

# Orleans County Historical Association

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sister, Bessie Heitz  
grandparents: FORMED THE MELTING POT OF AMERICA  
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Grandpa Gangross, Holland / Grandma G., Connecticut Yankee  
wife, Helen Gray Heitz



# Orleans County Historical Association

## ORAL HISTORY PROJECT INTERVIEW)

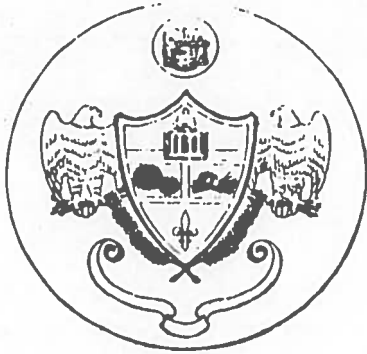
Mr. Wesley Heitz  
147 Maple Avenue  
Medina, New York

Wesley Heitz was born in 1903 in Henrietta, N.Y.  
This interview was conducted by Helen McAllister  
of Medina at the Heitz home.

H Heitz  
Mc McAllister



Mr. and Mrs. Wesley Heitz



# 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.

Wesley Heitz  
Signed  
2-24-1981  
Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister  
INTERVIEWER  
2-24-1981  
Date

For the Orleans County Historical Association,  
February 24, 1981, Helen McAllister of Medina, New  
York is interviewing MR. WESLEY HEITZ of 147 Maple  
Avenue, Medina, New York.

- Mc Would you please tell us when you were born and where ?
- H I was born in 1903 in Henrietta, New York.
- Mc What was your father's name ?
- H Albert, but they called him Bert.
- Mc Your mother's maiden name ?
- H Caroline Gangross, but they called her Jennie.
- Mc Did you have any brothers and sisters ?
- H I had a sister, Bessie.
- Mc I believe you said that your ancestors really formed the  
"Melting Pot" for America. Would you tell us where they  
came from ?
- H My Grandpa Heitz came from Germany and my Grandma Heitz  
came from Ireland. She worked her way over- - -she had  
to pay her passage by working it out after she got here.
- Mc Is that what they called an Indentured Servant ?
- H Well, or Serf, or whatever you might want to call it.
- Mc Did you have anybody from Holland ?
- H My Grandfather Gangross, who was my mother's father,  
came from Holland. My mother's mother was a Connecticut  
Yankee.
- Mc Didn't your grandfather shake hands with President Lincoln ?
- H Yes. Down in Gettysburg. He was in the Second New York  
Cavalry and they dismounted at Gettysburg - - and put them  
on foot so when this - - I think it was Pickett - - they  
expected him to come around - - - and when he come around,  
he run right into the second cavalry.
- Mc Now who was this who came around ?
- H Pickett, from the South.
- Mc What did he do when he ran right into him ?
- H Well they stopped him. He was in the army because he took

the place of three businessmen. They equiped him and sent him.

Mc Who was this ?

H My Grandfather Heitz. They sent him in their place, see. You could equip a man and send him and he was in. He didn't get his Discharge papers until - - - well, I was looking at them the other day - - in 1892. He was in the Gettysburg Battle and they mustered him out, but they never give him the papers until all that time after.

Mc Did he carry a flag ?

H He carried the American Flag.

Mc Where is that flag now ?

H In Albany.

Mc In the museum down there.

H Right in the vestibule of the Capitol Building.

Mc Wes, what did your father do for a living ? Was he a baker ?

H He did two or three different things. He was a baker, he was a farmer, he was a piano finisher - - he would varnish and polish the out-side of the piano.

Mc Was this in Rochester ?

H East Rochester. I think it was Foster-Armstrong Piano Company in East Rochester.

Mc He had a Bakery in Holley at one time, didn't he ?

H Willie Deitz was his uncle's name and he learned the trade from his uncle in Holley. He learned from the broom on up.

Mc Well, you started life in Rochester and I believe you told me that when you were approximately in the third grade that there was a Smallpox epidemic.

H The Smallpox epidemic was before that a few years. I was taken sick when I was in the third grade and I was out of school for four years.

Mc I believe this illness that took you out of school was related to the Smallpox epidemic, again, that you left that area; is that right ?

H No. The idea was, the trouble I had, I don't really know

what it was for sure. The doctor called from Rochester on account of that Smallpox epidemic and he was the doctor that got me back on my feet because they only give me six months to live at that time.

Mc Somewhere along the line you said you went to live in the Montezuma Swamp; when was that ?

H I was down in Savannah, New York in the summer vacation from school. I had an aunt down there. Aunt Nellie, her name was. They had Diphtheria in Savannah, so in order for me to get back from there to Rochester, they took me out of the village of Savannah and we camped down in the Montezuma Swamps until my folks could come down and get me.

Mc Do you think that helped to bring on some Rheumatism ?

H It could have been a big factor in the deal.

Mc And you were ill for four years ?

H I was out of school for four years.

Mc How did they treat you ? How did the doctor treat you ?

H Well, he was one of these Herb Doctors, I called it, 'cause he never went to the Drug Store for medicine. He made the medicine right there and it didn't taste too good, but I took what he gave me all the time and I started to get better.

Mc It must have worked; you're doing fine!

H Well, it had to work or I wouldn't have been here. At least I've had 70 years, because I was 7 years old or better; so I cheated them, I got 70 more years. (Laughter)

Mc Eventually your father moved to Middleport, didn't he ?

H Oh, yes, to run the Bakery and we were there 10 years or better.

Mc What Bakery did he buy out ?

H Well, he didn't buy a Bakery. The building was empty, Billy Bosch owned the building; and we rented the building and bought the equipment and started the Bakery.

Mc Did you deliver things from the Bakery ?

H We had four or five trucks on the road and we'd go out on the routes, each one had - - - every other day they went

on a different route.

Mc How far would they go ?

H Well, I myself drove one down through Gaines and up through the back country here. One went to Wolcottsville and back, and some went way down the Hess Road and the Carman Road and down north.

Mc How did you know where you should stop ?

H We had cards with a "H" on them. We had regular customers that we would stop at every time we would come by; but if anybody else on that route wanted something they'd put that card in the window and you'd look up and see it while driving the truck and you'd pull in and if they didn't want anything then the next time they took it down and you didn't stop.

Mc About this time, you were drafted for World War I, weren't you, or you were called upon ?

H That was before I ever came to Middleport.

Mc O-K. Tell us about that.

H Well, I was in Rochester. I didn't even know I was supposed to be connected with it, but I was getting to be about that age, you see, so when I moved out of Rochester, I just moved out with my mother and father and moved to Middleport. Then I got a letter from the War Department and I had to go back to Rochester and they told me I did wrong by leaving and not notifying them. That's the time they knew I hadn't any connection them or there; I had to find out the hard way.

Mc What happened; were you drafted ?

