

Eldoris Sinclair

Narrator

With comments by Robert/Bob Sinclair

Rebecca A. Mavencamp

Greenfield Historical Society

Interviewer

September 27, 2013

At the home of Doris and Robert Sinclair

Rockford, Minnesota

DS: Doris Sinclair

BS: Robert/Bob Sinclair

RM: Rebecca Mavencamp

This project is for the Greenfield Historical Society courtesy of a grant from the Minnesota Historical and Cultural Grants Program, made possible by the Arts and Cultural Heritage Fund through a vote of Minnesotans on November 4, 2008. The tape and its transcript will be put into an archive for use by researchers and future generations. Thank you for participating in this project.

[Unrelated conversation]

RM: We are here on September 27, 2013 and I'm Rebecca Mavencamp, interviewing Doris Sinclair. Could you spell your name for me, please?

DS: Doris Sinclair. S-I-N-C-L-A-I-R. The gas and oil company magnate, not a relative unfortunately. But today is the 27th of September, 2013.

RM: Could you tell us where you were born and how you ended up where you are?

DS: I was born in Hanover, Minnesota, actually above what is now River Inn. My parents owned it at that time. When they owned it, it was a tavern and a butcher shop and a barbershop and a soda fountain affair kind of thing. We lived there until I was five, when my parents decided that that was not the best for a family with children. The store in Rockford became available and my Dad bought the grocery store. We've lived in Rockford except for the time that when I was married and we lived in Evanston, Illinois. My parents got older and needed help, so we sold our Robbinsdale house and came out here and built this house in 1972. We've been here ever since...6681 Maple Drive. So, we've been very happy here.

RM: You're married to...?

DS: Robert. Robert Charles Sinclair. His family moved from Minneapolis out to Lake Rebecca and there was a resort for sale there. They bought that resort and sent the kids to school. That's where I met him. We were juniors in high school when we first started dating, when we first met. He finished high school with me, in our grade. He could have graduated a year earlier, but you know [laughs], that was really kind of important that we were together. He took another whole year of doing nothing to graduate with us and then right out of the high school he went into the Navy. Right out of high school for me, I went to Macalester. Well, it wasn't called Macalester; it was Miss Wood's Training School. I went there to become a teacher and he was in the Navy. He was transferred around and that was during the Korean War. When he got out, why I just decided that, hey! That wasn't for me and we got married. I moved with him to Illinois and we lived there for five years until he was out of service. Then we came back here and lived in Robbinsdale for fifteen years and then built out here. So, that's where we've been--not moved around too much.

RM: Sounds like there's a lot more to that story [laughter]. We might want to hear that later! What was your maiden name?

DS: Lieder. L-I-E-D-E-R. My parents owned the grocery store and then they built what was commonly called the "dry goods store" next to it. That's where the fire took out the bar this last year [Cowboys]. That was my parent's original store and the dry goods store is still standing. I think where the dentist [Main Street Dental] has his business. Actually, when I was a kid, I don't how much Rockford history you want to know, but when I was a kid, Rockford was a much bigger town than it is now. We had at one time three grocery stores: my parents, Winking's grocery store, and Witcomb's had a little small grocery store. There was a Kaiser Frazer car dealership, a big hardware store and plumbing store; of course the bars were still there. Red Vest was there when I was kid. I don't think it was called that, I don't remember, Whitey's it was called. There was a bar up...the one that burnt down? There was a bar of there. In fact, that bar was the roots of the Rockford House being built up on Highway 55. They had wonderful food. Nelson. Joe Nelson was one who really built that up. The place was just packed. They had such good food, and then they built the Rockford House and then sold out to Whosicks. After that, I don't know...I guess Bill Sipe bought it.

RM: What was the original name of the bar?

DS: Downtown?

RM: By the Rockford House.

DS: The Rockford House, that's what they called it. It was up on [Highway] 55 across from the mall that's almost empty now.

RM: Where Billy's is?

DS: Where Sears is. The Rockford House was along there. They built on a bowling alley and so it was really a thriving business. Bill Sipe bought it. He and Marylyn ran it for years and they had really wonderful food. People came from all over. It was very nice... very, very nice place. Then it burnt down. I don't know what's with all the fires around but anyway, that was of course while we were we weren't living here. What other businesses were there? There was a locker plant and a butcher shop, Vullruffs. The post office...big post office downtown. There were, let's see...one, two, three, four, five filling stations downtown and Schlieff's garage--they did repair. They also had a filling station and let's see, there was a beauty shop down there...what else? Oh, in the hill by the Lutheran Church, there was a building built into the ground there. When I was a kid, there was a store in there called Patsy's Variety and I used to love to go in there. I'd get a quarter and go in there and they had all these different kinds of candies, all this different stuff that my mother's store didn't have, you know, and I thought it was a really cool place. After they went out of business, Mr. Monger had his shoe repair shop there for years and years. Let's see, what other businesses...oh! The lumber yard of course, that was there and was a really thriving business. On the corner across from the lumber yard was a house, where the bank is, and it was painted pink as I remember. They used to, on certain nights, have what was called...they made turtle soup and people would come and eat that.

RM: It was a restaurant? An official--

DS: It was a bar. This was one of the things that they did.

RM: Did they have a name?

DS: I can't remember what it was. It was there for many, many years. Let's see, there was, of course, the restaurant where Hanson's Auto is, called the Oasis. That changed hands many times, but the last people that owned it really had a tremendous business. Don and Elise Mutterer. She was an excellent cook. They sold it and I don't know what happened to it then. There was a restaurant downtown as well in the Masons building that is still there...where Bridge Street is. Oh! There was a blacksmith shop, two blacksmith shops, as a matter fact. Mr. Cutkey and...who was the other one? I don't remember. Oh! There was the Creamery. During the War that was a really big going business. They made dried milk. I can remember going and seeing these great big long, long machines

that the milk would go in and would go round and round and come out just like paper, like tissue paper pieces. They must have used that for the War effort somehow.

RM: Was this World War II?

DS: World War II. Mr. Norine was the butter maker and the owner of that creamery. That was a very thriving business. I think that was probably one of the biggest employers in Rockford. Quite a number people worked there. I know my uncle, Walter, worked there. Let's see, what else...? But anyway, you judge what I'm saying now? What businesses are there now and it's ludicrous. Cross Lutheran Church. There was a little white Episcopal Church, there was a Methodist Church, and there was a Presbyterian Church...those were the churches when I was a kid. It was a lot bigger place than it is now.

RM: With a lot less people?

DS: Right.

RM: How does that work?

