to describe what you had on the horse that was especially nice?

N We always had a black harness with tan straps, and a white back pad which made the back-surcingle show off. I always had blinds on the horse, and martingales that held the lines away from the thills. I always had those on. I used to drive her, then I sold her and then I drove my mother's horse. She had a nice driving horse. My buggy, of course, in those days had automobile seats. They were built up high. It wasn't like the old-fashioned buggies. The automobile seats would come way up to your shoulder blades. Oh they were nice then, those buggies were!

Mc Were they padded seats?

N Oh yes, beautiful upholstery in them!

Mc Where would you go on a date, when you were taking your young lady out, for instance?

N Well we might drive up to the lake once or twice a year, which was quite a journey. We would go up to the Indian Reservation many, many times for ball games. They played ball up there. Men would come in with a five seated democrat, which is a real heavy wagon. Had a big team of horses on it and there would be, probably ten

men or more; maybe there'd be thirteen men on the democrat. They'd drive from Pavilion, Byron, all those places. They had a ball team of nine you know, and they'd come over there and play with the Indians.

Mc Who usually won, or was it a toss-up?

N Usually the Indians. They had a real good team. Real good.

Mc That was baseball?

N Yes, baseball.

Mc Did anyone sell anything to eat or drink at a place like that?

N You could buy a little pop and a little ice cream, that's all. The Indians had it there, but you never had enough to go around!

Mc Where else might you go on a date with your young lady?

N Oh, we'd go to some of my relations: Uncle Howard Nortons, Uncle Charlie Neals, and Aunt Mary Watsons over there on Pine Hill. We'd go over there some Sunday, and we'd go up to some of Ruth's relatives, Mr. and Mrs. Martin Price up by Royalton Center. We'd go up there every once in awhile to see them. Of course older people always loved to have us come.

Mc You were finally married on March 26, 1913 and you've been married for how many years?

N Sixty-six years this last March.

Mc Did you go any special place on your honey-moon?

N Went to Niagara Falls. That was quite a place to go on your honey-moon. Niagara Falls was quite noted for honeymooners.

Mc How did you get there?

N Went up on the trolley. There used to be a trolley go out of Medina, go up to the Falls, and we'd go on that. We did, that night we was married. George Hess drove the team on the hack that took us to the trolley.

Mrs. N George Hess had a Dry House. (Mrs. N. comments from time to time, trying to be helpful).

N He had a large hack down here you know; that's the purpose, you know, for kind of high toned people.

Mc Were you married in a church or at home?

N My wife's farm home to West Shelby, married there. The minister came, and the guests. Some people came from Buffalo and around different places. They came in on the train and we had to meet them.

Had no other way to get them up there because the mud was deep that spring. You couldn't get out with a car if you wanted to. If you had two or three cars, you couldn't use them!

Mc Do you remember your first car?

N It was a Ford Coupe, a Model-T Ford Coupe. I think I got that in 1923.

N Before I was married we started a band over here. I bought a trumpet and used to play in that band. That's how I learned how to play.

Mc Who else was in the band?

N Oh, Ben Hill, Herbert Hill, my Uncle Will Fearby, and Grant Mondon, and Gaily Pask. Just some farmers around there. And we had a man that knew a lot about music. He played a trumpet and he taught us all how to play. Used to go out to 4th of July parades and play my trumpet.

Mc How long did you play in the band?

*IN-LAW* N About four years, I guess. ... Later we had an orchestra. My sister-in-law played the first violin, my brother played the second violin, I played the trumpet and my wife played piano. Oh, we used to go everywhere and play with our orchestra: church doings and all the other doings in small communities. We'd always get the meals if we'd come and furnish the music. We used to go as far away as that Presbyterian Church over at Barre Center, and Alabama Center; play up there for anything. Then the young people in West Shelby used to put on plays. They'd go 'round in different places and put on the plays and we'd always furnish all of the music. Nobody else could play except we four.

Mc You all could read music, so you could follow along?