H They balled me out for not letting them know I had moved out of Rochester and that was the end of that. They had me scar 'cause I had this envelope with black letters on it, you know I'd looked at it and figured, that's it.

Mc But then the war ended.

H Oh, yeah, it ended before I moved out of Rochester.

Mc Oh, you still had to report ?

H Yeah. It was 1919 when I moved out of Rochester, and I couldn't figure that out, the war was over, but they must

have figured on me some way.

Mc Somewhere along in here you had a Ford coupe, your first car ?

H A Model T Ford, yeah, 1922. That's when I started getting around. (Laughter) I wrecked it once.

Mc How did you do that ?

H I don't know. I had been in Binghamton. There had been four of us together, two girls and two of us fellows, we went to Binghamton, down to St. Bonaventure College, we went down there and came back, and let the girls off in Lockport, and come down, and when I got pretty near to Gasport, then all of a sudden - - Bang!. I must of fell asleep or something 'cause the car jumped over a fence and never knocked it down I was standing up, but the car was laying on its side and there was no-body on it; the seat was on my back, under the steering column, and my feet was on the ground and my head was sticking out of the side. And when I come back to get under the fence, I tore my suit, 'cause there was a strand of barbed wire along the top of the farm fence. I got out and somebody come along and picked me up and took me home.

Mc Were you alone at that time ?

H Yes, I was all alone.

Mc That was lucky that you were alone and nobody else got hurt, or that you didn't get hurt.

H That's right.

Mc I don't suppose that you had car insurance at that time ?

H Oh, no. Nobody had no insurance then. You didn't have to have it.

Mc But the car was a total loose ?

H No. Well I went up the next morning and put one new wheel on the back of the car, the Ford. We tipped it back up on its wheels and I started it, drove it off - - - but the body was all gone. The body was just like nothing. Drove it back down and in three days I had a new body from the Ford factory in Buffalo on Main Street.

Mc Did they send you the parts, or what ?

H No, I went up with a farm truck, a Model T Farm Truck, and



went in the factory and up on the elevator and back up to the body department and we put this coupe body on, the Model T Coupe body on, the truck, I come back, come home that night - - - I was working in a Ford garage at that time and all the fellows that worked with me, helped me and we took the body and put it on the thing and it was like new again.

Mc You were pretty lucky !

Mc Somewhere along in here you were a State Trooper, a New York State Trooper ?

H Oh, yeah, just shortly.

Mc Did you have to take training for that ?

H Oh, yeah; it was about four or five weeks of training at that time. It's probably changed now. But they wanted to send me one place and the fellow that went in training with me, was to be sent to another, and we had decided that I wanted to go to where he was going to be sent and he wanted to go where I was going to be sent. So Captain Robinson, over there in Batavia, he was a surly sort of a guy, and when I went in to talk to him, and I talked to him and he said: "You're going to do as I tell you. And I'm sending you where I'm telling you." And I says: "I'm not a soldier and I'm going to quit !" And that was it.

Mc Before you had your automobile, I think you were telling me about taking the Trolley to Albion to date the girls ?

H Well, yeah, we had a lot of trolley rides. It'd cost you a dime to go here and a quarter to go there. We used to get on the trolley and go down to Albion. There was a corner - - - well it's a Corner Drug Store now - - - but it was an Ice Cream Parlor then. In those days we hung around the Ice Cream Parlors. And, the fellows in Albion didn't want the fellows from out of town coming in to see their girls, so we used to get in a little tussle here and there. We used to - - - well if there was too many then we'd run and catch the last trolley going through. They used to tease us a little on that trolley, the Motorman and the Conductor. I had the idea to run up in back of the

trolley - - if I could just about reach it, and pull the Trolley-peddle off and they couldn't go. They would have lost their electricity. And while he was out putting the Trolley-puller back on the wire, we'd get in.

Mc Did you sometimes take the Trolley down to Olcott, for a dance ?

H No. My wife did, though.

Mc Tell me about the dances; the 10¢ Dances, or whatever you called them.

H They had them down to Shadigee, a dime-a-dance, yeah they had that. It was "Razz" Boyd that done that and he had a partner. It was every night that they danced. If you had some money, you'd go down and you'd dance.

Mc What were the tickets like ?

H Like picture show tickets, with a stub.

Mc Did you get them one at a time or a whole string of them ?

H It all depends on how much money you had on you on how many you bought. If we thought we'd stay for half a dozen dances then we got half a dozen tickets. If we didn't we'd only get what we wanted to. We'd look the crowd over, buy tickets according to who was there that we knew.

Mc Did you take your girls there, your girlfriends there, or did you go there to meet your girls there ?

H We usually took our girl with us when we went. Like one time I went with another girl - - and Helen, she was down there and she walked over and she says: "Give me some tickets, I want to dance !"

Mc Who was this ?

H My wife ! So, I tore off so many tickets and handed them to her.

Mc Tell me how you met the woman who became your wife ?

H Well, it was down at Olcott Beach.

Mc You met her at Olcott Beach ?

H Yeah. I used to go down and take another fellow down. He went down to see this "Muggs" Hoyer, and I went down to go to the picture show. Then after the picture show was over,

they'd meet me and walk down. They come and met me one night at the show - - - there was my friend and his girl and another girl. We all walked down to Jake Aldrich's Dance Hall. It was quite a place at that time. They turned in to go to dance, and I turned and went over to the car and waited 'til they come out. And the next night I went down - - - took 'em down, 'cause I had the car, and there was always somebody wanting to go here and there. I went to the show again, come out, and there they stood, the two of them - - - but they didn't have no girl for me - - - so they says: "Well, come on down." "Muggs" says: "There's a lot of girls from the Shirt Factory down here on their vacation, and sure there must be one there that you could find." So I says: "O-K." And I went down and went in and I looked and - - - I looked over and I says to him: " "Muggs that one."

Mc Now am I right - - - did she have her back to you at that time ?

H She had her back to me. (Laughter) I says: " "Muggs", that one there." He went over and brought her out and introduced me to her and we danced and we took them down to the cottage where they were staying and we come home. Before I left, I says: "Can I see you tomorrow night ?" She says: "If you want to."

Mc And you've been seeing her ever since?

H Right.

Mc Now, your wife's name <sup>is</sup> ~~was~~ Helen Gray ?

H Right.

Mc And she worked at Newell's Shirt Factory. I believe that you said that she had a sister, Bernice.

H She had two sisters, Bernice and Jerry.

Mc Who did Bernice marry ?

H Lewis Capelli.

Mc And she had a child ?

H Yes, Sandy. Well, two; Cheryl and Sandy.

When we got through with the Bakery, during the Depression, in the 30s, I went to live with Bernice and Lewis, and I

lived three years with them and then finally we got married.  
I went with her for 10 years before we got married.

Mc You went with Helen 10 years before you were married ?

H Yes.

Mc I believe you said that when Bernice died, you and your wife were able to help out there ?

