

Arlene Mutterer

Narrator

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Greenfield Historical Society

Interviewer

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At the home of Arlene and Eugene Mutterer

Rockford, Minnesota

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RM: Today is July 26, 2013 and I'm Rebecca Mavencamp interviewing...

AM: Arlene Mutterer.

RM: Could you spell your name for us please?

AM: A-R-L-E-N-E Mutterer is M-U-T-T-E-R-E-R.

RM: Do you have a maiden name?

AM: yes, Kettenacker.

RM: How would you spell that?

AM: K-E-T-T-E-N-A-C-K-E-R

RM: Did you grow up in this area?

AM: I grew up in Greenfield, yes.

RM: What year were you born?

AM: I was born in 1940. We moved to Greenfield in 1947 and went to country school in Greenfield.

RM: Which one?

AM: Twin Pond country school, it's on [County Road] 10.

RM: What would it be near, today? That people would recognize?

AM: It's on the corner of old Greenfield Road and [County Road] 10. Somebody lives there, it's a house now.

RM: How many years did you go to school there?

AM: Five? And then I went to Rockford school after that.

RM: For high school?

AM: Yes and seventh and eighth grade.

RM: What year did you get married?

AM: 1960.

RM: To?

AM: Eugene Mutterer.

RM: How do you spell his first name?

AM: E-U-G-E-N-E.

RM: Did you have any children?

AM: We have two children. Connie and Paul.

RM: Do they live in the area, too?

AM: Yes, they do. Connie lives by Lake Martha and Paul lives in Rockford Township.

RM: I understand that you know a little bit about having fun in the Rockford-Greenfield area?

AM: I don't know...I guess I did. [laughs] I grew up there. I don't know that much about the Lake Sarah. I went to the dances there sometimes, but I was not "in" like Betsy [Mitchell-Vergin] was because she worked there. Her parents owned it.

RM: Well, if people like you didn't go to the dances she wouldn't have a dance hall to work at, right?

AM: That's right.

RM: When would you go to the dances?

AM: Most of the time they were on Sunday nights. Saturday might be a wedding dance, and that could have been public or private because some people had a public wedding dance. You'd go if you knew them, if you were invited, then you would go.

RM: You usually went to the ones on Sundays?

AM: Once—not *usually*, but sometimes we did, yes.

RM: What made you want to go to the dances?

AM: That was the social hangout for people to go to see the other kids, you know, we'd all hang out there.

RM: Who were the people you used to hang out with?

AM: My school friends.

RM: What were they're names?

AM: I don't remember [laughs].

RM: Did you arrange it ahead of time?

AM: We did, because I didn't have a car. I had to rely on somebody. I had no other means unless I got a ride to and from there. Those were the days when people didn't have access to a vehicle.

RM: One car per family?

AM: Yes. I didn't start driving until I was about eighteen or so because I didn't have a vehicle *to* drive.

RM: Were there any farm vehicles that you drove?

AM: Well, we had a tractor, but I didn't drive it. We only had one tractor.

RM: So you helped out on the farm?

AM: Well, part time, yes. I worked out, too, after school.

RM: Doing what?

AM: First I babysat, then I waitressed. I was a waitress down in Rockford. There was a little restaurant down by the river there. It was called the drive in. I mean, it wasn't a drive in, per se, but you could drive into the parking lot and come in, then. It was hamburgers and her main...it was the Mutterer restaurant, and her main thing was homemade pie. You know? People came, they would stop there on their way home for homemade pie, she was famous for pies.

RM: What kind of pies?

AM: What kind you want?! Apple, blueberry, lemon, pecan...whatever. She would make all kinds.

RM: What was her name?

AM: Elsie Mutterer.

RM: Elsie—E-L-S-I-E?

AM: Right.

RM: Did she work it as a partnership?

AM: She and her husband owned it...John. John and Elsie Mutterer owned it.

RM: Are they relations of yours?

AM: Johnny is because he was a cousin to my husband, but he was also a cousin to me. Johnny's mother was a Kettenacker, so he was also related to me.