DS: It worked fine because the outlying businesses, or the outlying farmers and all those people, were what kept the town going. Saturday night was just a jumping place [laughs] the women would come shopping at the store and the men would go to the bar next door. The women would sit and visit in our store. There was a bench there. They would always gather around the dry goods store while the men were in the bar. At ten o'clock sharp, when our store closed, the men would have to go home [laughter]. It was a Saturday night all of time, and of course I loved it because the kids came with the mother and dad and then we all got to play. We would play Run Sheep Run; we would play games all the time. We were so busy, I tell you, I just loved Saturday night. I was the only...well, I have three older brothers but they were all in the War so I was by myself. I just loved it when the farm kids came.

RM: How old were you about this time?

DS: Probably eight, right around there. Eight, nine. We moved here when I was five and that continued until I was school-age. All the same bunch of kids...we just all played together and looked forward to it. That was a big deal, to have friends come over. We weren't really into trouble but, I mean, compare! Rockford then to what it is now. It's sad.

RM: The sense of community that I hear you talking about on the Saturday night... [DS laughs] can you talk more about that?

DS: The farmers of course...it was...how do I say this without sounding... racist... I suppose? When we moved here from Hanover, I wasn't aware of this feeling, I was too young, but we were German heritage moving into an all English town. It was kind of

divided with Englishmen that patronized Winking's store and German heritage that patronized our store.

Oh, I have another one! There was a big produce company, right were Vergin Sales is, that Rudy Everson started. I guess that's what it was...they raised little chickens and all that kind of stuff. They also took in eggs. My parents also took eggs from the farmers, so they would bring in dozens of eggs and I would have to stand there and candle those eggs. There was one person running them over to see if there were they were good and I had to take them and put them in cases. That was after I was older and out of the play stage. Probably when I was twelve years old, that started. The farmers would bring in their eggs and they would have thirty dozen of grade A [conversation between nurse and Robert in background] and twenty dozen of some other grade. Then when we would send that slip up to the front desk, the women would have already shopped their groceries. We never actually got any money from it, we just bought their eggs and they traded. Barter, I suppose, that's how that operated. I remember I used to get so mad at the some people, and you can't blame them I guess, they would call and say, "How much are you paying for eggs today?" Then they would call the other store, "How much are you paying for eggs today?" Then of course they would take them to where they got the most money. My friend, Bill Vergin, worked Winking's store doing the same thing I did. On Saturday night after we got all the work done, that was our night to howl, we'd take turns...either my cousin, Leonard, or Bill Vergin could get his folk's car, or I could get my car every third week. Then on Saturday night after we got all of our work done and closed the store, we could stay out till midnight [laughs].

R: What did you do?

DS: Well...should I really tell you what we did?

RM: Yes!

DS: [laughs] Ohhh...! We'd go around...we knew the cars the kids drove, of course, and we followed this one couple. Wherever they would go, we would come behind them. [laughs] We'd just look, never bothered anything, but of course they would drive off. This is such a funny story: one time we found this couple down in the gravel pit--that's where the trailer court is now--oh man that was a place to go. There was a pond there that was like a swimming pool. We used to go in there and swim all the time, or wade in the water and fool around, because I don't swim. But anyhow, that gravel pit was the place to go, and there are lots of roads that you could do a lot of smooching on. [RM laughs] We had this whole carload of kids in Bill Vergin's car. Now his Dad, Fritz, was a big realtor in town. Anyhow, it was Bill Vergin and Glenard Lieder, my cousin, and Donny Oregon--he worked at Winking's store--Jeanette Oregon, his sister--she worked at Winking's store--and me and who else? I don't remember anybody else. Bill was driving and we found this couple. We pulled up right behind them. Well of course, they took off. They got going and we took off after them. We got up out of the gravel pit and BAM! We got a flat tire. I tell you, I laugh about it to this day! Out of the car the boys were and that

car was jacked up and the tire was changed before the other car got from the driveway of the trailer court up to Highway 55 [both laugh]. We laughed! I said those guys should work at a racetrack because chun, chun, chun! The car was cranked up and oh, it was so funny. And you know? We never did anything. We never drank, we never smoked, and we never did anything like that. We just had plain fun. It was fun; truly, it was just good, clean fun chasing after those poor people [laughs]. She used to work up at Buffalo at Holmquist's in the bakery department. Every time I'd see her, I'd think about that [laughs] I don't know she ever knew that it was us that followed them [laughing] but we sure got Phil's tire, that tire changed in a hurry!

RM: So the entertainment in town wasn't all about the bars for everybody?

DS: No, uh uh, no, it was kids. I mean, all we had to do was ride bike. In the summer it seemed like we were all riding bicycle. We'd meet underneath a light post someplace and off we would go riding. Like I say, we'd play Run Sheep Run and games on the bikes. We'd ride out to Woodhaven, we thought it was this that fancy place out along the river that Senator Woods owned. We would ride out there and all over. Ten o'clock was curfew and you had to be home. If you weren't home, boy my mom would stand out on the steps and yell, "Eldoris!" and one time I was late and I got a flyswatter around my legs, so I didn't have that happen to often [laughs]. It was tough growing up and really, we just had fun, it's what we did. I don't know if that helps you realize what kind of background we had. Really we just had good fun, I think. I don't know what kids would do if they had that kind of life now.

RM: It sounds like a much more independent life.

DS: Yes, really. In those days you could go out to play in the morning and nobody even looked for you until suppertime. Most kids. I had too many responsibilities for that. I had too many things that I had to do, but my parents built their new home behind the present buildings that they built on Leader Street. There were houses back right by the river and the City bought that house and tore it down just a couple of years ago. That was really sad for me. I still have a twinge when I drive by there. That's where I was raised my whole life. But anyhow, there was an island in the river right behind my parent's house, it's now since washed away, and all the kids had Forts down there. We dug big holes and we'd lay little sticks across there so if any stranger would come they would fall in the hole. We were always playing pirates. We had turtles...we'd find their eggs and dig them up and look at them every day to see if they were hatching. Just dumb stuff that kids do, but we were happy.

RM: It sounds like it. So as you grew up, did you partake of the resorts or the dance hall?