H Well, we helped out when Lewis and Bernice were both alive. We helped them as much as we could. Bernice died first and she asked us if we'd take Sandy and we said "Yes." So then when Lewis got sick, Sandy's father, we took him up to our house and kept him until he had to go to Buffalo and then he died. And he asked us the same question: "Would we take Sandy ?" So we did. So Sandy was 11 years old when we took her and raised her.

Mc Years later she married a man by the name of Baker ?

H Ronald Baker, yes.

Mc And he died, much too soon.

H Yes. He had been in the Korean War, and he went through that and got out and then they got married and they were treating him for Cholesterol. Instead of that the artery that was supposed to be to go into his heart wasn't any bigger than a vein, and they were treating him for Cholesterol. The one day going to work, they got up there by there west of Middleport and he says to the fellow that was riding with them: "You drive, I don't feel good." And he got out and walked around the car, and got in and sat down, and boom, he was gone. He was 29.

Mc Since then Sandy has remarried ?

H Oh yeah, to "Ace" Caldwell. His real name is Waldo.

Mc I think she was very fortunate to have you folks. What about her sister, you said there was a sister ?

H Yes, Cheryl. Well she got married.

Mc She was older ?

H She was 17 years old.

Mc I think you told me <sup>that</sup> when you were going with the woman who became your wife, ~~was it~~ your father ~~that~~ made a real good statement. What was it that he said when he met Helen ?

H Well I went with her for quite a while and finally I decided to bring her home and show her to my folks. So my dad was over working in the bakery, cleaning up on a Sunday morning, I had brought Helen up to the house and introduced her to my mother, and my father come in and I introduced her to him. ~~and~~ He walked around and he took a hold of her arm and he says: "Now you're a nice corn-fed mama; what's your intentions toward my son ?" I could have killed him ! ! (Laughter)

Mc You were married in 1933. Were you married in Medina ?

H At the Parsonage at the Baptist Church. We had quite a bit of "loot" after we got married when we come out to the car. We had a 50 pound cake of ice, a bucket of coal, and some bottles of milk.

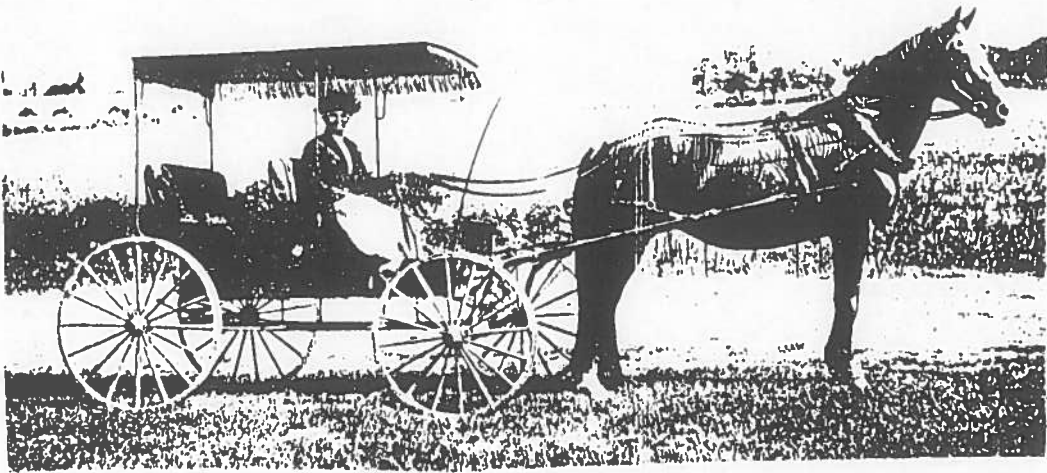
Mc Why did you have that ?

H Well, the coal dealer and the milk dealer and the ice man - - - they were all on the outside when we come out of the Parsonage, waiting, and they put it in the car. (Laughter)

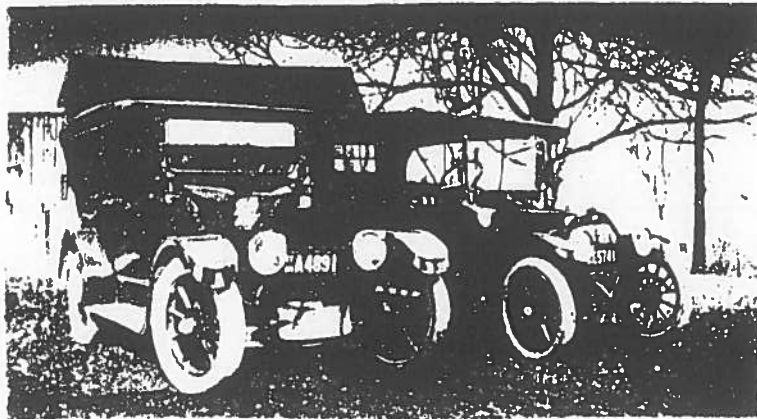
Mc When you were married in 1933, where were you working, Wes ?

H I was working for an outfit, John Foster from Medina owned it, and they called it the Red Seal Service. It was drawing gasoline out of Pennsylvania, by semi-trailer. And on this semi-trailer deal, I was the first one to drive one in this part of the country. The only one that was anywhere near like it was out of Buffalo. It was a Chevrolet truck that was pulling a semi-trailer and they used to send guys out of General Motors, even from Detroit, to ride with me to see how it acted. Some of them wouldn't even ride across the bridge or up a hill, they'd get out and walk.

Well, after I got through with Foster, I went to running a garage under Medina Parts. And we sold the Graham Car, my partner and I.



Grandma Selma Bacon driving "Muggs" on Erin Road, Medina  
(early 1900's)



the Reo automobile 1914



the Graham automobile 1938

H He was Louie Capelli's brother, Joe Capelli. We sold cars there for two or three years. There was a Dr. Jackson, he bought three one year. He wrecked two.

Mc What kind of car did you sell ?

H The Graham. They called it a Graham Super Charger. It got good mileage, very good.

Mc When you were in partnership with Joe Capelli, where were you located ?

H Under Medina Parts, down the hill.

Mc Where Case's Wallpaper is, in the area ?

H That's right. We had that whole cellar part, as they called it. The old jail was in there, and it went way back under the street.

Mc When you say the old jail, tell me about that; what do you mean ?

H Well, that's where, years ago they had the Police Station in there too, instead of the City Hall, where it is now. Those cells that they had down there were still there when we was there and we used to go back and look at them. It was very small; I don't know how anybody ever fit in them. We done a lot of repair work there for Payjack. He didn't have a Repair Department of his own, so he sent all his Chevrolets down there to have them serviced for delivery, and we washed them and got them all ready to go for Johnny Payjack.

Mc Did you only work on the Graham Car ?

