

**SAN PIERRE REVITALIZATION PROJECT –
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
INTERVIEW TRANSCRIPT**

ST: Sarah Tannehill, interviewer

AP: Ardella Paulsen, interviewee

ST: *This is Sarah Tannehill, and I'm here with Ardella Paulsen in her kitchen, and we're doing an interview for the San Pierre Revitalization Project. It's the 27th of July 2006, and Ardella has consented to be one of our first interviews. So... thank you for agreeing! And we'll just go ahead and get started. So we can begin with your full name.*

AP: Ardella Clarissa Alberding Paulsen.

ST: *Okay, and your parents' names?*

AP: Aletha was my mother's name, and Charles was my father's name.

ST: *And your year of birth?*

AP: Mine is March 20, '25.

ST: *Okay. And brothers and sisters, their names?*

AP: Wilber, Olive, Irene, Ralph, Estella, Ken, and I. And they're all gone but Ken and I.

ST: *Big family!*

AP: Big family – seven. And it was a boy, girl, boy, girl... all the way through! *[laughter]*.

ST: *And what was your position in that family lineup?*

AP: Oh, I was the baby of the family... I hated to hear that, 'til now it sounds pretty good!

ST: *Pretty good, yeah, not too bad! And were you born at home?*

AP: At home, uh-huh; and my sister Stella said she didn't know she was getting a sister until she heard me cry!

ST: *So do you know who assisted with that birth? Was it a doctor?*

AP: Uh, I think Dr. Solt.

ST: *There was a doctor who came and did home births?*

AP: Dr. Solt went from house to house then.

ST: *And as far as you know it was a normal, easy birth?*

AP: Mm-hmm, mm-hmm. I think all of the children were born at home.

ST: *All of them?*

AP: Mm-hmm.

ST: *And I was interested in knowing the family's ethnic background, like were you part Bohemian? German?*

AP: German, and my mother was part Irish.

ST: *And your father was strictly German?*

AP: German, uh-huh.

ST: *Had their parents come here from Europe, or do you know?*

AP: I think we were here already. I never heard of them coming over or...

ST: ... or stories of that.

AP: Yeah.

ST: Okay. And how long were you a resident of San Pierre?

AP: Probably about 30 years, from the time I was born until I got married in '46, so...

ST: A long time then.

AP: Long time, yeah.

ST: What are your earliest memories of the town?

AP: Well, when I was small, the memory that really sticks with me is when Dillinger robbed the bank at San Pierre, and he killed Mr. Hogan. Everybody knew Mr. Hogan. He was a deaf man, and always walked from Kingman's to Dolezal's, you know, around the block. He wouldn't hurt a flea, and of course he was in the way when they went to rob, so they did away with him. So Mrs. Matthews was the telephone operator was the one that spread the word...

ST: Ooooh!

AP: ... to all the people on the line, you know.

ST: Magdalene Matthews?

AP: Phyllis' grandmother, isn't it? Grandmother? Or her mother? I'm thinkin' grandmother.

ST: Maybe grandmother, yeah. Okay. So that's your earliest memory, of Dillinger.

AP: Yeah. I don't know what year that was, but I was pretty small, but it stuck with me.

ST: So, 'cause you knew who Mr. Hogan was?

AP: Uh, I remember him walking the street, but other than that I didn't know him personally, no.

ST: Yeah, you were too young to have a relationship with him.

AP: Yeah.

ST: And what did your parents do for a living?

AP: They were farmers. They raised cows, and horses, and chickens, and pigs [laughter]... you name it, I guess! And then my dad baled hay a lot, and that was a little extra income for us. The packing company from Muncie that packed glass... glassware like fruit jars and that... would buy loads of hay from him; and he trucked it down there. And they... it seems like there was two places, but Muncie was the one that remains in my mind.

ST: That's interesting. You don't think about the industries that there used to be.

AP: Yeah. And there also, I mean, well, they only milked about eight cows probably, and they saved the cream and would take it to Kingman's – there was a little building, in fact it's still there – by Kingman's store, and it was called the creamery. And that was a little extra groceries for mom.

ST: Right.

AP: Yeah. And then I guess they shipped it on the train.

ST: And did they sell eggs, too?

AP: No, but mom and dad did take some like to Dolezal's store. I don't know if John and Otto used them or who did, but that was a little extra money all the time.

ST: So what was the main income from the farm itself?

AP: Well, they raised corn and wheat, and then the hay was the big thing.

ST: *And did they sell the livestock?*

AP: Well, they milked cows, you know. We had our own milk and chickens... we had our own eggs. And raised pigs, and that was our meat, and...