DS: I was forbidden. I couldn't do that, but every other kid that I knew of did. I was there one time Betsy, Elizabeth, I think you call her Betsy. We were friends in the freshman year of school and so I went and stayed overnight with her one night and helped prepare the meat into rolls for the hamburgers. I remember we got a quart jar of her mothers dill pickles and her bedroom, well it's still standing there, was a dormer [window] and we

crawled out the dormer window and sat on the roof and ate that whole quart of pickles [laughs]. That was the one time that I was at Lake Sarah other than with my parents. It seemed to be when we were young and people would celebrate their anniversary, well, where was it? It was at Lake Sarah. That's the place they would go. I could go with my parents, so I was in there a couple times, but as a grown-up teenage kid I was forbidden to go there. I knew if I ever would, it wouldn't be the next morning when one of our customers would call up my parents and say, "Oh! We saw Eldoris there!" So I would always end up getting into trouble.

RM: It wasn't worth it?

DS: No. And one time I remember I was dating someone and I went there and my mom found out that I was there and of course questioned me. I said I didn't think I was guilty for going there because I didn't go in. I sat in the car. Well, that's worse even than if you if you had gone in, you know! And at intermission, I know that there is to be so many fights there...always. It didn't have a horrible reputation, but it was kind of a rowdy place. It wasn't really Rockford kids, mainly kids from Corcoran, and of course, bigger high school kids and stuff...it just was not a place that I allowed to go into.

RM: What do you remember about the times you were there with your parents?

DS: I remember that crepe paper across the ceiling and I remember the little wooden plank benches along the side, and of course, there were public toilets back there. But those benches were all around and then up at this end, they had food. You could go and buy beer and hamburgers and stuff like that and there was a platform for the band to play. Every time that people weren't out dancing, the kids would run out there and slide because the floor was slippery, and you'd "cheeee!" you know, slide...and that's about all I know. There were didn't seem to be windows. I know there were window cutouts, but as I remember there wasn't really glass there. They were like casement windows that opened up and you could see the great outdoors.

RM: Just wood flaps?

DS: Right. I'm sure Betsy knew all about that, for that was her whole life growing up. I don't know whatever happened to the building, if it still...I don't think it's still there. I don't know if it burned or...I don't know what happened to it.

RM: I've heard it either burned or got moved plank by plank to build a new place up north. I've heard both stories.

DS: I don't know what happened to it. It was in that interim period when I was gone. Whatever happened, but there wasn't that much to do around here when you were a teenager and dating, why what could you do? You could go to Lake Sarah, you could go to Delano to the theater, or you can go to Buffalo to the theater for twelve cents [laughs]. I mean it; there was really nothing to do. On Sunday nights when I was out of school, probably my senior year and my first year at Macalester, there was an outfit that would

come and bring roller skates to the Village Hall. The Village Hall is where the library is now. There was a building there and he'd bring his roller skates and we would roller skate around and around and around to the music.

As the school grew bigger and Mr. McCready, our Superintendent, got all the districts from Corcoran area so that Rockford got bigger and we had no lunchroom that would feed us all. We would all have to leave school and walk down to the Village Hall and go down in their basement and eat lunch. I think it was thirty five cents and oh, it was good lunches [chuckles] really good lunches, but imagine! Letting your whole school out and no teachers were watching us? We were just told, "Go down the hall and you eat and when the bell rings, you come back." I don't recall any teachers came down there with us. There must've been some supervision but I don't remember there needing to be any. Anytime we had lyceum we would all have to walk from there down to the hall and they would have their presentations. That's also where we played basketball. Every town around us hated to play there because we had these pipes that went across to hold the building together. They were not used to shooting baskets over them, you know. They always had a problem with that and that was why nobody liked to come and play here. There were places to set chairs along the two sides of the hall and in the back there was what you called the balcony, but it was just a place we could stand. There weren't chairs or anything up there. Then there was a stage up in front to put on their plays. That was like an auditorium now but it wasn't attached to the school. Then after there was, oh was such a terrible flood that just everything flooded away and that whole area came under the flood so that pots and pans we saw pictures at school of pots and pans floating in the water and stuff if we didn't get it out in time and then they built the Quonset hut up at the what we call the middle school now and for years that Quonset hut started out to be a lunchroom I think and then it turned to be a classroom and they used that for a long time even after we moved back here and I started working at school I think even my own my own two kids had something to do with that Quonset hut, it was there for years.

RM: I'm really intrigued by the roller skating.

DS: Oh! Yea! That was fun. I don't know who did that but he would, you know he would always say, "Okay, now it's boy's choice" and then you could go pick a boy, or "it's girls choice" or "it's couples skating" or "it's at moonlight skating" and then they'd turn the lights down and then it was backwards and dancing and all kinds of stuff. And they were just clamp on skates they didn't have the shoe type, it was just clamp on skates and even like I say, in 1949, 1950 when I was in college I still went. It was George Hubler and all of kids from school-- I mean we just knew everybody. Lot of kids from Buffalo came too and there wasn't that much to do so.

RM: Did the adults ever skate?

DS: Ah, yea, I think there where adults but not, not too many. There were... there were mainly high school I would say, and I suppose there was some I think maybe one time they would have an afternoon skater or something for little kids and all they'd ever do

was go out there and fall down [laughter]. But I got to be pretty good so any how was just lots of fun we really enjoyed it. Was a place to gather.

RM: Can you tell me more the men going to the bars and the women chatting?

DS: [laughs] Oh, I could name names of who all did that, that's for sure. But I don't know that if the men actually if they, I mean, I know they must have drank beer but I don't think any of them were inebriated I can tell you a couple that you know there were a few that we know were just they would always be drunk but the women would... would do is Gladys Rux was one and Thelma Rose, and Mabel Rux and, ah, who else? They would just come, you know, it was a little gabfest that they kept up with all the gossip of all the neighbors and a way of keeping in touch with everything and, like I say, the kids... we were all gone you know running and playing and but at 10 o'clock it was just like you had an internal clock that the women would get up and go out and the men would come and go from the bars and go home and go to church the next morning [laughs].

RM: There would have been three or four bars?

DS: Oh, there was, right down town there was that main bar as a kid when I was growing up August Shultz owned, and they had outdoor toilets and that was behind back in here [draws with finger] back by there was, well, let's see... so many places burnt down that it's hard to put them in place but there was like the hardware store, Schlieff's garage, and then they expanded into a hardware store and then next to that was the plumbing place but the bar was just a little small bar, I mean wasn't really big was like a double wide trailer I guess and they used to have, I know they used to have hamburgers and pizza was unknown of at time. We never...I never even knew what pizza was until I was married and we lived in Evanston. Never even heard of it. In fact Bob told me, "I'm going to take you some place special." And we got on the elevated and we rode and we rode and we rode, oh I don't think we were ever going to get off and we got to south Chicago, some Italian place where they had a big old stone place and they made, it was called "pizza pie" and that was my first taste of pizza. So it was just hamburgers and stuff they had back then but that bar was a was a thriving business

RM: Which one was that?

