Orleans County Historical Association

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- son, Gary // daughter, Brenda C. Olsen

wife: Marcia Dujenski Caldwell
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wife: Martha Pettit Caldwell

...and many other names and subjects...

Orleans County Historical Association

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW

Mr. Howard Caldwell
209 Frank Street
Medina, New York

Howard Caldwell was born April 28, 1912 in Orleans County. The interview is conducted by Arden and Helen McAllister at the McAllister home, 116 Highland Ave., Medina,N.Y.

C Caldwell

Mc McAllister, Arden/Helen

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.

Howard Caldwell
Signed

1-29-79
Date

Understood and agreed to: Arden R. McAllister
Helen M. McAllister
INTERVIEWER

1-29-'79
Date

For the Orleans County Historical Association, January 29, 1979, Arden and Helen McAllister of Medina are interviewing Mr. Howard Caldwell of 209 Frank Street, Medina, New York. The interview is conducted at the McAllister's home.

C I was born April 28, 1912. My father was Truman Caldwell whose grandparents originally came from Scotland and Ireland.. My mother was Edna Howell, and her family all came from England. I had two brothers: Nelson, who was older and Raymond, who was younger. We lived on a hundred acre farm on the East Shelby Road. We did diversified farming with five horses and grew wheat, oats, barley, corn, beans, potatoes - and later on, we grew tomatoes. The apples were Baldwins, Kings, Spies, Russets, Pound Sweets, Maiden Blush, Dutchess and Wealthy. The Pound Sweets were used especially for baking. We used to bake them in the oven with brown sugar in them.

During World War I, everyone in that particular area had the flu. People died off like flies!! The vault at the Millville Cemetery was full of bodies by springtime. All our family had the flu. While the family had the flu we hired a man whose name was Dick Bundage. He came over from England and had been an English sailor. He worked for us for several years. He was a champion rope splicer. He would take a piece of rope and splice it so you couldn't even tell where it was spliced. Later he taught me how to make halters for cattle; to splice them together and make them fit all sizes. He was a very knowledgeable man and loved to fish. Fish was his favorite food. Dick came from the Yarmouth area and that was why, I guess.

Mc How did the doctors treat patients who had the flu?

C I really don't know. Dr. Eckerson (from Shelby Center) was the doctor at that time. The thing that I remember was that they put us to bed with no movements. I remember I was the first one around, and I thought I was smart. I got up and turned cartwheels, and stood on my head. Thus I went back to bed again for three or four more days! Whether you would call it (the flu) something like the (current) Swine Flu or not, I can't say. But I do remember that the Millville

Cemetery was full of people that had died, and they were anywhere from kids to grownups.

I went to the brick schoolhouse, District #8. We had grades 1 thru 8, with 21 students. The school was on the corner of Wheeler Road and East Shelby Road and is now a storage house. We had Miss Eleanor Metz as our teacher. She stayed at our house. She was the one who would like to powder up, and everything. The old English fellow said, "My God, she must buy powder by the barrell!!" (laughter) You could smell her powder fifty feet away!! She smelt so nice I guess. Then, we had Hazel Buisch, and Mrs. George Bracey, Vincent Campana and Hazel Boyle. Hazel Buisch married Victor Caldwell, a cousin. She used to drive her old Model-T (auto) to school and often couldn't get it started. The kids used to jack it up and put a block of wood under the hind wheel; then we'd crank it and usually get it started. One of the outstanding things I remember, of course, is that at the end of World War I we met up with the Millville School and the East Shelby School and we paraded up and down East Shelby Road, for just about two miles. We pounded on pots and pans and hooted and hollered. I remember we ended up at the East Shelby School with a picnic where we all celebrated.

When Mrs. Caldwell was the teacher, we always had soup or something cooking on the round Oak Stove that was sitting in the middle of the room. She'd fix up some soup and they'd all have hot soup along with the sandwiches they brought from home.

Then when it come time to get a little better educated, we went to Medina to school and had to take all the Regents, including Geography which I took at the end of the 7th grade. I entered Medina High School in January 1926 because I had trouble passing English and Math. I had Mrs. Hinckley (who was Miss Olga Laird at that time) for English and Miss (Cora) Newman for Math. Everyone said,"If you don't get Math from Miss Newman, you will never get it!!" (laughter) (Later) they said the same thing about (Miss) Laura King. I graduated in

June 1931 with 59 students in the graduating class. That was the largest class, at that time, to graduate from high school. We wore blue coats and white flannels, sat on the stage and "roasted". Well, almost roasted.

Mc Medina High School, the one that's there now?

C Yes, and the 7th and 8th grades were there too at that time. I played basket-ball and baseball, and walked home six miles after practice and games in all kinds of weather. There were very few cars at that particular time and nobody would pick you up unless they knew you. That was before you had nerve enough to stick your thumb up, you know, like they do today (for hitchhiking). Now if they want to go a block, they stick their thumb up for a ride! Walked a mile to catch a bus at Millville for two years. That was one John Fidinger remodeled from an old Model-T truck. Often we would get some bum weather and John couldn't get the bus up Barker Hill and sometimes the students got out and pushed!

Mc What was the inside of the school bus like?

C It was just wooden seats with the wood up so far, and then he had a canvas that he snapped down over that. Hardly any heat in the bus.

Mc Were the seats like those we have today, or like benches?

C Yeah, like benches but there was an aisle down the middle with two people on each side. John picked up the Maple Ridge District going into Medina school. Esther Pettit & Bob Pettit got on that same school bus, along with the Hill girls. We had quite a few people from Millville that went on that same bus.

Mc Where is this Barker Hill that you mentioned?

C That's right out where the Glenn Hills live (now route 31 A), right by Lapps Express.

