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Rachel Weisenberger

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ORAL HISTORY

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Date 4/18/81

Rachel Weisenberger
(Signature - Interviewee)

510 Scott Ave.
Address

Frankton, Ohio 45638

Date 4/18/81

Daphne Bradshaw
(Signature - Witness)



OB: 'Cause Easter's the 19th.

DB: This is an interview with Rachel Weisenberger of 510 Scott Avenue, Ironton, Ohio, April 18, 1981. The interviewer is Daphne Yvonne Bradshaw, a student at Marshall University and also from Ironton, Ohio. (Microphone clicks)

DB: All right, umm. I need your name and birthdate and where you were born.

RW: Uh, my name is Rachel, wa- was Rachel Adkins. I was born Oct. the 16th, 19 and 7, at Pedro, Ohio.

DB: OK.

OB: Tell her who your parents were.

RW: My parents was James Rezin Adkins, R-e-z-i-n, Adkins and Mary Virginia Delawder Adkins.

DB: Um, I understand that you father was a miner.

RW: Yes, that, he was a miner, uh huh.

DB: OK. Would you mind telling me a little bit about the mining that he did.

RW: Well, he (clears throat), his father was a foreman, and he also mined, uh, ore and uh, coal and limestone.

DB: So, it's iron ore, coal, and limestone.

RW: Um huh, (OB talks in background) and he went to work, my father went to work at, when he was 12 years old. When his father was working for Nanny H. Kelly. I'd forget to tell that. (OB: Nanny H. Kelly Wright) Nanny H. Kelly Wright, uh, Nanny H. Kelly Wright.

DB: Wright. (Laughs)

RW: I just remembered that.

DB: OK, So, uh, this area has been, uh, a big mining area?

RW: Oh, yes. It was, uh, always a mining area out in there. Pedro, uh huh.

DB: What was the main things that were, uh, mined out there?

RW: That was ore, and coal, and lime. (DB says "and lime" at same time).

DB: Did they have furnaces?

RW: But lime, ore and lime, was the greatest part. (DB: ore, yea) because wasn't, people say, too thick a vein as they called it.

DB: OK. Did they have the furnaces out there?

RW: Well, they did at Lawrence. Uh, uh, They had, uh, uh, ore, uh, That was a ore furnace. (OB: There they cast pig iron.) Uh, uh, uh, well, the ore made the iron, didn't it? (OB talks with her) yea, yea, they had the furnace at Lawrence.

DB: Uh huh, for pig iron.

RW: Um hum. That was also Pedro. You see, Lawrence Furnace, uh, is also the Pedro Route. All through that was on the Pedro Route.

DB: OK. How many brothers and sisters did you have?

RW: I had, uh, 8 brothers and sisters. I made the 9th one.

DB: The 9th one, and you made the 3rd oldest.

RW: I was the 3rd oldest, that's right.

DB: I understand you were the only girl for a long time.

RW: Yes, the only girl.

DB: (giggles) So, uh, did they give you special priviledges?

RW: They did. (Laughs) Very specials.

DB: In what ways did they try to spoil you?

RW: Well, just because I was a girl. (Laughs)

DB: Just because you're a girl? (Laughs)

RW: I was their girl. Ah, yes. They were very, and just very good to me and very nice all my life.

DB: Tell me about the episode with the shoes.

RW: (Laughter) My aunt who was dating her 2nd husband, he, uh, it, was, uh, became her 2nd husband, always took me with her to meet him, and she wanted me to have a nice pair of shoes. She dressed me up to take me with her. I was 2 and a half and 3 years old, and uh, my father came to town and got her, um, me a nice pair of shoes, and he also found a pair of brogan shoes, and he took the nice ones out and put 'em in his coat pocket and put the brogans in the box, and my aunt (laughs) was almost feathered, tarred and feathered him for doing so. (Laughter) until he showed

the new shoes, the good ones. (Laughter) Oh.

DB: So, she took you out as a sort of chaperone.

RW: Oh, dear, I was it with her.

DB: About how old were you at this time?

RW: between, anywhere to 2½, 3 year old.

DB: mmm (Laughs)

RW: Fer, Uncle Sam Bridges carried me back in his arms
(Laughs) He was as crazy about me as she was.

DB: So, what was it like, um, you know, growing up at Pedro?

RW: Well, uh, it was, uh ordinary life for us at that time because we knew, didn't know any, any different, and uh, all of us were poor people. Yea, middle class, you'd call it, I guess, because we wasn't the poorest that they had because my father always worked. We had plenty to eat, and, uh, he would come, he would come to town when my mother couldn't, and he would buy the material, and my mother made our clothes. He could pick some of the most beautiful material. (DB:umm) And when a-specially for Christmas and Easter and when we had children's programs, my mother would make our clothes. We would pick the pattern out in a Sear's catalogue and show her how we wanted it made. She looked on that, on, the , at the picture and made our clothes like that.

DB: So, she made her own patterns.

RW: Mumm, hum.

DB: Oh.

RW: That's right. That, taht, taht was how she would make our clothes. We had, we had pretty clothes, a, uh, another thing when we went to school we wore aprons (DB:aprons?) over our, our dresses, and they, our dresses lasted longer. (DB:mmm) (OB: Had to wash in a wash tub) Yes, and had to wash in a big wash tub with a wash board.