DS: August Shultz...it was called, and then Joe Wilson bought it from her and who ...Whosacs I think might...no, I don't know...no they didn't. I don't know who bought it after that but it was a thriving place.

RM: How was it decorated?

DS: There was booth in there, I remember there was a long bar as you come in and there were booths along there. I used to go there sometimes with my parents and we would eat. They had good food and after the store closed sometimes we'd go in there. I don't recall it was decorated, except maybe beer signs and stuff around, I don't know, don't really recall, but the outside of it was wasn't decorated, it was... you knew it was a bar because

I think it had the beer sign oh! And I forgot in between the bar was [M.T?] Stanley's barber shop and that was kind of the meeting place too for all the farmers and stuff to meet and that was ...he had two...one was M.D. [T?] and the other barber Don...whatever... I can't remember his name, but then Ken Lemmage took over that barber shop and then I think, I don't know if that was burned or what, but anyway Ken built the building that is now where Nick the Barber is. And Ken was a barber there for years and years and years. And he used to have a turtle that you stepped on its head and its shell opened up like that it was an ashtray. Well, that just fascinated me as a kid, just fascinated me. I think, you know Ken Lemmage, did you ever get a chance to talk to him before he passed away? Oh! He would be, uff! He would know everything and George Hubler, too. He just...oh! He had so many pictures and he just had a lot of Rockford history. Wonder whatever happened to that...? You ever know?

RM: Things I need to find out. How did the relationship between Rockford and Greenfield go?

DS: It just...I don't know, it just automatically... I guess it was just the distinction of being one call what is it? A county or a township or they just kind of just blended in. It was *Greenwood* when I was a kid. And *Greenwood* is... I went to Salem [Lutheran School] and that was called Greenwood Church at that time and I used to have to ride my bike from Rockford there every Saturday morning for Saturday school or Confirmation school and then all summer long we had summer school he called it, from nine till noon and you, the distinction I think was not so much the Township boundaries, but the Lutheran kids went there and the Catholic kids went to Delano or to Loretto or, you know, there was that kind of distinction that you just sort of associated with the kids that you were involved with all the time.

RM: You said that you weren't allowed to go to the dance halls because of the fights for the most part. Was that a common decision of parents?

DS: I don't know. Most of the friends that I hung around with it was, it seemed like it was always older kids from the Corcoran area, the French Catholic kids they were referred to, and there was a lot of Patnode's and Pettit's and...those are the two names that kind of stick out in my mind and I don't think a Saturday night went by where there weren't fights, I mean, really knock out drag out fights and what they were fighting about, I don't know. I don't have any idea, but they were they were older, I think they were probably you know, all high school age and beyond so that's ...but I know they were fighting all the time. And most of the kids that I hung around with, they didn't really they were allowed to go there either.

RM: Did the other bars in Greenfield and Rockford have a similar reputation?

DS: Mmmm...not that I know of. The one in Rockford didn't as far as I know. I can't remember. If they did have a fight it was a rare occasion I don't recall that they ever had fights, no, and that bar up on the highway, when they built the new bridge at ...when the time I'm talking about now is when there was no highway 55, as such. It came right from

the old bridge in front of the Stork House, that was highway 55, and it came across what was referred to as the “old bridge” and drove right through town and continued on up to Buffalo. When they built the new bridge, why, oh that was *years* of building, and my parents owned the land from where our house was, it was all this vacant land and then there was the lumber yard, and so all these trailers of the men who were building the house, building the bridge, all asked my dad if they could park there. So they all parked in our lot and oh! How I *loved* that because there were kids in there and there, and I remember we had dug an outside biffie [toilet] for them to use, and we must have had at one time, maybe seven or eight trailers in there? And like I say, it was a not a monthly thing, it was several years those trailers were there

RM: This is along where the levy is now?

DS: Yes. The levy is behind, so in-between where part of the parking lot is now for the bank and this was all big, vacant grass and of course I was glad that they rented to the trailers, dad said you could rent there for...I don't know how he ever managed to be in business, he was so goodhearted. You know what their rent was? A dollar.

RM: For a month?

DS: A dollar. Yes. For a month. When he sold land to the bakery for Rudy to build his up there where the barber, the dentist is now and stuff? That was Rockford Bakery.

RM: Main Street Dentist?

DS: Now there's...Main Street, yes...that was Rockford Bakery. He sold them to that, he sold them that land for a dollar, too. And also the land next to our house, where Rudy Wasserman built his own house, and Rudy lived there, and that of course was torn down too, just within the last couple years. But, that new bridge really changed the whole...just changed everything. All the houses that were built there had to be moved away. I know one of my friends' houses had to be taken down and to buy the right of way and stuff to go up to Delano, to Buffalo.

RM: So when Highway 55 was moved, it took all of that traffic away from those downtown businesses?

DS: Oh! Yes, yes. Exactly. It ...that was the only way you could get there is to go through down town and when that was...that's exactly right, it took all that business away...all that business away. And that whole end of town, now, where Casey's is and all that stuff, that was all just private homes until [Highway] 55 went through and then of course, they sold lots and houses went up there. And then, worst thing in my life that ever happened, was when they sold that land to A&W, that place that had that, we used to have that hill that we'd go sliding at, and it was a tremendous hill...oh man! We were there all winter long. If you made two trips down a night, you were really going, because it was such a big hill. And we'd all go with toboggans and slide down there and of course, you'd have cocoa or hot chocolate, and then of course we had no place to go to

skate in the winter, so we skated on the river, and we would get draping oil from the gas station that was right on the corner there and then we'd build this *humongous* fire and that's where we skated. And my gosh! We skated within this far [indicates with hands] of open water because there was so much of that river that never froze up, but there'd be twenty, thirty kids out there skating all winter long. And then, of course, A&W came and they started cutting it up, and then the church built back there, there was some Alliance church that built back there, but the town sure...it just changed the whole the whole complexity of the whole town with 55 coming through.

RM: When the guys were there with the trailers that must have helped the bars and the restaurants?