ST: *Okay, so you didn't sell the pigs.*

AP: No, we didn't sell them 'til we went out of business.

ST: *So they were just sustaining the family!*

AP: Yeah, it was just our living, really, 'cause we had our meat and vegetables from the garden, and blueberries we picked and canned. It's a lot different than it is today!

[laughter]

ST: *It sure is! I mean there are people living now who just have... That's like a dream that some people have: to be self-sustaining!*

AP: Yeah, really.

ST: *To create their own food, and... you did it!*

AP: Yeah, we did it. We did it!

ST: *Lotta work, wasn't it?! [laughter]*

AP: Uh-huh! [laughter]

ST: *So how would you describe your work life?*

AP: My work? You mean like after I got out of high school?

ST: Yeah... Or even what you did for work in high school, if you worked during that time.

AP: No I didn't work any time before that. After I got out of high school I worked at the Medaryville sewing factory... is that what they call that? I don't know, I can't remember the name of the people.

ST: Yeah.

AP: And then I started working at the post office.

ST: But that was after high school.

AP: Mm-hm.

ST: Did you work both of those jobs at the same time?

AP: No. No I worked at the garment factory first, and then when the offer come up at the post office I took it.

ST: And how long were you at each of those jobs?

AP: I was probably at the post office about three years, maybe.

ST: And the garment factory?

AP: Oh, maybe a year and a half, maybe not even that long; I don't know.

ST: Did it ever cross your mind, you know, going to school after high school – any kind of school – business school or college or anything? Did that...

AP: No, I didn't feel my folks could afford college. I did have in mind maybe joining the WAVES, you know, 'cause it was World War II time; and of course I was in love with

Tom, so that made a difference and that didn't happen. And then we started going together when I was a freshman, so he had to wait 'til I graduated before we got married.

ST: How old were you when you got married?

AP: Oh! About 21 I think. Twenty-one or 23. I can't remember. I waited three years after graduation, it was '46, so...

ST: You graduated in '46?

AP: No, '43. I graduated in '43, and then we got married in '46.

ST: And you were still working at the post office?

AP: Uh, I don't remember whether I'd quit then, or...

ST: Or continued?

AP: Yeah, it was close around that time.

ST: Now when you were younger, did you imagine spending the rest of your life in San Pierre.

AP: Well, I did, because that was the way of life. You usually stayed there 'til you got married, and then if your husband had a different intention or worked someplace else, you moved, you know. So I basically thought we would, and really I did, because I mean, he lived just out of San Pierre. So we were there for... well, 'til Bev was about 13 probably, and then we didn't move over to Bass Lake until '76, I think it was.

ST: And I guess it just seemed like home; it was just where...

AP: Yeah, wherever my bed was! [laughter]

ST: *So it was really mainly about where your husband was working – that's kind of what determined where you live. And he must have felt that was his home as well, and was very attached to the place.*

AP: Yeah. His dad was the farmer, and all the kids became farmers, you know. And they all made a living at it. And it wasn't 'til Tom had a heart attack that he had to quit farming and then he had several job offers, and then he got to be county highway superintendent. And from there he went to the state, and that's where he retired from there.

ST: *How was that for him and for you, making that change from farming to...*

AP: Well, it was quite different, you know. I think it was hard on Tom, because he did all of the planting of the ground, you know; I really didn't take it seriously enough at the time – how much work it really was to figure out the corn and the nitrogen and everything that goes into planting, you know.

ST: *But then the change from that to working for the county and then the state – that must have been a big change, too! Can you say... did it change how you lived your lives? Was it more stressful?*

AP: No, I don't think so.

ST: *Easier than farming?*

AP: In a way, yeah.

ST: *Probably less physical.*

AP: Wasn't quite as confining, you know.

ST: *Yeah. I didn't know that he had done that other work. I thought maybe you had gone from that to the store, but that was later.*

AP: Yeah. He was on the county when we went into the store business, and that was an experience. [laughter]

ST: *So what would be the thing that you would say you like the most about San Pierre – that area?*

AP: I liked the school, and I liked the church; and the people were very friendly. Very friendly, and it seemed like everybody knew everybody then, where now if I go back I don't hardly know anybody except from our church.

ST: *Right, right – which you've been at that church for a long time. What's the name of the church?*

AP: It was Saint Luke's Evangelical, and now it's the United Church of Christ since it changed over.

ST: *Is there a difference in the teaching?*

AP: The church itself? No, no.