DB: Oh, my. (giggles)

OB: So, that made you wash your dresses less.

DB: Yes. They kept their dresses cleaner longer.

RW: Oh, yes. Um hum.

DB: So, did you have very many clothes?

RW: Well, uh, we, now, uh, we usually had a dress for everyday at school.

DB: That's more than I have.

RW: Uh, well, in those days they made. They'd get the material you know. Of course, now they (clears throat) uh, come to think of it, it wasn't any cheaper. The material in those days wouldn't have been any cheaper than they would be today, you see, because they was lower wages. (DB:mmmm)and then what they get today, but it was good material, and it lasted, and we knew to take care of 'em.

DB: And it wasn't, uh, permanent press? (Laughs)

RW: Oh, no. (Laughs) Had to iron them with irons that ye'd, uh, what was called cold irons, you know. But you had to set them on the stove and heat them and then, uh, had to,uh, wrap something around the handle to iron.

DB: Oh, my.

RW: To iron with.

DB: Did anyone get burnt?

RW: Oh, you could easily get burned if you didn't pay mind to what you was doing.

DB: Did you like to iron?

RW: Yes, I always did, um hum.

DB: Was there a specific way you were taught to iron? I mean, do you. . . .?

RW: I, uh, I had do, uh, anything that I was put to do, I had to do it right. You Know.

DB: Without any wrinkles?

RW: Um hum. I had it to do over if I didn't do it right.

DB: You dampened your clothes down.

RW: Yes, yea, uh, you see, Mom would wash clothes and starch 'em. Then you'd dampen them down and roll them up and put 'em in a pillow case or something and then when you got ready, was ready to iron, the next day no doubt, then your clothes was ready, and you ironed then. (Mumbling

in the background)

DB: Uh, what kind of things did you iron? I know you ironed shirts and pants, but did you also have to iron petti-coats and things like that?

RW: Oh, yes. They were of unbleached muslim, and you had to.

DB: Otherwise, your dresses wouldn't fit right.

RW: No, no.

DB: Where there any other things that you had to iron besides those garments? Did you have to iron your . . . ?

OB: Tablecloths, pillow cases. .

RW: Oh, yea, pillow cases, uh, tablecloths, and pillowcases and.

DB: Everything.

RW: Everything, uh hum, everything that you used you had to iron in those days.

DB: Mmmm. Did you have other chores you had to do?

RW: Oh, yes, uh, I had quite a few other chores: cooking, and, and, uh, then when I got old enough I baked. I did the baking and uh, and all that because Mom was always busy in the summertime outside, and in the wintertime, then I helped her quilt.

DB: Oh, you quilted?

RW: Oh, yes, um hum.

DB: What kind of quilting did you do?

RW: Uh, well, we quilted for other people a lot, and Then we made comforts for ourselves and, uh, uh, quilt some, uh, Mom would piece quilt. I never liked to piece, but I loved to quilt.

DB: Well, how did you quilt? You, you had this. . .

RW: H-Had the frames, had the big long frames, and roll them in the frame. She never saw them.

OB: Like saw horses.

RW: Um hum.

DB: They look like saw horses?

RW: Uh huh.

DB: Well, de-describe it for me.

RW: Well, they were, they were, I'tell you, Jim Nance, uh, uh, Mom had, Lorna Merrill was in, uh. . .

OB: Margo Frances

RW: Margo Frances, at this school, and Jim Nance was his, was the teacher, and uh, so, Mom, uh, had them to make her a pair of quilting frames at that time, but she had old ones, uh, before that. (DB: Hm) and uh, they were just like uh, saw horses, in a way. And then on each side, they were long rods and they fastened the quilt on one rod and then rolled as you'd quilt. You rolled your quilt under, your quilting under, see. (DB: Oh, I see) We do that out here, they do that out at Lawrence Church now.

DB: Really?

RW: Uh huh.

DB: I'd love to learn how to quilt. What do you do? You take uh, you do it with hand, right?

RW: Um Hum.

DB: Do you take all the seams that you've made or do you do a special pattern.

RW: It depends on the, uh, the, uh, how, uh, what the pattern is of your quilt. If you want different designs in it, you make that, the, uh, you can cut out your designs out of cardboard. Not too stiff, you know. (DB: mmhmm) and uh, and uh, put that in your plain blocks if they're set up plain. (DB: mmhmm) She ought, uh, to see some of mine I have, shouldn't she? (OB: Yea, she ought to.)

DB: Well, what kind of patterns did you use? Did you use, uh, crazy patches, or did you use. .?

RW: Well, Mom used to use a lot of those. Uh hum.

DB: Do you Double Wedding Ring, uh, or Wild Goose Chase.

RW: Yea, yea, yea, we did that, yes. We quilted every, every kind of quilt nearly in the book for a neighbor woman. She made, uh, Mrs. Kimbal, Mary Johnson's mother, (OB: yea) uh, uh, uh, we, uh, we quilted for her, uh, she had for each one of her children, she made, besides some other ones she made, and when we quilted until it got to hurting Mom's

sight so bad that, uh, I got her to quilt, to quit, uh taking 'em. Mrs. Kimbal got sore about it, but, uh, I just told Mom, I said, "Mom, it's not worth it to you to do that, and so forth, your sight like that."

