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RT
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F666m
1962
no. 5
Index

Interview of George King of Hays, Kansas on May 13, 1962
on dual track at 3 3/4 ips.
Interviewed by Norman Mai.

000-003 Introduction (blank footage preceeding)
004-010 School experience.
011-030 A bit of personal history.
031-073 Beginning pharmacy business.
074-177 Twenty-five years in pharmacy; building ABC Drug Store;
pharmacy school.
178-190 Parents.
191-212 Mother's arrival and a shooting on same day.
213-230 Boothill on 18th Street in Hays.
231-234 Hays in old days.
235-339 Discussion of pictures shown to interviewer.
340-409 James farm and recollections.
410-412 Meeting Buffalo Bill.
413-474 Charles Curtis, vice-president of United States.
475-511 Law enforcement in early days - Wild Bill Hickock.
512-547 Random recollections.
548-559 The 9th Cavalry Negroes.
560-568 Discussion interrupted by clock chimes.
569-584 Bad storms.
585-605 Events in old days (bank robberies, etc.)
606-631 An old time doctor.
632-710 Discussion of Boot Hill relics shown to interviewer.
711-746 Parts in plays.
747-757 Hackmeir and the Negro.
758-794 9th Cavalry and later.
795-815 Charles Curtis and the experiment station.
816-847 Mrs. Middlekough (?) as a source.
848-859 Brother Charlie.
860-960 Early Hays social life.
961-end BLANK

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Interview of George King of Hays, Kansas on May 13, 1962 on dual track at 3 3/4 ips. Interviewed by Norman Mai.

I. The following is a taped ^{recorded} interview with Mr. George King of 111 E. 16th Street, ^HHays, Kansas. This interview is being taped at 3 3/4 inches per second on single track by Norman Emil Mai on May 13, 1962 in Hays, Kansas.

I have to have a bit of information on you. When were you born, sir?

N. ~~May 5, 1885.~~ *The 5th of May, '85.*

I. ~~1885~~, I see. And where were you born?

N. Hays.

I. Here in Hays.

N. Uh, huh. Born down there where Butler's furniture store is now.

I. You were born there?

N. Uh, huh.

I. What was your education level? How far did you go... *in school?*

N. How far did I go? I went to the tenth grade, And because I was a big kid every darn teacher I had wanted to set me up as an example for the smaller ones and I always was reminded of it. And one day this teacher said that she had a nasty note that I wrote and she was going to whip me. I was in the tenth grade. And I said, "Oh, no." I says, "I haven't written a note to anybody." And ~~she~~ ^I says, "What is the note?" She wouldn't show it to me. She wouldn't tell me what it was. And she acted like she was going to strike me; I took the note away from her. So that was the end of my school. I was just about ¹⁶ then. And then ^{at} that time I was a pretty husky kid. I weighed 200 pounds stripped at 16. So _____
I then went down and told mother about it

And a, went to work ^{ing} in the bakery. She ran a bakery, hotel, restaurant. And I started working in the bakery. I worked there quite a little while. Then in order to get her out of the business and get her away from work she'd been ~~working~~ at so darn long. Had a hard time of it, *father died*

when He was 48. I was 12 when he died. And there was four of us boys. I was the youngest. Two of them ^{have} passed on now. And then I went to working with my oldest brother in a butcher shop after we sold the bakery. And cut meat there for a while. Went to Kansas City and got a job in the *Swift's* market. *Had a profit there.*

And I got chills and fever and one thing and another, from running into those freezers and refrigerators and out into the warm and stuff of that kind. And one of the boys from here who was working down there at the time wrote and told his folks about me being under the weather. When mother heard about that she was very *long*, so she sent me word be back or she's coming after me. I come back. And then I went to work in a barber shop. And I worked for my brother Charlie for five years. Funny thing, one night at supper mother asked me if I was going to be a barber all my life. I said, "Well, what's the matter with it, it's pretty good." She said, "Well, you ought to change and do something else." She said, "I don't think you want to be a barber." I said, "What else ~~what~~ would I be?" She said, "You better talk to Harry, ^{who was a druggist and} my brother ~~that~~ had ^{the} drug store, "he wants you." I said, "Now where in the world would I get enough money to buy an interest in that," and I said, "that's about what he wanted." She says, "You don't worry about that," she says, "We'll take care of that." And I come downtown that night to go to the shop ~~door~~, ^{to work} we used to work till ten o'clock at night and sometimes midnight in the barber shop. I run into an attorney who used to be here, Charlie Reager and he says, "George," he said, "you going to be a barber all your life?" I said, "What's

going on here, what's up?" He said, "Have you seen Harry, ~~Have~~ you talked to him?" I said, "No." "You better talk to him, I think he wants you." I said, "Well, for ~~Pete's~~ ^{Pete's} sake that all ~~new~~ ^{new} to me, I don't know anything about it. Why hasn't he said something to me?" So I decided that evening that I would go up and talk to him. And the drug store then was in the vacant space there between the doctor's office and the little ~~hardware~~ ^{hardware} store. It was off the middle ~~of those buildings that were tore down~~ ^{of those buildings that were tore down} ~~where~~ ^{are now}, on Main Street.

I. Oh yeah, um hum.

N. And I asked him what the game was, what the deal was, what the gag was. He said, "Well, I want you to help me." He said, "I've got to have you." I said, "Good Lord," I said, "there's plenty of help around here, you have several kids helping around here." He said, "That's the trouble." He says, "There's too damn many kids," He says, "and you can't trust them. And we've got a couple of new doctors in town here that have been helping themselves pretty much," and he says, "I can't stop them, I can't say anything is wrong." I said, "Well, you want somebody to stop them?" He said, "Yeah." *I said, "How much is it going to cost me to get into this thing anyhow?"*

Well, He said he'd be easy on me, ^{he'd sell} for several thousand dollars. I said, "Where in the devil would I get that much money?"

I. How much?

N.. Several thousand, for half interest. I said, "Where would I get that much money. And he says, "You needn't worry about that." He said, "I know you can get it!" I says, "Where?" He said, "Have you talked to mother." I says, "Yeah." He ~~said~~ ^{said}, "Well, you just go ahead and talk to here and see what she says!" So I ~~asked~~ ^{asked} her about it. She says, "I have the money, you can use. And we had an old soldier ~~stayed~~ ^{stayed} with us he was ~~there~~, oh he was ~~there~~ ^{with us for} 40 years and he died, he died ~~here~~ in this house.