ST: *Talking a moment ago about being a wife in that area, what would you say that the role of women was? As you were growing up, and as you became a wife and mother, how... did you see any change in women's roles within that community?*

AP: I don't think so, but I don't think I paid any attention to it, you know? You just sort of went on.

ST: *And just sort of took changes in stride?*

AP: And pretty much everybody was a housewife and didn't work out... some did, but most of 'em when they got married they didn't work out. We were busy cookin' and bakin'!

ST: *You were kept busy in those days.*

AP: Yeah, we were kept busy, yeah.

ST: *I'm just curious, would you say that most of the women of that time were content with that life?*

AP: I think so.

ST: *Yeah. You didn't hear people grumbling or complaining about... how they wanted to get out of town, or...*

AP: No, no. I never gave it a thought, you know.

ST: *What sort of changes have you seen in the town in your years in this area?*

AP: Well, the school being gone and the stores being gone. The elevator's gone. The gas stations are gone [laughter] – just about everything, really!

ST: *A disappearing act!*

AP: Disappearing. And you don't know the people like you did before. On Saturday night was always our night – and a lot of people's night – to go for shopping. And you kind of met, and it was kind of a gathering. And Sena Hine's porch was a great place for it. It just seemed like everybody would gather on Simi Hine's porch. You know it was that white house right where the new bank is... now it's the veterinary. But there was a big white house with a huge porch, and well, just everybody knew everybody when they went there, you know. It was just like a open house there all the time.

ST: *You said Saturday was the night to go shopping? So you'd go shopping at Dolezal's?*

AP: Dolezal's and Kingman's, yeah.

ST: *Okay. And then you would go over to their house after?*

AP: Yeah. Or if you went to town during the day and somebody was there that you knew, you stopped in and talked to them.

ST: *And you said Sena Hine? How do you spell that – do you know?*

AP: Jeanette'll know.

ST: *And who is this to Jeanette?*

AP: Grandma.

ST: *Grandmother, okay. So when you were there, what did you do? Were there food and beverages?*

AP: No. Just talked. You don't do it like you do now, where you've gotta have a coke or something – pot, huh? [laughter]

ST: *[laughter] Yeah!*

AP: So, no, it was just a good time to visit and see people you haven't seen before. Because they were all known pretty well, Pete and Stacia, and what was the girl's name? Let's see, the Fitzgerald's were related – they lived out in the country, but they were in there quite often. I can't think of the other girl's name. It would be Stacia's sister.

ST: *I'll have to ask for that name, too.*

AP: I can see her, but I can't put a name to it... isn't that awful?

ST: *Well... it's a lot! So that was kind of the... I mean, were there other places people went in the town on Saturday nights, or was that the focal point?*

AP: That was mainly it, Kingman's and the creamery... which other people brought cream into.

ST: *Where's the creamery?*

AP: Right beside Kingman's store... that little house that's there yet.

ST: *Oh! It's not what used to be the post office?*

AP: I think it was the post office at one time, yeah.

ST: *When you worked at the post office?*

AP: No, I worked at one across the road, then they built the other one afterwards. And years and years ago there used to be a medicine man come to town on Saturday nights... and that was always interesting. Everybody gathered around, and they gathered... it was like behind Phyllis Lemke's house... I think it used to be the old ballpark. There used to be a ballpark there that my brother and Elmer Luken and Elmer Eckert and Pat Eckert all played ball at on Sunday. And it was just kind of a flat area there, and I think he must have been on a wagon, 'cause he was up higher, as I remember. And he'd give a spiel about this great medicine he had that cured everything, and he would sell it. And of course everybody would try it, you know. Oh, that's been a *long* time ago.

And then another thing that was there, they had free shows... about the time I was in high school... maybe around '39... '40? Businessmen put it on, so they'd draw in business, and, oh, they had big crowds there. They'd fill up the bleachers and then a lot of people standing! And of course, us young girls'd always be lookin' for a fellow there [laughter].

ST: *[laughter] Did you find any?*

AP: Yeah, I did! And, oh, what else was happening...

ST: *Was that something that you remember going on for several years? 'Cause I presume it would just be in the summertime.*

AP: Yeah. It was just in the summer, but they had it several years... I'd say like three or four years, maybe more.

ST: And that's when you were in high school.

AP: And they also had it like at Medaryville... a certain night at Medaryville – different places had that.

ST: Now when you say "shows" do you mean a movie?

AP: A movie, mm-hm. Might be a western, or might be any kind, you know. It was always different. So you stood and watched it. [laughter] That was different. And occasionally in the summertime they had a donkey ballgame, where you'd bat and jump on a donkey and go...

ST: Travel the bases?