RM: How many years did you waitress there?

AM: Four or five maybe? Then I started working at the Rockford House as a waitress. I waitressed there for about five years. When I was first married I worked there because I could go to work at 5 o'clock. When we had little children I was home during the day with them but then at night my husband would be home so I didn't have to get a babysitter. I would work part-time, I didn't work full time. I would work three, four nights a week.

RM: Five o'clock until when?

AM: Until one. They closed at one, so it would be about 1:30 before you get home.

RM: That makes for a long day the next day with kids waking up.

AM: Yes...we had some incidents I can remember [laughs].

RM: At the restaurant or at home?

AM: I was just thinking of my daughter once getting into my lipstick. When I woke up, she said, “Mommy! I’m so pretty!” and she had lipstick all over herself. All over her lips and all over...of course *way* over her face!

RM: I think every little girl has done that!

AM: [laughs] I just thought of that now. I don’t know, in the Rockford House they had a bowling alley and there were people went *there* for social time, but that’s Rockford, not Greenfield, I guess.

RM: I’m sure Greenfield people came over to the Rockford House, though.

AM: oh yes, yes they did. That was kind of a fancy night club, when it was built in the ‘40s. I mean...for that time...it was a nice place to go have dinner and drinks.

RM: Can you describe what the building looked like for me?

AM: It was a long building that had a bar and a big dining room on the side. In the ‘50s, they were one of the first people to get air conditioning, so people would like to go there on a hot summer night. They were always busy because that was a good place to cool down and have a drink. Or a meal.

RM: So most people didn’t have air-conditioning in their homes in the ‘50s?

AM: No, no, I don’t think it was even...I’m thinking that was more in the ‘60s before that really came in? Yes. I know they were one of the first, because that was sort of their claim to fame, too.

RM: Why did they decide to put it in?

AM: For comfort. For people.

RM: It was a good business decision.

AM: Oh, I think so, yes.

RM: What kind of food did they serve?

AM: They served steak and chicken and shrimp and barbecued ribs and...lobster...you know, a real nice dinner menu. And of course, they had burgers too. But they really had a nice dinner menu.

RM: So you waitressed on the weekends?

AM: Most of the time, yes. I know Monday night I always waitressed.

RM: Did you have regulars that would come in?

AM: Oh yes, yes, we do.

RM: They would order the same thing?

AM: They do, and it's interesting when you're a waitress. You didn't know their name, but you knew what they were going to eat, what they were going to order--especially drinks, because they would always drink the same thing.

RM: What would they like to drink?

AM: Whatever it was, it didn't matter. Some liked beer, some liked... a girl would like a glass of wine. They would tell you, you know, but you almost knew when they sat down what they were going to order for a drink because they would always order the same thing.

RM: Were there booths that they were sitting in then?

AM: Well, I worked in the booths; I didn't wait at the bar. Yes, I would wait at the booths; the waitresses were at the booths.

RM: Was it carpeted?

AM: No, it was not carpeted. They had a tile floor.

RM: Do you remember what color it was?

AM: Browns? I think browns as I recall, yes.

RM: What did they have hanging on the wall?

AM: Paneling. You know, that time with paneling was in.

RM: That's true. Any art that was hanging on the walls?

AM: I don't remember any art.

RM: Too busy working [laughs].

AM: Well, I don't think there was any, yes.

RM: You said there was a bowling alley?

AM: Yes, they had a bowling alley, too and that brought people in. That was on the other end. They actually added that in the '50s and a lot of people went there bowling. So that was a big place for people to go.

RM: Did they have leagues like they do today?

AM: Oh sure, yes, they had leagues, yes, and of course at that time it was a nice bowling alley.

RM: How many lanes?

AM: I don't know, but I want to say eight, maybe? I don't know for sure.

RM: It's a pretty big place.

AM: Yes.

RM: Did you ever go bowling after work?

AM: No. [laughs] I didn't. Now, Lon Torblaa that lives in Rockford, his parents owned it, so you could talk with him.