Years ago when they had the first cars, they (Chevrolets) had what they called "cut outs" on them. And you come to Barker Hill and you wouldn't want the back pressure from the exhaust, and they'd reach down and pull this lever. It would sound just like a tractor. All the old timers would come home and say, "Boy, I got a pretty good car! I made Barker Hill in high today!!" (laughter) Of course, it's been cut a

little, but not much.... One thing I didn't put in telling about schools. We used to visit Sam Brown and Herb Falstead down north of Knowlesville. We used to ride the trolley to Knowlesville. It used to cost us a nickle a day to ride the trolley. Howard Brown was principal of school. We had Regents in most all the subjects: English 3 and 4, and History A and C, Algebra, Geometry, Civics, and Applied Arts. My diploma was in Art, so I had to take a Regents in Applied Arts.

During that time, of course, my father had the 100 acre farm as mentioned before. A lot of nights when I would walk home from school, I would go down to the lot and take one of the horses so my Father could come up and do the chores. He had walked all day and I felt that I could do it better than he could. I used to take the team until six o'clock or later. He'd come up at four o'clock and do the chores. Later we got into the Guernsey cow business. The way we got into that was that my brother bought a 4-H Guernsey heifer through the 4-H. At one time we had as many as 27 head of Guernseys.... Roscoe Ostrander from Kenyonville had Guernseys and we bought a bull and a cow from him. That was actually how our breeding stock got started.

We had the first Guernsey bull in that area and thus all the neighbors were anxious to use his services so as to get better stock for themselves. The service fee was only $2.00 and they sure came from all over, many as far as four miles! Dr. Ross Arnett was the veterinarian for us as long as I can remember.

When our herd got larger, my father started showing them at the Orleans County Fair which was then located where the race track is at present. We showed them against J. Howard Pratt from the Ridge Road. I soon got old enough so it became my job to do the showing at the Fair. One year we sent some to the Rochester Exposition, and the State Fair. One year at the Albion Fair a prize was given for the largest and best herd exhibit. Dr. Wing from Cornell University was the cattle judge that year! I had gathered all the neighborhood kids, any friends or anyone else I could find to line these animals

up for the Judge. Mr. Pratt had a couple more in his herd but Dr. Wing awarded me the prize for he had seen how hard I had worked to get all these cows in shape. Mr. Pratt complained but Dr. Wing said, "the boy earned that, regardless."

At the Orleans County Fair, of course, on Saturday morning we would have a parade. Everybody would have to take their cows and horses and everything out and be part of the parade. They had two grandstands there at that time, and a couple of horse barns. We had to parade on the tracks in front of the grandstands. We had one cow that didn't want to lead too well. So they left it up to me to handle! That sun-of-a-gun ran the whole length of the stands! I broke all track records at the Albion Fair. I was going about ten feet in between stops. I remember somebody coming out and stopped us and put the halter rope through her mouth. It was one of the halters I'd made once. I guess I didn't make it good enough.

We also used to take the herd to Niagara County Fair. We didn't always take the entire herd. We'd go to what they used to call the Rochester Exposition, which I guess is now Monroe County Fair. We would take a few of them to the State Fair. Like if we had a champion bull or champion cow, we'd take it to the State Fair; but we never took the whole herd. J.C.Penny always had a herd of Guernseys at the State Fair.

We took them to the fairs by truck. Gailey Pask did the trucking. He would take two loads down. Some of them used to drive them from their farms to the fair.

Mc Did any of them go by train?

C No, not that I know of. At the Albion Fair - Midway Strait's Shows - that's when I think they first started. They'd have a big midway there same as they did everywhere.

On Saturday people come driving in, some in Model-T's. You could see them coming to the Fair at 7 o'clock in the morning!! They all wanted to get there for the parade at ten o'clock. The "early birds" got the railing parking places.

Mc Howard, you graduated from high school in 1931?

C Yes, and after a summer of the farm, I entered Oswego

Normal School in the fall of '31. Graduated in 1934 with a Life Certific to teach Industrial Arts.

Mc Where did you live when you went to college, Howard?

C I lived in a private home for the first year and I walked up what they used to call Normal School Hill. That was the year the temperature got down to 34 below zero! Most everybody froze their face and ears. That's the time the apple trees froze in this area. That was one long, cold winter! We lived about a mile from the school. On arrival, we'd walk into Sheldon Hall and then go below. Below they had the cafeteria where we could always get coffee and toast, or something. That's also where we got our breakfast and lunch. They always had excellent soup and sandwiches.

For the next two years, I stayed at a doctor's house where I worked for my room and board. I did dishes and ran the vacum cleaner, and washed his car and refinished his speed boat. And - this may not be interesting but - this was during Prohibition and he liked his booze. So, he went over to Canada with his speed boat and he bought four or five cases of beer and put in the back of his speed boat. We went down to the Yacht Club at 11 o'clock at night and he said "Let's get the booze." He said,"You row the boat." They had those little dinghys. They had their big boats anchored out in the harbor, tied to a bouy. He said,"We'll row that dinghy out there and we'll load that on. I'll sit in the back of the boat, and you row. If you see a car come down in that driveway," he said,"I'm going to throw the beer overboard..." Well, we got it home and he was the most popular guy in the world for about a month when he had that Canadian beer!! What a medical doctor he was!!!

This was all during Prohibition time. Some of the fellows wanted to go out for a drink one night. And I, of course, was a farm boy and didn't know what life was all about yet, I guess. We went, and somebody says,"Where can we get a drink?"... We went down on First and Bridge Street and asked a cop. And he told us right where to go!! We went in the place and the smoke was rolling out the door. Some guy was playing an old honky-tonk piano and the thing was loaded with beer glasses. The people were dancing, and

and sitting around tables. I went up to the bar and got the first drink and I said,"It looks and tastes like HP to me." (laughter) I guess it was just home brew.... Then we got acquainted with a couple of fellows that knew a man that lived on East First Street. He used to make Dago-Red-Wine. We soon had quite a popular group. Some of the younger fellows had known him all their lives. They'd go over there and he'd give them and their friends wine.

Mc Was Dago-Red-Wine different from home-brew?