AP: That was a lot of fun. And of course Halloween they always had a party and judged.

ST: Costumes? And did they always have a bonfire for Halloween?

AP: Oh yeah, mm-hm.

ST: I was wondering when that stopped, because I remember it from when I was a child, but I don't know if they kept doing it very long after that... Or why they stopped doing it.

AP: I don't know if they did or not.

ST: That was a big deal! A big party.

AP: Yeah, it was a big deal.

ST: And so that was sort of a tradition that is still practiced in Europe on Halloween.

AP: Oh, really?

ST: *Yeah. When I was in Prague in the Czech Republic – 10 or 12 years ago – there was a newspaper that was in English about that practice. Apparently on Halloween you can still see the bonfires up in the hills outside of Prague. It dates from medieval times, so I always thought it was interesting that we did that in San Pierre, where there were a lot of Czech people and German people.*

AP: Mm-hm.

ST: *So you said that the changes that you've seen have been mainly how the businesses and activities are disappearing.*

AP: Yeah. Especially after the school went, you know. It made a big difference.

ST: *You saw a kind of escalation after that of things deteriorating.*

AP: Mm-hm.

ST: *So would you say that that has been the most damaging thing to happen?*

AP: I would think when the bank was gone and the school's gone, it really made a difference.

ST: *Did the bank go after the school?*

AP: That I don't remember. I don't remember that.

ST: *Yeah. I can't remember when I noticed that the bank wasn't there anymore.*

AP: Well, they moved it across the street first, right?

ST: *And then what was going on in that old bank building when they moved? Was it being used?*

AP: I don't know. Not that I remember.

ST: So do you feel any differently about living in this area than you did, like, 30 years ago?

AP: Living in San Pierre, you mean?

ST: In San Pierre, yeah. I guess we could talk about San Pierre.

AP: Well, to me it's home here now. And I still go to church on Sunday back there. I drive there. And I still enjoy seeing the congregation. But I wouldn't say that I'd want to move back there, no.

ST: I guess it would be challenging living in a place like that when you're older, and you need to have certain things close by, like... food! [laughter]

AP: Yeah, I mean, you'd have to travel so much further, you know, than I do here.

ST: What's your closest grocery store here?

AP: Savalot.

ST: And how far do you have to go for that?

AP: Not much more... it's just on the highway on 35 after you get around the lake... maybe two or three miles. It's pretty well on the edge of Knox, you know.

ST: What would you most like to see happen in San Pierre? If you could make a wish for whatever you wanted, what would that be?

AP: I guess a convenience store would be the main thing... and a gas station... beautify the place.

ST: Clean it up a little.

AP: Especially a lot of the blight places... to be cleaned up.

ST: *Could you ever envision a school being there again?*

AP: Not a high school, no.

ST: *Why is that? Not enough students?*

AP: Yeah, I think and once they consolidate I don't think they'd ever go back to single schools again.

ST: *Well, that's an interesting point, because since you feel that the high school going away was one of the most damaging things that happened...*

AP: Yeah. It seemed like the high school was family, you know. Our classes were so small that everybody was like a family. And the way you can tell that is by the people that come back to the alumni, you know. I said for such a small town, I think we have a wonderful attendance. It's usually 150, and that's a lot. I know someone's husband was there about three years ago, and he was just amazed at the people there. He said, when my wife said we were going to go to this country school, he said, he figured about 15 people, and he got up and talked even – he was so amazed at how many people would come from all over.

ST: *And you're one of the local people that come to the alumni, but I've heard that a lot of times it's people that don't live here anymore.*

AP: Oh, yeah. The [inaudible] girls come from... I don't know where they live... out of state. And there's quite a few that come from out of state... like Sherry Tannehill! [laughter]

ST: *[laughter] Well, I've been to one! So what are your fears or concerns for the town? Do you have any?*

AP: Not really... No, it's just probably gonna be stale.

ST: *It'll probably just kind of stay where it is?*

AP: Yeah. It'll never be built up unless this project can go through and get started.

ST: *Do you have a sense – other than, obviously, an infusion of cash – of what is needed to make that happen?*

AP: What do you mean? Where would we get the money?

ST: *Well, not so much the money, given that the money has to come from somewhere else, um, what do you think has to happen... I mean do you think it's "in place"? Do you think that the community is prepared to do that? Do you feel like everyone's kind of...*

AP: I think once they get a business started there it might boom.

ST: *And people will be for it? You think everybody would like to see...?*

AP: I think they'd like to see it, yeah.

ST: *And there's no opposition really at this point?*

AP: No, I wouldn't say. I mean people are questioning whether it will ever happen.