H Oh, we worked on every car. We worked on the Chevrolets, and anything, Studebackers, at that time, and then Franklins, they had the air-cooled engine car, and any car that came in we worked on it.

Mc How long were you in partnership with Mr. Capelli ?

H It was a couple of years, I think.

Mc Did you say you were a "silent partner" ?

H Yeah, my name didn't carry on the thing, it was Joe Capelli's Garage, but I was in with him. In other words - - - the Graham car was my car.

Mc What do you mean when you say: "your car" ?



H Well, we had a demonstrator and I bought it. It was my car at that time and we demonstrated and sold cars from that.

Mc At one time didn't you work for the Maxal Petroleum Company of Buffalo ?

H Yes. That's when I got kind of tired of doing all the work in the garage, down in Medina Parts. Lee Skinner come along one day, up to the house, and he says to me: "Wes, I got a good job for you up in Buffalo." And I says: "You have, eh?" He says: "Yes." "What is it?" He says: "Just what you used to do, driving a gasoline truck." And so I went up and seen this man that was supposed to be the head guy, in the stockholders organization, and talked with him. Well I went to work right away, then. Well, that was on a week-end and I went to work on the Monday; I went to work right away. I went to Buffalo and I worked for the Maxal Petroleum, they called it. That consisted of - - - there was Justin Roberts, Howard Vincent, and Claude Grinnell, and there was Cady Lacy, and Charlie Hawks from Medina Parts. I worked there until - - - it kind of faded out and I was the last one to draw a pay check from that company.

Mc Is this the time when you were driving, <sup>and</sup> when you were carryin lots of money ?

H Oh yes. I had a lot of money to take it into Buffalo every now and then from - - - see, Claude Grinnell was the Treasure of it.

Mc How did you carry the money; was it a check ?

H No, not at first. I had a big white envelope. They'd bring it over - - - I lived right across from Claude Grinnell on Park Avenue. He'd bring it over and ring the door-bell, and I'd go down, and he'd say: "Here, Wes, take this up with you in the morning." So I did that, and I'd take it upstairs, and I'd throw it where I had my work clothes or where my shoes was, I'd throw it on the floor, never give it a thought.

Mc Did you know what you had ?



H Not at the time, when it started. Until one <sup>day</sup> I stood there, after I delivered it in Buffalo, and he opened it - - - this Mitch Smith opened the envelope and took out all this money! I decided then and there that that was the last cash I was going to carry; so I went back and refused to take any cash. The guy says: "From now on it's going to be a check."

Mc That would protect you.

H He could have said at any time: "I didn't get this \$20,000.00." or whatever it was !

Mc You did that for about three years, is that right ?

H Yes.

Mc Was it before or after this time that you worked for the S.A. Cook Company ?

H I worked for S.A. Cook Company when I first came to Medina, in 1930. I worked up in the erecting room making davenport frames and stuffed chair frames. And, in the summertime I'd go down to the lake and I'd work for Claude Howell and the bunch of them - - the Cooks. (Note: This summer "cottage complex" was located at Lakeside Bluff and included a private miniature golf course.) I worked down around the cottage with the little dump truck, they had there and grade the lawn and stuff like that. Then in the wintertime I'd go back up in the factory. Seems that one of the stockholders was kicking 'cause I was working all the time, ~~and~~ Roland Howell came to me one day and he says: "Well, Wes, I'm sorry but I'm going to have to lay you off. But the ones thats making all the trouble can't do the work you're doing." "Well," I says; "That's all right." He says: "If you ever want another job, or ever want a job and we're in business, you come to us and I'll make room for you." But I never went back. I went out and got another job.

Mc When you got through at S.A. Cook, did you have any trouble finding another job? That was in the middle of the Depression ?

H Well, yes, there wasn't too much work. So (boarding with) Louie Capelli, he had this Automobile Paint Shop, and I used to go over there and do a little - - - well, help him a little to help pay my room and board.

Mc Where was that located ?

H Worthy and Meade Avenue.

Mc ~~well~~ During the Depression how could people afford to get their cars painted ?

H This was mostly dealers; it was a \$35.00 paint job, see. Like Johnny Payjack would maybe send two or three cars a week over. Get second hand cars - - get enameled paint, not lacquer, but enamel paint sprayed on.

Mc You had a spray-can at that time ?

H Yeah, sure. They sprayed paint on then. That's what I don't think helped Louie too much, ~~was~~ He never wore a mask and he just inhaled that stuff and I think that was half of his trouble.

Mc We probably were not aware of the dangers.

H Oh the danger was - - - I myself didn't wear one. And I worked in there just like he did, and you couldn't see through the fog of the paint.

Mc After this you held a number of other jobs. Have we talked about those ?

H We talked about the Red Seal Service, I went there. Then I went in under Medina Parts and we stayed there until - - - well I was doing all the grease-monkey work and I got sick of it. Then I went up to Maxal in Buffalo and I worked there until that went out of business. Then I come back and - - - I got unemployment, that was the only time, for I don't know how many weeks. Finally I got a job up to Niagara Chemical in Middleport.

Mc That would have been about in 1939 ?

H Yes.

H I worked there, and then World War II started and I got a 90 Day Deferment because I was working on government work up there. They didn't have it set up right or I would have been deferred for the duration, but they missed it and they drafted me.

Mc You were about 38 at that time. 38 years old and you were drafted !

H I was drafted and at 38 they wasn't going to draft them any more and I got out of the service after going through technical school.

Mc You were in the Air Force, is that right ?

H That's right. I was at Scott Air Base or Scott Field, as they called it then.

Mc Where was that ?

H Illinois. We used to go in to St. Louis and then out again to Scott Field.

Mc There's a handsome picture of you here in uniform, you don't look 38 !

H That was before the heart attack.

Mc You've lived on Park Avenue for a number of years ?

H 17 years. George Carpenter and Lina had their house and they had three apartments, their own and two others upstairs. We rented one of the upstairs apartments.

Mc I think you told me when Dr. Leone first came to town you were one of his first patients ?

H He come to town and he lived right on the corner - - - well he lived where he's living now, practically, in that same house. If I got hurt or something or cut or something, I would go to him. But we was skiing out here one night and my friend cut his knee wide open, so the first place we went was right up to Doc Leone. (NOTE: SEE Dr. Leone transcript)  
Doctor,  
Leone operated on me for a hernia and we was always pretty good friends. His sons used to come down here, when I had the business, with their Go-carts and I'd fix them.