RM: Can you spell his name?

AM: L-O-N Torblaa. T-O-R-B-L-A-A.

RM: Thank you.

AM: Yes.

RM: You said you worked there for a couple years?

AM: Yes, about five years. I thought when I worked five, I waitressed 10 years [laughs] but I did both places. I went to business school and I had a job and I still waitressed on weekends then sometimes.

RM: Though school?

AM: Yes. Even after I got the job, I just went sometimes. I worked more after I quit from the other job, after my kids were born.

RM: You said people would come from all over for the pies?

AM: Oh yes, they would be at her restaurant, the one down town, Johnny's drive in. They would come. People from Alexandria used to come through Rockford to go to Minneapolis, because that was before the freeway.

RM: Was that Highway 55?

AM: Yes, Highway 55. They would come from the west. Al Moen talks about when he lived in Belgrade, they'd go to Minneapolis and they'd always stop there as a kid. Probably to have hamburgers and a piece of pie and uh, that was a little restaurant you could stop in if you were in the city for the day. It was kind of out in the country and you were on your way back to wherever you were going, but a lot of local people ate there, too, because it was a good restaurant to eat at.

RM: So it was open from breakfast through late night?

AM: Well...about ten o'clock at night. It went through the dinner hour, yes.

RM: There were hamburgers and things for dinner?

AM: Oh, there were roast beef dinners and ham, and they would have fried chicken...I mean, they had a full service menu. They served a lot of malts. I remember making malts and they're work [laughs]!

RM: You don't look like this is a good memory [laughing]!

AM: I mean, I didn't mind making them, but you always had somebody order a malt. You had to go make it, you know, and they had malt machines, but it was always something to...[laughs]

RM: How did you make them?

AM: Well, you put ice cream and milk and the flavoring in there, and the malt powder, and stick it under those malt machines and it would stir it up.

RM: How many scoops of ice cream?

AM: I don't remember...two or three.

RM: Were they the tall glass...?

AM: Yes, yes...it'd be full when you got done with it, yes.

RM: Sure. Do you remember how much they sold for?

AM: No, no I don't...30 cents maybe? I'm thinking, I don't know. I think pie and ice cream was 35 cents?

RM: How big were the pieces of pie?

AM: Oh, normal! Well, when I started working there in the '50s, we made 65 cents an hour. That was the wages at that time.

RM: That was pretty typical for waitressing?

AM: Oh, yes. When we first started and you're a teenager, that's what the wages were.

RM: So if you're making 65 cents an hour, it would be a half hour's worth of work to buy a piece of pie and ice cream?

AM: No, if you worked there you could have a piece of pie, she'd let you have a piece of pie on your shift. It was ok if you wanted a piece of pie you could have one...yes [laughs].

RM: What was your favorite kind?

AM: Oh, I don't know, I suppose apple is still my favorite.

RM: What did the inside of that building look like?

AM: Oh, it was little. It only had three booths, and then it had a counter that kind of weaved in and out, so I suppose the counter could hold about 25 people. You know, three here, three there, and maybe...maybe 20 people, thinking back. But anyway, you'd have people sometimes lining up to sit down, too.

RM: So when you were waitressing, you were behind the counter for the most part?

AM: You could be, or you could be out going to the booths, yes, wherever people needed help.

RM: Did a lot of kids come after school for the malts?

AM: Oh, I don't remember that. I don't think kids could afford them that much. A malt was a treat in those days, yes, so that's what I'm thinking.

RM: Which meant that the kids had to have cheap fun?

AM: Yes, kids didn't have money for that. They might come in and get an ice cream cone, because we sold cones, too.

RM: How much were those?

AM: I think ten cents, but I can't...I think that's about what they were. For two scoops. If you only wanted...I'm trying to think, if it was ten if you got two scoops, or was it 15 cents? Or was it five and ten? It was something like that. Things were cheaper then. But then your money was cheaper too, yes. At the time, that was a lot. I know wages were just low.

RM: How did you get to work?