ST: *That's sort of natural, I would think, when it's been in decline for so long.*

AP: Yeah. Uh-huh.

ST: *And how did your family do during the Great Depression?*

AP: We didn't notice it that much, because we had our own meat. I mean, dad would kill a pig or a cow and my mother canned it... and I just loved that canned beef! It was so good! That was our Sunday dinner – made real good mashed potatoes and gravy. Then we had our chickens and eggs and... basically we just lived on the farm, I mean we didn't... the most things my mom would buy would be maybe 25 pounds of flour! Because she baked bread, you know; she baked six loaves at a time.

ST: *She had a big family to cook for!*

AP: We did! And then things were tough in the city, so we had a couple nephews come out that... their families couldn't hardly feed 'em, and they stayed with my dad and helped with makin' the hay. Makin' the hay took extra help.

ST: *So you had helpers.*

AP: Yeah, but I said... it didn't seem like we didn't have any time that we didn't have enough to eat, you know.

ST: *Which was a big concern for a lot of people during that time... Well, I guess it was also lucky to be in this part of the country instead of further west in Oklahoma, where they had the Dust Bowl and farming wasn't supporting people anymore. Do you remember anything about that time – either during the Depression or afterwards – 'cause you were how old when the Depression began? You were pretty young, 'cause it started in '29?*

AP: I was pretty young, yeah. It started in '29 and I was born in '25, so I was four.

ST: *Were there any changes – although your family didn't suffer during that time – were there any changes that you noticed around you? Or did you notice a change when the Depression was over? Did you have any experience with Roosevelt's New Deal?*

AP: No. I said, you know, he started that... what'd you call that program they had?

ST: *WPA?*

AP: WPA. Where they put in all the bleachers and that in San Pierre. So they did a lot of good things.

ST: *Is there anything else that you remember other than the bleachers, because that's a piece that we've talked about, but we haven't put it on tape.*

AP: I think cleaning brush along the roads they did, too.

ST: *Okay. And I think in some places they put up things like retaining walls and built tunnels and things... I don't know if any of that was done in that area. Would you say that the social events continued throughout the Depression?*

AP: I think so. I think maybe they had more, really, 'cause it was always free, but it was carry-in meals, and... it seemed like Burriss Camp was one of the places that we would go in the summertime... it must have been a certain day or something, they'd have a countywide picnic or something.

ST: *What was that called?*

AP: Burriss Camp.

ST: *How do you spell that?*

AP: It's over by Tefft! [laughter] Ask Jeanette!

ST: *Okay, I'll ask Jeanette! [laughter]*

AP: She'll remember Burriss Camp.

ST: *Okay. I'm just making some notes here... If you were asked to name someone in San Pierre – or more than one person, but definitely one person – who had an influence or some kind of impact on your life or how you saw things, who would that be?*

AP: Your grandma. Polly Tannehill.

ST: *Polly Tannehill.*

AP: 'Cause she was my boss at the post office, and it just seemed like there was no difference in our ages. At that time we just got along so good, and I just learned a lot from her, you know? And probably Tom Daly and Helen Dolezal... I mean, there weren't many people

that had like a good job... you know, we called those *good jobs* then. And there wasn't too many that worked out and got those kind of jobs.

ST: *Can you say – about each of those people – can you say a little bit more about them?*

AP: Well, Tom Daly was somebody that you could always go in and... I didn't have to go, I was too small... but farmers and that, that needed money... he was just so helpful, and I guess knowing the people who he could borrow money to...

ST: *He arranged loans.*

AP: He arranged loans, and he did a real good job. Everybody went to Tom Daly. And Helen worked with him, and she was very pleasant all the time and looked real nice, and I just admired her.

ST: *Did Helen have any education beyond high school, or did she just go right into the bank?*

AP: Not that I know of.

ST: *Yeah, I remember her always looking nice – always looking put together.*

AP: Yeah, she did.

ST: *It's funny, when you're a child you focus on certain things, and I remember some earrings that she wore all the time – some blue star sapphires that I just thought were magic. [laughter] So part of why you looked up to them was that you saw them as having achieved some kind of success?*

AP: Yeah, a good education and...

ST: *A level of success.*

AP: Uh-huh.

ST: *Did you know the Daly girls well?*

AP: Uh, I knew them, but not... I wasn't close to them. They were quite a bit younger than I, and I didn't... I remember Tom and his wife... 'cause I used to bake a cake every weekend for 'em... a Silver Cake, it was called. It was a white cake and they just loved it, and they'd come out every Saturday to get it. I don't know how much it was... three or four dollars, maybe? If that.