C Dago-Red is made from grapes, with no sugar added. An old-timer told me once how they made it. The first thing they do is squeeze out the grapes and then boil the skins, because they claim there is a certain amount of sugar in them. Then they put this all back into a crock and they let it set for a number of days until it "works". Then they hang it up in a big sack, to drain. Then they put this into about a 30 gallon barrel. But to me, oh!! That was sour!!! But a lot of people liked it, and I took about two shots of that and said,"That's enough for me!" That was really Dago-Red.

I went to school with John Castleveechi from Fulton, New York and every year he'd invite me out to his place for a spagetti dinner. This Jack Cahill fellow I was telling you about that had the photography outfit, and we drank up his father's wine, he'd left. But anyway, we went out to Fulton to dinner. They'd bring this huge platter of spaget and in another dish the meat balls. And home made bread, uncut. You broke off the bread you wanted. The father poured the wine, which I am sure was Dago-Red Wine. He was pouring it in water glasses. I would manage to get through about half of one (glass) by struggling. He used to say,"You no like my wine?" Why, I couldn't drink that much! I would have been drunk for a week! They were just those kind of people. In fact there were several Italian boys in Oswego that were the nicest people! Real friendly.

Mc The college that you went to, was that a very large school at that time?

C The Normal School just had the one building that they called Sheldon Hall. The elementary school had the upper half of it and the Industrial Arts had the basement part. They

The Flu & You

The purpose of this booklet is to give you a calm but enlightened awareness of influenza—one of mankind's greatest possible natural disasters. In terms of its *potential* as a killer, influenza dwarfs other natural catastrophes—such as hurricanes, volcanic eruptions, earthquakes, tidal waves, and floods. It is prudent, therefore, to take reasonable precautions against this potentially deadly disease.

An *epidemic* is a large-scale outbreak of disease affecting a whole population, community, or region. A *pandemic* is a group or series of epidemics affecting a wide geographic area or an exceedingly large proportion of the population and spreading from nation to nation or continent to continent.

The first description in English of an epidemic that may have been influenza dates back to 1173. Similar epidemics were recorded throughout the Middle Ages, Renaissance, Reformation, and colonization of the New World. The first well-recorded pandemic of flu-like illness struck in 1580 and spread from Asia to Africa, Europe, and America.

Other great pandemics were noted in 1732-1733 and 1781-1782—the latter resembling the terrible pandemic of 1918-1919 in that the elderly and children were spared and young, healthy adult males had the greatest attack rate.

In the 19th century severe pandemics occurred in 1830-1833, 1847-1848, and 1889-1890. Researchers now think that the virus of the 1889-1890 pandemic was similar to the 1968 Hong Kong strain.

By far the worst pandemic struck the world in 1918-1919, caused by what is now called the Swine flu virus. This disaster killed more people than any other pandemic over a comparable period in the history of the world. The number of cases was estimated at 200 million worldwide, with 25 million deaths. There were 500,000 deaths in the United States alone. At its peak this pandemic killed about 2 percent of the world's population per month. About half of the deaths were in the 20- to 40-year-old age group.

The next great pandemic hit in 1957-1958. About 60,000 deaths in the United States were attributable to or associated with the "Asian Flu," as it was called, mostly in persons 65 years of age or older. Antibodies to this 1957 Asian strain had previously been found in the blood of people who were born before 1889.

A decade later the most recent pandemic attacked—the "Hong Kong Flu." Deaths associated with this outbreak totaled about 80,000 in the United States in 1968-1969.

The "Russian flu" virus, which caused widespread epidemics in 1977-1978, was similar to "Scandinavian" strains that caused epidemics in 1950-1951.

Complications

Although influenza affects large percentages of the population, the number of deaths due *directly* to this disease is generally low. However, a large number of deaths due to complications of influenza is reported every year. Bacterial infection of the lungs is one important complication that often follows a bout of flu. Elderly patients and those with chronic heart or lung disease are most likely to be affected. And yet it has been estimated that only about 20% of this high-risk group actually receive flu shots. If most of the others—the unprotected majority—would receive influenza vaccine, the death rate from pneumonia could be cut considerably. One medical expert in this field has called influenza vaccine "the best vaccine against pneumonia presently available."

Today's Improved Vaccines

In years past, when flu vaccines were still in the developmental stage, many people avoided taking flu shots because of possible unpleasant reactions. Today, however, flu vaccines are much more refined, and there is far less likelihood of unpleasant effects from these shots.

Nevertheless, even today's improved vaccines are not entirely free of temporary side effects. Some individuals may experience headache, a rundown feeling, loss of appetite, or muscle soreness at the site of injection. It is advisable to discuss these and the slight possibility of more serious reactions with your physician and to weigh risks against benefits.

Many advances are being made in the prediction of flu strains and the preparation of timely vaccines. Researchers determine what strains are predominant so as to predict which strains are liable to infect the population next. In this way, at an early date, the medical and health community is supplied with specific preventive vaccines against influenza.

Vaccination

Because each year's flu vaccines may differ from the previous year's and are designed to combat that particular year's viruses, appropriate high-risk patients should be vaccinated every year. Last year's shots may not protect against the current year's flu strains. Appointments to receive flu shots should be made early in the flu season—in the fall—because flu epidemics usually hit in the late fall and hang on through the winter.

When epidemic influenza is forecast, seasonal vaccination may be advisable also for persons who provide essential community services—members of police and fire departments, health care personnel—and for persons who are exposed through their occupations to high-risk situations—school teachers, for example—or to large and various groups of people—cashiers, for example, or bank tellers, or customs inspectors, or flight attendants.

7/12

built the new Industrial Arts building while I was there. We were lucky enough to use this building our last year. I have a picture of the President laying the corner stone. We had our other related classes up in the same area, in the elementary. We took English, History, Economics and Sociology and everything that everybody else took.. In fact, we took some of it right there with the other academic people. But they all said,"Industrial Arts is a bunch of dumb guys". But they really weren't, I don't think, 'cause they competed with the rest of them. I think there was about ten that actually busted out (flunked out) the first semester 'cause they couldn't compete. I don't know about the elementary. ... I think it was about a hundred-twenty started in that Industrial Arts class, and I think about a hundred of them graduated. A lot of them were from the local area, a lot of them from Syracuse, and Jewish people from New York City.