AM: Sometimes I got a ride, sometimes I walked both ways.

RM: How far was it?

AM: I lived three miles out of town. And sometimes, you know, I worked after school, so I'd walk right there after school.

RM: Where was the school in Rockford?

AM: In down town Rockford, where the middle school is now, yes, so that was no problem after school, you just walk down to the restaurant.

RM: That was just a couple blocks then.

AM: yes, mm hmm.

RM: What time did you get off of work on those nights?

AM: Well, it depends on the business. If it was a busy night you worked later and if it was a slow night, they might let you off earlier. It was up to them, the owners.

RM: Probably eight or nine?

AM: Yes, yes, probably.

RM: Then your parents were ok with you walking home in the dark?

AM: Oh, no, I didn't walk home then, no...no...a lot of the time they had a little girl that I would babysit. I'd go home with her and stay with her, then I'd stay overnight at their place, yes. You know, she'd be down there [at the restaurant], but she'd be tired of being there and want to go home and they'd have me go home with her and I'd stay with her. I'd stay over night and then go to school the next day.

RM: They wouldn't get home until midnight probably.

AM: Well, they probably didn't get home till ten, 10:30, yes.

RM: When did you do homework?

AM: Oh, I don't know...I did it whenever I could, I suppose. I don't ever remember having problems doing my homework. Hadn't even thought about it [laughs].

RM: You didn't have a whole lot of time in high school for entertainment and fun things, it doesn't sound like.

AM: Well, I did, I didn't work all the time, no. I just worked sometimes, yes.

RM: What did you do for fun, then?

AM: Well, as kids, we'd go with our parents to relatives' places. We'd go to movies in Delano. That was a big, big, movie house. A lot of movies there.

[conversation ensues about closing a window to reduce noise and draft]

RM: So, you said you went to movies in Delano?

AM: Yes.

RM: Was that the only movie theater?

AM: No, there was one in Buffalo, too, but there was none in Rockford. Free movies. In the summer, I think. Hanover had free movies one night a week in the summer.

RM: At the theater?

AM: No, outside. They would put up a screen and then they'd...everybody could come with their cars. We'd come with our blankets and sit on the blankets and watch the movie.

RM: So like they've started doing again with the movies in the park?

AM: Yes, it was like that. And I don't remember. Delano might, I mean Rockford might have had a couple, too, but not very often. So they did that.

RM: If they were in Rockford, would they have been down at Riverside Park?

AM: That wasn't a park then, you know, people lived there. When I grew up, there were houses all over there. That's only been a park recently. It wasn't before the 1965 flood. There were a lot of houses down there and after that they [the City] started buying up houses.

RM: To help preserve them?

AM: Yes, well...yes.

RM: So where would they have had the movies?

AM: Probably on Mechanic Street, I think they roped off the street and had it there, you know, east of the bridge.

RM: So where was the Rockford House located?

AM: That was on Highway 55, up on the hill. Right now there's that strip mall...it used to be there.

RM: Where Billy's is?

AM: Yes, next to Billy's. Not where Billy's is, but next to that. The next mall down there. It burned down about twenty years ago. And there was really nothing else there, then, that was it.

RM: It must have taken up quite an amount of space?

AM: Well, I guess...right now there's that mall there, that strip mall, there's a pizza place there, so that's kind of the space it took up, yes. And there was parking in the front and on the side.

RM: What about the café? Where was that located?

AM: Right down town on 55 right by the bridge, down below the hill. Right now there's nothing there because there's a garage.

RM: Hanson's?

AM: Hanson's garage. Where the cars are all parked, that's where the restaurant was. They tore it down, yes.

RM: So the business district has moved quite a bit in Rockford lately, if you're saying a lot of it was along 55? Those restaurants?

AM: Well, those two were, yes.

RM: There were still businesses down Main Street?

AM: When I grew up? Oh yes. There were grocery stores, too. Two grocery stores. And now we have none, yes.

RM: How about Greenfield?