And he said, "I'll make up the rest of it." ^{He said,} ~~He~~ "I'll give you a check," he says, "you fill in for whatever you want." So that was done. I went in with Harry and we worked together ^{for 25 or 30 years} before he was, he had diabetes and I had, I had gotten a dose of tomain poisoning and my stomach ~~never~~ ^{just} seemed to, I never seemed to get that thing to work. And I hemorrhaged, I hemorrhaged . I was in the hospital for two months one time. And I don't know how many transfusions they gave me. But that stomach ^{just} seemed like, well one ulcer would heal up and another one would break loose. And I would get so deathly sick and Harry had diabetes. And one day he said, "I think we'd better sell out, get out of this thing." He said, "Well, somebody may come along some day and make us an offer." We at that time had ~~gone~~ ^{then went} and built the ABC drug store building. Put in brand fixtures and put in new stocks ^{and}. Put in quite a lot of money.

I. What year was this? ^{approximately?}

N. The ABC building?

I. Yeah.

N. It was about 25 years now. And so Kramer and Decinings, ~~was~~ ^{partner} his ~~cousin~~ come in there one day and ~~sat down in the stool~~ ^{said they were interested if}, we'd sell out. I said, "Well, might ~~at that price~~ ^{if we could get a price,}" I said, "we never ^{we were} ~~thinking of selling it we could get a price~~ ^{for it}." He said, "Nope." ^{"what do you want for it?"} "Well," I said "I don't know, I'll talk it over with Harry." He was back there filling a prescription at the time, they said talk it over with him and see what he has to say. He says, "Who are they?" ~~And I told him, I~~ told him it was Decinings and Kramer from Marysville. And he says, "I know Jake Decinings." And He says, "they got the money too." I says, "Well, what do you think?" He says, "Tell them 25,000 for the stock." I says, "25 hell," I says, "30 ~~x~~ for the stock and fixtures." So I went out and I told them that's what it would be. They wanted to know if that included the building. I said, "Good Lord, no." I said, "It don't include the

building, I should say not." Well, what ~~for that did we want~~ rent would we want. Well, we agreed upon that. Well, he said, doggon it, that was on a Tuesday night, or a Tuesday evening and they said they were in hurry to get back over to Marysville, but not to do anything till we heard from them. And Thursday we had a telegram from them, "Be there at the bank, ready." And sun of a gun they come in Thursday evening and laid down a certified check for 20,000. They said, "We'll pay up the rest just as soon as we get things straightened out here." And we agreed on the rental, beginning a five year lease. And they took the second five year lease with an increased rate of rental. Then we wanted more room on the building, we had planned to put a _____ back there. I said, "Well, why don't you guys go ahead and do what you want to and fix it up the way you want to and we'll give you a 25 year lease and you're going to have to pay us some more rent." And they finally agreed to that, they put in about, oh, something like \$10,000 ^{OR MORE} ~~in all~~ into the building. And changed all the wiring, lowered the ceiling and put this addition on the rear, and put in a different heating system, had a hot water heat ^{ing} system and put in a gas system of cooling and heating unit both. Well, they done alright. ^{It's all in their expense.} They've got, I think, 12 more years on that lease to go now. And that wound that deal up. Harry died two years ago and his wife died about a year ago. He finally had a leg amputated and the other leg was getting bad and we thought another case of amputation and he couldn't take that, couldn't stand it. Wouldn't think of it. And yet besides diabetes he ^{got} ~~had~~, oh a little bit of everything. And finally when he did go it was oh right quick, just gone like that. Before that, ^{happened} before he died I had to do ~~my share~~ ^{a hemorrhage here} one night after Bill Kirk here. He wanted to know what the heck had happened, ^{if I had hemorrhage} ~~find that marriage licence~~. No I said, "I don't have any ~~_____~~ ^{hemorrhage} I haven't seen any sign of ~~him~~ ^{it} at all. I suppose ~~I~~ ^{he} thought ~~I'd just run~~ ^{maybe I'd been} ~~off some letters or something.~~ ^{throwing up some blood or something. I wasn't though so I wanted him to wait.}

And the next day it cut loss again. I could just feel that blood spurting in there. "Were going to get you ^{down} to the hospital ^{right now} and a, ^{And they did} ~~don't know~~ how much ^{of} my stomache ^{they} could ~~take~~ had took. And checked on my gall bladder.

~~2 ? ? 108~~ ~~to death~~ ~~he took out~~ about 30 gall stones ^{so they took the gall bladder, too.}

Then I didn't do much of anything for quite a little while ~~ex~~ it was just a little relief work in the pharmacy. I did though, ~~after~~, after we sold out the drug store, I did go to a pluggers school in Colorado Springs in Denver, a pharmacy and that's when I ^{flunked} ~~passed~~ the examination and that was because I wasn't a high school graduate and all that sort of thing that they require now. And then, they're pretty touchy about those things.

I kept myself in good standing while I done relief work for, traveled awhile, different places, in Cawker City, Hill City, Quinter and I helped in Shangcoff down there a little bit ^{Ellis Beecke} wanted me to work for him one day ^{down at the drug store} ~~he~~ wanted to see me ^{so} I went over there to see what ~~they~~ wanted. He wanted me to go to work over there at the office.

So I was there almost 20 years and because of the damned arthritis that I have. That wouldn't be so bad. I got a cold and got the flu and darned near ~~got~~ ^{turned into amonia, feeld like it} pneumonia rather and ~~see that~~ settled in all my joints and end of

^{arm} these ^{needles} that's fever. ^{Get} ~~that's~~ a nasty spot ^{couldn't lift your} being poked with needles. I had the hives, ten hypos in a week with sodium salsates and stuff like that, no dope. The medicine is just supposed to ^{act as} ~~help you~~ relief /. ^{Hasn't done} Doesn't help a whole lot though.

And now it's just, last month he told me I better just take a lay off for awhile.

I. You've been working at the power plant?

N. Power plant, the office, that's for ^{Gary} ~~Jay~~.

I. Gary Gottschalk. ^{? well} Let's see I, let's see you helped in the, you were a barber, worked in the pharmacy, I mean these are former occupations, you held.

N. Well, I first ^{was} a baker.

I. A baker.

N. Then a butcher.

I. Butcher.

N. Yeah, then a barber and then I went into pharmacy. I was in the store ^{oh} for quite a number of years before I even got a chance to go and take the examination. And this ^{public} ~~private~~ school that they had in here, boy they gave it to us. We went through a whole course of chemistry and ^{quantitative} ~~quality~~ and quality analysis and all that sort of thing in nothing flat. And it was a three and four, three and five hour course. And we had to go through that darn thing in about three months.