DB: Did you also do weaving, too?

RW: Uh, no, I didn't. I crocheted.

DB: Crocheted?

RW: Yea, I loved to crochet, but I never could go by the, uh, book, directions, but I could look at a piece (DB: mmmm) I could make it.

DB: You made thing like doilies?

RW: Oh yes, and, and some of the most beautiful pillow case, uh. (DB: oh) things that you'd ever look at.

DB: What kind of crocheting did you do? Did you do the filet, you know, for the lace you have.

RW: Um, huh. Yes, and I took, uh, some that look like roses. And, uh, there'd be maybe 5 or 6 then that would go together, and then I'd cut the, uh, top part of the pillow case out that fit that part, you see, and I'd crochet that into that pillowcase. (DB: oh) and when we were building our first new church out there, uh, our minister's wife gave each one of us a dollar and told us to buy something to, and keep increasing that, and I bought crochet thread, (DB: hmmm) with mine, and some material, of course, I paid for the material, but, uh, and made pillowcases and sold 'em.

DB: Ooh, was it a very popular item?

RW: Oh, lands yes, they were. I, I could get \$5.00 a pair for pillowcases, and, uh, uh, but, uh, almost ruined my lens, uh, crocheting. I had to get trifocals. (DB: mmm) and I'm still wearing them if I do close work, uh, you know, my lens, uh, uh, I crocheted until I got arthritis in my hands until I couldn't tell, my hand would get numb, until I couldn't tell I had the needle in my hand.

DB: Oh my. Did you do any other type of work like this, like embroidery, or applique?

RW: Well, I could do embroidery, but I didn't like it like I liked crocheting, but my, my sister did embroidering. She could embroidery just anything, uh, my sister Sarah could embroidery anything she just wanted to, but, uh,

she couldn't crochet.

DB: So, you complimented each other. Did you do a lot of sewing, you, yourself?

RW: I, uh, had done a little, but not much.

DB: Not like your mother.

RW: No, huh uh, no, I, I, no, my youngest sister took more after Mom of sewing.

DB: I understand that you really like to cook?

RW: I do. I did. (Laughs) But I don't do too much of it anymore.

DB: Tell me about your early lessons in learning to cook.

RW: Well, it was just, uh, ordinary food, and until I learned I got to learn to make more fancier, uh, such as potato salad, and, uh, oh, uh, you know, fancy pies and cakes (OB talks) and then, uh, another thing, uh, when, uh my father and brothers worked and we, uh, fixed their dinner pails, uh, I baked everything, everything, uh, uh, their dessert, I baked that.

DB: 5 dinner pails.

RW: Yea, um hum, or. .

DB: So, you had those great big dinner pails to fill up for. . .

RW: Um hum.

DB: For how many people?

RW: uh, Well, Uh, for, sometimes there was 5 - my father and 4 brothers.

DB: mmmm Oh, my. (Giggles) How early did you have to get up to, uh, fix your dinner pails for these people?

RW: Well, usually 5 o'clock.

DB: 5 O'Clock in the morning, oho, is there such an hour as 5 o'clock in the morning? (Laughter)

RW: We'd get up at 5 o'clock in the morning, my sister and I and, uh, and my dad loved fried, he called them fried apple pie, and that was just, uh, like bread dough and put chopped apples in that and, and cinnamon and sugar in that and, uh, put, uh, butter and then put, uh, apples and, and cinnamon,

and sugar in that and put 'em in a skillet and brown real good and put it his lunch. That's what he liked.

DB: Oh, that sounds neat. (giggles)

RW: And it was easy to do, uh, for him, uh, I mean it was easy to do, and he loved 'em that way, and we tried to please him and they was, my sister and I did the cooking uh, at breakfast. 17 years that we ever let our mother get up and, uh, fix breakfast.

DB: Oh my.

RW: We never let her get breakfast for 17 years.

DB: She must be very pleased.

RW: She was and she was something special, you know, to us, and, and,

DB: What other ways did you treat your mother as someone special?

RW: In anyway that we could to take anything, any kind of hard work, burden, or anything off of her that we could, and take her places, and then I had the pleasure of having her with me, uh, 2 months in the spring before she died in the fall. (DB: oh) I had kept her over here and help, uh, Frank, my husband, had helped her to learn to walk. She had sit, uh, around home so long, and the doctor had told me she needed, a, uh, woman's cane, and, uh, so, uh, I brought her in with me and uh, she wanted to go back out to my brother and stayed home. That was the time after my dad died and uh, we taught her to, to walk over, uh, you know, to learn to walk because she had just about lost the use of her legs (DB: mmm) and, and, we taught her how to walk, and my husband would lead her to the step and I 'd reach down and take-a hold of her foot, put it on the step and then reach and get the other one and we taught Mom to walk, and she went back out home after 2 months. I kept her over here with me 2 months, and I really enjoyed it.

DB: She must have been a very proud mother.

RW: She, she was.

DB: If I remember correctly you were making what was it, biscuit or muffins?

RW: Yes, Biscuits.

DB: Standing up on top of a . . . ?