N Sure! We had all taken lessons, and I could read music. Oh we used to have a lot of fun with that! ... It must have been seven or eight years anyway we did that.

Mc Mr. Neal, you were pretty close at hand when something not very happy took place in Orleans County: the Steilow murder case.

N I was the second one there!

Mc What do you mean, the second one - where?

N At the place where the murder was; I was the second one there, at five o'clock in the morning.

- Mc Where were you when all this (murder) took place?
- N We lived in West Shelby and I was working for my wife's father. I had got up and done most of the chores and when I went to the house, my wife said that Miss (Sophie) Fisher called up and said there'd been a murder up there, to Mr. (Charles) Phelps! So I went running right up there, and there was only one other person there (Howard Kohler) before I got there. Several came after it got noised around.
- Mc How old were you at that time?
- N Twenty-six.
- Mc What was it like? Were the bodies still there?
- N Oh yes! She (Miss Wolcott, Mr. Phelps' housekeeper) tried to get out of the house. And they was in the house, these two burglars, and they shot at her right through the glass. They caught her right here, right under the arms; and she run across the road to where Charles Steilow lived, and she died right on his front porch. When we got up there, of course this happened around ten o'clock at night, she was froze stiff. All she had on was a nightgown, and there was about an inch of snow, or less.
- Mc What time of year was this?
- N In the spring, about March (1915-1916) I believe.
- Mc Was just one person killed at that murder or two?
- N Well, the housekeeper (Wolcott) was killed at the murder, and Phelps died afterwards. Because he was shot but lived, oh gosh, ten hours, I guess, after he was shot. Then he passed away. They took him down here to the Medina hospital, but he didn't make it.
- Mc Was he able to tell anything or talk?
- N No, he was always unconscious; when we got there. Had two doctors there: Dr. Eckerson and Dr. Munson.
- Mc I understand that the trial was quite a long trial. You probably were quite interested in that, weren't you?
- N Well, I was subpoenaed of course, to appear. The trial was held in Albion because the District Attorney was in Albion. I can remember George Newton, who was a detective, came up here to investigate the murder. He was the one that subpoenaed all of us. Anyone he wanted out of that group that was there that morning early, why, he subpoenaed them and we had to appear down there; go on the stand and swear to what you saw.
- Mc Did they ask you questions, or ask you to tell it in your own words?



N Oh they asked me questions. Oh, it was terrible! I was half frightened to go to the barn after dark for three or four weeks, I guess, after that murder. I just felt that someone was going to grab me.

Mc Did they ever catch the people that did the murders?

N They got Stielow, and Nelson Green. They was the two that committed the crime. Mrs. Stielow was a Green (her maiden name). It was her brother that was with her husband when all this happened.

Mc Do you feel that you played any important role other than your testimony? Did anything hang on what you said; because you didn't witness anything.

N No, I didn't witness anything. You tell what you saw when you arrived there that morning. This detective used to drive in and see me once in awhile when he was going up there. The Phelp's place was south of ours, and he used to drive in and talk with me once in awhile. He (the detective) had a good line on the thing before they ever picked Stielow up. I saw him when I went up about six o'clock one morning. There was only one taxi in Medina, and that was "Shorty" Hall. He had a two-seated car, and he took the detective up about six o'clock that morning; and when they came back about half past seven, he had Stielow in the car with him. Took him down to Albion, locked him up. And I was in the jail and saw Stielow in there, that day I was called on the stands. You could go to the jail and see him, and I went in and saw Stielow. Didn't talk with him but I saw him in his cell.

Mc Whatever happened to Stielow? was he sentenced to prison, or what?

N Sentenced to the electric chair! Then there was a lady by the name of Mrs. Hummlestein who was a good friend to the Governor, and through this Mrs. Hummlestein, she got the Governor to pardon him, and he got out. She lived in New York City.

Mc Why did she want to pardon Stielow?