DS: Oh! Of course it did, course it did. It helped everything, I mean, they did all their business there, they shopped there, the kids went to school there, and ah, yes...they really...they just, you know, it just made the town. It just...I can't remember how many people, I remember some of the families names that lived in there, and I know I used to babysit for some of those families, but um...Defrance was one, Thompson was one...um...hmm. I just can't think of any more. But that was fun! We all looked forward to having them there. [laughs] you know anytime we got a new kid in school...wow! When I was in...what? Third grade? Yes. Third grade. We only had two kids in our class and then Mr. McCready had gotten District 76 to join with us, so then Bill Sipe came and so then we had ah...it was Bill Sipe and Walter Hol [?] and me. We started fourth grade then and in fourth grade, and I think the end of fourth grade, beginning of fifth grade we got Chuck Macname...we...I don't know what...Bob and I have talked about this. There were so many kids that we had that came from [beeping sound in background] I don't know if they came from Minneapolis and they were placed in foster homes and we had so many of them that were foster care kids, that lived with... well there were certain families that they lived with. I know Barnes' had one girl that was in our class, Teresa Burbordis [?] her name was, and Shirley Cleveland, her name was and she lived with a relative and who else? Well, goll. I can't even think of all the kids. And you know? I don't know what they call them now, or if they would call them, have a name for them? For kids that are placed with families? I know Towarty's [?] got a little, lot of kids through the years. Ok, let's see...[looks at papers] she was one of those kids...Shirley Cleveland was one...Chuck Macname was another...what was this other Jim's name? He must not have graduated with us. But for...oh! For a small town, there just seemed to be an awful lot of kids like that that came from the cities and lived with different families. Now, of course, can't think of them until I see their names. But I know the Twartees [?] had at least two or three kids that came. Has anyone ever talked about those?

RM: No.

DS: I know we had one kid that came and stayed with Donald, with Greelings. His name was Donald something or other. What was his last name? Donald...I don't know, but he was kind of incorrigible. Bobby Greeling and her husband, was a family, a couple that had no children and so they took these kids, and this one was just...he must have had

problems and back in those days I would think they knew about it, you just, you know...but I remember she said that he had taken 30 dozen case of eggs and smashed them all against the wall. And he came to our Saturday school and the Pastor Haar [?] that was there, first time ever I had seen him angry...and I mean he was *angry*. He saw him take the Bible and throw it at the ground. And oh! He was *so* angry with him. Donald? What the heck was his last name? hmm. He was around for a few they hung in there and I don't know how they managed to do it, but they did. Oh! And then after they sold their farm, they bought what's called The Manse now.

RM: The bends?

DS: The Manse. M-A-N-S-E, that big brick building. That originally, when I was a kid, was owned by the banker, but they bought it and turned it into like a rest home. There were people there that, you know, four or five people that lived there. And they did that for years. Forgot about that. And it was back then, it was sort of the English, like I told you, the English versus the German and uh, lot of the people who lived in town were all Englishmen...ah Florida's and ah, Turaxes [?], I can't even think of all their names. But eventually all that just broke down. I think it was during the War, I don't know if they thought that we were all Nazi's and we'd take over the town or what, you know, but that all just broke down over the years and I don't think it was an issue.

RM: Was that division seen in the restaurants and bars that people went to as well?

DS: Well, you know? I don't know because I wasn't...I was too young, I don't know. But I remember the Storks at, when they were active at the Stork's House when they lived there, they were customers at my parent's store. In fact, I would admit this to you, if you turn your camera off, [laughter] but anyway, this was when Bob and I were a senior in high school, and there was really nothing to do there in town at all, so one Sunday afternoon, we were at the Stork House. And we walked...we knew they weren't there on weekends, and so we were walking around looking in the windows and I had -oh! There was such a *beautiful* peony blooming and I picked it! [laughter] and I had it in my hand and we were looking in the windows, and there was one window into where the room was, where the piano was in, I think, and it was cracked just a little bit, like that. And we knew that we could open it up and get in there. And *something*...God told us, we didn't realize it at the time, but ok, we're going to finish looking in the windows and then we'll go back there. So we went up to the top of the hill, where the house is kind of built in, there's the porch up there, and there's another door up there, too, and so we were looking in those windows, and all of a sudden we heard a car. And there were vines growing up the side of this porch, or the railing, so we ducked down behind these vines until we didn't hear the gravelling crunching anymore and so we got up and I was looking in the window, and I was looking in the doorway window and I said, "someone's coming!" [laughs] and I was just *frozen* to the door, I couldn't leave it, I mean I was just paralyzed. What do I do? Someone's coming! And Mrs. Stork opened the door. And she ...I blurted out, "we were just looking in your windows!" [laughter] and she said, "that's QUITE obvious." [laughter] she said that. "Who are you?" and I told her, I said, "I'm Eldoris

Lieder, my parents own the store.” That was kind of the key to get me ...people really looked up to me for that. And I said, “We were just looking in your windows. We want to buy your house some day.” [laughs] And so she said, “come on in, would you like to see it?” and so she *graciously* took us in and showed us all around the house, through all the bedrooms and all the everything and that was a workable house, they were living there then, and so that was really something...something special. And I tell you, to this day, my heart pounds. I think, what if we had been five minutes later, we’d a been in there. And you know, nothing, we weren’t going to do anything, but we just wanted to get in there and see because there’s a lot of stuff that you can’t see through a window. So anyway.

RM: Well, any time you want to come back and see the ...

DS: Oh, I’ve been in there many times...legally...legally! [laughter] but oh, that was really something. Both of us were so scared, we were just almost shaking like this. Think of what she could have...and here I am with her flower in my hand! But she was such a gracious lady. Oh goll...

RM: We could have a whole other interview just on that family.

DS: Yea, I’m sure.

RM: Yep, they’re fun to read about in the diaries and letters. So you mentioned the Transformer Inn...I suppose we should get back to ...

DS: Well, that’s what I used to pass as I rode my bicycle to Salem and I could either go ride that bike up, what do they...? Is it 10? That goes up there? And then take that road by the Transformer, which was...let’s see. Was that...that was gravel road and it still is to this day. Or else I could go along the river, which was a tar road, but along the river was Rux’s and they had a mean dog that would chase my bike all the time, so I was scared of that. Or else I could go this gravel road, here. And so, lot of times, I took the gravel road and that Transformer was, well, you know the Transformer is still there, but that little low building was just a real low building, that bar was there, and there used to be cars parked, you know, there really isn’t adequate parking around there at all and always used to be cars parked around there, and the only thing I knew about that is that Vivvy Vale [?] Vivian Vale and Adam Hoenstein, I think his name was, owned the thing. I don’t really know anything other than that, except it was a going place. And then across the street from that is where Sipe’s built their bar that they had for years. That turned out to be moved into Rockford and is down on that road by Hanson’s Auto now.

RM: They moved the building?

DS: They moved the building, the whole building, yep.

RM: When was that?