RW: A dynamite box. (DB: Laughs) when I was 10 years old, and

I washed dishes that way.. I stood and washed dishes that way for her.

DB: You must have been very determined to stand on top of a box.

RW: Uh, well, you had to turn it upside down, you have a good solid box. (OB: It's good to see ye, come on in) and, uh, to, uh, you know, a dynamite box is larger than a chair (2 guests enter to see Mrs. Bradshaw) and, uh, you turn it upside down (DB: Thank you) You turn it upside down, and you had a good solid place to stand.

DB: Well, I'm going to turn this over and we'll go in there, OK? (Microphone clicks) Well, now that our guests are in the next room (laughs) So, tell me, what would be about a typical day in your life as a child? (A conversation will be heard in the background)

RW: My typ, My most typical day was Sunday. And that was going to Sunday School and to church. I loved Sunday School and church.

DB: Did you have lots of playmates there, or did you like the services?

RW: Yea, uh, then I was in the choir and uh, ha, I had to quit when I got the goiter.

DB: Right.

RW: That was too much of a strain.

DB: That was caused by your thyroid.

RW: Yes, the thyroid, uh huh. It was that and, uh, I just picked up any child that would go. I, I drove a car, part of the time I walked. (DB: Uh huh) That uh, that uh, there, uh, there are some ministers that would tell ya that I was the first one that ever led them to church and, and uh, a Nedly that's in a church down here that's in a church, uh, Elm Street Nazarene Church, uh, said that, uh, I was the only one that ever took him. (DB: mmmmlaugh) Now he's in the church, a big worker in it, and I'm just pleased. To live about. .

DB: Did you get very involved in, uh, the revivals and that sort of stuff?

RW: Yes, I did, uh huh.

DB: Were they lively and . . ?

RW: They were, uh huh. They were and I went. And I had an uncle that was a minister 50 years. My mother's oldest brother. He was a minister 50 years.

DB: 50 years.

RW: 50 years.

DB: Oh my. That's a long time to be anything.

RW: Uh, well, he lived to be, uh, I think, uh, 90 year old, but, uh, you know, he wasn't, uh, got to where he wasn't act-, couldn't go to church (DB: ummhhh) and all that all, but he still was a good Christian man and all, but he was still wonderful.

DB: Did you get, did you get involved in uh, mission type works. . and . . ?

RW: Well, now, uh, I write, uh, I did in my class. Our superintendent Mr. White, in the ME Methodist Church, he taught mission, you know, he, he stressed mission work, and uh, I got more involved there, uh, because the Free Will Baptist sponsored a mission, a Missionary, but the, uh, the church wasn't active with it, you know, like, uh, like the Methodists.

DB: So, it was the Freewill Baptists in Pedro that you went to?

RW: Yes, that was the one, and also the Methodist in Pedro.

DB: OK so, I keep checking that. Um (giggles)

RW: and My uncle, that - that, uh, I told you about being a minister 50 years, is the one I was served under his preaching. And he baptized me when I was 13 years old.

DB: 13. What do you remember about when you accepted Jesus?

RW: Oh, just what a wonderful feeling that it was and uh, and going to the creek and nice clear water and waded out and he waded out. There was quite a few of us young people.

DB: Which creek?

RW: Uh, it was up Texas Hollow.

DB: Texas Hollow! (Laughs)

RW: Close to my church.

DB: It's not often you see clear creeks anymore.

RW: Well, at that time they were. They kept them cleared out, and uh, it just clear. I just see it now, the cleaners, wading down into that and up into that water. I never could, now that didn't bother me, but I never could wade, get in a creek up above my ankles but what it'd take my breath. That was only the day I was baptized. I, I still couldn't now if I was to try it.

DB: Oh my, (Laughter) oh.

RW: I don't know what it was about the waters that made me to do that, that just taking my breath.

DB: I don't know. It is. So, uh, when you were, uh, you said you didn't like to go out in the sun.

RW: Well, I couldn't but what it'd make me sick.

DB: So, that means that you stayed in and did housework.

RW: Um hum. I stayed in and did housework, yes. Oh, I went out, in and out, of the house, you know, in sun. To get out and work in the sun, I couldn't.

DB: So, you're brothers and sisters. . .

RW: and Mom . . .

DB: Went out and . .

RW: Uh huh. Because Dad was working in mines at that time, you see. He worked in the mine, and she did the gardening.

DB: About how much land do you own? Do you. .?

RW: They didn't own it, they rented.

DB: Rented?

RW: Rented. For a, they could all that they could tend (DB:umm) and that was quite a bit. That, that was they were in different places, good places. She knew where she could raise lots of beans and corn and potatoes. They had a certain place, had a nice big garden where they could raise, plant potatoes and her cabbage.

DB: Did you have lettuce and onions?

RW: Oh yes, Lettuce, and onions, and beets.

DB: Did you have any fruit?

RW: Well no, we didn't own any fruit trees, but, uh, they, uh, that orchard was there close, and uh, we could get fruit from there.

DB: Or you could peaches, too, huh?

RW: There was a time I got peaches. I wasn't supposed to, (Laughing) went under the fence and got them.

DB: You went under the fence and. . ?