Mc How much was the tution, Howard?

C Nothing! There was no tution fee at that time. All it cost you was room and board, and your books. However, they had what they call general organization dues and fees that the school put on. Like all the sporting events; you bought a ticket at the beginning of the year and that would take you through January, and then you could buy a new one.

When I went to register, I had fifty dollars in my pocket and before my folks got out of town, it was gone! I thought I had plenty, to start with, but ..

During the summer I got married to Alfrieda Quintern; 1934. After three years we bought the home in Medina; in 1937. At that time Alfrieda was working at the Newell Shirt Factory, making $12.00 a week. She paid $6.00 to her hired girl, and $6.00 to the Loan (Savings and Loan Bank). We paid $3,000.00 for the home when we bought it. Alfrieda died in 1962 at the age of 48, after fighting cancer for three years. She spent pretty near a year, off and on, in Roswell (Cancer Hospital in Buffalo, N.Y.) All kinds of operations: adrenal glands, ovaries, and uncapped her spine, and - oh boy - you name it! I don't know, if I had it to

do over again; I would go along with it. And then you would say to yourself ..." that's the way it is."

But going back to getting through school: there were no teaching jobs at that time. I applied for a job in Albion, and I think they had 60 applicants! If you didn't have any experience you might as well forget it. ... ... Not being able to get a teaching position, I tried farming for two years. That really wasn't my cup of tea either.

Mc You mean that after all those years, you changed your mind?

C With all that hard work you didn't have anything at the end of the year. You grew a few tomatoes and maybe wheat and beans and had maybe $250.00 total income. I had no background of borrowing money. You just couldn't get any money. You didn't have any way to establish credit. ... This was when tomatoes first were grown (around this area). That's when people were growing maybe three or four acres. Later they grew hundreds of acres in our area. In the fall I went to the GLF in Knowlesville to work there.

Mc What did you do there?

C I bagged cabbage mostly. We went out to the farmer's homes and bagged the cabbage in their cellars or basements. We put them in fifty pound sacks. Then they trucked them back to G.L.F. and they shipped them out by railroad. It was interesting work.

That's when Social Security started. I got my Social Security card at G.L.F. ... back in 1937. Then I worked at Acer and Whedon for a short period of time. Maybe this is not interesting, but I went all over Rochester, Buffalo, and Lockport. You name it, trying to find a job. Vic Caldwell, a cousin, came to the house one night and he had good news. He worked at the Angelus Flour Mill in Lockport. The Richmond Manufacturing Company of Lockport made a lot of flour milling machines and they were looking for someone to do some woodworking and cabinet making. Vic said, "Doctor Moyer, who was a dentist, is now running the Richmond Manufacturing Company and he is coming down to see you." He came to Medina and he hired me! And here I'd been

all over Christendom trying to find a job!!

Mc He had heard about you, Howard?

C He heard about me through Vic, who told him that I was an Industrial Arts major, and they had seen a lot of the projects I had brought home from college. At that time I was going out and doing shingling and changing windows. So I went to Lockport and started there as a bench-hand, making and putting wooden parts together. When I first got up there they had very few blue-prints for anything. They had mostly templates hanging all on the wall. They found out that I was also a Mechanical Drawing major. I worked in the engineering department for pretty near two years, going out and "picking people's brains" and putting that on paper, making blue-prints of them. Some of these old-timers were fellows that had learned their trade in the old country, and they would not tell you anything. However, some of them would. It did a lot for me. Of course, they found out that I could lay out sheet metal, and that's how I got into the sheet metal department. There are very few people that can do layout. That's the carry over from drafting where you learn triangulation and development of metal parts. They had fellows that quit, so they wanted to know if I would give it a try, and I did. I had to learn to do all kinds of welding. ... I silver-soldered, braised, regular welded, and electric welding. I picked that all up myself on the job. I worked there for eighteen and a half years and then went to teaching in Medina.(1954) During that time, for six years, I taught Night School at Barker National Defense School.

Mc In the meantime, you and your wife had several children?

C We had two children: Gary and Brenda. Gary is now one of the head accountants at Hamilton Standard Aeroplane Corporation in Hartford, Connecticut. Brenda is married and lives in Lima. She has three children: two boys and a girl.

(of Medina)

Thanks to John Kennedy's help, I was finally able to get back to teaching. I started at the Medina High School in September of 1954. I taught High School printing, and 7th and 8th grade general shop for several years.

When the 7th, 8th, and 9th grades moved to the new Jr. High School, I then took over the Mechanical Drawing classes along with the printing classes. We printed thirty issues a year of the "Horizon", one of the few printed papers in New York State. Students wrote the articles they were set into lino-type at the Medina-Journal (newspaper). The printing students did the make-up and the printing. At one time I had over 100 students taking Mechanical Drawing.

For some reason I was able to cope with the slow (lower than average) students in my classes. Clifford Wise always wanted to do something for this type of student. So he asked me and Miss Jean Kennedy (Head of the Special Education) to help him get something started. Through much testing, we came up with about 40 students (with) I.Q's 75 to 90 that needed special training. Reading seemed to be one of their biggest problems.

We formed a new department known as a Pre-Vocational. Miss Kennedy taught English and Social Studies, and I taught Science and Math. There was no curriculum available so we wrote our own and thus had few books used as a text. However, the program proved a great success. Miss Kennedy left Medina for Long Island, and we hired two new teachers for English and Social Studies, and Science and Math. I then taught the boys in Shop (construction) which took in all phases of Carpentry and Building. The girls took service occupations similar to Home Ec, from Mrs. Kay Bartlett. They learned phases of house-keeping including sewing, washing, baking, etc.

Through the efforts of Mr. Wise and myself we were able to receive a grant from the State to start work-study programs. The program was called STEP. School to Employment. The State paid the students hourly wage for up to three hours a day at $1.00 per hour. This program was funded for five years and then could be picked up by the school. This is how the Work Study Programs got started in the Medina

Central School System.