DS: Oh...when was that? I can't even...oh! It must have been...I don't know if that was still there when Bill started going to our school or if it was already moved, but Carrie and Al Bonick [?] I think moved it and lived there until they both passed away there from that house and it's still there, as far as I know. I've seen it. But it used to be pink. And Sipe's built that, and I think Ruby maybe worked in there and Fred farmed, and Bill was my age. We were in school together from third grade on and after he graduated from school, he farmed. In fact, at our first class reunion he was still farming. That was our fifth year class reunion. And then he built, or he owned the feed mill. That's another business that was down there in Rockford, the feed mill and that was *really* a...I mean all the farmers brought their wheat and their corn and there were trucks lined up there always. Mr. Kaseheimer [?] I don't know, ever knew what complexion he ever was because he was always white, just like the flour man [laughter] he was like the original Pillsbury boy! He was *always* white. And he worked there for *years*. Svenson Kaseheimer. And then Bill bought that and from there he just went great guns. He sold that mill and then he owned the Rockford House and I think he built the bowling alley on there and from there he built the off-sale liquor that's...I don't know what it's name is now, but Bill did that. He did a lot for the community. Have you talked to him?

RM: No.

DS: Willard Sipe, his name is. And his parents are the ones that had the bar on the corner.

RM: Did you ever peek in those windows?

DS: In the bar window?

RM: Mmm hmm

DS: No...but I went there with my parents to eat a couple times.

RM: What did it look like inside?

DS: It was just a bar, I mean, you know, you had booths in there, there was a bar and it was just nice and clean and I think when that place got too full we would go over there or whatever, I don't know. In fact, I don't know how long, really that they had it, that it was in existence, if it got to be too much for them, I don't really know all the circumstances, but I know Bill would, because he really made, I mean he made a good life for himself, so. Anyway. He was a swell guy.

RM: So then, let's see, we had...you said about the resorts on Lake Sarah, now you said that Bob was involved, that his family was involved?

DS: That was Lake Rebecca that he was involved in. Lake Sarah, yes, there were resorts there, and see, that whole area was just kind of dicombuberrated too, with highway 55 coming in there. Because originally...like if this were old Rockford, old Highway 55 right here [draws on table] and to get to Lake Sarah, there was a little gravel road that's still in existence, that goes there, I don't know what the name of it is, and it goes way

way way way way down there and that would be Lake Sarah there. Well, when the new highway 55 came in, that was rerouted to go along here, and it went, oh, within three blocks or so of the original dance hall. But that also cut into all the land here that was a resort. And Mrs. Dorn is the one who had these cabins on Lake Sarah, and she is one, also, who had foster kids. That's the one boy, I can't remember his last name, it is Jim somebody or other that came and lived there and helped with the boats and that kind of stuff. But she had I think five or six cabins, and highway 55, the new one, almost wiped her out because it took away so much of her land, you know.

RM: In about what year were these changes happening? Roughly...

DS: It would have been when I was still in maybe grade school, middle school, in the early 70s maybe? Oh, no, it had to be ...no it was different than that because we lived out here in the 70s. Must have been in the 50s. 40s and 50s. Early 40s must have been. Because I graduated in '49, so it would have been in that period before that. And I don't remember exactly when the new bridge was built, what the year was. But it did, it changed the whole dynamics of Rockford, that 55...course for the better, but, it really disrupted a lot of lives back then.

RM: So she had a busy resort before that?

DS: Oh yea, she did. She had a busy resort. There was another one, too...um...I can't remember what the name of that one was, but I know for years they still kept the little round building they sold hot dogs in by Lake Sarah. What the heck was their name? I cannot remember.

RM: I have a little map here, does that help?

DS: Oh! Ok, sure. That's Fredericks by Lake Sarah...Mielke's...ok, it would be like...no...I guess this is right. Mielke's, that's right. Shady Beach...huh. Lake Sarah and [?] Frederick, I remember those. But I thought that Mielke's was before. I thought that Mielke's was over here before you came to this area. But that, that must have been Elm Beach that they had that little round hut. You notice I look for food [laughs] a little hot dog place. But Shady Beach was opp—on the other side of Lake Sarah and that was in existence for long long long long time, in fact, we've even went there after I was married.

RM: What kind of a place was that?

DS: Oh, everybody...they had the best swimming beach and that's where everybody would go swimming. Because there really was no place to swim, like now, I know we didn't have swimming pools or anything. A lot of us went out to Lake Rebecca to swim, to the point and then this, but this was so much farther away from us. This is totally...totally...I'm just not...just not getting the perception here with highway 55. I'm not really good at directions. I don't know east from west and all that stuff, I just know land marks... "Here's where so-and-so lives" this is there.

RM: I didn't draw the map so I can't claim responsibility for anything. Do the pictures help you out?

DS: Hillcrest farm, Lake Sarah [laughs] yea, that looks like Mrs. Dorn's property for sure. That's the kind of cabins they had.

RM: That's Hillcrest, you said?

DS: Maybe that was the name of it, we just called it Dorn's. [?] Dorn. That no doubt was the name of it. But doesn't that look like a nice, secluded place?

RM: What kind of people came out to the resort?

DS: Oh! From Minneapolis...just everybody would come out there and rent for a week or whatever. And of course, they did tremendous...that was tremendous business for my parents. You know, they really brought...they would buy up all their groceries there and they'd live there for a week at a time. Well? Bob's family, that's how we got to know them. They came out from the city for a week to rent, you know.

RM: On Lake Rebecca?

DS: yea, I think [to Bob in living room] Dad? Did you come out, you guys, to rent on Rebecca at first or Sarah?

BS: Pardon me?

DS: Did you come to Lake Rebecca to rent? Or Sarah? When you were...

BS: oh...Lake Rebecca.

DS: You never were on Sarah?

BS: No.

DS: Ok.

BS: Hi there!

RM: Hello!

DS: So yes, this looks like Mrs. Dorn's, ok.

RM: So when they came to the resort they, would stay on the resort for about a week but they would bring food and everything with them?

DS: No, they'd usually come to our store to buy that, but then they'd go back to the cabins to cook. I mean, they just lived there for a week and the kids would go swimming and go whatever whatever, and then of course, in the summer the green...what was it? what was it called? The Girl Scout camp on Lake Charlotte or Lake Martha...Green....

RM: I think that's called Greenwood, too.

DS: Yes, I think so. That just a couple years ago, or maybe just this last year, it just disbanded, but oh, the girls would come *all* summer long for weeks, like at a time. Every time, like on Saturdays they must have either ridden their bikes or walked into Rockford town and you'd...my family did a lot of business with them because ours was really the only place to buy anything. So we used tourism a lot.