AM: Greenfield didn't have businesses. Holiday is up there now, and Ace Hardware. But that was recent, too... I mean within the last thirty years. So that was not there when I grew up.

RM: What was there when you grew up?

AM: Well, just undeveloped land, yes.

RM: It was all farms?

A: I don't know if people were farming it or if it was woods or what.

RM: So in the '40 and '50s when you were talking about Greenfield—

AM: It wasn't there, in '50s and in the '40s. Well, the '50s I can remember some of the other places...there was a tavern up there on County Road 50 and Greenfield Road. That was called...well, now I can't remember the name of it...

RM: Is that the Transformer?

AM: Transformer Inn, that's right. That was there.

RM: Did you go up there, too?

AM: Sure, as a kid. My Dad would go there, so we would go along. It was an interesting place because I think if you had the money, you could buy a beer [laughs] not that I had a beer, my Dad did, and my mother, but I mean, kids could go in there at an early age and have a beer. Didn't seem to matter at all.

RM: Was there a drinking age?

AM: Oh sure, 21, yes. But people would, I know they would...young kids would drink. Go up there and have a beer, yes. So that was a hangout too. But then it burned down, too, I think.

RM: Do you remember when that happened?

AM: I suppose in the '50s, you know. There was another tavern on the way to Delano. It's in Greenfield there on [County Road] 50, Brookside Inn, they called it. It was right on a corner there, if you're going on [County Road] 50 and you've got that road to Delano and there's that sharp turn, you turn to the right? On that corner there was a tavern there, too. And that burned down also. They seem to burn down a lot [laughter].

RM: Who owned the Brookside, do you know?

AM: I don't know. I don't remember who did.

RM: When you say "tavern," was it mostly a bar with hamburgers?

AM: Yes, right.

RM: When you say "restaurant," you mean more of the full, sit down meal?

AM: Right. They were just taverns, I call it. Some people call them "beer joints." And Lake Rebecca also had a place where the park is now; they had a resort there, too.

RM: What was the name of that?

AM: I don't know, but I remember going there as a kid. It's right where the swimming is now, if you went into Lake Rebecca Park to go swimming. But I can't think of the name of it.

RM: Were they were a food place as well?

AM: Yes, you could get food there. I can remember going there with my parents, stopping there.

RM: For the food? Was that one of the resorts?

AM: Yes, the resort.

RM: Did you stay overnight?

AM: Oh, no, no, we just went to the bar or whatever

RM: What kind of people would stay at the resort?

AM: I don't even know. I just know it was called the resort and they had little cabins, so I know there were people who stayed overnight. Like at Lake Sarah they used to say people used to come out on the...my Grandpa would talk about it, how they'd come out on the train. Their train would stop there, they would stay there for the weekend, you know. There used to be, on Highway 55 across from the Lake, there was that big house, probably before you're time, but there was a big house there. It had lots of rooms [chuckles] like rooms for boarding or boarding rooms.

RM: So if you weren't staying at the resort, you could stay at the boarding rooms?

AM: Well, that was Lake Sarah, now I'm skipping around, here, but that's at Lake Sarah, yes. And actually, Highway 55 was not there. I mean, the railroad was there and it would stop, the passenger trains must have stopped at a lot of places in the old days, because they would stop there and leave people off.

RM: It took a long while to get somewhere.

AM: Yes, it did. And then when I was a kid I remember there was a little round building down there by the lake on the south side of...or on the north side of Lake Sarah...but in Greenfield, on the south side of the highway. That was a little place where the guy would sell ice cream cones and maybe sold ice.

RM: I might have a picture of that, actually. See if this is what you're talking about.
[pulls out a picture]

AM: I think he was only open in the summer, he probably lived there. Oh, what kind of pictures have you got there?

RM: There's a little map here. Does that help you jog your memory a little bit?

AM: It was called Frederick's Resort then, huh? Must have been called Frederick's Resort, yes, because that's where it would be.

RM: [papers shuffle] I have this one of Hillcrest. Are those pretty typical for the cabins that you remember?