Heitz

15 1/2



Wesley Heitz 1943

- Mc You said that you had a heart attack while at Niagara Chemical. I believe you said you were hoisting some castings. Were you doing this alone ?
- H We had a half-ton hoist and 3200 pound castings that I was moving, and no help. They were for Brake Shoe, over here, after Brake Shoe started. All of a sudden I got kind of shaky and went out and laid down and it didn't do any good, and I went up to the nurse, and she says: "Do you want to lay down ?" And I says: "No, I've tried that, and it don't work." So she called somebody and they took me down to Doc Lowenstein in Middleport. He was on call for the factory at that time. He took one look at me and sent me to the hospital. I was working on cast steel and was I black; my hands and my face. And they took me in and they put me in bed and not one of the nurses would touch me for three days, to wash that stuff - - - to get that black off me, that cast iron dust !
- Mc Is that because you were so sick ?
- H See, I was in bed six weeks without getting my foot over the edge of the bed. Of course, I don't think they do that anymore.
- Mc Well, you were pretty sick. You were probably in Intensive Care ?
- H No I wasn't, I was out on the porch of the hospital, on the second floor.
- Mc It's changed.
- H There was no Intensive Care then. But, nobody wanted to touch me until I began to come around. Then finally I got washed, cleaned up, but - - Boy !, did I feel filthy !
- Mc I'm glad you survived. You seem to be doing very well.
- Mc After that you had your own garage ?
- H After I had the heart attack, being mechanically inclined most of my life, I went up, 'cause I knew Gordon Plummer, and hung around his garage, up there where Wolcott's Dairy was up there on Proctor Place. We hung around there and pretty soon he said one day: "Why don't you start up a

small engine-business ?" I says: "Well, I don't know ?" So he says: "O-K." So, I didn't know. He went over and put an ad in the paper, and I started getting Briggs and Stratton Engines in and things to fix, And I'd fix them. Finally I got authorized dealerships for parts and service, and I got it going and took over half the building. Then Wolcott come along and bought that building out, after 10 years.

Mc Now is this where Wolcott's Dairy was, where the present Medina Dairy is ?

H Yes. So Gordon had to move and I had to move, Gordon went up in what was the Iroquois Hotel. It was a gas station out in front then of what is now Super-Duper parking lot. He went in there to run his garage, and I came down here and opened my own garage.

Mc Down here on Maple Avenue, yes.

H Opened my own business - - - and I ran another 10 years here

Mc You repaired lawn mowers and sharpened them. I remember we brought a lawn mower here once; you did a very good job. Did you also handle golf carts ?

H Well, I did a few. I didn't like that though, they was too bulky to handle. So, I just stuck to the stuff that was more my line.

Mc Did you sell golf carts too ?

H No, I sold the Toro Lawn Mower. I sold a lot of Toro Lawn Mowers.

Mc You were their exclusive dealer around here ?

H Yes. The closest one was - - - well, Johnson's Creek or Knowlesville. I was the one in between. I sold Brake Shoe a lawn mower; a \$1100.00 lawn mower! I did all my dealing on that with Eaton and Clinton, out of Hamburg.

Mc Wes, in 1950 you and your wife moved down here to your present homestead. This house has been in the family for a long time hasn't it ?

H That's right. It's been in the family well over 100 years.

Her father's father was here, her father, and she was born here.

Mc By she, you mean your wife ?

H My wife, Helen, yes.

Mc Her father's name was James Gray ?

H Yes.

Mc Who was the father before him ?

H Henry Gray.

Mc Did I understand, Wes, that you refused to move into this house until they had done what ?

H We had to build a bathroom on !

Mc Did n't they have a bathroom here ?

H No.

Mc What did they have ?

H Just one of those "Chick Sales".

Mc One of those buildings out in back ?

H That's right. There wasn't anything else but, in the whole neighborhood!

Mc And now it's all very modern.

H Well, it's as modern as you can make it yourself by putting in your own systems.



Mc You've seen lots of changes in this whole area. Do I understand that some of your ancestors worked on the development of Glenwood Lake ?

H Yes, they did. I had an Uncle Bob, he was Time-keeper for the job. His whole name was Robert Martin. His mother was cook. I don't know her first name. They worked down here on the dam, at Glenwood Lake. And they told me about having to - - - well what they called ... we knew the hill first as Self's Hill, and later as Campana's Hill. ...

- - - They had these two-wheel scoops, drawn by horses, and that's a man made lake, and they scooped that out. Went up on the hill and dumped the scoop, tipped it back, and went down and scraped up some more and brought it up. And every once in a while the horse would break a leg and they shot it where it was and covered it up with dirt. There must be a lot of horse skulls in that hill!



Mc Why did they build the lake over there ?

H For power for Swett's Dam. You see, Swett had an electric company of his own and he built that to get the generators. And along between the Canal and which is now the Dam, there was three generators located. And Swett went as far as Middleport with electricity, which when we had the Bakery they - - we had the Middleport Electric Company and the Swett Electric Company, so that when the power went off on one we switched to the other.

Mc You said it was your aunt that did the cooking ?

H No, it was a - - - you see, "Uncle Bob," as I called him, was married to my Aunt Frances, and his mother was the one that done the cooking.

Mc Who would she cook for, the workers ?

H The workers, yes.

Mc Well who were the workers; were they people from around here ?

H They were just like a railroad crew or something else. They had a camp over there and a place that they cooked and fed them and everything. That's about all I can tell you about that.

Mc How long did it take, approximately ?

H I haven't the slightest idea. All I knew is that he came down here once and told me. He says: "Right over here on Glenwood Lake, I worked down there as Time-keeper and my mother was the cook." And that's the first time I knew anything about it being here.

Mc Is Glenwood Lake used for anything at all other than to back up the Cemetery ?

H Oh, they just put in another generator over there on the spill-way. They had one, now they got two.

Mc That's not Swetts anymore is it ?

H No, that's Niagara Mohawk.

Mc Wes, you belong to several organizations, or have in the past ?

H Yes. The Moose, I was in there - - - well everybody thought



I was a charter member, but I wasn't. Then I belong to the Masons.

Mc Do you have a degree in the Masonic Order ?

H No, I never tried because it would make too much - - - well, the way I looked at it - - that your wife, if you go for the office, has a lot of work to do and <sup>she</sup> didn't have time to <sup>Helén</sup> it, so I just laid low.

Mc Helén, you are here and not interrupting or anything, but you are sitting here, and I'm thinking of all the years that you have worked at the Newell Shirt Factory. How many years have you worked there ?

HH I went there in 1922 and got through in 1972.

Mc That's just 50 years.

HH That's right.

Mc Did you see lots of changes ?

HH Oh, yes, so many people, you know, come for just a few years and go, but we had a lot of fun together up there.

Mc Have the working conditions changed at all ?

HH Yes. I started for \$8.00 a week. And, we worked from 7 A.M.'til 5 P.M., and sometimes on Saturdays, and I guess I worked for about three or four months for \$8.00 and I thought "that's just too little." So then I got a raise, but it was just like pulling teeth to get a raise.

Mc What did you do, were you working at a sewing machine or what ?