RW: Yes, I rolled under the fence. I was afraid of tearing my clothes on something. I knew Mom would come to find out where I was at and how I come to getting my dress torn. (Laughing)

DB: And you got peaches from the top of the hill? (Motor in the background)

RW: Yes.

DB: On the way down, were you chased by a bull or something?

RW: Uh, we were. There was 3 or 4 of us together. (Laughing) It's lovely.

DB: Did it give you sort of guilty feelings?

RW: It did. Oh, I, these years I felt so guilty over that. I felt like I had stole, you see, because no one knew that I had. I guess it was stealing because no one knew that I had got them, of which they would have cared if I had asked for them. They wouldn't have cared. They'd told I could have 'em, but I didn't. I thought the peaches tasted better. (Laughter) But I had guilty feelings for so long.

DB: Oh, well, this is just about over, so I'm going to stop it, turn it over and continue.

End Side One

DB: All right. Uh. Let's talk about the depression, OK?

RW: Um hum.

DB: What do you remember about the Depression?

RW: That it was very rough.

DB: Very rough.

RW: Although we had plenty to, we always had plenty to eat. Always had it, and uh, but once, uh, they was rationing food and uh. It was coupons, they called it then instead of stamps, it was coupons, they called it. You had to go and register, and then they sent you your coupons. One for each one in the family. (DB: uhm huh) and you got so much, so many ounces for each one in the family, and uh, but they had a certain limit of time, they, uh, the manager of the st, of the market did. That they gave it out, and if you, if you was up next and he close up it, and you had to go back to, make another trip back to get your, your food, although we never was out 'cause we managed in a way that we was never completely out, and sometimes it was very, very hard to su-, not enough sugar.

DB: Yea, I imagine.

RW: Uh huh. Especially if you baked.

DB: Or canned.

RW: Um huh, canned. That was right.

DB: ' cause you need a lot of sugar in canning.

RW: Mmmhmm.

DB: Did you can a lot at the time?

RW: Yes, oh yes, oh, I've seen the time when we've canned and now it wasn't quarts, it was gallons. We have had gallons. We've had a hundred gallons of berries canned, that was raspberries and blackberries.

DB: A hundred gallons?

RW: Um huh. When I was at home.

DB: Oh my.

RW: And then, uh, beans, the same way. And besides, Mom, uh, would, uh, pickle beans. She would pickle corn. Of course, we loved (DB: Would this last all year 'round?)

and, and kraut. Oh, yes.

DB: How would you make kraut?

RW: Uh, well, you had a kraut cutter. I don't know if you ever saw one or not. (DB: un huh) but you clean your cabbage, wash it, and put it in a big tub, you know, of clear water, and cut off all the outside leaves off and then you put it into your cutter, uh, hold it and cut it down, shred it and,uh, and then put it into a large ca- or 20 gallon jar or whichever amount you was going to make. (DB:mmm) and uh, then you put your brine on it. You made your brine out of, uh, they call it canning salt now, an those days we called it, uh, coarse salt and uh, they had to come up over that and uh, put a cloth, a white cloth over it, and uh, a plate and then a clean lime rock (DB:ooh) on the plate to hold it down so your brine would stay in. It would come up over your, rise up.

DB: I heard some people put apples in their kraut. Did you ever?

RW: No, we never did do that. We never did.

DB: So, you did a hundred gallons of berries.

RW: We had some, when they were plentiful. There was, they weren't some years that plentiful.

DB: What would cause berries not to be plentiful some years?

RW: Well, uh, too much rain.

DB: Too much rain?

RW: Uh huh. Too much rain in the first part of June. The 1st 3 or 4 days of June, if it rained on them 3 or 4 days there was very limited amount of berries.

DB: Oh, so berries need dry.

RW: Uh huh. They like dry and the hot sun. Yes, that's more and nuts.

DB: Did you make any other type of things?

RW: Oh, we made apple butter.

DB: How do you make apple butter?

RW: Well, you peel, uh, core and slice your apples. Then Then you have a large copper kettle. (DB: umms) and you put, you fill that two thirds full at first of raw apples (DB: uh huh) and you have to stand and stir that steady

and you can cook them in the kitchen, and uh, put, uh, cooked apples into (clears throat) that after these apples begin to get cooked up, and you could stir a whole kettle full of them like that.

DB: And then when it cools down.

RW: Uh, when it cooks thick, uh, it goes to getting kinda thick, then you add your sugar. And then you, uh, cook it and you stir. Somebody has to stir constantly, and you stir that until the sugar is all stirred up and cooked into Oat and no water will stand in that. You take out a spoonful in a saucer, and uh, no water showing around that. Then you can your apple butter. (DB: oho) There a lot of work in it, but it is delicious. (giggles) They always did it out at Lawrence Church.

DB: Lawrence Church.

RW: Never could get enough of it made. People gave their orders. We tried to fill 'em, and they're made, we tried to sell, it, see. They'd turn their orders in. (DB: mmmhmm) Well, a lot of 'em did give enough the first time, and they'd want the 2nd time. (DB: uh hum) There was many a time they couldn't fill the orders, and they would make close to 200 gallons.

DB: 2, ah, that's a lot of apple butter. (giggles)

RW: But they, uh, usually worked 3 weeks. They's work 1 or 2 days each week for 3 weeks (DB; Hm) and then they never got all of the orders filled.