AM: Yes, they look like that. So they could get off on the train and go to Hillcrest, also then, because that's close enough, here. I'm sure the train would probably stop right here, and they could go to any of those.

RM: Where did you say the train stopped?

AM: I'm guessing about right here, between here someplace.

RM: So between Fredericks and Hillcrest.

AM: Yes, they could go to any of these, yes. I remember my aunts talking about working there in the summertime.

RM: Your aunts did?

AM: They were, yes, going to go help there.

RM: What did they do?

AM: I don't know. I suppose get the cabins ready.

RM: So, clean the cabins?

AM: Yes, I'm guessing that's what they would have done...this is 1922...

RM: You don't remember any other stories they told you?

AM: I'm trying to think about them, I...no. I can't say anything specific, you know? I just remember them talking about it. Like they had piano lessons at the Stork House.

RM: How fun, I didn't know that.

AM: [laughs] yes, Miss Florida.

RM: Jessie?

AM: Yes, Jessie Florida gave them piano lessons.

RM: I knew she gave piano lessons, and I knew Carrie did as well, but...

AM: now who's Carrie?

RM: She would be Jessie's older sister by 10 years.

AM: Maybe it was Carrie. But it was one of the Florida's. And that would have been my Dad's sisters, you know. They lived on [County Road] 50 there, right up the hill from town.

RM: That would have been in the '20s as well?

AM: Right, early '20s, yes. Maybe even have been late teens, I'm trying...well...in the '20s I'd say.

RM: Sounds about right to me.

AM: They would have been...trying to think when they were born...its ages.

RM: These were your Dad's sisters?

AM: My Dad's sisters, yes.

RM: What was your Dad's name?

AM: Norman Kettenacker.

RM: What were your aunt's names, then?

AM: There was Helen and Irene and Gladys and Alice...I think I said that already...Ruby and Erna. He had six sisters.

RM: There were just two of them that worked at the resorts?

AM: Well...I don't know. I can't say. I just remember off hand talking about working at the resorts. Because then there was a resort also in Rockford down by the river. Right now if you go through Autumn Oaks...well, if you down the first road under the railroad track and you go straight back, there was a resort down there.

RM: What was the name of that?

AM: I think Woods had it. Woods was their last name, but I don't know the name of the resort.

RM: Were there any other ones hiding that we don't know about?

AM: I don't know. You have that one there, not in Greenfield, on the south side of Lake Sarah, too, that was a resort. But you got it down here...Shady Beach, yes. I think, it was probably popular because people would come out from the city and that was close enough for them to go to a resort. Kind of like Lake Minnetonka was big in the '20s for resorts.

RM: I'd heard that some people even stayed all summer.

AM: They probably did, yes, it's very possible.

RM: Betsy was telling me that she spent a lot of time cleaning out boats, the flat bottom boats, after it rained.

AM: Oh, sure, because they rented boats I bet! Yes, because I went fishing when I was a kid, my uncle took me and my brother there fishing and we went off where that little round thing was? That's where we went fishing. He took his boat down there. There used to be an access there, but it wasn't really a public access, so it was just an access. Well, anyway, between those two resorts. And then we'd go fishing there, I know that. We went out fishing.

RM: And you brought your own boat?

AM: Yes, but they had rentals there though, too, so I think it was the resort that...yes, or it was the man that was selling the ice cream and the beverages there that you could buy.

RM: Did you know his name?

AM: Mm mm, no.

RM: Did you ever get a treat from the stand?

AM: Sure! I'm sure we got an ice cream cone or something like that. I don't know if that was there all the time, but this was when I was real little that I was there.

RM: What kind of fish did you catch?

AM: Sunfish, yes...yes. I guess they still do [laughs].

RM: Do you know if the resort owners would cook the fish for the people staying there?

AM: I don't know that. I would guess they would, but don't know that. You would think so.

RM: Would make sense.

AM: Yes.

RM: When you were a kid going fishing, did it look very similar to how it does today?

AM: Yes and no. The lake looks the same, but there's so much more built around it now.