N I don't know. That was always a conundrum to me. But, she was chasing around with the Governor and I suppose that was one thing they done. Maybe it was fixed up between them. But she got the credit for Stielow being pardoned.

Mc What about Mr. Green?

N Well, he served a little time and he got out. He wasn't sentenced to die. I used to see Mr. Stielow down here to Snyder's Canning Factory after he got out. He'd be there unloading apples for the farmers. I've been there when he unloaded my apples. Yes.

Mc It must be very hard for the family to live in a community after something like that!

N I guess so!

Mc Well, you and your wife eventually had a child. Would you want to tell us about that?

N Yes, Lowell was born November 1918. When my wife was carrying Lowell, she got kicked in the face with a horse. Broke all of her teeth. We took her to Saint Jerome's Hospital in Batavia and they fixed her up over there. Doctor LeSeur, he did all the work. She got out of that without any mishap. Lowell was born in our home to East Shelby when I worked for J. Gardner ("Gard") Berry over there. I worked for "Gard" Berry three years on that farm after we moved away from Ruth's father and mother. Lowell was born down there on Mr. Berry's farm, right there at the house we lived. The doctor came. We had Doctor Waters when Lowell was born. He came up there at eight o'clock in the morning and stayed 'til four in the afternoon, and brought Lowell into the world and charged me \$20.00!! That's right!

Mc Was that the usual charge?

N (laughter) He was the only child I had, so I don't know! (laughter).

Mc Is that what they usually charged to deliver a baby, \$20.00 ?

N It didn't cost too much back in those days.

Mc Did the doctor have a horse and buggy?

N, He had a car. We had a nurse that come in that was engaged to take care of the baby. We got her over there the day Lowell was born. She was living in West Shelby, and we had her brought over.

Mc Do you remember her name?

N What was Rosie's name; and all of those girls: Daisy, Rosie, and Pansy?

Mrs. N Mintie! Daisy, Rosie and Pansy Mintie!

Mc Quite a flower garden, wasn't it!?

N I guess so! They were all from England too. (laughter)

Mc By the way, who was called "Johnny Bull" ? Somebody's nickname.

N I always called myself "Johnny Bull" because my two grandfathers came from England.

Mc Mr. Neal, you said that you were born in East Shelby and that you remember the store there. Would you tell us about that?

N Well, that was just a country store out in a small village. George Gregory and Frank Berry run it together there for years. The people around the farming area, it was all farming then, everybody came there to trade. They sold shoes, some tools, some farm tools, and everything.

Mc Did they sell grain?

N No, you'd have to go down to the feed mill to get that.

Mc Did they sell bread?

N Well not much. Very little bread. There wasn't a bread truck around in those days.

Mc Bread was made at home?

N Oh sure! Ruth Mullen, and my Mother, and everybody baked bread. You baked four, six ---

Mrs. N Seven loaves of bread at a time, I did!

N Yeah, and it was all white bread.

Mrs. N Well, we had a hired man and a hired girl. There was six of us to feed.

N They used to sell working clothes, socks, over-alls, heavy shoes for farm boys. You ought to go to the store there some night in the summertime! Everybody had a hired man; whether you had a big farm or a small one, you had a hired man. And they'd all congregate in that store at suppertime! More bicycles was out there! They'd all come up to the store. They'd eat oranges, and they'd eat peanuts, and sort of shuffle around. And then clean it all up in the morning! (laughter).

Mc Did they sit around on the front porch?

N Sure, yes! The steps would be full of hired men who were working up there by the month.

Mc When they had hired men like that, where did they live?

N They'd live with the men they'd be working for.

Mc Do you mean, right in the house ?

N Yes. Eat, dine, sleep there and everything. Everybody had a hired man. Of course, there were no tractors. They never heard of one. They did it all with horses. Everybody would have 4-5-6 horses to work the farm with. It would take 2-3 hours to take care of those six horses.

Mc Would the woman of the house have help too?

N Not many of them. She did it all.

Mc It must have been hard work.