ST: *For a homemade cake! ... I would love to know more about that cake – do you think you still have the recipe?*

AP: I don't know if I do or not – I don't think so!

ST: *Was it a family recipe?*

AP: I don't know. It was something I made an awful lot of!

ST: *It would be a nice thing to include in our book... no pressure! I just thought maybe you still had it. What else is there that you could... well, is there anything else that, as you were looking over the questions, that I hadn't asked and that you would like to talk about?*

AP: Well, Connie mentioned the band building across from the high school? There was a band building on that vacant lot? In fact, I think that's where the old school was that burnt. And then, I don't know whether the shed was put up for school buses, or what it was put up for, but anyway, that's where they had their band practice all the time, was in that building.

ST: *Okay. I have a sense of a building that was there, but I can't picture it in my mind. It's been gone for a long time.*

AP: It was just a simple kind of barn style. And then they voted in that building, too.

ST: *Oh, really! Okay. Yeah, I'm starting to get more of an image of it. I'm wondering if any people in town have pictures of some of these places – not that they took a picture of it, but they took a picture of somebody and it shows up in there.*

AP: Jeanette might have!

ST: *We'll ask Jeanette!*

AP: And then I remember your dad's filling station, and your grandpa had it first. And that was kind of a social place, too.

ST: *It was kind of a hangout! [laughter]*

AP: It was kind of a hangout, and the kids – like your age, and Bev – always had to have their ice cream cone from there. And one time Tom stopped and got a package of cigarettes and he forgot to get the ice cream, and when he got back in the car, Bev said, "You didn't forget your cigarettes, did you?" [laughter]

ST: *[laughter]*

AP: And he said, "I knew what she meant, and I wheeled around and went back and got ice cream cones." Yeah, *you didn't forget your cigarettes.*

ST: *Oh, that's pretty funny.*

AP: Oh, another place that always fascinated me was the depot, and my folks and a lot of farmers would order their baby chicks, and they'd come on the train. And you'd go in there and it'd be *peep-peep-peep-peep.*

ST: *Oh! I kind of remember that! Even when I was little...*

AP: Yeah. And I think it must have been [inaudible] Hine's husband – you'll have to ask Jeanette about that, too – I can almost see the man taking the wheelbarrow and going over, and he must have went from the post office over there to mail stuff. I can almost

seem him takin' that wheelbarrow over, but I can't think who it is. But I'm thinkin' it was a Hine that did that. I bet it was her grandpa. And then there was that pickle barrel. You know that factory out by the railroad, and that was a good moneymaker for a lot of people.

ST: *Was it?*

AP: Yeah. That's how we got married! [laughter]

ST: *Is it? Was it "pickle financed"?* [laughter]

AP: After I graduated we didn't have any money, so we couldn't get married. And that summer we put out our pickle patch, and I was breakin' my neck and back pickin' those pickles, you know... [SIDE A ENDS HERE. TURN TAPE OVER].

ST: *You put in a pickle patch, and you made...*

AP: \$300.

ST: *\$300!*

AP: Um-hm. We were able to pay for the hall and the preacher, all the attendants, you know – you get 'em a gift. And we had our dance that night, but then we didn't get to open our gifts, so all we had left was \$40! And that's what we went on our honeymoon with was \$40, and on the way home, I'm thinkin', "Gee, we got three dollars left to get bread and milk with!" You know, I thought that was pretty good – isn't that somethin'? [laughter]

ST: *[laughter] It is something – there's a whole different perspective when you're that age. So how many people at your wedding – at the reception?*

AP: At the reception? Well, it was at the English Lake Dance Hall, and that was pretty full. 'Course we went there every Saturday night dancin', you know. Al Christiansen's dad ran it then. We rented it from him.

ST: *Any idea what it cost to rent a dance hall for an evening then?*

AP: Oh! I don't know what it was... it was less than a hundred dollars. I can't remember what it was... I think the band was only thirty-five, maybe... something like that. It was just amazing.

ST: *And how large of a band was it?*

AP: Oh gosh, that was a famous band [inaudible]... he played with Al Danford. He played saxophone, and he was from Wheatfield or Tefft. Oh, I should know who it was.

ST: *I'm going to have to talk to Alvin Danford.*

AP: Yeah, yeah. He'll know who that was.

ST: *Well, I'm going to also ask you how it felt raising your children in San Pierre. And why don't you say the names of your daughters.*

AP: Oh, Beverly and Connie. Bev was born in July – she's got a birthday the 30th. And Connie was born in February... February 25th. Bev was born where grandma lived – the house is gone now – and Connie was born in Wolski's house.