RM: So the permanent homes—

AM: There wasn't that many homes around there like there is now, although almost all the way around.

RM: When did those start getting built?

AM: Mmm... '50s and '60s people started building. And onward, yes. I don't know what else I can add, here [laughs] I'm wracking my brain, I can't think what else you...

RM: There are a couple other photos I have of the area.

AM: Lake Sarah, Bowen's Cottage...oh! That's that big house! Yes!

RM: Which one is the house you were mentioning?

AM: Right there.

RM: The Bowen's Cottage is what it's called?

AM: Bowen's residence...Al Bowen.

AM: It looks like it, anyway. Then it quit being a resort because my husband's grandparent's bought that place after it was not a resort anymore and they lived there, so my husband had been in that house. I've never been in there.

RM: What were their names?

AM: Bleck. Their last name was Bleck. My mother-in-law was living there when she got married.

RM: About what year was that, do you think?

AM: Trying to think...1923 or something when she got married. It was no longer a resort then, so they must have bought it about 1920 or something in that area.

RM: That was your husband's grandparents?

AM: grandparents, mm hmm. See if you have any other ...

RM: I've got a Levi Bowen Camp.

AM: That looks like probably across the road towards the lake, yes. Right from that house, yes. It's an interesting picture.

RM: Yes, they're fun to look at.

AM: Here's the railroad track.

RM: Did you ever see any of the passenger trains as a kid?

AM: I think they had them, I just don't really recall them too much. Yes, my Grandpa talks about when he was here, when he was young, there was a depot up there on [County Road] 50, there? On the railroad track and how they would go and get them [the passengers] with the horses in their... buggy and then they'd take them down town to the historic [Centennial? unclear] there, that was the hotel. That's where they would stay. He remembered that.

RM: He would actually take them—

AM: He just remembered people doing that. HE didn't do it, no. But he remembered that being done.

RM: Would it have been the resort owners?

AM: I assume somebody...he remembered they would bring them down and they'd stay at that hotel. And you know, people still live in it today, so that's an old, old building.

RM: Betsy was saying how they would get the boats as well, and move people across the lake from the depot.

AM: That was the depot at Lake Sarah, now I'm talking about the depot up in town, here.

RM: In Rockford.

AM: Yes.

RM: So the Rockford depot people went to the Rockford Hotel—

AM: Well, some of them did. I suppose they went wherever they wanted to [laughter] that's what he told us about. The West Hotel he called it.

RM: The West Hotel? Because it was on the west side? [chuckles]. This one is, I think, Shady Beach [hands another photo].

AM: Oh yes...I recognize that house. We went to a wedding there, once.

RM: Here are some other pictures of Shady Beach. You said you went to a wedding at Shady Beach?

AM: Yes. I was twelve. And how I remember how old I was, is because my cousin and I, we got to be waitresses. We thought *so!*...man were we...we thought that was the cat's pajamas, of course [laughter] it was a good friend of the family.

RM: It's fun how little things like that make you feel grown up, they mean so much.

AM: Yes, yes.

RM: This says Lake Sarah Pavilion. It says 1932 through 1964.

AM: Oh ok, yes.

RM: It's a little bit more recent.

AM: Is that Betsy? No Halloween, 1964...ok. Popcorn girls...yes. Lots of things happened in the dance hall, like Whoopee John was one of the players. I mean it was always, always old time music in those days. Lot of stuff was happening outside, too, I'm sure [laughs].

RM: Like what?

A: Well, people would gather around, you know, kids hang out...well, they didn't all go inside and they'd hang out outside, talking...party.

RM: So you had the dance going on inside, but a lot of people ---

AM: Who were all still outside.

RM: Causing trouble?

AM: Well, they could have, yes [laughs]. I know when you went out, if you were inside and you went outside, there'd be a lot of people outside also.

RM: Whoopee John has been mentioned a number of times as a favorite.

AM: Isn't that funny? I just remember that was one of them and I suppose it's because of the name that I remember.

RM: It's a unique name.