HH Well, they started me out on a sewing machine, sewing, but I had no aptitude for that at all. And then they put me on the button machine, sewing on buttons by machine, and the button hole machine. And the first day I started on the button machine, I broke a whole box of needles. Every button I tried to sew on, I broke a needle. I couldn't understand it until the girl who had been running it came in and she said: "Oh, I forgot to change the machine from four-hole buttons to two-hole buttons !" And I was trying to sew two-hole buttons and the machine was set for four-hole buttons. So after that, why, I got along real well,

and I just loved my work.

Mc Did you always, then, work on buttons ?

HH I made button holes and sewed on buttons.

Mc The material is very nice, isn't it ?

HH Oh, yes. My husband has got some shirts in there that he must have had for 20 or so odd years and they still are just as good as the day we had them made.

Mc Is their business good enough to keep going ?

HH Well, it has changed hands, of course, now.

Mc Who owns it now ?

HH Bert Raymond.

Mc It's out of the Newells ?

HH Yes. It's out of their hands. Paul Kuhn and his wife, of course, - - - he was the owner after his mother died. Then he sold it to these people.

When I came out they were just coming there.

Mc You had employment all through the Depression then ?

HH Oh, yes, I worked all the time.

Mc You were very fortunate.

HH Yes. Then, as I got older, why, I only worked part time and like that; just when they needed me and like that.

Mc They probably changed their wages and their time schedules

HH Yes, but then they had to. You know - - - when they had to pay \$3.00 an hour. I imagine it's up there now more than that.

Mc About how many people does Newell Shirt Factory employ ?

HH Now, oh, I wouldn't know.

Mc When you last worked there ?

HH Oh, I think there was about 75.

Mc Are they mostly women ?

HH Yes, they were mostly women, and then some of the men worked in the laundry and in the cutting room. Eola Holland, she worked in the cutting room; she was a draftsman, draft-lady, and she is now about 90-some years old, she's still alive. And Edna McKnight, and Alice Batt.

Mc Well, you've made a lot of friends, too.

HH Oh, heavens yes !

Mc Do you have a group that get together ?  
HH No, not right now, but we did for a while there. It's hard when everyone is married, you know; most of them are all married women, and it's hard to do that anymore.

Mc I want to thank both of you very much for this interview, we really appreciate it, Wes and Helen.

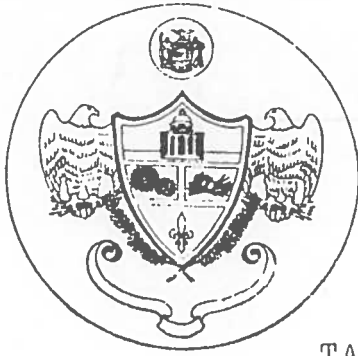
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Transcribed by Lysbeth Hoffman, Lakeside, New York.

Additions, corrections, deletions by Mr. and Mrs. Heitz.  
Edited by Helen McAllister, Medina, N.Y.

NOTE: An additional 30 minute tape, mostly about rum-running - was later completed to accompany this first part of the transcript.

ALSO NOTE: <sup>Helen</sup> Mrs. <sup>1</sup>Heitz' section of this interview led into her own 60 minute interview with the main subject being that she worked at the Newell Shirt Factory in Medina, N.Y. for fifty years.



# Orleans County Historical Association

TABLE OF CONTENTS Mr. Wesley Heitz INTERVIEW

# 2

## SUBJECTS

### \* Prohibition \*

rum runners

rum runners signals

rum runners transportation of liquor

deliveries of liquor, etc.

bootleg liquor

Dago Red Wine

drinking habits in general

Federal Agents

Town Watchmen



# 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.

Wesley Heitz

Signed

2-24-1981

Date

Understood and agreed to:

Helen M. McAllister

INTERVIEWER

2-24-1981

Date

This is tape 2, a continuation of an interview with MR. WESLEY HEITZ, of Maple Avenue in Medina, New York.

Mc Mr. Heitz, you were telling me a little bit about being young and carefree in the time of Prohibition.

H That's right.

Mc Where had you been living at that time ?

H Middleport. I used to go with girls from Lockport. On the way to Lockport I used to stop at ~~this~~ - - - what they called "The Cottage Inn", run by Josey, I can't think of her last name. You would get acquainted, and you would get a glass of home brew beer, and then go to Lockport. Then on the way back, you would get one on the way home. After a while, when you got well known, they'd approach you: "I've got some stuff I want to pick up on the River Road." *(Be a rum-runner).*

Mc Where was the River Road ?

H In the vicinity of 555 River Road, Town of Tonawanda; up that way. Seems like it come up from the bank, but I never seen it. Because they brought it up, put it in the cars and they drove away.

Mc What do you mean, came up from the bank ?

H The Niagara River bank.

Mc How was <sup>it</sup> whatever you got, how was it packaged ?

H It was bottled and tied up, so many bottles to a burlap that they made up, maybe eight bottles or ten bottles. It wasn't a 12 bottle case. It was the way they could make a burlap package so they could handle it. Then they would bring that in and put it in the car. You never touched it.

Mc Did the bottles rattle ?

H No, they was tight enough so that they didn't make any noise. They had straw in between them, inside of that and they was all wrapped and sewed. They didn't make any noise. They would give you this stuff and say: "O-K, go ahead." You had an envelope in your pocket, you handed it to them. That must have been a check or

money or whatever it was.

Mc Now this person, Josey, perhaps would have told you to go to a certain place, and she would have given you the money or the envelope ?

H Yes.

Mc Then they would tell you to take it back to her place, is that right ?

H I knew I had to come back with it, because she already said: "Here, go get this and bring it back." I done that two or three times when I needed some money. I made about \$80.00 a trip, and used her car. The last trip I made, coming back to her place - - - well a "revenueor", you might call him, took after me down in Lewiston. I had this Hudson sedan. It was a coupe with the driver's seat all alone, the tip-up seat in the front, then a seat along the back, and it would probably carry about five people, and that was loaded right up to the top, practically. As I got down out of Lewiston, they took two or three shots at me. Well that scared me pretty bad, so I took off.

Mc You mean you went faster? ~~in the car?~~

H Oh yes ! I took off then, I wasn't fooling. I was just keeping ahead of them before, then after they shot at me I wanted to get away from them ! So I took off. So I went down and pulled in that place that was like a lane down in the back country there. There was a dirt road that crossed there, it eventually wound up to be a short-cut to Lockport. I drove down there and all the way down through there I was pushing those burlap bags and things out of the car.

Mc Dumping them out as you went along ?

H Yes, as I went along. I'd grab one of them and throw them out the door and then throw another one. And I got down the road until I was empty, and I turned and come up the road out of Gasport, up through on the Royalton Center Road and back to her place, and drove in and they was still there looking around. So I come in from the other direction, and they was trying to find the car. Well they found the car but they didn't have the license 'cause

they didn't get that close to it. They checked it all over and I had to answer a lot of questions. Well, that was the end of that for me !

Mc What about the money that she had paid for this "Boot-leg Liquor" ?

H Well she got her liquor; it was all down in the lot.