I. Now let's see I need just a bit more information here. One thing; what's your father's name?

N. ~~Gregory~~ ^{Frederick} William King.

I. ~~Gregory~~ ^{Frederick} William and let's see he was born here; where was he born?

N. He was born in Germany.

I. Germany?

N. Um hum, he left Germany during the Franco-Russian war to come over here in the 70's, early 70 well ^{it was} late '69. And he got a job at New York as a, well he drove a doctor. He drove the doctor on his calls there and he went out every Sunday ^{and he'd hitch up the ~~Seris~~} ~~that it was there~~ and go out to report and watch the cavalry. And he got crazy about the cavalry and wouldn't you know he couldn't get in. He served in the old Fifty Cavalry from September 26; ⁱⁿ 70, 75, 26th, he must have got here oh '48.

I. '48?

N. Um hum. M^other come here.

I. What was your mother's name?

N. Her name?

I. Yes.

N. Before marriage?

I. Well, I think we just need her first name.

N. Well they, her nickname was Gretchen, of course, but then here real name was Ellen Margaret.

I. And she was born in Germany?

N. She was born in Germany, but she didn't know DAd until they met here. And she had promised Mrs. Henry Kruger, the man ^{who} ~~that~~ built this Midwest tobacco company building down there. She had promised her, ^{when} ~~after~~ she got married and come over here to live, after her father died, ^{that's} after mother's father died that she would come over and be a companion. And the day that she got in here, the morning ~~that~~ she got in here, they stayed at Abilene all night, they wouldn't run at night, the train wouldn't move at night. They stayed at Abilene all night and they got in here and there was blood all over the depot platform mat, planks. She hugged them, "What's this all about?!" she asked Mr. Kruger about it. "OH," he said, "They've been shipping a lot of buffalo hides," and he says, "a lot of buffalo hides." But that wasn't the truth, two guys had been killed there the night before.

I. Where was this at?

N. At the depot. That's when the depot was right out in front of where Butler is now. And of course, ~~she~~ found ~~it~~ out in a few days what ~~it~~ it was all about. Well, those were some of the specimens that went ~~to~~ to Boot Hill. And just before the train pulled in they drug them inside

the depot off the platform. And they had laid there from oh ten or eleven o'clock the night before, see, all night.

I. Was this sort of a bar room fight type of deal or. . .

N. Well, it seems that, the way I got the one fellow had shot and killed a ~~cow~~ ^{pal} of some other guy, a ~~guy~~ ^{pal} ~~cow~~ of his, rather, so he walked up behind this other guy on this platform and he plugged him in the back of the head and ^{when the bones shot} that was all. Now this picture here is 18th Street, that is just two blocks north of here, and they were grading that street through there and that's they way they run into the bodies. See the bones in the boxes, hammond and brown shoes.

I. Oh yeah. Well, what was the, was this, ^N those are all characters that were buried up there on boot hill.

^N N. Oh this was boot hill ^N on 18th Street?

N. Yeah, now here's some more smaller pictures of bones and stuff that I had, that I got myself. I had charge of the cemetary out here for 11 years. I just donated my time and worked.

I. When was this?

N. Now?

I. When did you work out there?

N. Oh, that's been several years ago now since it went over to the city. Here's one guy we got.

I. Yeah.

N. You can see how he was cro^{ched}.

I. It looks like somebody mashed him along side the head there.

N. Yes, he did. I picked ~~up~~ ^{I OK?} up one fellow up there with a stick he poked himself eyes out, you know. ^N And picked up his skull and the bullet fell out of the back of it, the whole back of his head come out so. . .

I. So you don't think old Dodge City was such a rough shooting town compared to Hays?

N. No, Dodge City didn't have nothing, well they come over here to get their lumber to build what they got over there and come over here to get their organization papers to organize the city. Now here's something that is kind of unusual.

I. A mountain lion?²

N. That was killed right out here north of town. That was Jace Spat and Bill Appleboy, ~~xxxx~~ his son-in-law, Chet Lillie and all them guys. They had that lion down at the, the museum for a long time.

I. Well, they've got one in there now, I ^{don't} know if it's the same one.

N. They have? It's probably gotten moth eaten or something. And here, I didn't go to school down there but they rooked me ~~into~~ on every damn thing they had there. And they had operas and stuff. Princess ^{Bonnie} ~~Bine~~ that was a good, that was a pretty good old play for high school.

I. Now what was this?

N. Princess ~~Bine~~ Bonnie

I. What is that?

N. Down here at the college, Fort Hays State. And these are some pictures that was taken down there.

I. Have you donated any of these, any pictures like these to the college.

N. Oh yeah, a bunch of them down there.

I. I know there are several of them that ~~xx~~ look quite similar to these, like these.

N. Well, I'll show you some. Here I think I was singing Pretty Plume without Any Hat.

I. Oh, you ^{mean you} actually took part in these.

N. Oh, sure. Yes, I had leads in all of them. Old Henry ~~Every~~ ^{Edwards Malloy} grabbed me every time he had a chance.

I. Who was this?

N. Henry ~~Every~~ ^{Edward} He used to be head of the music department. This
 X me here is, I think its pretty well ²²² of course then.

I. It looks like you had some pirates here or something.

N. Um hum, it was some Spanish dancers, yeah, this is where Mrs.
 Robinson. And this one here, McCotto, ^{I. Oh, yeah?} do you know who sings that?

I. Let's see

N. He was bald headed old loot.

I. Oh, When was this taken here?

N. Oh gosh, ^{that was a while back, Bohemian} quite a while back, ~~Beline~~ Girl, have you seen that?

Chansnomity, Cornie Bell.

I. My gosh, you were quite a, quite a musician.

N. There was a young lady and myself who done a wooden shoe dance
 and got stoned one night up here at the ~~V~~ GAR Hall and an old old benefit
 proposition. They called us back seven times. Now this is what ^{How's} ~~was~~,
 it used to be. ^{Back far enough?}

I. I guess, 1896, 1881. I see quite a few barrels here, what are
 those whiskey barrels or ^{something?}

N. Oh yeah.

I. Feed sacks.

N. Most of the, this picture here belongs to Buffalo Bill. And
 there I met Buffalo Bill and shook hands with him ^{I. Oh!} and went up to see his
 grave. He was scout for dad's old Fifth Cavalry.