N I'll tell you! The wife didn't go out and work in those days. Every wife was to home, brought up her family and took care of the house. I don't know where they would have worked; there wasn't any place to work. There was no Harrisons, no Gyp mills, or nothing. No Fisher-Price, or nothing.

Mrs. N We did washing and ironing and baked our own bread and pies.

N We couldn't have a meal unless we had pies. Heavens no!

Mrs. N Canning, pickling.

N Oh yes. Lots of it.

Mrs. N Laundry done the hard way, on the scrub board.

Mc Did you ever help with that, Mr. Neal?

N Well, after my Mother got a wringer (washing machine) I used to turn the wringer for her when I was a young kid.

Mc Did you ever get your fingers caught in the wringer?

N No.

Mrs. N We had to wring out the clothes.

N The first washing machine my Mother ever got, the handle stood right up like this (demonstrates), and you took ahold of it. It used to be right up there. And they'd swish the clothes in the tub just like that; four pins down. Swish them around like that, and you went back and forth with the handle.

Mc You probably thought that was pretty modern?

N Well, I guess so! The most modern thing we ever saw in the line of anything to do laundry with!

Mc You had to heat the water before you put it in the tubs?

N Oh yes. In those days you couldn't wash unless you had scalding water. Of course we've got all over that now.

Mc Did you use the copper boiler on top of the stove to heat the water?

N Yes, the copper boiler.

Mc My Mother used to shave the bar of Fels Naptha Soap into hot water and soak the white clothes over-night.

N My Mother, and Ruth's Mother, did too. They used to put the white clothes in the boiler, when the water was boiling.

Mc And poke them around a little?

N With a broom handle, sawed off! Now I don't even use hot water in the summertime. I do all the laundry and have just as nice clothes as anybody. I'm sure I do! I did these (points to his shirt). I do

all my white shirts, and do the ironing, and everything.

Mc Do I understand that you always wear white shirts?

N Always! I've worn white shirts for years and years.

Mc Even when you're told not to, right?

N Yes. Nine years ago when I went to Fisher-Price to work (I was - am a guard up there), they wanted me to wear a grey shirt. I said, "What am I supposed to do with that?" He said, "Wear it". And I said, "I won't wear that damned thing!" "Well", he said, "That's what they want you to wear". I says, "I won't wear it!" So I went to work the next morning and put on a white shirt. And I still got them on! I wear white shirts all the while.

Mc That is sort of your trade-mark, isn't it?

N Yes. There's a man I used to work with, Napper. Used to work for Fisher-Price and he always wore a white shirt too. He said, "Mr. Neal, I like to see you. I'm glad to meet you. You've got your white shirt on, I see." He said, "I always wanted one on too". He says, "I never wanted anything else".

Mc You didn't wear white shirts when you worked on the farm.

N No, but otherwise. We wore bluish-grey, like all the other farmers. But ever since I have been in the store.'

Mc Do you have lots of cuff links?

N Oh sure. Lots of them!

Mc Do you remember when men's shirts used to have stays and collar buttons?

N Yes. Used to wear a collar that went on a band. The band went around your neck on the top of the shirt here, and you wore a collar that fastened. It fastened in the back here, and then you'd tie your tie. I've worn lots of those collars too. We always sent those to the laundry.

Mc What laundry, where; in Medina?

N Why there was two in Medina: down East Center Street, about, well, I guess Corky's got some of that property right now, right around East Center Street.

Mc Why would they be sent to the laundry, and not done at home?

N Well, they could do a much nicer job.

Mc You said that you worked at Fisher-Price. You began that job in March 1970 at the "early" age of 82 years; right? You became a guard?