During my teaching career at Medina, I started out to further my education. I first attended Brockport State and received my certification in Jr. High School General Science. Then with the BOCES program starting, I decided to further my education in Vocational education. I attended Buff State (Buffalo State Teacher College) for several years going evenings, Saturdays and summers, receiving my certificate of Graduation in June 1962. I finally finished my education by attending Albany State during the summer of 1968. This was on a (Work Study) Grant from the State of New York.

Also during this time I taught several years of Night School at Medina, and 10 years in the evening division at Erie Community College.

I moved from the Medina High School to the BOCES Program in July 1970, four years before (my) retirement. There I took over as Placement Coordinator for the Orleans area. I had charge of placing students that graduated from the different areas of the BOCES programs as well as teaching the related information that went along with the art of getting a job.

Every year we were able to get three or four students on a Coop Program at Eastman Kodak.

Speaking of my son: Gary is a bachelor, owns his own home, has a nice car, does his own work, loves to cook and things like that. He is also active in his church where he takes care of the finances. He loves to do that! But of course he did that at the Trinity Lutheran Church here in Medina before he left.

Mc BOCES seems to be good for some of the students; right?

C BOCES is very good for the students that really want to work at it. Machinists, auto mechanics and auto body students were very much in demand. Now quite a few of the Electronic and Carpentery boys are in demand. Cosmotology is a stickler because they've got to have a State license before they can go to work.

Mc Cosmotology is working with hair and skin?

C Yes it is. There's no way of getting such experience except at the BOCES. You have to get in 900 class hours. If any of them took a lot of days off, they never got in their 900 hours and couldn't apply for their State license. ... I liked that particular work, even with all the follow-up studies.

One thing that always was interesting to me was the old steam engine and the threshing machine. Gailey Pask had them both. The farmers would bind all their oats, barley and wheat and store them in their barns. ...

Mc Did you work with them, Howard?

C Oh yes! I was just old enough so I was the water boy for all the guys during the threshing. One of the requiremnts was that you had to have a couple of tubs of water on the runway near the barn, in case of fire from the sparks coming out of the engine. Every year before they would thresh they would go to Medina to Boyd's Coal Yard and get steam coal. That was a soft coal that come in big chunks that you'd have to furnish for the threshers. ...

I remember one time this English fellow we had working for us: I started out with a wagon to go to Medina to get this steam coal. It started to rain, and it just poured, and we got soaked! On the way home we had to go up Barker hill with the load of steam coal, which was probably half a ton or more. This English fellow couldn't say "Howard", so he'd always say "Hard". "Hard, we got to get up this hill". So he ran the horses up the hill. Because they had no shoes, they were slipping and sliding all over.

Mc Why didn't the horses have shoes?

C Well, of course on a farm you really didn't need them.

Mc I thought horses always had to have shoes.

C No, some of them on the farm we never put shoes on.They put them on in the winter time and they had regular corks that were sharpened for that purpose. But very few horses on the farm ever had shoes because they were on that soft ground all the time.

I remember one time, it was a real cold winter's day and my father said ,"We are going to be warm tonight". So

he got some of this steam coal, broke it up and put it in the cook stove, and I thought he was going to set the house on fire! Talk about heat!!

I remember one time Gailey Pask came to clean the boiler on the steam engine one Sunday morning. (They had left the machine because they didn't get done threshing). He threw the hose out from washing out everything and the water went all over me!! I guess I swore at him and called him all kinds of names, and you know, he laughed about that to his dying day! (laughter). The last time I saw him when he was real old, he still asked,"Do you remember the time you swore at me because you thought I sprayed you with the hose?" He used a team of horses to draw water from the local creeks, for the engine. They had a water system on a tank called a water wagon. ... This was part of the threshing., bringing water to put in the boiler.

Mc Did the farmers form a group together to thresh?

C They'd be maybe five or six farmers who'd get together in the area. They always had one or two people that came with the machine: Gailey, and later on it was Glenn Pask, his son. ... They stopped every little while to grease the thing up. One of the first things I had to learn to do was carry away from the machine. The grain came out into bushel baskets. That had to be carried away and you'd put it in grain bins. I remember one year we had oats that went a hundred bushels per acre. You couldn't even keep ahead of the machine. We had three people carrying away; two could not do it! They were just jogging those buckets back and forth all the time. That was unusual but it was a thing that could happen.

This one English fellow, Dick Brundage, was an excellent straw stacker. He stacked the straw in the barnyard. He was the same fellow I was telling you about. He worked for us. I still remember that he had goggles he used to wear, and he had a big bandana around his neck. He'd have binding twine around his pants at the top of his shoes. He'd stack the straw and someway he just kept the middle high and kept laying the outside down. The stack would hardly get wet at all (when it rained). If you got somebody that didn't know

how to stack the straw and got the middle low, it would practically ruin all your straw. But he was an expert at it, laying up a stack. Every time anyone threshed, they'd try to get ahold of Dick to put up the stack.

Mc When the men were threshing, where did they eat?

C They ate at the farm home where-ever they were. They usually had dinner and supper at that particular place. And eat! Oh man, could they eat!! ... The farmers wife took care of them and did all the cooking. Boy! They'd have meat and potatoes and vegetables, and bread and butter. They were great bread and butter people; homemade bread and homemade rolls.

Mc No tossed salads?

C No, just plain food. and they usually had pie. All those guys were great pie eaters back years ago. My, they had to have pie! That was their desert. Some of them would eat two or three pieces if you'd give it to them. But coffee, mmm! Could they drink coffee, or tea! They drank green tea at that time. The English fellow I'm talking about introduced our family to black tea. We always drank green tea until he worked for us.

Mc Was this Dick Brundage any relation to Joe Brundage?

C No, he was just an English fellow that settled here.