RM: So as the resorts started to fade away, that really impacted you're family's business?

DS: Oh, sure it did, sure it did, it really did. Many of the people that came out liked it well enough, I think that, you know, bought land and built around here because of that. Trying to think of who those people would be, but ...course my involvement is, would be at the store, you know. What happened at the store. I can tell you a funny story..., when we were working at the store. This is digressing from whatever, but the store was, when I was a kid, there was a cash register, and people would come up with, you know old farmers would come up with grocery lists and they want Corn Flakes and blah blah blah and blah blah blah and blah blah blah and you'd go get it and put it down, and then we'd add it up and give it to them. Or else they would trade in their eggs for it. Well, then when we really got modern and we got a couple grocery carts that had [laughs] had two baskets, one on the top and one on the bottom, and then my job was to take the grocery list from these farmers and go around, run around and put all this stuff in there and fill it up. Well, eventually it progressed to the way that we got more carts and people would go around, we had to change our whole building and they'd go around and pick up their own stuff. But at the time when we were filling orders, that's why, there was a meat counter, and below the meat counter it was, you know, a slanted thing with the meats were displayed up here and underneath the milk was kept. And we had, out on the way to Delano, on what is it? 50? I don't know. But right at where the railroad tracks cross there was a farm and the house was just recently torn down, there used to be gobs of wood piled up there. But there was a farmer whose name was Bull. B-U-L-L, and he had only one hand and it was off here and it would fascinate me when I was a kid, you'd see that stump there. And he had cows. And he would bottle his own milk, raw milk, and come and sell it to my dad, and then we would turn around, we had customers that wanted that, and he would come in every day with this little metal carriage that would carry I think, maybe twelve at the most on this hook thing here. and then we'd have to pile it underneath, down here and customers would come in and they would want a gallon of milk, ok, so we'd get it and give it to them, and this was all bottles, it wasn't cartons, and when customers would come in, I mean, you'd kind of know what they used regularly, you know, regular customers, you knew what they would have, but strange people that you didn't know, I would...that was my job to work back there and [chuckles] customers would come in and they'd want milk and I just said, "you want Bull's milk or cow's milk?" [laughter] and they would [mimes jaw dropping] look like this, you know, and not realizing, of course, that was the easiest way for us, that's how we referred to it...Bull's milk or cow's milk. And it was always kind of ...you'd have to explain to them, you

know [laughs] but I thought that was kind of an interesting story. I remember that *so* well...how...the look on their face.

RM: These poor people at the resorts.

DS: Yea right! They didn't know what they were getting... Bull's milk or cow's milk. And he ran that dairy for...well, we called it a dairy, I guess, but he did that for years. I suppose until laws came that you couldn't do it anymore. Now, then oh my gosh, you'd have him strung up for sure! [laughs]

RM: Did you see the same strangers come back?

DS: Pretty much, pretty much. You would come back year after year, and of course, if they had kids, and I would bond with those kids, you know, we would look forward to seeing them and of course, I suppose they nagged their parents if they wanted to go there, too. So yes, many times it was, you knew that they were, had been there previously.

RM: So there was some blending of the visitors [DS: oh yea!] to the locals?

DS: Oh yes, very definitely. And quite a lot I'd say, because some of them built around there, I mean they were comfortable, they liked the area.

RM: So the resorts served to grow the town?

DS: Oh, truly, I think it kind of did, yep I think it kind of did. I just remember when I see the name "Fredericks" on here, my gosh! I remember him. Leif Frederick. They had this little old black car that was just a one-seater car, just a little old car and he'd, he was ill and so pale and so white looking. I remember just little bits of the guy...gosh...ok

RM: What else can you tell me about the people that owned the resorts? What else do you remember about them?

DS: Well? Let's see. If this, this is a place that sold the hot dogs, this is Bill and Bud's resort on Lake Sarah and Mrs. Dorn was married to Ivan Dorn and she was a very heavyset lady and taking care of this got to be really [too] much for her and he was ill. I think maybe he had Parkinson's or something like that. Anyhow, he was very sickly and that's why she had the foster kids that came out there and help her and she also employed the Zitzloff kids and, it's awful to say, but they Zitzloff kids back in those days were just, they were just a real bad boys of the town, you know? And there were like, I don't know how many in the family...ten, twelve kids or something, and actually if you'd, if they would be here now, why, they would be getting lots of help from the Government and stuff, but they didn't back then. They worked wherever they could get some money, and you can't take that away from them. They worked out there at Mrs. Dorn's pulling the boats and emptying and wash them out and get the minnows and you know, that kind of stuff. Mrs. Dorn was a very nice lady, that's all I know about her, she had a struggle with him to...because he was so ill.

RM: There are a couple more photos here.

DS: Oh! Is that the house across the street that burnt down? Across from Lake Sarah...huh. Now that's Bowen's? B-O-W-E-N-S? That doesn't sound familiar. Isn't it funny, you read this rather ...Whitcomb...yea, that Lake Sarah looks familiar. This could either be the house that was up on the hill that this Jim lived at that burnt down, or else it could be the house right along 55 that Leonard Bleck owned. He had the same kind of house...like a salt box house.

RM: And it's the Bowens residence?

DS: This one?

RM: Yes, that's what it's labeled as? The Bowens residence?

DS: Well, his name was Bleck. B-L-E-C-K. And highway 55 cut right through his farm area so that he ended up having this great big farmhouse that was a beautiful farmhouse, right almost on 55, so that it...like I say, 55 cut right into his farm property. And he had a house that looked like that [papers rustle] view of Lake Sarah from Hillcrest farm. Hmm.

RM: It looks like the other people moving out would build a house and it would be permanent?

DS: Yea, usually.

RM: Now that took away from the tourist industry?

DS: Oh sure. The cabins you know, were disappearing and of course they didn't have any place to come to, and I think the whole dynamics of everything—the cities were spreading out and it wasn't really country to come out here anymore, they'd go farther out, they'd press up north to go to Clearwater and those lakes up there. So that just kind of disappeared.

RM: So a whole way of life changed?

DS: Oh, changed, sure, sure it did, yep. [Highway] 55 changed a whole way of life.

RM: Here's a...this is Levi Bowen camp, is what it's labeled.

DS: Huh! No, that must be before my time [dog enters] Agnes, go downstairs. She is such a scaredy cat. Look how big she is but anybody barks or anybody comes to the door, she runs away. We always say she stands and looks at them while they rob the house [laughter] That's ok, Aggie. Oh, yes, Lake Sarah, a view from Lake Sarah. Looks the same, as if you haven't changed anything. I didn't know about this Levi Bowen camp, but this is the way Mrs. Dorn's place looked like, you know, with cabins round and stuff.