- N I guess so.
- Mc You said you were a guard at Fisher-Price. Are you still working there?
- N Sure. I go there every day. I have it kind of nice. I sit in the office and answer the telephone, and lots of times I get calls from some of the guards. We have guards at the United States Gypsum Albion, and Niagara Sprayer, and Medina Ames Store; all three Ames stores: Lockport, Medina and Albion. And somebody calls up, "I can't go to work tomorrow. I can't go to work today. Can you find somebody to take my place?" Well, then it's up to me to get somebody to go in their place. Maybe one day, maybe three.
- Mc You are the coordinator.
- N Well, you might call it that I guess.
- Mc That's pretty good!
- N When Mr. Sinz is out of there, I always take over and run the show.
- Mc You worked for a long time in Albion, Mr. Neal? Was that a Civil Service job?
- N Yes. There was a vacancy in that office (in 1957) and Harold Hill saw me. Of course he and I worked together anyway, at auctions. So he says, "Why don't you come down and take that job in the Civil Service Department as personnel officer?" "Oh", I said, "I don't know whether I want it or not." He says, "Come on down." So I went down and went before the Board of Supervisors and they wanted somebody. So I went and called on every Supervisor to see if they'd vote for me. I got the consent of eight, but the other two couldn't vote for me because somebody from their township was going to ask for the job too. So they says, "I got to vote for my own people." So when they went down, eight Supervisors voted for me and I was appointed, just like that! After they all voted for me, why there was nothing else to do. I got the job then. I was there for almost 13 years.
- Mc That was in the Albion, County Court House?
- N Right! I had an office there.
- Mc Why did you leave that job?
- N Well, in 1970 politics changed (Democrats came into office) and I was forced to leave it. I wasn't on the "right" ticket then! (Laughs)
- Mc That's a political appointment?
- N That's right! So I came home and thought I'd quit, retire. I'd only

been home a few days when they called me up from Fisher-Price. They wanted me to come down and take a job. I went down in the morning and went to work. Mr. Busch, who was the head one at that time, started the place going (he was from East Aurara), he says, "Well". He went out the gate with his car, and he said, "Well, we have a new guard today". I said, "That's right". And he said, "How neat you look Mister!" It tickled Mr. Busch.

Mc You were farming it along in the 1930's and the times weren't too great were they?

N No. So in 1934 I made up my mind that I was going to sell out and try something else. This store was here (His present home), and nobody running it. Irv Weet couldn't keep a-going, so I came up to rent it. He wouldn't rent it. He says, "I'll sell it to you". I says, "Alright". So that's when I bought the store, and I went in with the Gumby Company in Lockport; bought stock in their company and started a store here in April 1934.

Mc What kind of a store was this?

N Groceries, meat, feed, oil, gasoline. I sold everything!

Mrs. N It was a General Store!

Mc Was it already stocked?

N No, there wasn't a thing in there. I bought all new stuff and put in there. There wasn't nothing in there.

Mc How did you know how to go about running a store?

N Years ago my wife worked in a grocery store for two or three years, and with what little she knew about it, we blundered into it. It didn't take too long to learn what you had to do. I had a wagon on the road every day.

Mc What do you mean, "had a wagon on the road"?

N To take orders and deliver.

Mc Did you go out yourself?

N Yes, most of the time myself. When school was out maybe my son would run the wagon for awhile. We had about 60 stops a day.

Mc Did you take orders one day, and deliver the next?

N That's the way we done it. Come home here at night and work all hours, putting up groceries, and having a row of trays down through the store; steel trays about so large (demonstrates), then load them up in the morning and I'd go. Every Monday morning I had to go to Niagara Falls with a load of eggs.

Mc Why the eggs to Niagara Falls?