Some other interesting things that I can remember in my boyhood of course was the cooper shop in Millville, where they made the barrels. If my memory is right, I think William Caldwell was the one that ran it. We used to go there and watch them make the barrels and we used to pump the water into where they kept the hoops wet. We used to pump that full, I think, for a dime . They had a cistern pump and they pumped the water out of the creek. ... Then we'd buy these barrels. You had to loosen the hoops on them to get the (barrel) head out. Then you'd fill the barrels full with Baldwin apples. Then you had this press that you'd stand on and push down 'till the head dropped in. Then you'd drive the hoops down again. You'd take those beautiful apples to face the top of the barrel and then

they'd squeeze them down. I bet a lot of those apples were spoiled. They were exported, most of them, to France. They had regular apple racks on long wagons to carry apples on. You've seen the pictures of them waiting to unload their apples at Rowley's Storage. I drove down with a few loads of them at times too. If you know how to handle those barrels and can get them on the rim, you don't have to be very strong to roll them pretty dog-gone good. But you've got to know how to do it!

Mc Howard, did you ever shoe horses for a blacksmith, or help a blacksmith in any way?

C We had the blacksmith shop in Millville which was run at that time by Hanry Hey, Miford Hey's father. A little garage is there now. The shop was part of a stone building. We'd take the horses there once in awhile, one didn't want to stand still. So you put what they call a "twist" on him. They'd put a small rope on his lip and twist it. That was to take his mind off of his feet. That's about the only way they could do some of them. I used to take them to a blacksmith shop in Shelby later, that belonged to a Johnson. The one thing that would get to me is when they took the shoe, red hot from the forge, to fit it to the foot. They'd stick it on the hoof to show where they needed more trimming. What a stink! Oh boy!!

Mc Didn't that hurt the horse?

C No, it didn't hurt the horse at all.

Mc Were you also involved with any fur trapping, Howard?

C Yes. I always did a little trapping, skunk trapping mostly. I got 60 muskrats and 13 skunks one year. That was our livelihood for the first year we were married. Our whole winter livelihood.

Mc Who did you sell the furs to?

C Bill Gill is where I sold most of them. (NOTE: see the interview with Gill, William: re: fur trapping, etc.)

Mc Could you live on what you sold?

C Oh yes. We got $2.00 for a muskrat, and $1.50 for some that weren't so big.

I got $3.00 for a black skunk, and only 50¢ for a white skunk. Or one that had a lot of white on it. The black skunks brought the most.

Mc Did you take the whole animal (to Mr. Gill)?

C No, I skinned them and stretched the hide. I used to go down to the furnace room at Alfrieda's father's place to skin a rat and stick them on the stretcher. We made the stretcher of wood, about quarter inch wood. That was before the days of plywood so we usually used slats, like you had on a crate. They came out with wire stretchers after that. I started trapping when I was a young boy. ... I got permission from the farmers that owned the land; they'd let you hunt and trap on it.... You had no problem.

Mc Did you have to have a license to do this?

C Oh yes! You had to have a license then, the same as you do now. The main thing is you had to take care of the animals after you got them. You couldn't let them sit around for any length of time.

Mc If you got a skunk, how could you keep it from smelling?

C Well, you just couldn't. That's one thing I did not skin down in the cellar!! You skinned the skunks outside! (laughter). My mother used to save the grease from a fat skunk. They'd rub it on your chest for colds and put a flannel over the top of it. I swear you can still smell the sun-of-a-gun! They also used to use goose grease some, but it wasn't as good as skunk's grease.

Mc When my brother and I caught colds, our father used to spread skunks grease on our chests! I remember that too.

C Then I used to go to Olmstead's Mill in Shelby Center, with the grist, to get it ground. In the fall we'd trade our wheat, 'cause we used to have a different kind for certain kind of flour. There we'd get our winter flour. The mill was an old water-wheel mill run from the old race-way there. You know where it still is today? we used to bag the grain and go over to Shelby with a team of horses with the oats, barley and corn, or whatever we mixed together. We had grain bins in the barn where we had the cows and horses.

... Going back to remembering my school days: they built the road from Millville to East Shelby. It was then a dirt road and they made it into a macadam road. The work was all done with horse power except for a steam roller, and most of the things were done with horses on a scraper. The steam power was a roller. They used slag instead of stone for the road bed.

I attended Millville Methodist Church as a boy, and my Sunday school teacher was Esther Boyle. She was the same lady I used to beat the rugs for.

Mc You used to beat the rugs during spring cleaning time?

C Yeah, they'd let me know and I'd beat all their rugs for a quarter. I'd help take them out, hang them on the line and then I'd beat them. They had a rug beater for that purpose; a regular wire U-shaped thing with a wooden handle. You'd get blisters all over your hands. ... They didn't have vacum cleaners. They finally come out with a Bissell (non-electric cleaner), and they thought they came up with something great then!. But it wasn't anything that was unique, I don't think.

At that time they had two stores in Millville: one was run by George Castle, that's the one on the corner. The other store on the fork (of the road) was run by Claude Grinnell... was known as the old Quaker Church. That, of course, is where all the Quakers that are buried in the Millville cemetery went to church. Anyway, originally that was the Quaker Church. ...

Joseph Caldwell, my grandfather, was a carpenter and he built most all the gamble roofed barns in that area. He built the house that McKeever lives in, on the Culvert Road. He was a first class carpenter and there wasn't much that he couldn't do. He did all his layout work from a steel square, 16" X 24". He laid out rafters, gambrels, and everything! In fact he built the barn on the old farm there. (Now burned). Half the wood that was put in it was green lumber.

Mc Is that a good idea?

C Well, of course at that time they was in a hurry to get it up so they let it season that way. Going back to that steam power: we cut logs out of the woods one year. Gailey Pask's steam engine run the saw. They wanted to finish up sawing that week, so they kept me out of grade school to draw the logs to the saw. We had a team (of horses) that wasn't scared of the saw or the steam engine. You could do it all by just taking your log-boat and tipping it up to the log and put your chain around the log. Then you got perpendicular to the log, with the team, and swing the log on the boat and away you'd go! Everybody laughed. I was just a little devil but of course I was getting out of school, see! (laughter). Then they had the East Shelby Store which Billy Jenny ran.He also sold... McCormick-Deering farm machinery. That's where everybody went if you broke anything on the farm. I'd always get on my bicycle and head for Jenny's Store to get the parts, 'cause he had them. We all had McCormick-Deering binders, manure spreaders, and so on. You just go up there and he kept a supply of the parts; or he could order them. LeRoy Posson was the Supervisor,at that particular time, of the Town of Shelby. His daughter, Helen, worked at the East Shelby Store and she was a real nice person, and good looking. She was the one that married Bud Rorick; the one that ran the Sand and Gravel..... Then there was another thing that was interesting. A lot of the farmers got hooked on the silver foxes. .... They bought these as cubs, little ones, and raised them in pairs. They were going to raise these silver fox and sell them. I guess the business, and the foxes, died off, or something. I don't think anybody made any money on it, as I know of. ... I really don't know what did happen to them.