ST: *But in a hospital, right?*

AP: Yeah, in the hospital. You know, everybody knows now when somebody's pregnant, you know what I mean? And years ago, you just didn't know that.

ST: *It wasn't talked about! I can remember that...*

AP: It was a secret.

ST: *[laughter] It's curious, because now it's so... just a part of life. It's not an embarrassing thing! [laughter]*

AP: Yeah, really! [laughter]

ST: *But I can remember that in my family people were reluctant to tell me if somebody was going to have a baby... it might lead to other questions, I guess! [laughter]*

AP: Yeah! [laughter]

ST: *So you had a big family, and didn't your husband also come from a good-sized family?*

AP: There was five in his family and seven in ours.

ST: *So lots of relatives.*

AP: A lot of relatives... we're kind of the last of 'em.

ST: *Uh-huh... Were the women close – emotionally close with each other?*

AP: Yeah. I was close to my sister-in-laws, and Barb is still living, you know, Tom's sister. And her and I are pretty close. We don't see... well, I take my car over there to get the oil changed, so I always go over there to visit then. Otherwise we don't see each other too often.

ST: *As you were growing up, who were your best friends?*

AP: Mary Helen. [laughter] Mary Helen, and Jean, and Katherine – I guess all three were. And Janice McCauley. Everybody liked her.

ST: *Did you continue to be close with her – Janice – when she was an adult?*

AP: Yeah, for a long time. They moved to South Bend after she got married. But I can remember one time after we had alumni that her and her husband stopped at our house. You know, you always kind of got together in certain places... Anything else?

ST: *When you were a child, what did you do for fun? What did you play?*

AP: Oh my dad would always find some old thing. We had like a... not a golf club, but a key. It was a long stick with a board going this way, and my dad always had steel wheels about this big around. And we'd scoot that wheel and get it goin' and we'd see how far we could go before it fell over. Oh, we used to run all over the farm with that! And he made our guns... our rubber band guns. And he also had a... what do you call that thing where you heat up coals and... and you can make... oh, he made ashtrays.

ST: *A kiln? Like an oven?*

AP: No, it wasn't an oven, it was an open fire thing. But he would make quite a few things like that.

ST: *Out of clay?*

AP: No, it was. It was kind of a liquid stuff. And then it would mold and get hard. I used to have an ashtray around here that he made... some time ago.

ST: *What did it look like when it was made? Did it look like porcelain, or did it look like brick, or?*

AP: No, it looked kind of... silver. Kind of a silver, heavy...

ST: *So it was metal?*

AP: Yeah.

ST: *So maybe it was a forge?*

AP: Forge. That's what it was.

ST: *And I wonder if they were made of lead, or pewter, or silver.*

AP: It looked a lot like pewter, 'cause I've got some pewter stuff here, and it looked a lot like that, yeah. So he entertained us quite a bit, 'cause he was really talented in some things.

ST: *Wow. Interesting stuff growing up! I mean, just things that haven't been here in a long time.*

AP: And then we finally got bicycles... I mean he was always on the lookout for bicycles, and sometimes he'd get parts and put 'em together.

ST: *Clever man.*

AP: Yeah. And then we ice skated, too. There was always a big pond on our farm in the pasture that was... would make a big ice pond. And on Sundays there'd be about 30 people out there that would go ice skating, like Johnny Dolezal and Ed Hartl, and the Dunlop boys, and Lois Will, and I remember her going flying through the air, 'cause my dad made a... he liked to ice skate, and he made a Flying Dutchman. And that was some apparatus with a board goin' out, and then you held hands and you go around in a circle, and you kept goin' faster and faster and faster, and pretty soon, Lois went flying through the air, and it kinda knocked the wind out of her – scared us all. And I remember one time, there wasn't much traffic on 421 – I think it was called 43 then, wasn't it?

ST: *I don't know!*

AP: 43, I think. And my dad would drive the truck, and we'd hang on behind and skate. And he could skate backwards, that's how he taught me. He'd skate backwards and pull me forward, and I love to skate. I always wished that... you know, you don't have the opportunity out here to do something like that. But I love to watch ice skating... wonder how they spin, and that.

ST: *How long ago did your parents die?*

AP: '63 my mother died, and '65 my dad died. Mom was 73, I think, and my dad was 82. Dad was about 15 years older than mom. Years ago they always married older ones, didn't they?