I. Well, you have two arrows in this picture, what was this person?

N. That's Charlie Howard, ^{that's a,} he used to be here, he used to be here
 in Hays. ^{I, oh} And here is the last of the ^{bunch of the old} ~~munch and row~~ members of the ~~GAR~~ GAR.

I. GAR that's the VETERANS of the ~~Republic~~

N. Veterans of the Republic.

I. Oh, those are veterans of which war, the Civil War?

N. The Civil War, uh huh, now they're done and gone. And this one
 is ^{the way} ~~where~~ I our drug store ^{looked} when we sold it, it was inside of ABC. I think
 I got another one here of the old store, ^{maybe not.} Here's the gang out in front of
 our store, Rexall Store, see? ^{I uh, huh.} ~~N~~ out in front of our store when we
 were up on North Main Street. That was a bunch that won out World War I,
 or was it Spanish-American?

I. It ^{must have been} ~~was in~~ world War I.

N. Yeah, 1917.

I. The ^{second draft call} ~~draft called~~, huh?

N. Now here was our first rootster.

I. A what a . . .

N. That was in that building that was just recently torn down out
 here.

I. Let's see, lets see what kind of, 1917. . .

N. Here's two band pictures of the Hays Military Band. Thats the town
 band. There was state, a, representatives that went to Washington, and to
 New York. And this, I am proud to say, is one of the best dern football
 teams that Hays ever saw.

~~I.~~ It was a, it was a ^{college} ~~guards~~ team wasn't it?

N. We ~~played~~ them _____ till they found out then we
 _____.

I. Oh?

N. We beat, we beat K-State. ^{I, oh?} We beat a Fort Riley, Russel, Salina,
 Salina all states, and up west they have a Reitin

letterman from KU and K-State and Emporia. And beat them. The only game we lost in three years was by a two touchdowns at half score. The half score was ~~_____~~ ^{And they were} ~~Trading~~ everybody but Jim Fox. And the house, the two houses Arch Ket and that whole darn bunch. And KU, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma all refused ^{to} ~~playing~~ ^{them} ~~out~~ that year.

I. Oh? Is it an _____ you three?

N. In the Rose Bowl. Oh no _____.

I. What are these~~m~~, what are these things they have around their necks here~~I~~ for ~~nose~~ nose guards?

N. Those were nose guards, about the only thing we had, and a shin guard. Old rubber gose guards. ^{Variable} ~~Variable~~ caddy, we had a real honest to God coach. He was assistant coach under one of the staff for oh, I don't know how many years.

I. Well, what, what did you call yourselves?

N. Just Hays team in all. Just Hays football team. We a took on a gathered bunch of, they ~~took~~ ~~in~~ everything they could from Salina ~~out~~ to Plainville. along the road and teach 'em how to wrestle like professional wrestlers. ^{And} ~~And~~ we had guys over their betting two to one and getting half their money back if they lost. And we beat that bunch. We had guys that could go. We had an awfully good Hays High team ^{Fort} ~~among~~ ^{coming} up.

I. Yea, any more its the Cadets that are tops in sports now isn't?

N. Yea, but this bunch here, boy they their good quite a bunch of boys.

I. You've got quite a collection of pictures here.

N. I've got some more pictures but I tried to find them and I was unable to locate them. They were pictures that I got down at the James farm. Out south of Ecelsia Springs. I was down with my mother~~m~~ one time ^{had} she rheumatism ~~is~~ so awful bad, and we took her down there and a I was

acquainted with the boy that run the, oh, that trained the horses.

* High class saddle stuff~~x~~ and show stuff. And I ask him how many horses he could put together for us. there was about 20 of them ^{that} ~~that~~ wanted to go out to the Jame's farm. They said they'd ~~be happy~~ ^{thought they could} to fix up up. And they did. And I had a Willow Bay. Oh, she was a beaut. She handled, just handled with the riens was all. Do~~o~~ all kinds of gates and not as much as a whimper out of her. She handled by the rains. Well they let me take her and we were ~~met~~ at the Jame's farm,. There was a lady and a bunch from Canada. Her name was a Pawcraft. And I forgot and she was in pictures, of the old flicks. Well I was standing under ~~kind~~ ^{the bunch} of as old oak tree shade to get a picture of ~~some of the~~ older folks that had ~~come~~ out here. A bunch of them come out on a carriage. They're standing at the pump ^{getting} & drink. She wanted a picture of them too. So she wanted to be in the picture and wanted to know if I would snap the picture for her. I said, "Yea." ~~So~~ ^I ~~went ahead~~ ^{over} and snapped the picture and it was under ~~this~~ tree that old lady James, Jessie mother, kept a mound that looked like a pioneer grave. There were a few of them buried but noth~~ing~~ was ever buried there. ^{He was killed in St Joe where he was buried, I don't know} ~~But she saw me snapping~~ these pictures and she come out. She really grabbed it. She wanted two bits a snap, or a quarter.

I. The old lady James?

N. Yeah. And sh~~w~~ had one arm blowed off, ya know? She was sitting ^{there} just like we say for instance the the TV there is a fireplace. She ~~sit~~ ^{would be} in front ~~x~~ of the firep~~a~~ce through the window just about like that. And the Pinktons thought they had her, had Jessie in there And ~~they~~ ^{they} threw a bomb in. About that big. Killed the kid in her arms and blew her arm off. After that she was worse than ever against the law. And ~~she~~ a, but she insisted on ~~getting~~ ^{getting} the 25¢. I says, "Oh no,no." I says, ~~not~~ ^{"Mrs James not not"}

me ~~Mr. James.~~ I says, ^{Not} ~~I'm~~ from me. I wouldn't give you a nickle. She says, "By gosh, you will," she says, "I'll follow you the fires of hell till I get it." I said, "You're just talking to the wrong person." I said, "This ~~here is my~~ ^{isn't} ~~camera~~ ^{machine} and I'm taking pictures for myself ^{either}." I said, "We'll have to talk to this lady down here and see what she says." I pointed her out and she went down that way and they got together. I don't know just what the arrangements was but everything was alright. I had those pictures and someone come and got them or they were misplaced or something. I don't have them.

I. Well, she was, she was living there by herself or. . .

N. Oh no, she had, she had a couple of kids there and ^{Frank James} grandkids, you know, had a family. She had some, some of her kids were there, three or four children there. But over the door as you went in on the inside was a big plaque, bronze. ~~In~~ ^{to the} sacred memory of Jesse James who was killed by ~~aman~~ whose name was on the wood on the sacred plaque.