- N You had to take them in trade for groceries. Every farmer had a flock of chickens in those days, and they all wanted to turn their eggs in for groceries, which is always what they had been in the habit of doing. So I took all the eggs and had to go to Niagara Falls with them every Monday morning. Took them to Kruger Brothers.
- Mc Would Kruger Brothers give you cash?
- N Oh sure. Then they retailed the eggs in Niagara Falls, to all the stores. They sold cheese and eggs and butter and margarine and took it to all the stores in Niagara Falls. They'd take my eggs right along and they'd candle them. I had the eggs all sorted and weighed, but then they'd candle them and crate them all over again. When somebody called up for a crate of eggs, they had them. Kruger Brothers come home with two ton of cheese and butter on that big truck of his. They'd back down; had a slanting drive-way backed down under the house. Big doors on it; and he'd back right down and unload it. He had coolers down there under that house. That's where they had their business.
- Mc How did you get the meat that you sold in your store?
- N It was delivered to me out of Buffalo, the United Provision Company. They was about the only one that furnished meat.
- Mc You didn't take it from farmers around here?
- N Not very much.
- Mc How did you keep it cold?
- N Ice. If I couldn't use it up right away, I put it in cold storage and maybe get it in a week.
- Mc Where was the cold storage?
- N In Medina. Take it down there and put it in a cold room and I'd get it whenever I needed it and it wouldn't be long and I'd need it. Buffalo used to bring me quarters of beef quite often; young beef. Gosh it was nice!
- Mc You said the cold storage in Medina. Which cold storage would that have been?
- N It would be Grinnell-Posson, on the west side of Main Street. That's where we used to store it, and that's where they made ice. I'd buy 300 pounds cake of ice and bring it up here and use in my cooler.
- Mc How did you get the ice into your store?
- N I had tackle blocks; pulled her right up and slid her in the door.



- Mc You must have had help with a horse, or something.
- N No. I pulled them up by hand. It was heavy but I used to do it!
- Mc So you'd go out and get the orders and then spend all that evening and night packing the things and getting ready? Your wife would be busy helping you too?
- N I'll tell you, food wasn't put up in packages like stuff is today. Breakfast cereal was, but we weighed up all the sugar; we weighed up all the spices; we weighed up 'most everything.
- Mc You had little paper bags?
- N Sure! If you had a pound of pepper or less, a quarter of a pound, it all had to be weighed. And I had the best sale on brown sugar! I sold more brown sugar here; I don't know why. But everybody said, "You've got the bestest brown sugar we ever had!"
- Mc Where did you get it from?
- N Lockport, Gumby Brothers.
- Mc Your wife and son helped you. Did you have other help in the store?
- N Yes, I had Mrs. Gregory. She was Mrs. Gregory then she married Ray Grinnell 'cause she lost her husband, Mr. Gregory. After she got done working for Bill Jenny (she worked there 8 years) I said, "How'd you like to come down here and work for me?" She said, "Glenn, I'd love it!" So she came down here and worked for me until they moved to Arizona. Yeah. You see, her husband and son had tuberculosis and they went to Arizona. She lost both of them and then she came back here and lived with her daughter, over in Knowlesville....
- Mc Did you sell feed from your store?
- N Yes. Tons of it.
- Mc All kinds of feed?
- N It was scratch feed for chickens, cracked corn for chickens, dairy feed that was all ground up and mixed for dairy cows; and we sold quite a lot of corn meal for horses. Yes, we sold a lot of feed here. They'd back in here on Saturday morning with a great big truck, loaded.
- Mc Who backed in?
- N Resseguie and Company from Middleport. They'd back in here with a great big load of feed for me, every Saturday morning. He said, "What did you do with all the feed down here?" They never had a grocery store that sold feed like that, so much of it, you know.
- Mc Did the people come here to get the feed, or did you deliver it?

N I'd take it with a load of groceries, whatever they wanted. That would be in the case of maybe where they got one to three hundred pounds. We'd have that in the truck too, with the groceries.

Mc How would you transport that? Not in paper bags, certainly!

N No, in burlap bags. They put the feed in the bags and brought it here in the 100 pound bags.

Mc You said something about two ice-houses in Medina?

N Stan Rice and Culver.

Mc You said that you got ice from the cold storage.

N Well, those ice-houses didn't operate anymore. But these, one was on this side of the road and the other was on that side of the road. They used to cut ice out of the creek and fill those big ice-houses. They'd have a team and wagon and go around Medina every day in the year with ice.

Mc That was not for your store?