Mc There were a lot of people in this area ...

C Oh man!! They put money in that and they got stuck. ... Irv Weet, the brother of Herb Weet who was Superintendent of Schools in Rochester.. that's when I was cadet teaching .. he was the one that sold them. ...

Mc Where did he get them from?

C Well, I have no idea. I just remember his doing this. I know he ran a store, I think it was in Shelby Center, and dealt in horses, and most everything. He, of course, always had the reputation of not being the most honest guy in the world. ...(NOTE: See transcript of William Gill, pages 12- re: Silver Fox Farm, etc.)

Mc Well, these things happen.

C Some other interesting things that I remember: the first new car I bought was 1937 Ford and I paid $696. for it in 1937.

Mc You should have bought two cars, Howard!! (laughter) ...

C I looked up some of my old bills and found that the first refigerator we had cost us $85., and the first electric stove was a deluxe job and that was $125. The difference in the prices!! Of course you were making $24. a week then, too, and you were buying your house for three or four thousand. Gasoline was about 17¢ or 18¢ a gallon. ... So, you figure the economy going up and up; it's about the same thing now. ... In 1937 when we first moved up here, we had to buy an electric stove because we had an old oil stove that was shot. We didn't have refigeration so we got along a year or so with an old icebox.

Mc Howard, do you remember the ice wagon coming around, and do you remember who delivered the ice? ...

C Charlie Boyle had a team of horses used for delivery. His wife, Hazel Boyle, once was my teacher. What the heck was the name of the guy that stayed with them?! John Parker!! He stayed with them and delivered ice all over town. He also "hit" all the saloons too.

Mc What do you mean: hit all the saloons?

C Tipped up a few glasses along, as well as filling the ice-boxes. ...The saloons and meat markets were all ice cooled. ... You know, most all the farms had their own ice ponds and their own ice houses.

Mc How did they preserve the ice, to keep it from melting?

C They had double wall ice-houses. They used a lot of sawdust.

They kept all the sawdust from the time they buzzed (cut) their wood. They'd go to the sawmills where they'd cut logs. They would have about a foot of sawdust around all the ice chunks... Some years some ice would be used up, yet when they wanted to put new ice in, they used the same sawdust. ... Do you have some information about where the ice house used to be; out here on the end of Main Street? I can just remember that: when they had the conveyor running down in the creek where they cut the ice off. I can remember the dam that held the water back. ...

Mc Did the horse pull the ice-boat along on the ice, to help cut the ice?

C I don't remember that. ... When I first moved uptown, we used to go to the storage and get the ice. They made ice there (at the storage). ... One of the things I guess we didn't talk about yet is all the Dryhouses in the area. There used to be one in Millville, one in Shelby and one over to Barre. All of these burned because of getting overheated. They'd dry apples with sulphur, for one thing, and they'd get the furnaces so hot! A lot of fires was from overheating. I know LaVerne Bacon ran the dryhouse in Millville. I remember he had an old four-cycle gasoline engine that you could hear all over the country-side. You would hear it get ready for the next exhaust.

Father and I went down one time and helped Roscoe Ostrander thresh out of the field. He used to do this once in awhile. He'd put the grain separator in the barn, but you'd go to the field and draw the bundles in. I remember Mr. Canham, who just died, had an old, what they called the old oil-pulled tractor. That thing burnt oil. I think they mixed a little water with it. That thing was a four cycle engine. She'd go "pop", and then she'd go"ppp", and "apoo". She'd miss once in awhile, and when it fired the next time, it would jar the ground all around! I remember one time - - a team of horses almost broke loose. They jumped over the wagon tongue and ripped the harnesses all to pieces!! ... All from the exhaust of that darn threshing machine engine.

Mc Didn't he also have a machine like that, for milking?

C Oh yes! Every barn had them, and they had a little gasoline engine that ran their compressor. For milking we had a gasoline engine that pumped our water for stock, using a pump jack. A lot of farmers had windmills around here to pump the water.

Mc Do you think they will ever come back?

C I don't know. A lot of windmills are coming back. ... Of course they were pretty well anchored. Back in those days those things were made of heavy galvanized iron.

Mc Did they take a lot of oil?

C No; they'd have a rod from the windmill to the pump. They would just undo the pump handle and bolt the rod through and everything would go up and down. A device on top controlled the stroke. When the tub got full.. it was one of the kid's jobs to shut off the mill. We used to take (use) our water trough at home and keep minnows in there; in the bottom of it, for going fishing! (laughter)

Mc Would the minnows bother the animals?

C No. We'd put a few rocks in the bottom... and when we wanted to go fishing, we'd go get the minnows out.

Mc What was the watering trough made of, Howard?

C Oh, a lot of them were made of cement, but the one we had was made from an old wooden spray tank. ... They held a lot of water. We had twenty cows drinking out of it! They could consume a lot of water on a hot day!

When I was in high school I was on the Tumbling Team. I was the only one that could jump on the diving board and then put my hands on the leather buck and turn a handspring and then land on my feet on the mat. One day I got it just about right, and then I slipped off and broke my arm. You could hear it crack all over the gym! I remember Coach Stevenson was the Coach at the time. He took me down to Dr. Rogan's, which was down here where the Topps Market used to be. They set the break without giving me any anesetic or anything!! The doctor said,"You grab his wrist and I'll

grab his elbow and we can set it." I think the screams are still going up and down through Main Street. Talk about hurt!! They wanted me to go up to the hospital and have an x-ray, but their machine was broken so I went up to Dr. Eckerson who had, as far as I know, the first x-ray machine around here. That was in Shelby Center.