DB: So, this was a fund raiser for the church?

RW: It was, uh huh.

DB: Were there other ways that they raised funds for the churches?

RW: Uh, well, uh, that, uh, was the best way to raise it, was the apple butter 'cause it went so fast. (laughter)

DB: Did you like the stirring? Did you like to do that stirring?

RW: Well, uh, you, you stood. Now to stir, uh, had it had a long handle and a blade, you'd call like that and about that wide, and you, you stood out from the fires that was under your kettle.

DB: So, it was just like a big knife, sort of.

RW: um huh. And you stirred, you stood out and stirred like that. Oh, uh, oh, you'd get a big bunch together, and

it was fun. (giggling) It was, it was just more fun than work.

DB: Sounds like fun. Did you ever get together and do things like that, like with quilts?

RW: Oh, yes. Uh huh.

DB: You had quilting bees.

RW: Well, uh, we had them at the church, and uh, and some quilts that I have over there, I'd say there'd been as high as 25 people has quilted on it. (DB: om, giggles) during the time that the quilt was in. I, uh, the, probably 25 people that has quilted on the quilt, (DB: Oh my) Some of the most beautiful work that you ever saw in stitches.

DB: You'll have to show me that.

RW: Yea, I will. I have 2 that my sister pieced the tops for me, and I got the, uh, this red, the very best of the back, I can't think of the name of it right now, and then, uh, lining. And uh, that had the church to quilt 'em for me, for uh, uh, a bed. For Frank and my bed. Twin beds. (DB: oho) Yes, I'll show you. The orchid and, uh, the white set up you know, but there's all different. It's a double bow tie. That's what it is. (DB: Double bow tie) UH, it's a double bow tie, the name of the top. And it's very easy pieced. (DB: hmmm) and I have one that a neighbor that used lived across the street from me, the house is tore down now, but she pieced me one of the double bow tie all ne-, there's not one plain block in it. It's all double bow tie. I gave her \$7 for the top (DB: Oh my) alone, just the top alone, and, and I cherish it now because the lady's dead. She's, she was, she pieced to help make a living, you know, and uh, I like I tol' her what color I wanted. I, I got to go the material, and she pieced the quilt for me, (DB: good) the top, and I bought the rest of it and asked the church to quilt it.

DB: Were there other hand crafts that you used to do as a girl?

RW: Well, not much, uh, let's see, uh, other than crocheting and quilting (DB; quilting) but, uh. .

DB: But you didn't like to churn butter?

RW: No, I didn't. (Laughter) (Motorcycle in background) But I have many a time, but it wasn't because I liked to. It was just because Mom was too busy, and I did it to help her out.

DB: Mmmm. I understand, moving up into the World War II era,

that you had, what, 3 brothers fighting?

RW: Yes, I did. Um huh. 3 brothers in at one time.

DB: Did they stay stateside or did they go to combat?

RW: Uh, no, the one that was in the Navy, uh, now he saw combat, but, uh, but uh, the other 2, uh, didn't go across the, uh, one got injured in Texas, and they had to dismiss him.

DB: Where was he in Texas?

RW: Oh, I used to know the name of that place. Oh, he ha-, he hated the name of Texas. He was so far away, he didn't want to get so far away that he couldn't come home often, but he never got a, a leave, you know, for so far, (DB:umm) what time he was in. (DB: uh hmm) and then, uh, one was in Missouri for a while, and uh, one was, uh, then one in North Carolina, Fort Bragg, North Carolina, where my husband was at.

DB: Mmmm. And that's the one you went to see.

RW: Um humm. That's the one that took me to see my husband. (DB:giggles) I went back with him as he was home on leave, I went back with him to see my husband before he got out. My husband was billed ready to go overseas, and uh, see, he was, they took 'em past 38 then. (DB: uhmm) and uh, so, uh, they, uh, lowered the age limit that they could go oversea, and uh, in order to stay in the service, either one, and he was dismissed, then and that was that.

DB: What is your husband's name?

RW: Frank Weisenberger.

DB: Frank Weisenberger. When did you meet him?

RW: Oh, I couldn't tell you how many years. (Laughter) Let's see, we were married in 1941. Well, I've known him since in the 19 and 18, I you know, just as a girl (DB: um huh) I mean, I, I, know. . .

DB: You knew him from 1918?

RW: Um huh.

DB: When in 1941 were you married?

RW: July the 29th.

DB: July 29. So, did you have a formal wedding?

RW: No, uh, no, we didn't.

DB: Did you go to a chapel, a chapel or?

RW: No, we were married in Jackson, Ohio, uh, and, uh, we were married at the Court House. (DB: Oh) in Jackson, Ohio.

DB: There was one couple, uh, see, Ed and Stell Dillon, were married in a funeral home. (Laughter) That's the reason I asked.

RW: No, uh, we didn't have that kind of a wedding. (Laughter) We were married at the Court House in Jackson, Ohio.

DB: I get that would be a social commentary on a wedding, wouldn't it?