I. What, about what year was this that you took those pictures?

N. Oh, that was a long time ago, gosh, it's been two or three years ago now. The lady, they had a big log house, built of logs and they had every solid space about that big in the logs to stick their rifles through, that they hold over there at the most, oh, that ^{place} ~~at~~ the fort there. You notice the spots there where they have those rock. Well, that's what they was for. Well, that year was ~~it~~ ^{invaded} ~~by~~ Indian attack, they could use those holes to shoot from.

I, Also to keep the law away, I suppose. Well, was the James family all bad or. . .

N. Oh, I don't know, the father was originally a minister, I was told, but the boys got to stealing and robbing and they got with this younger outfit and see they raided barns and all around down through that country. They just raised the dickens everywhere. Well, I met Teddy Roosevelt before ~~he~~ he was elected and afterwards.

I. What was he doing that ~~he would be out~~ ^{was he out} here?

N. Yeah.

I. What was he doing around here at that time?

N. Messing around, and Charlie Curtis the vice-president, a real good friend of ours. There was three or four different times when we called on him for some help, and he would help. The first time my dad's discharge papers were burned, my brother Charlie, who lives next door here, had them out in the country and his house caught fire in wooded area, couldn't save a thing. He had no business having those discharge papers out there but he took them out and they burned. Well, we wrote the war department ~~man~~ and asked for a copy. They said it would be five or six years before they could find it even. Well, that was in '75 and we wrote Charlie Curtis and we got a copy of it now and it wasn't ten days after, ^A and another time during World War I, they ^{required} ~~ordered~~ a bunch of boys down here at school. They had a bunch of them down there. And they come up to ^X the store and they wanted _____ . I said, thousands of 2 baskets of apples and everything else. I had to wire and get some for them and ^{it} ~~that~~ was a long time after they left ~~that~~ before we couldn't get any satisfaction out of them, couldn't get any money, couldn't ^{get} a bid. And I finally took it up with old Charlie and it come right out. And then we had a boy that had worked for us when the war was over, had lost a brother over ⁱⁿ ~~at~~ France and ^{he was a} ~~used~~ pharmacists mate on the ship, they were back New York harbor laying there not doing a thing and he wanted to get out. They said not a chance. But he did get

a days, he got a few days leave and he come out here and all the politicians around here, he asked them to help him get a release so he could finish up on his pharmacy. And oh they, all agreed to do it. they wrote to old Charlie and when he got back ~~to~~ New York on board a big shot says, "Johnson," he says, "how long would it take you to get ready if you had permission to go?" He says, "Not very long." He says, "You can go, we've got permission for you." Now that was three times there and there was another deal that he pulled for us that was kind of nice and gosh the vice-president of the United States. You don't get too many vice-presidents of the United States but old Charlie Curtis had more friends, ~~than~~ I believe, than any politician today. Boy, when you wrote him a letter you always got an answer. It didn't make any difference if you're, whether you're republican democrat or what. He was Indian, you know.

I. He was?

N. Part Indian, uh huh. He was sure a dandy. My kids would sit on his lap down at the store and he'd buy them candy before he bought himself stuff. Yea. ^{Now that I, in Washington} I brought ~~his horse~~ in at the pentagon at this present time, a major.

*I. Oh?

N. I ~~was~~ ^{wanted him} to stay three months but he says, ~~XXXXXXXXXXXX~~ ^{he'd} be damned if ~~he'd~~ do it." He says, "I'll put in one month." He says, "I've had too much running around." He had been on this educational proposition of the Air Force in Montaray, California to Washington. The southern states and all over there. They sent him all over.

I. This is your friend you say?

N. Uh huh. Yeah. ~~XXXXXX~~ These schools ~~pick out~~ pick out the bright boys, ^{you} ~~yes~~ know. Names was. . .

I. Lets's see ^{you} a, do you remember anything about the, getting back to the early days now, a do you remember anything about the a, oh, law

enforcement around here?

N. Law enforcement? No.

I. ^{Do you} Know any of the old time marshals?

N. ^{you know, they say} ~~the same~~; there wasn't any law out here. And Wild Bill was here. ^{didn't know} ~~I wasn't there~~ ^{But of course} I never knew him. I've been up to his grave, Mount Rushmore, at Mount Rushmore. not Rushmount.

I. It isn't in Colorado is it?

N. No, it's in Dakota.

I. Oh.

N. His grave and Calamity Jane and Poker Alice and those characters. buried

There was three or four of them ~~sit~~ right together. See he was killed up there. When he was marshal here as a there used to be a saloon south of the post office. That's the way they tell me. He went in there and there were three or four soldiers in there raising the devil. And he called them on it. They commenced to make little of him. ^{Told him} ~~Said~~ if he didn't have that star ^{and all that sort of thing} and carry ~~his~~ ^a gun like he did he wouldn't get to first base. He said he'd take them off/ Take his star off too, and take 'em on one at a time, the whole damn bunch. ^{of them} But they took their belts and they had those big U. S. buckles. And they belt him with that. And the bartender, he threwed his gun on the floor and kicked his gun over to him. He got ahold of his gun, They, they beat it then. But ~~that~~ ^{could ever} was the last of Wild Bill here. I don't see Wild Bill killed ~~so~~ ^{so} many people as they said he did. In fact, he had more in Abeline, ~~than~~ ^{than} he had more trouble down there ~~than~~ he did here. He run for sheriff and was beaten, As I understand it. And they had, oh, there were a few killings, _____.

Three or four murders. Somebody asked me the other day ~~if~~ if it was true that Hays has never had a murder since the soldiers ~~left~~ left here. Well,

when the soldiers ^{were here} where, I've been, I've gone out to the fort with Dad, and we used to sell them bread over there, cakes, pies, and stuff of that kind. I've come along over here with him, of course, ^{le} made me sit in my seat there. He'd ^{get into} handle the exchange and get himself all liquored up.

Well, he had a lot of good friends. He was a pretty good fellow, he was all right. After ~~he~~ he took _____ he never touched another drop. liquor
liquor
And mother raised a buffalo calf for him, That she got from the Indians. You know where the depot is now, the present depot? The big house ^{just} ~~right on the~~ ^{of it} south there, where all those trees are? Those big trees?