Mc An x-ray machine in his home!!

C In his home. He took the x-ray of my arm, there in his home. They thought it wasn't set quite right. Then they called Dr. Johnson in. He was going to be in the hospital in Medina from Batavia. He did all the operating in Medina. If they wanted an operation, they called in Dr. Johnson. Well, he looked at it and said,"Nah, it may be a little crooked but it's going to be alright." Dr. Eckerson was our family doctor and he would come to your home. He's the one that treated us when everyone had the flu. Dr. Whiting was the one that brought me into this world in our own home. We used to have to go get him sometimes with a horse and buggy. He wouldn't drive himself. He was a great one! He used to love to shoot a little pistol at squirrels running along stone walls. ... A few years after Frieda died in 1962, I met Marcia Dujenski who was working at the school. She did a lot of typing for me. This is how we got acquainted, and later married. That's fifteen years ago this spring. Marcia had a little boy by the name of Peter, who was eight years old. I adopted him a year later. ... Peter Caldwell. He is now married and living in Medina. ... Marcia and I got a divorce in the spring of 1979.

In February of 1979 I attended Esther Raymond's Memorial Service at the Methodist Church. I met Martha Pettit at this service. We had lunch together along with her family. Martha was a sister-in-law to Esther. Martha and I started going together shortly after that and were married in August of 1979. Martha sold her place on Elm Street, so we now live at my residence on Frank Street in Medina. Both of our families sure liked the idea (of our marriage). We are

a very happy couple and sure thank God for all that happened to us!

Mc Howard, have you been active in the Lions Club?

C I've been real active in the Lions Club for a number of years. I've been President, Sight Chairman, and Board Member. Right now we are working on getting a Dialysis machine in this area. We have a large number of people going to either Rochester or Buffalo three times a week to use the Dialysis machine. Mrs. Austin Martin (known to friends as "Pat") is one of these people. The Lions Club became interested in getting the machine, and Betty Hassel and myself got names from the Red Cross of the patients in this area needing the use of a Dialysis machine. The rest of the Lions Clubs, and many others in Orleans and Niagara County, have taken a great interest, including Mayor Rontondo from Lockport.

Nancy Smegelski, Regional Director of Health Systems Agency, and Walter Curry of Syracuse, Director of the End Stage Renal Network 26, are working with us. We now have a Lockport committee made up of eight members, and a Medina (committee) made up of four members. The Medina group are all Lions Club members. This includes: Jack Beedon, David Callard, Howard Caldwell, and "Ozzie" (Austin) Martin.

In combining efforts we are trying to locate a site between Albion and Niagara Falls.

The Lions Club has always done a lot for sight, hearing, and speech in this area. We have two people in Medina with Seeing-Eye-Dogs: (Donald Amos and Beatrice Falls.)

Right now (January 1979) I am on my second term of being President of the Senior Citizens of Western Orleans County. I guess that is a good way to wind up my 68 years.

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The interview with Howard Caldwell was conducted by Arden and Helen McAllister. The tape was transcribed by Luther Burroughs of Albion. After several deletions and additions by Mr. Caldwell, final typing was done by Helen McAllister.

Good Citizens of The Year

Almost two decades ago, in 1963, the Journal-Register began a custom which has been faithfully carried on each year...the selection of "Good Citizens of the Year". The naming of these men and women, not done by the news staff of the Journal, is performed with only one purpose in mind, to indicate to a fine community that it has strength in the people who go out of their way to work for others. And, that it is good to take the time to administer a pat on the back where it is deserved.

The people chosen over this 17-year span have represented a wide range of activities and interests.

Some years have produced a deluge of nominations, and others have produced few — much to our dismay. In some cases, deserving people have not been chosen because of stiffer competition among the nominations in some years than others. This was one of those years.

It is our pleasure to present "Good Citizens of the Year" for 1980. The men and women are representative of the many leaders who serve the Medina area, and they represent our strength.

HOWARD I. CALDWELL

Mr. Caldwell, of 209 Frank St., was familiar to many generations of Medina students as a teacher of vocational skills, also with responsibility for some on-job training placement, and some BOCES teaching. He was a popular teacher — "quiet, smiling but firm."

His "sense of community" led him beyond this framework to interest in Medina United Methodist Church, to become president of the Medina Lions Club, to serve as commercial division leader of the United Fund for Western Orleans, and most recently to become the 1980 president of Senior Citizens of Western Orleans.

"He is honest and sincere with everybody," says a nominator. "He is a skilled craftsman and has helped many people of the community with repairs to homes, furniture, plumbing and other major and minor work, often without taking any fee or reward. He is the kind of man we need more of."

J-R
Aug. 28, 1979

Caldwell-Pettit Vows Solemnized

The United Methodist Church of Medina was the setting Aug. 25 for the 11 a.m. ceremony uniting in marriage Martha L. Pettit and Howard I. Caldwell. The Rev. Ray Hazlett officiated at the double ring ceremony.

Attending the couple were the bride's daughter, Mrs. Roberta Furness, and the groom's son, Gary Caldwell. Flower girls were Martha Pettit and Kelly Kyle, granddaughters of the bride, and Betsy Olsen, granddaughter of the groom. The flower girls' dresses were fashioned by the bride's granddaughter, Molly Pettit, and they carried baskets of yellow and white daisies and miniature orange roses.

Ushering duties were performed by Kevin Furness and Paul Pettit, grandsons of the bride.

The processional march, "Trumpet Voluntary," was played by Jeffrey Furness, the bride's grandson, accompanied by Mrs. Margaret Johnson on the organ.

Immediately following the ceremony a luncheon reception was held for the families at the Apple Grove Inn. Molly Pettit presided at the punch bowl.

After a short trip to the Southern Tier, the couple will be residing at 209 Frank St.