RW: Yes. (Laughter) and we didn't, we couldn't take no honeymoon at that time, because, uh, his brother was working night, uh, shift, and there was no one with his mother. (DB: Mms) We lived with her up until, the time she lived, and, uh, in the house with her because she said if we went to housekeeping, she was going with us. So, we, uh, she had a big home, so we just stayed with her. (chuckles) She had a 8 room,uh, house and uh, I stayed with her then while he was in service. Of course, I helped her do all the work and did the biggest part of the work for her because she was (high pitched shrill brake sound inbackground), she wasn't well, so.

DB: Did you learn any home remedies to, uh, you know, as a girl?

RW: Yes, we did. We learned quite a few. We had to because uh, you couldn't always get a doctor, you know. After the doctors that, uh, did live out there close, they came to Ironton and uh, then, uh, several of them went other places. Then Dr. Griffith was the only family physician out there, and he, uh, uh, and uh, he was so faithful in time of the flu. That man almost worked himself to death. He come to the homes and sit and made out little packages, just a dose, little packages of 2 kind of powder to give to that flu, and he saved more people than,than when they took them to the hospitals and things. (DB: hmmm) They, they were five of us down with the flu at one time, (DB: ooh) and when my youngest sister was 3 months old (DB: mmhmm) and, uh, and, uh, my uncle and his wife lived across our garden way, and uh, they had a little girl so bad, and then she died with that. Well, Mom and Dad would take turns a-going back and forth to them, and my sister would cry and I would sit up in bed with that, and I had the flu, I would

I would sit up in bed and shake the springs and get her back to sleep. (chuckle) (DB: ahh) I had three bad sheets before I, bad bed sheets before I got out of doing that, you know, it's hard, you know, because they lost her, poor girl. She died with that (DB: ah). That was the first time it ever came around, 1918, or 19 whichever time of the year with the flu. I think it was, uh, 1918. I'm not 1st, I believe, it wasn't, it was the 1st flu. It was awful bad. Nobody knew what it was, you know, at that time. That was the time of that.

DB: Well, what was some of the home remedies that you learned?

RW: Oh, using turpentine and castor oil and (giggles) Vick's sauve and,, and uh, rose bud. That, uh, that was a good sauve that you used for cuts and burns and things like that of course, my, uh, my, uh, father, if you got burnt, my father could draw fire. (DB: ut oh) in a seconds time. (giggles) I still miss that.

DB: So, how did he do that?

RW: He just, by ver-, now none of us asked him before he died. We let him die with his secret of, of that. Of which he could of told us girls, but when he was on his death bed, he could of told the boys. He was a will as his about doing itbut we didn't ask him, and, uh, it was a verse in the Bible and, uh, he, but he, would always touch, rub ye, just rub the burn a littles bit and a, if he, if he could get to that. There was people that brought children and people to him, that, uh, he would take fire out. But if he could get to it before it had time to blister, they never was a blister come up. (DB: oh!) Oh yes. It was, he, uh, as long as I can remember, he could always do that.

DB: Mmmm. Could he do other things? I mean, was he a healer?

RW: No. Hum uh. No. Nothing. He didn't try to, anything like that. That was all, he could do that. I've got a, uh, a woman friend that, uh, is, you can just call her on the phone, and she can draw fire, and she also can stop blood.

DB: And how can she stop blood?

RW: She says, she says it's a verse in the Bible that, uh, there certain verses in the Bible that she does that.

DB: Huh, So, that there are people that use certain verses in the Bible to heal ailments of this type?

RW: Um huh. Yes. There are. There are people that do it. I, uh, I, uh, I was, uh, that your Grandma knows the same

woman I know. She went to high school with her. Uh, and, uh, Mrs. Kline, uh, well, Rena Kline and, uh, they do that. Uh, she can do that. And you can just call her on the phone.

DB: Huhn?

RW: If you get burnt, you can call her. (DB: As soon as. .)
My sister sent me a plant and, uh, told me that, uh, when I got burnt, and I was telling her, she was telling me, "My lands, if I had know that, " she said, "You could of just called me, and I could of drawn fire, and never have to see you." But now Dad always saw the person, and they would bring, and there's a young woman, a woman, that lived, that runs a novelty shop right down here on 2nd Street, uh, Mary Johnson, (DB: oh) she was, she was about 3 years old, and, uh, she pulled a cup of hot coffee off on her and, uh, her, uh, her Dad come after Dad to take the fire out of her, and he went down, and she was in bed, you know, just in awful pain. And he drew fire and in 10 minutes time, she was sitting up in bed singing for him. (DB: giggles) and she was burned bad with that scalding hot coffee. She was there laughing. She'd pepany up, and she's not the only one. He, he took fire out of one woman that'd been burned a year, and, uh, her little daughter got burned up. She had 2 cans: one of gasoline and one of kerosene and, she started to wash and she going to uh, to, water outside there at Lawrence Furnace to heat uh, to wash, and she didn't notice which one she picked up. She picked up the gasoline and threw it on that, and, on that, and it burned her. (DB: mmm) and burned her so bad, she wouldn't, she wouldn't come to Dad for a year. And she could not get no peace, and her husband kept telling her because he knew Dad could draw fire. He'd, I think, he saw Dad draw fire from a man over in the mine, that, uh, burned of electric, made fun of Dad. He had made all kinds of fun of people saying Dad could draw fire, and that man got burned of electric and Dad was a mile out of the mine, and, uh, my brother went after him, and he walked back that mile. He walked back in there and took the fire out of that man and that man said, "I'll never," he said, "Mr. Adkins, I'll never again in this world will I ever say one word against that." For quick, (DB: Oh my) that man was out painting.