N Well you see, Grinnell and Posson used to make ice in the 300# bricks, and I used to get those and bring them back around to the back door, get it in the store here, and boost it up to the cooler.

Mc You have had this store for 45 years?

N I bought it in 1934. What's that? That's 45 years, isn't it? Sure, I've lived here 45 years; right in this house. This was the Wor-munth property. Of course, it looks just like it did then, the outside of it. It's the same frame and everything. I painted it several times since I've been here but I haven't changed the walls inside. ...

Mc The neighborhood has changed quite a bit, hasn't it?

N Oh gosh! There isn't anybody living here much, only two or three, who lived here when I moved here.

Mc The Shelby Hotel is still over there.

N Oh, that's different people running it. I think we have quite a flourishing church here in Shelby Center.

Mc Tell us about your church.

N We have a real good attendance and everybody financially digs into their pocket. I'm sure.

Mc What kind of church is this?

N An American Baptist church.

Mc Have you gone there for a long time?

N I think I joined it in 1942. Mr. Rawson was our pastor here. He says, "Why don't you come and go with us, Glenn, over here to church". He lived next door to the church. I said, "I don't know whether I should or not". "Why not?" I said, "I like to drink once in awhile". He said, "You come on and join the church. I'm not against anybody that takes a drink once in awhile. I don't use it myself but if you want to, go ahead".

Mc It's a growing church?

N Oh yes. We have a good attendance. We had 62 I guess, Sunday, besides what was out in the nursery. Then we had three babies christened.

Mc Who is your present pastor?

N Kenneth Baker. Most wonderful man that ever walked! Honest, he is. He's good!

Mc Besides the church, Mr. Neal, in what other organizations are you active?

N Well, I used to be real active in the Elks when they had a lodge in Medina, I went through the chairs of that (organization). I am a Past Exalted Ruler. I belong to a chapter here in Medina Masons and the Cataract Lodge in the Masons in Middleport. My son belongs there; my nephew belongs there; my grandson belongs there.

Mc Were you active in the Boy Scouts at one time?

N Yes, in a way. I used to be on a committee and help out all I could. It was not natural, I guess, for me to be a Boy Scout. You know, we never had such things when we grew up. But I was always willing to help the boys here. We used to go out to Alleghany State Park and I'd take 2-3-4 boxes of candy out and give to the boys. Come back, of course, on Sunday night. Things like that.

Mc Shelby Center used to have several mills, didn't it?

N Yes. There was a couple of saw mills. This is years and years before my time. Then they had this grist mill down here.

Mc Was that the Umpstead Mill?

N Yes, they had that for years.

Mc What was the mill that made buckwheat flour?

N That was the Mogadore Mill. Used to take buckwheat up there. A lot of people, you know, used to like buckwheat flour for pancakes. They'd take the buckwheat up to Mogadore and have it ground, and

and bring buckwheat flour home.

Mc Did you have a doctor in the town of Shelby?

N Yes, one: Doctor Eckerson. Years and years ago, they had two.

But Doctor Eckerson was the main doctor here for years and years.

Mc Was he a general practioner?

N Yes.

Mc Would he come to the house; make house-calls?

N Oh yes. Land sakes, everybndy's house!

Mc What was he like?

N He was like this (demonstrates with a very wide smile) , always smiling! He was, oh, the grandest person! Then he got sick and passed away. He was living with his second wife then.

Mc You said that you had another store here too?

N Arnold's Store, but they didn't have much in it. They finally closed it up and went up to their restaurant and put in all their time up there: Arnold's Restaurant.

Mc Did this store run in competition with you, or did you come after they had moved out?

N I come before they moved out. I thought I wanted to buy that store, but I didn't know I could get this one. Arnold said he'd give me a price, but he never got around to making it, so I bought this store. It made a little hard feelings, but they got over it.

Mc Was there ever a cooper shop here?

N Yes, right on the next corner. Used to make barrels up there, Ray Saunders and his father; made barrels up there.

Mc Did you ever make barrels?