Mc You mean the bottles didn't break ?

H No, they were packed in straw with the burlap and so tight, you see, and as you pushed them out they just dropped onto the ground, the grass. I went through fences and gates and everything else!

Mc Did the cars have extra support on the back to keep them from dragging down when they got loaded up or not ?

H No. When they got loaded, \_\_\_\_\_ they was dragging just like any other. They had four springs on them which in my word would be stronger than the cars today with the coil springs. I don't know if she had this car made special for that or not; but at least I made four trips, and then I got out of it.

Mc During the time of Prohibition, which covered a number of years, there were quite a number of "Open Bars" weren't there ?

H Oh yes. There was all kinds of places. Down in Medina there was Caahy Hoey's. In Middleport there was Mulcahey's and Jim Casey, and George Henton had ~~X~~ - - - The Middleport Hotel. He had a place in there that you could get a beer or liquor or whatever, if you wanted a drink. But they had to know you or you didn't get in.

Mc How did they know you, even if they didn't "know you"? Did you have a pass-word ?

H Well, as an example: Up at the Corner of the Transit and the Buffalo Road, there was three "Speak-Easys", there was Kipples, there was Finks, and I can't remember the one on the south west corner of the Transit. All those places you could go right up to the door and if you knew somebody they knew, you'd mention their name and you could get in. I'd been up to those places and I'd be over at Pete Kipples



and went across Buffalo Road on the other side when they would get raided and they would all run from there over to our place, the place I was at. The bar-tender got shot up there ~~one day~~; one night. I had this girl from Lockport and we used to stop there. She used to entertain, her name was Bobbi <sup>Peet</sup> ~~Peach~~; she was only a little bit of a tike, and whenever I went in, the first thing they would get her. You never had to pay a bill when you went in with her. She'd entertain them.

MC What do you mean: "entertain them" ?

H She sang and done a few dance steps and so on. She was well known, she had quite a following, they all thought she was - - - when they had the dance hall down to Shadigee, she was down there two or three times.

MC What did you say her name was ?

H Bobbi Peet.

MC You said that after you met the woman who became your wife, you decided not to have anything more to do with helping with this rum-running at all?

H I didn't. All I did was sit by and watch. I quit. It wouldn't have been too good to get in trouble and be going with Helen and have her hurt. So I says: "What the heck."

MC Decided not to take the chances?

H It was too risky.

MC Do you remember anything other than small arrests; were there any big arrests where the police really were really aware of what was going on ?

H Well I think they knew everybody that was in it. There was Hedley, down to Olcott. He had this big <sup>52 ft.</sup> boat, and he run it. He used to take passengers out on it.

MC What was the name of that boat ? Was that the "Humpty Dumpty Breezy Lake Ride" ?

H That was it! He'd get caught with a whole load of contraband on it of boot-leg liquor. They'd take boat

and all and arrest him. They'd take the boat either to up by the Niagara River or down by Rochester and after a time they would hold an auction. He would send somebody down to bid on it and get it right back again! It was just one of those things that went round and round.

Mc That was a good size boat, wasn't it ?

H Oh yes. That used to hold 40 or 50 passengers. That was a big boat. They could carry a lot of stuff on that.

Mc They didn't always have liquor on board?

H Oh no. When they used it for passenger service it was legitimate. But it was just a "blind" to cover up, cause he was out on the lake all the time and it was nothing to see a boat out there. So he'd sneak up and get a load and bring it down.

Mc Tell me about a lot of the boats that did this "rum-running"; were they pretty good size ?

H There was some that were not too big. There were little guys and big guys, and there was some like Hedley that had boats not quite as big or a little bigger. Then there was even a Cris Craft, a motor boat, that they'd make maybe two or three trips in a night.

Mc There must have been a pretty good profit in that.

H There had to be.

Mc Who went over to do this, just people like yourself or were there big groups or big organizations that did it ?

H No, I don't think they was organized any. There was just people that would want a piece of the pie and they'd run over and make a trip and come back. They might do it once, or they might do it 100 times.

Mc So if they went over and got whatever they got and came back with it, who would do the unloading ?

H Well the small guys did their own. They'd pull into shore and drop it off in 18 or 20 inches of water, take the boat away, and then come back and wade in and hook it out, and put it on the lake shore someplace, and then a truck would come down and they'd load the truck and

they'd bring it up to this section.

MC Now, to put it in a barn means that they had to have the cooperation of a farmer.

H Yes.

MC Were there quite a few farmers involved ?

H Everyone of them along the lake shore was in on it. We've set there and watched them, night after night.

MC How did the boats know where to come in the dark ?

H They had signals for them. They had different signals that they used. Some had flash-lights and some had lanterns. One I knew hung a lantern up in the hay mound on the unloading doors that swung open to bring the hay in. One lantern hung up, and if the revenuers showed up there'd be two lanterns hanging there, and then they wouldn't come in.

It was a lot of fun and all that as long as you didn't get caught. But I imagine you could have got yourself into trouble.

MC When the stuff was loaded then somebody had to have a truck to come down and pick it up, is that right ?

H Oh, it was transported from place to place, from different ones.

MC Would they just have one car or truck taking the boot-leg liquor where-ever?

H They didn't deliver, like so many here and so many there. One guy would bring in, say 50 cases, and he'd take care of it one way or another; if he had to take it out five at a time to this place and that place and the next place. It wasn't organized enough to have a distributing situation. Boy, them was 'the good old days'! (laughter)

(end of side one)

MC What kind of Boot-leg Liquor was there; was it all one kind ?

H Oh no, ~~it was~~ - - - they had all kinds. They had Scotch. You see, Canada would get it from England and Ireland. They had Irish Whiskey and Scotch and all these different brands. Then they had Bath-tub Gin that they used to make themselves.

Mc Now, what's "Bath-tub Gin" ?  
H Well, alcohol, distilled water, and juniper berries. They used to make that and bottle it and sell it for Gin. In those days they made a drink that they called "The Orange Blossom." Well, it was only Gin and orange-juice, and most any place had that.

Mc What about wine, was that illegal too ?  
H The only wine was like when some guy had a vineyard and he made his own wine. Like Charlie Campana down here, he had a vineyard out here and he made wine.

Mc Now if he gave it to you, that was not illegal?  
H That wasn't.

Mc But if he sold it, then it was illegal ?  
H Some people he gave it to and some people he sold it to. He was always trying to get me "loaded" on that "Dago Red".

Mc That was the name of the wine ?  
H Yeah. There was no sugar, it was just plain fermented grape juice and it was red, and boy did it have a kick to it!

Mc Another person that was interviewed talked about "Dago Red" wine, said it really did have a kick to it.  
H Yeah, there was a lot of grapes grown around here. He had an old press and a winery out in back of the garage down there.