I. Yeah, that, ya mean that. . . ?

N. Used to be the Reer house?

I. That old Cody Hotel or something like that. Is that down there?

N. No no, no. It was south of the depot. Rough stretch south of the depot and due west.

I. I can't rightly remember the location, but I know where the depot is.

N. Wh huh. Well mother planted those trees down there.

I. Oh?

N. And she carried water from the court house. And the court house was up here where the present court house is. She carried two buckets of water on a ~~yoke~~ yoke over ^{her} ~~his~~ shoulders to water those trees and they had a circle of them at one time and they had seats in there. But that's been dug out some way. They, they ruined that circle. Those trees she planted are there yet. And there wasn't a thing between that place then and the Midwest Tobacco Company, where ~~Kruger~~ had his store. He ^{dealt} ~~talked~~ with the Indians a whole lot. Traded with them.

I. So there really wasn't too much of an Indian problem around here was there?

N. Oh, not right here.

I. Well, what, what did they. . .

N. But they, when chief Black HORSE ~~was in the town~~ and his bunch come in here, they were hungry. They wanted food, some clothing, blankets and stuff. They took care of them, fed 'em, started them out. And then they go over north on the river. Then they started inland. Right here in town we didn't have any trouble. The only real trouble we have had here was with the ninth cavalry--niggers.

I. Oh?

N. They a, a fellow shot one of them up there on what used to be north main, but its ~~seventh~~ ^{tenth} now or west tenth.

I. Huh.

N. And he was way down there where the south edge of town. Picked up a rifle and said, "Watch me hit that guy." _____ if he didn't. He a hit the ~~Indian~~ ^{nigger} in the leg. And a ~~so then~~ ^{son of a gun} he had a fight,. Well, they wasn't on the reservation ^{yet} so they had to have post mortume and Dr. Middlecough from _____. He used to live here around the corner, west of us ; Had to hold a post mortum and then they buried him over at the fort. at the fort cemetery. I was over there one time to a funeral, but the folks wouldn't let me out of the buggy I was still too little, I was too little. Old Doc had charge of picking these bodies up and they come and picked them up and took them back to Lebanonworth and buried them there. They had to sell those boxes to take care of each ~~body~~ ^{one of them} name and ~~bury~~ them off as we _____ we used to play, As a us kids before they started to dismantle the buildings and stealing them, moving them away and one thing and another, us kids used to play over there lots of times. We'd go busting in barns and around the old houses and the old hospital building, and stuff of that kind. Now, now we've

had some bad storms. Of course, ~~where~~ if you go through a dust storm that'll do to you.

I. Yeah.

N. And in the winter of '85 and 6 they had a real blizzard. And my dad at that time lost 35 head of cattle down there by Tulon they were all froze to ~~the~~ ^{death-} They thought they could get down there and possibly get some skin and get some hides and got to Munjor and ^{got} up in there and had them all skinned . Oh there were a lot of them at that time after they hit on ^{the} cattle spurt there as far as sorgum was concerned, holdups and holdups and bank robberies and post office robbery but they didn't amount to much. There were bank robbery ^{ies} and never any conviction and that's the way ~~they~~ it went. But they didn't even have street lights, they didn't have pavements, they didn't have telephones, they finally got to ~~where~~ laying plank sidewalks. In all they didn't have much. You go down what they call Main Street now, used to be Chestnut, you go down that street, ^{to see the} ~~there were times~~ when it rained here for a week. The folks come to town with four horses hitched to a wagon of wheat and go to the mill where ~~it~~ is now and it goes right down to the hub in mud.

I. I imagine in your work with your brother in the barber shop, I imagine you met some ~~sp~~ pretty interesting characters in ~~ix~~ there.

N. Oh yes, we had some characters here that, an old guy, old Doc Coal. I suppose he was one of those guys that got by in the early days Their doing in the drug business and sold goods for so long before they got their state laws lined up ~~when they got~~ so they had to pass an examination. They left those old guys in. Old doc was a, and a priest went in there one day and wanted some kotobneil. ^{Know what} kotobneil is? ~~in your wrist.~~ That's a bug they used to color with, red. They spread two of the sheets ^{out} ~~off~~ under the trees

and the bugs would get on there at night and shake them down and dry 'em, powder 'em, ^{hey} We used to use that for coloring your strawberry syrup and stuff like that. ^{I. Oh?} Yeah, and anyhow they were bugs to begin with and this priest wanted some Okatchneil and old doc he didn't know what katchneil was, so he went back behind and scratch his head and looked around and pretty soon he came out and he says and he's a Dutchman and he says, "I'm sorry, father," he says, "That katchneil I got is all full of bugs." I remember ~~in~~ those days. We ^{had} got some characters, but as a rule we didn't have it so bad here. ^{Agus} ~~Had~~ got so that he could ~~get the~~ jump on them on this publicity stuff but ^{Dodge} never. They ~~haven't~~ got anybody in there. The place over there I got two women, the only two women that are buried out here, prostitutes. One was a white girl and one was a ^{Nigger} ~~Negro~~.

There was only three decent look like ^{would} be ~~crickets~~. The rest of them, ^{they} started to kill was just thrown into any old boxkind of they could squeeze it into. ^{They didn't} ~~They didn't~~ even twist 'em up any ^{how} ~~way~~. They'd put a

mat on and down over their face. ^{I. Oh?} ~~They~~. ^{never had a} very good wish for them. ^{What's the date on} that ~~it?~~ ^{No joke} about that!

I. 1851.

N. There's a hairpin ~~And there's~~ the way they used ~~to~~ ^{those little square} those ^{nails, those blind} nails. ^{Used} to drive them in

but the woman, white ^{was} was buried up there. Used to have a lot of ^{evidently} the carcass ^{All come up} there if you ^{needed help.} friends. I was a; She was buried in a pretty good casket and Her skeleton is complete, everything. In fact I have it right here in the back yardx on the a sidewalk, where it is now. And ^{that} there place,

what was the name of that, ^{the one who stayed with them?} Wooster from the college. Wooster got some pictures of it. ^{He promised he} Wooster was going to give me some pictures of ^{her} ~~it~~ and lost

all of his a film ^{down there} in the flood that time. Water had the intention up some more. But she had been, fixed up eggs to take to Quints' and brake. It was a oh, sticky mess. Then they'd smear their heads

with it, ya know. ^{With} eggs in their hair. And in her hair,

togo

These two women were one -

Those little square nails, those blind nails. Used to drive them in the carcass. All come up there if you needed help.

she was a blond, ~~xx~~ her hair was the perfect color. And the way it was on the scalp ~~was~~ ^{with} ~~hair~~ that hair hung right on to that ~~and~~ ^{little skull just like} ~~it was gold like~~ it was built that way. And the rest of that hair, it was in there, it was four, four foot long. And this female, ^{Nigger} ~~Nigger~~ female. I did have a shoe like one of here shoes. She wore high, high heels, a green one but I forgot where. Look at the, if you look at the pictures over there in the museum that _____ you'll find quite a few pictures in there of the operas and the stuff of that kind, and that shoe right there and Lady Boncell. We had, of course _____ the bass of the New York Symphony and we had ^{the tenor} ~~a few~~ of the Chicago ^{Grand Opera} ~~Handel~~ and Symphony. We didn't have the music department ^{and he couldn't} ~~and~~ ^{practice} at that time and in concert. He sang with us in the operas _____

I had a lead in every one of them and they haven't had anything like that since ^{poor} ~~poor~~ old Henry Edwards is gone.