RM: They all looked pretty similar.

DS: Yes, they did, they did...

RM: And you never made deliveries out there?

DS: Yes, we did. I would drive along with my brother, and if somebody didn't have a way there, why we would make deliveries. Actually, you stop to think of it, my dad was really accommodating. It was so many people that...some families didn't have a car and so they couldn't get groceries so we'd have to drive them out there and deliver them. And of course, I liked that, it was fun.

RM: Go see more people?

DS: Yes, right [chuckles] huh...interesting.

RM: This one is labeled Shady Beach, so that one you'd be a little bit more familiar with?

DS: Yes...Shady Beach. Huh. Goll. Now I thought that was across the Lake from...I didn't think that was on our side of the Lake. I thought Shady Beach was across, on Lake Sarah.

RM: Was there a real distinction between one side of the lake and the other side of the lake?

DS: Not as I recall. I just remember that there was one that Shady Beach was on the opposite side of the lake, and you know, a lot of people from the city came out there. And of course, as the year went by, they all had boats and motors, too, otherwise, mostly the people who had these resorts had boats that would rent. They were just rowing type boats, so you didn't have motors or anything, so that was a more, um...what's the word I'm looking for? It seemed like the more people that came that owned boats and more...not elite but a different class of people that came

RM: That changed the atmosphere?

DS: Um, maybe. Maybe it did. Just, you know, different people. You just associated with different people. It...those people that came to Shady Beach would come mainly for the day, I think, a lot of them, and those that came to stay for the week, they had some cabins and stuff. I suppose they just kept their own there, I don't know. Huh! This just does not look familiar. Not at all.

RM: They could be earlier photos, too.

DS: Yes. And hey, I'm old so it must have been before cameras were invented [laughter]!

RM: I think we've covered all the notes, was there anything else that you wanted to add?

DS: I can't think so. I really feel that, as far as Greenfield, I'm just not able to really help you at all. I feel all my knowledge is Rockford, but you know, I have a lot of friends and relatives and everybody that live in Greenfield, so I was there a lot. As...in the summer,

why, one of my jobs was to just go from relative to relative when it was threshing time and then I would work in the kitchen and we would feed the threshers. That was all Greenfield because that's where all the farms were and that's where all my relatives lived.

RM: But there were a lot of Greenfield people that came bars?

DS: To Rockford...oh sure! To the store, they'd...they were the ones that really kept our, you know...if you depended on the people that lived in Rockford, why you couldn't really have much of a business because there weren't that many people. And a lot of them were old Englishmen, you know, they were single ladies and older ladies that, you know, what did they have? Tea and toast is about it [laughter]. We rented...when we moved here from Hanover, we rented a house that was right where the bank drive in is. There was a big old house like yea [indicates with hands] and that's where we lived while the store was...that was in 1931 I guess, or right around there when we moved. No, it was later than that, I was five. Anyway, that's where we lived. And we paid rent there of fifteen dollars a month. And I would have to take and carry the rent—fifteen dollars—down the hill and next to where the...where that building...oh, what was in there last? That was a bakery and then it was a ski place then it was something else, I don't know what's in there now. There are curtains across the windows. It used to be originally the bank, until they went out of business in the Depression

RM: So it's on the corner by the barber shop?

DS: Yes, across the street from the barber shop. Anyhow, there was a little house, and it's still there, a little in there. Herman Cuthright, he built that house next to his butcher shop, which was the brick building. But there was a house next to Cuthright. A real old house. And that's where I'd have to take the rent. And I would knock on the door and they would say, "Come in." And then I went in this house and there was just a little round stove. A little *round* stove. I've never seen anything like it. And there was an old, shriveled up man sitting next to it and then a lady next to him. And they always had water on for tea. And they would always offer me tea. Well! What does a kid...I was seven years old...tea! Ish. You know? I didn't drink that. But I...oh, what was that lady's name? Allie Crawford. Allie Crawford. She had legs about as thick as my finger. She was the skinniest thing! Just such a pin leg. And her hair was always brought up into big, kind of bouffant like and she wrote the column for the newspaper. There was some newspaper, I don't know if it was Wright County Press or what, but Alice Crawford...and she was, you know, old maid Englishman. We always referred to her—not in a derogative way, but as to define her. And I remember when we were in high school and the school would let out and of course all the school kids would be running downtown and you'd go to the Bridge Street Café, which was, oh, what the heck was it's name then? I don't remember, but whoever owned it...Bartels owned it at one time, but before that, I don't even remember who owned it...but we would all hit downtown there for candy bars and ice cream cones and all that stuff and of course, Bob and I were a couple then and we used to meet after school and we would always go to the restaurant and we'd always want to go

down there and I was [laughs] I was so skinny that I, the kidney doctor, the nephrologist said I had to gain thirty pounds or else have a baby. Well, hey, I wasn't about to do that, so I could *really* eat and we would go down there and I would have a malted [milkshake] all the time. Can you believe a malted everyday? And the booths in that place, they were real high like that [indicates with her hand] so that you could never *see* unless you would walk around and look in there and see who was in there. You couldn't see ...you know, now they're from the top [of the shoulders] to the heads. Anyway, we used to go in there to get our malted and, "oh good! There's a booth open!" You'd run back there and here would Allie Crawford sit [mimes] licking on her ice cream cone [laughs] she had like a double dip ice cream cone and I *swear* I bet it would take her forty-five minutes to eat that ice cream cone. And we would just be *spacing* back and forth, back and forth, back and forth...oh! I remember. Anyway, she was a part of, I think, friends or a relative that lived together in this real old house, and um...cost us fifteen dollars a month to rent that house.

RM: Was the man's name Charlie?

DS: His name Charles Hill, I think, I think his name was, yes. And they sat there and had their tea with that little round...I don't know how they existed, they were both so skinny. And of course, they didn't shop at our store, because they were Englishmen, so they shopped at Whitcombs and Winkings store. They were the one...Winking bought out Whitcomb, so was sort of half-and-half. The old people still called it Whitcombs and the newer people were acquainted with it and called it Winkings. Fifteen bucks. I wonder what you'd get for fifteen dollars now? Gosh, costs that much to park your car!

RM: Exactly [laughter] Well, thank you so much for doing this interview, this was wonderful.

DS: No problem, I don't know what help I was, but it was fun talking to you anyway.

RM: This is wonderful, thank you so much!

DS: You're welcome.