N No. I seen them make barrels lots of times but I never made any.

Mc Years ago, when you were about 13, you went to the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo. What do you remember about that?

N Well, I didn't see (President) McKinley. He wasn't there that day that my Mother took my brother and I. But a lot of booths around and big buildings they put up to show off everything that people took in there, which was a mammoth building. The Temple of Music, and Electric Tower Building, and all those things. Of course I don't remember just what I did see up to the Pan-Am.

Mrs. N Wasn't that when (President) McKinley was shot?

N Well, not when I was there, Ruth. It's just as I told her (Mrs. McAllister), he was shot later on! 'Cause my Mother and Father went, and that's when he was shot.

Mc Were your parents there that day?

N And Walter Kilner and his wife. They lived next door to us. They were all up there.

Mc Do you remember how you got there? Did you go on the train?

N Yes, we went to Medina with a horse and buggy, and we went up on the train, and then came back the same way. We had to drive seven miles with a horse and buggy to get home.

Mc Do you think we will ever come back to that method of transportation again with the price of gasoline going way up?

N I don't think so. I doubt it.

Mc I don't mean a horse and buggy. I mean going to a train station, leaving your car and riding the train?

N Well, if they get their railroad set down through Somerset and around Albion, they might a lot of people travel on it. Gasoline is going to be so short and expensive. Now, I paid \$1.00 the other night for gasoline! Right up the street at this Mobile Gas Station. The car I just got uses no-lead gas. The other one I had was regular gas, and that's cheaper. But I'm saving money because that car don't use much gas.

Mc Mr. Neal, you've been very active all of your life and you certainly don't look 90 years old! You have a full head of white hair, a ruddy complexion and a beautiful smile with nice teeth. You have had a variety of jobs. Would you tell us about some of your work? Did you work in the Kennedy Clothing Store in Medina?

N Yes, I worked there two years, as a salesman, on the floor. Then I got out of there because Mr. Kennedy had to take his own son in there because he didn't have a job. Tom went in there to work and that put me out. Then I went to Albion and got this Civil Service job and right away, the next day, I had a chance to go into Sayres Clothing Store to work. When I went into the Civil Service, that job was only for two hours a day when I took it. I went right down to Sayres at 11:30 and worked every day until quitting time, and every Saturday all day! I worked right along there all the while.

Mc You did that for four years?

N Yes.

Mc Was Sayres Clothing Store in Albion, near Landauer's?

N Not that far down. You know where the Drug Store is, on the corner of East Bank Street, the first door coming towards route 31. That was the Sayres Clothing Store. You see, after Sayres went out (of business), the Drug Store took it all over, the clothing store and all. You see, that wasn't a large store but they sold a lot of stuff. Gee, they had a good business, and they were the nicest people to work for that you ever met!

Mc You have said that you also worked in a dry-house years ago.

N That was before I was married. That was over to East Shelby. Yes I worked there all one fall, and I took care of the paring room. That's where all the machines was peeling the apples. I set up the apples and punched the cards of the people that was working on the machines, and another bushel to peel, see?

Mrs. N I used to work on the machines to pare apples over to West Shelby.

N I had all I could do to take care of the gasoline engines and run all the equipment. That was my job. I worked all one fall.

Mc Mr. Neal, as we draw this conversation to a close, I wonder if you would be willing to share, to tell once again how you feel about, well, when the times come that you are to be placed in a coffin. I liked what you said.

N Well, I always told my wife that I want to be buried with my shoes on, so that when Resurrection Morning comes, I can get up and walk away, and I'll be all dressed!!

Mc You will be ready!

N Sure! That's it!

Mc I think that is beautiful.

N (laughter) My wife says, "Well, they won't do it!"

Mc Sure they will! Well, thank you very much Mr. Neal.

N You're welcome. Gosh, this hasn't been half bad.

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Transcribed by Luther Burroughs of Albion, N.Y.

Edited and typed by Helen McAllister, Medina, N.Y.