ST: *It's interesting to see how things like that changed over the years. Are there any other things that you notice like that – that used to be really different that are just “turned around” now?*

AP: I don't know. Maybe I'll look over my page! [laughter] Oh! Mussel's store! And that was always, uh, do you remember where it was?

ST: *I do! But say where it was for the tape.*

AP: It was right across the tracks, right on the corner opposite of Daly's house. And when we were going to school, we used to go over there for dinner [lunch], and for ten cents, you got a sandwich – I mean a good sandwich – and some kind of dessert, and a glass of milk – for ten cents. And then later they raised it to fifteen and some of them complained. [laughter] And one of the desserts was, one time, those silver dollar pancakes in sugar – oh, were they good! And certain days she always made breaded baloney [bologna], and I've breaded baloney, and I never could get it like she had it! It was so good! I think she must have used like the liquid, like pancake dough?

ST: *A batter instead of breading?*

AP: It must have been. It always had like... I always called it a scum! But that scum was so good! And ten cents was the most for the sandwiches.

ST: *And that was on bread. That breaded baloney was then served on bread?*

AP: Yeah. And it was probably about 15 kids that went over there to eat, and him and her both would work at gettin' that meal out.

ST: *Did they have any children?*

AP: I don't think so. I don't remember...

ST: *And that store... seemed like... I think I remember that when I was a child there was furniture sold there... or something?*

AP: Oh. Juanita Woosley had a antique store... junk store.

ST: *Right, a rummage kind of place, yeah.*

AP: And then down the street was Dr. Solt's house. That was always a place that you never wanted to go, you know. I mean, he was everybody's doctor then.

ST: *Was that the house that Dalkas lived in?*

AP: Yeah.

ST: *Right next to my grandma's... Grandma Tannehill's. Any characters you remember from San Pierre that you remember – not necessarily from your childhood, but maybe your adulthood – that would be interesting for people to know about, that they wouldn't necessarily hear about.*

AP: [long pause] Not offhand.

ST: *Well, you don't have to work very hard at this; I just thought I would ask. Because sometimes I remember people, and I ask about them, and no one else remembers them. But for some reason they stand out in my memory... Nothin's comin'? That's fine. Is there anything that you want to add? We've pretty much gone through the questions... And I'm also interested in hearing if you have any advice for young people in the area.*

AP: Stay off of drugs.

ST: *Stay off of drugs! [laughter]... You mentioned the place in English Lake where you had your reception. What other places did you go as an adolescent, as a teenager, as a young woman...*

AP: To have fun?

ST: To have fun, yeah.

AP: Well, we went to all the dances we could find. Tom and I used to go to Valpo to... I can't remember if it's the American Legion, or what. We used to go to that dance quite often. And Burris Camp, when that was like – in the early days, when we first started dating. And also, at Toto they had dances, and we went there.

ST: Like a dance hall?

AP: A dance hall, uh-huh. And then English Lake. And the Crystal Ballroom was where they had the big bands sometimes... Lawrence Welk was out there. And Kay Kayser, I think, and some of the big name bands were there.

ST: And where was that located?

AP: Crystal Ballroom? Where Reynolds Park is. You see a sign when you go out at Fingerhut's, you see a sign "Reynolds Park" – it used to be in there, and they tore it down now... [BREAK IN CONVERSATION ON TAPE...] And I know my dad was so afraid that there was going to be trashy places across the street, and I said, that's how it's ended up: trashy places!

ST: Yeah. Where was Radioville?

AP: Do you know where the bowling alley was, south of...?

ST: Yeah.

AP: That was Radioville. Right across from our house [inaudible]. Some fellow from Chicago was instigator of that, and kind of a conniver. He took their money, but gave them little, and a lot of them didn't have hardly anything to eat. And they'd come to my dad, and he'd give 'em milk and cream and eggs. I mean some of them had a hard time makin' it.

ST: Did this guy from Chicago build houses? Or what did he offer?

AP: He'd sell the land to 'em, I guess, and tell them how good it was and everything, and they got out and didn't have probably as much land as to make a living on. I know Parells there was very poor – they didn't have enough to eat, and my dad was down there, I guess, and saw that they didn't... and he'd come home – of course he was real tender-hearted – and have to get some eggs and milk down to 'em, you know, so they've got something to eat.

ST: *And that was when you were really young?*

AP: I was young then, yeah. I suppose maybe 10, something like that.

ST: *Old enough to remember.*

AP: Yeah.

ST: *Okay then.*

AP: That's it?

ST: *We can stop here, and if you think of other things that you want to tell me you can tell me later and I'll turn it back on.*

AP: I think I kinda went over all the stuff I had here.

ST: *That's very good. You remember a lot.*