I. Was this a common ~~xxx~~ practice or were you an exception along this line? Did they invite people from around here to do these things or. . .?

N. Not a lot of them, he'd come up and say "I've got a part for you." "What you got?" I was ^{in a} ~~a~~ Joker, a ~~S~~ Soldier, I was in a ploom, a ~~macarant~~ ^{McCotta Part} ~~macarant~~ on pinafore, ^{or were going to put on} ~~a~~ Bohemian Girl or something else Chimes Anority and, ^{I was} ~~I was~~ Robin Hood ^{that's} ~~that's~~ the sherrif of Nottingham. He said, he named all the members of the cast down there at the school and he'd say, "We've got a good one for that." And we'll have George come down again and so, we'll get drunk, get drunk. And that was one time. It tickled me ~~the~~ ^{more than anything else} one time he announced it. We ~~had never had any food to become~~ ^{fooled with} ~~the~~ the cast night after night. Come sneaking out from between the drops on the stage, just as far as they could get out, without getting on the stage and see

what they was going to pull next. Boy, they had a circus there. Well, what else do you want?

I. Well,

N. God they're ~~are~~ getting scarce, I'll tell you and take the Hacimeyer family. Old Jake Hacimeyer was a blacksmith. He at one time was supposed to had a Nigger person up there that was pretty rough and they put a leg iron on him. And Jake was building this leg iron and this Nigger spit in his face or something and he cracked him on the head and killed Mr. Nigger. And that case is not supposed to be known. But this other dead Nigger deal I was telling about, ~~that~~ this guy getting shot. At that time the cavalry was Niggers and they ~~come~~ ^{come} over here and was going to burn up our town and just raised all kinds heck. The Mississippi J. P. Troop, they were way down their ~~hungry and selfish~~ ^{in southeast Prainietown} and they got on their horse and rode ~~in~~ back way out around to go to the fort and told them ~~what~~ what was going on. And they made them all line up, they got that whole bunch lined up in front of the Schwallers lumber yard there and took their arms and straighten their arms and marched them back to the fort. That's when they got rid of the Niggers.

I. Were they, were they part of the regular cavalry?

N. Oh yeah, the Ninth Cavalry well their pretineer all, they're all related now, practically all of them. Just as soon as one of the Ninth Cavalry letters from a few years ago. As soon as one of them would die there would be some relative to fill in. They had an old man, Nigger Bowman, we called him. He used to sit up with us kids, they finally named after him somebody, in his speeches, harmless, the best old man you ever saw. He used to set with us kids and tell us stories and sing for us.

I. What did they do with these Negroes then they, were they legal to?

N. Because there was a bunch of them, they circulated a petition here and a bunch of fellows signed it. They thought they were going to get they thought they were going to get this land over here, this experiment station and the college grounds. They had an idea that they was going to get that stuff real cheap and they could sell it for a good piece of money, you see, but it wasn't given to them. They didn't get a chance to get it. Now old Charlie Curtis was the guy that worked to get that in as a^{put} education and instruction proposition. Experimental station and educational system. And he kept after things and stayed with it. They better, they had so much time to do this and it just seemed like the guys around here were rather lax on them and he came out here one time and told them. He says, "Time to get the truck going ^{to have to} and get busy." So there was a number of others ~~job, Blair~~ and Charlie Curtis, Jim Reener a number of those fellows that went ^{to} Joe Bizme went to Topeka.

I. Jim Reener, now wasn't he a . . . ?

N. He was a judge.

I. Yeah.

N. Judge Reener.

I. In the Topeka Daily Capital, oh a number of years ago they ran a column of his diary, I think it was.

N. Jim Reeners?

I. Yeah, I think so.

N. I know Jim was there about, at least his cousin was at that time.

I. That maybe was the same person, I'm not sure.

N. Charlie Reener, his son, he don't have, his brother Charlie Reener had a son and daughter. Mellie, she's been over in Italy for some time and she was just back here a short time ago. She had been run over by a car or something and got busted up. ^{she had a little child.} And Charlie was a doctor, I think he's in California. The Reeners have gone. And Mrs. Middle^{coff}, if you could talk to her, she is a hundred years old. And she come here as a girl around three years old, something ~~like~~ like that, three to five years old, somewhere in there. And she's down at the hospital, Hadley. If you could get to talk to her or if there is anything very important that you want to get I think she would be more apt to give it to you than anybody else. Her memory has been awfully good but she is getting now so that her hearing is bad and her sight is bad, ^{but you may} ~~but~~ ^{But she's a very nice lady and} get more information from here, I think than anybody around here.

I. Well, I called up one of your brothers here.

N. Charlie?

I. Yeah and I think I'm going to interview him too. He probably has he ~~prob~~ probably has somewhat ^{sim. like} ~~the same~~ information as what you have.

N. Yeah, he might give you a little bull along with it.

I. Oh.

N. Of course, he was the drum major for this band that went to Washington. He was a stud, he though he was a regular old killer when he was about a youngster. The girls thought he was smashing.