DB: Uh, do you know what verse was the one he used?

RW: No, I don't. Um hum. I don't know what it is.

DB: So.

RW: I never asked Mrs. Kline because I think if, if, uh, you, a woman asked. I know Dad always said that he could tell one of us girls but he couldn't tell one of the boys.

DB: Um hum, huh. Why?

RW: Well, it took it from him. (DB: Oh I see) You see, it was a man, uh. It was a male, uh, you see. (Telephone rings) He could. . .

DB: Hang on a minute. . (Microphone clicks) Did you have any children? (Motorcycle in background)

RW: No.

DB: You never had any children?

RW: No, I've helped raise several, you know, kids (Guests walking into room talking) what times they wanted to stay with me and things like that, but, and, uh, uh, my nephew's wife stayed with me almost a year when he was in Korea.

DB: Uh, well, uh hang on. This has been a busy interview, hasn't it?

RW: Yes, it has. (Laughter)

DB: Uh, when was the first time that you, uh, got to, say, into Ironton, you know?

RW: I had to ride the train.

DB: Had to ride the train to Ironton. (Chuckles)

RW: Yes.

OB: the D T & I

RW: The D T & I

DB: The D T & I to Ironton.

RW: The, she, there used to be one that go clear out, that go clear through.

OB: Detroit, Toledo, and Ironton.

RW: Uh huh.

DB: My.

RW: Yes, I was small when the first time, you know, I got to ride the train. Of course, I mean, I could walk, you know.

DB: Walk to Ironton.

RW: No.

OB: Oh no.

DB: I was going to say.

RW: I had to walk, I had to walk down to the depot, you know, to catch the train, see. The train, uh, came in with Mom and Dad.

DB: Well, then a trip to Ironton was a big thing?

RW: Oh, it was a treat. I got to go to a restaurant.
(Laughs) That was something. You had to come for the day, you know, 'cause the train just made 2 trips, you know. Come out, it would come out in of the morning, coming that way and go back of the evening, going. .

DB: Did you make very many trips to Ironton?

RW: No.

DB: I didn't think so.

RW: No, I didn't, uh. It wasn't that expensive or anything. We just didn't amke that manytrips.

DB: MMM. Oh well. The time here is almost up, and I haven't got to ask you all the questions that I'd want to, but, uh, it's been a very interesting, if not busy interview.

RW: I, uh, I have really enjoyed it. It, it brings back, uh

OB: Old memories.

RW: Memories better than I can remember anything that's happened a week ago. (Laughter)

DB: Well, thank you.

RW: Um huh. Yes, it's really been interesting to me.

DB: Thank you. (microphone clicks)

END OF TAPE



MARSHALL UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY OF APPALACHIA

HUNTINGTON, WEST VIRGINIA 25701

The Marshall University Oral History of Appalachia Program is an attempt to collect and preserve on tape the rich, yet rapidly disappearing oral and visual tradition of Appalachia by creating a central archive at the James E. Morrow Library on the Marshall campus. Valued as a source of original material for the scholarly community, the program also seeks to establish closer ties between the varied parts of the Appalachian region—West Virginia, Virginia, Ohio, and Kentucky.

In the Spring of 1972, members of the Cabell-Wayne Historical Society joined with Dr. O. Norman Simpkins, Chairman, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, and Dr. Michael J. Galgano of the Department of History in establishing the program. The Historical Society and other community organizations provided the first financial support and equipment. In April 1974, the Oral History program received a three year development grant from the Marshall University Foundation allowing for expansion and refinement. In 1976, the program became affiliated with New York Times Microfilm Corporation of America. To date, approximately 4,200 pages of transcribed tapes have been published as part of the New York Times Oral History Program. These materials represent one of the largest single collections of Appalachian oral materials in existence. Royalties earned from the sale of the transcripts are earmarked for the continuation of the program.

The first interviews were conducted by Marshall University History and Sociology students. Although students are currently involved in the program, many interviews are conducted by the Oral History staff. Graduate students are strongly encouraged to participate in the program by taking special topic courses in oral history under the supervision of Dr. Robert Maddox, program director since September 1978.

The program seeks to establish contacts with as broad a variety of regional persons as possible. Farmers, physicians, miners, teachers, both men and women all comprise a significant portion of the collection. Two major types of interviews have been compiled: the whole life and the specific work experience. In the whole life category, the interviewer attempts to guide subtly the interviewee through as much of his or her life as can be remembered. The second type isolates a specific work or life experience peculiar to the Appalachian region and examines it in detail. Although both types of interviews are currently being conducted, emphasis is now placed on the specific work experience. Recent projects are concerned primarily with health care, coal mining, and the growth of labor organizations.

Parts II and III of the Oral History of Appalachia collection were compiled by Dr. Robert F. Maddox, Director, and processed by Ms. Brenda Perego.

Dr. Robert F. Maddox, Director
Ms. Brenda Perego, Processor