Mc Was that a hand press ?  
H Yes. He'd have eight or ten barrels of wine every year. People would come and buy it by the gallon and so on. Once in a while, if he could get ahold of me, he would get me down there and try to get me "loaded" - - - I don't know, it was just for spite, I guess.

Mc What do you mean, "get you loaded" ?  
H With too much wine to drink. Finally I decided and I said to him: "Charlie, you've had it. No more of this. I'll take one drink."

Mc For the women in those days, that was time time of "Robbed Hair" and "Flappers" and that sort of thing, Do you think all of this had anything to do with women

getting into drinking more? Did they drink as much as they do today ?

H Oh, I don't know. Helen never took a drink while I was with her. I've taken her in those places.

Mc But were there women in there drinking ?

H Oh yes. There was all types of women, just like today. There was no difference. Only thing was it was a little more hushed up than it is today. Today it's more open. All the girls I went with had "Bobbed Hair", but I don't remember any of them taking a drink. I never took any of them with me only to Kipples' Place up on the Buffalo Road and Transit. Well I took two or three girls in there.

Mc When you would go into a "Speak-Easy", would they have some kind of music too ?

H Oh yeah. They had a five piece orchestra in most of the places. They were all good musicians. They wasn't any "Funkys".

Mc Have you and Helen always enjoyed dancing ?

H Oh yes. Down in Olcott I met her in Jake Aldrich's Dance Hall. She sat there and I walked in and said that/sh<sup>e</sup> was the one I wanted to dance with and I was introduced to her. They had a five piece orchestra there too.

Mc What were you telling me about dancing in Boston ?  
Not recently, but quite recently.

H When we was in what they called the Sun Tong Resturant, We went in and I says: "Well let's dance." And we started to dance and the fellow with the orchestra picked up "Young At Heart".

Mc That's a good song. And then you danced ?

H We started to dance & they played "Young at Heart", The dance made a circle around us & clapped & stamped their feet. There was 12 in our party & we had a ball! We always had fun when

Mc ~~Back to Boston~~ <sup>went to Boston</sup>; can you think of any pranks that were pulled on some of these people ?

H Oh yeah. My dad worked in the Bakery all night, there in Fenton's Hotel in Middleport, and there was a Model T Ford pulled up with all this Home-brew in it. The man was selling it and making deliveries. While <sup>the man</sup> ~~was~~ in the hotel making the delivery, my dad unloaded it into George Fenton's hedge. <sup>When the man</sup> ~~came back~~ came back to his car, it was empty. He looked all over and couldn't find it. He come in the

Bakery and he wanted to know if my dad saw anybody steal his stuff from out of his car, and my dad says: "No."

Dad let him look for awhile and finally he told him: "It's over in the hedge, in Fenton's hedge, next door."

In Medina, you might find a car stuck on the road and when you'd stop to help you'd find it was loaded with Home-brew and Boot-leg and stuff.

Mc So a lot of people really were involved ?

H Oh yes, there was a lot of them involved.

Mc I take it that the police officials really weren't cracker-jacks at nailing down the people ?

H Oh, it was almost impossible. You take a night watchman like Medina had, and Middleport had a night watchman, and they were walking. What could they do ? They didn't have cars and motorcycles. They couldn't chase you. You had a car load of stuff then anything that could catch you would be Federal Agents, 'cause they had the cars to chase you with. The areas only had Town Watchmen then, that's all there was, and one during the day - - - didn't have nothing but his feet. They did a good job, even then.

Mc Do you remember any of the boats being wrecked accidentally, coming in with liquor ?

H No. I don't ever remember any of them getting wrecked.

Mc They didn't bump into any rocks, or anything ?

H There was rocks there, but they used to pull the boats in for a certain length and they were pretty careful. I never seen them wreck any. Oh, maybe they did ! I've heard such and such <sup>a boat</sup> about getting a hole stoved in the hull of it, but I never seen any. It wasn't too common.

Mc Was any of this business ever written up in newspapers ?

H Oh, when they'd catch somebody you would read a article in the paper of course. It took quite a while for the news to get there and then for the papers. Well, the first radio we had was an old Atwater Kent that run on a car battery. There was "Cat Whiskers" for receivers.

Mc Did they have News Broadcasts from the radios in those days

H Not too much. They had music. And mostly everybody was trying to see how far they could get from home on the little sets that they had. They <sup>were not</sup> ~~was~~ interested in the program,

it was just how far away they could get. Gee wizz, I got Cleveland, I got Cincinnati and so on.

Mc Do you think the drinking habits today, the drinking habits of the public today, are better or worse for having Prohibition ?

H I don't know. Nobody drank too much during Prohibition — I wouldn't say, as much as they do today. Today, yes, there's a lot of them that are killed. I'll put it this way; the average teen-ager couldn't get in a place to buy a drink; if he did, it was very unusual.

Mc But today they can.

H These places used to police themselves and they did a good job of it. But today you can go in any grocery store and buy a six-pack of beer and nobody questions it. I would say that maybe today there's more drinking than there was years ago. We only drank years ago because you couldn't get it ! You just wanted to show them that "I can get a drink if I wanted to," and that was about all there was to it.

Mc And yet Prohibition was not the answer, really?

H No it wasn't. It just made money for a few people.

Mc A lot for some people.

H Oh yes. If you go back to Chicago it really was there too. Right after that Valentine's murder, we was in Chicago in 1934. We wondered what the holes was in the garage we parked in, and it was where the murders was!

Mc There were holes ?

H Right where they lined them up and shot them in that Valentine's Day Murder deal. We went down and we was to the World's Fair and we was going to go to the theater and we parked in this place and we said: "Look at all that along there. What's that mean ?" Well that was where they shot those guys, and we didn't know it.

Mc How did you and Helen find that out ?

H ~~Oh, we was home a couple of years. NO +~~ We found it out in Chicago from the people we was calling on.

Mrs. H And where we went to have a drink, it was in a jail, ~~and~~ you went in, and they closed the doors on you and locked

you in.  
Mc You mean it was decorated to look like a jail ?  
Mrs. H It was a jail.  
Mc A real jail ?  
Mrs. H Yes. And they made it into a drinkery, and we went in  
and we would sit at the table and they would lock the  
door.  
H You was in jail while you had your drink. *(laughter)*  
Mc Thank you very much, Wes, for continuing this, *interviews* it helps  
a lot in gathering area history.

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(Note: Mr. Hedley, the owner of the "Humpty Dumpty Breezy  
Lake Ride", real name was Captain David Hedley. He was better  
known as "Cap" Hedley. The boat was 52 feet in length and  
was moored at Olcott for many years after Prohibition. A  
grandson of "Cap" Hedley is the present owner of the Hedley  
Boat Yard at Olcott. ); from Lysbeth Hoffman, Lakeside, N.Y.

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Transcribed by:

Lysbeth Hoffman of Lakeside.

Several additions and corrections ~~were~~ made by Mr. & Mrs. Heitz.

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