AM: Yes, and...Six Fat Dutchmen was another one.

RM: I've heard that one [laughter].

AM: I'm sure Betsy would know them all. Ivan Kahle, he was more modern.

RM: That's a new one. What do you mean by "more modern?"

AM: I think he was smoother? It was more like the swing music. It was old time, but with more of a swing sound to it.

RM: It wasn't as popular?

AM: I don't know, but I just remember that. You know how everybody has the different twist to their music when it comes on.

RM: Did the wedding dances hire people like Whoopee John as well, or were they different bands?

AM: They could have, yes. I don't know. I think if you wanted a wedding dance there, I'm sure they got whatever band you wanted, if the band was not busy. Or they would get you a band, yes.

RM: So then they had a list that they called?

AM: Oh, I'm sure they did, yes, because they would get paid to come.

RM: That's true, especially if it was a public wedding. I've heard Whoopee John could charge more than the others.

AM: I suppose he could, I bet he did because they needed to do that, so they could pay the band.

RM: Right [laughs] because he had a larger band than the others, right? This was a schedule from the Lake Sarah ballroom.

AM: Oh yes! There it is! Ivan Kahle, right there. They don't say who was playing at the wedding dance. Jolly Lumberjacks, I remember that.

RM: So where did you learn to dance?

AM: There, I suppose? I don't know. I suppose I learned at the wedding dances, because when we were growing up and they'd have a wedding dance, the kids would all go and we'd dance with our cousins, and that's how you learned. Well, here, you got all kinds of resorts, here [looking at photos] now is this from Betsy?

RM: It's from the Greenfield Historical Society.

AM: Oh ok...to all [mutter] her future husband from [mutter] did Betsy tell you she had ten children?

RM: I think she mentioned there was a bunch [chuckle]. Did you go to school with her?

AM: No. She was older than I, but she went to school with my husband...700 tickets, wow. Well, I remember when you went there, they sold beer, but they didn't sell alcohol. You would buy what they called "set ups". In other words, you get glasses and ice, and then you could say you want sour, or you wanted 7-Up, or you wanted Coke in there, and then you'd put in your own booze. That's how they worked it. They didn't sell the booze to you, but they sold only beer and set ups, and then you added your own liquor.

RM: So you'd bring a flask with you?

AM: Yes, that's how they used to do it. Bring your own booze. Now, I don't know if that was... well? They probably didn't have a liquor license to do that, but they could do that other [sell set ups], if you brought your own. They must have had permission to do that, but that's how they did that. I would guess if you drank too much, they wouldn't be liable, then either.

RM: Because they didn't sell the alcohol?

AM: Yes. So that's most dances as I remember it. When we were first married, we'd go to a lot of dances. We went there [Lake Sarah], but we went to other places too, but that's what we did. You would just take your own liquor.

RM: Nobody would do that today.

AM: No...no! You can't do that now. But that was the sign of the times, then, yes.

RM: When did things start to change from the resorts and that sort of lifestyle, a little bit more easygoing with the alcohol and having minors around...?

AM: I think in the '60s? You know, late '50s? Probably. Maybe in the '60s—I'd say.

RM: Do you have any ideas why it started to change?

AM: Well, I think they cracked down on people for drunk driving and all that, to make it safer so you didn't kill somebody.

RM: So it was an abuse of the privilege?

AM: Yes, I'm guessing that's what it was. I didn't experience it, so I don't...

RM: I think we're back to the beginning of the pictures that I showed you originally. Anything else you can think of that you'd like to add?

AM: I don't know. I guess not, I don't know of anything else.

RM: You remembered a lot as we went.

AM: Oh! Thank you...you start recalling things, yes. Well, I think I'm done [chuckles]

RM: If you think of anything else, will you call?

AM: Sure.

RM: We'll sit down again?

AM: ok.

RM: That'd be wonderful.

AM: Alright.

RM: Thank you very much; I appreciate your time doing this.

AM: You're welcome.

RM: Really do appreciate it, so thank you.

AM: You're welcome.