I. What was you, ~~what was~~ some of your social life around here in the early days?

N. Oh, we used to have lots of good times, nothing like the Beatles now. If you went to a dance, they usually have, we used to have what we called a Sunflower Club. There was just, there was over a hundred of us that belonged to it, men and young fellows. And we had dances at the old

GAR hall and we used to have oh a lot of home town stuff, you know and things of that kind. And then every once in awhile ~~somezshow~~ there would be some show come in, Uncle Tom's Cabin, or Pin Knives in a Boiler Room ~~o~~ or something like that, you know. But, oh we had, oh Guy Vogel who put on one of those dances trying to, he was out. If you smoke a cigarette around him he'd say ~~no~~ or anything else, he'd say, wasn't interested in girls or he was taken out. Now if you haven't got a pack of cigarettes and a bottle of some booze on you, you can't get ~~him~~ ^{anywhere. I. That's the size of it.} Oh we used to have plenty of good times and we used to sing a lot. We used to oh pertineer every night. There would be anywhere from 10 to 20 to 30 of us young guys get together. Go over on the court house steps or over at the old Baptist church or down on the Presbyterian church or somewhere else and we'd sing all the songs that we knew.

I. Did you have any barber shop quartets or. . . ?

N. Nope. No, we just had a good time that way. And then of course, we used to have more snow, used to have more sleigh riding. Now we don't get any snow anymore to go sleigh riding like we used to. We used to do a lot of that, but ~~there~~ ^{you} had to be gentlemen around or else. I know one time we was down there and a guy started ~~squalling~~ smoking and the old Town, they there all told him to get out if he was ~~guts~~ going to smoke. Here he was an old man talking to this young buck and he said, "
 _____" And he said, "Maybe, I can, Maybe I can." He said, "Let's see you." So the marshall was ~~Martin~~ ^{Mat} Wayne at that time and he happened to be just outside and he called him in and old Mat goes well. Well when he started taking him out, of course, now a bunch of these young smart alecks that was about half loaded, that's when they started to getting that way. It was a really rushing a bunch in there. They started in on this Wayne and they had him in the corner and there were a lots there and boy it looked pretty tough for him, you know and it

just so happened that police judge was up there at the time and he says, "Joe I just ^{hired} ~~help~~ you," ^{and help that} ~~got in there 1944.~~ "The only thing we can do it get in there and help him. He was strong, big, we got them out. And we started to pick them out to take them out, ~~there were~~ 22 of them. And they were fined \$25 a piece. ~~But~~ They behaved themselves pretty well, ^{Oh we used to have} ~~there some~~ nice brawls _____ and things like that. And parties, there wasn't any rough stuff, nothing at all like there is today. There is stuff that if the kids had a rough party like they used to. Like 50 years ago, if they had a rough party like that today why they. . .

I. Didn't have any fun did they?

N. Nothing to it. Isn't that about all of that? Do you think you've had enough?

I: Mai, Norman

N: George King

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1962
no. 5

Interview of George King of Hays, Kansas on May 13, 1962 on dual track at 3 3/4 ips. Interviewed by Norman Mai.

I. The following is a tape recorded interview with Mr. George King of 111 E. 16th Street, in Hays, Kansas. This interview is being taped at 3 3/4 inches per second on single track by Norman Emil Mai on May 13, 1962 in Hays, Kansas.

I have to have a bit of information on you. When were you born, sir?

N. The 5th of May, '85.

I. '85, I see. And where were you born?

N. Hays.

I. Here in Hays.

N. Uh, huh. Born down there where Butler's furniture store is now.

I. You were born there?

N. Uh, huh.

I. What was your education level? How far did you go in school?

N. How far did I go? I went to the tenth grade; and because I was a big kid every darn teacher I had, wanted to set me up as an example for the smaller ones and I was always reminded of it. And one day this teacher said that she had a nasty note that I wrote and she was going to whip me. I was in the tenth grade. And I said, "Oh, no." I says, "I haven't written a note to anybody." And I says, "What is the note?" She wouldn't show it to me. She wouldn't tell me what it was. And she acted like she was going to strike me; I took the note away from her. So that was the end of my school. I was just about 16 then. And then at that time I was a pretty husky kid. I weighed 200 pounds stripped at 16. So

F/62-5

I then went down and told Mother about it. And a, went to working in the bakery. She ran a bakery, hotel, restaurant. And I started working in the bakery. Worked there quite a little while. Then in order to get her out of the business and get her away from work, she'd been at so darn long. Had a hard time of it, father died when he was 48. I was 12 when he died. And there was four of us boys. I was the youngest. Two of them have passed on now. And then I went to working with my oldest brother in a butcher shop after we sold the bakery. And cut meat there for a while. Went to Kansas City and got a job in the Swift's _____ market. Had a profit there. And I got chills and fever and one thing and another, from running into those freezers and refrigerators and out into the warm and stuff of that kind. And one of the boys from here who was working down there at the time wrote and told his folks about me being under the weather. When mother heard about that she was very long, so she sent me word be back or she's coming after me. I come back. And then I went to work in a barber shop. And I worked for my brother Charlie for five years. Funny thing, one night at supper mother asked me if I was going to be a barber all my life. I said, "Well, what's the matter with it, it's pretty good." She said, "Well, you ought to change and do something else." She said, "I don't think you want to be a barber." I said, "What else would I be?" She said, "You better talk to Harry," my brother who was a druggist and had a drug store, "he wants you." I said, "Now where in the world would I get enough money to buy an interest in that," and I said, "that's about what he wants." She says, "You don't worry about th at," she says, "We'll take care of that." And I come downtown that night to go to the shop to work, we used to work till ten o'clock at

F/62-5

night and sometimes midnight in the barber shop. I run into an attorney who used to be here, Charlie Reener and he says, "George," he said, "you going to be a barber all your life?" I said, "What's going on here, what's up?" He said, "Have you seen Harry, have you talked to him?" I said, "No." "You better talk to him, I think he wants you." I said, "Well, for Pete's sake that all news to me, I don't know anything about it. Why hasn't he said something to me?" So I decided that evening that I would go up and talk to him. And the drug store then was in the vacant space there between the doctor's office and the little hardware store. It was off the middle of those buildings that were tore down, on Main Street.

I. Oh yeah, um hum.

N. And I asked him what the game was, what the deal was, what the gag was. He said, "Well, I want you to help me." He said, "I've got to have you." I said, "Good Lord," I said, "there's plenty of help around here, you have several kids helping around here." He said, "That's the trouble." He says, "There's too damn many kids," he says, "and you can't trust them. And we've got a couple of new doctors in town here that have been helping themselves pretty much," and he says, "I can't stop them, I can't say anything is wrong." I said, "Well, you want somebody to stop them?" He said, "Yeah." I said, "How much is it going to cost me to get into this thing anyhow?" Well, he said he'd be easy on me, he'd sell for several thousand dollars. I said, "Where in the devil would I get that much money?"

I. How much?

N. Several thousand, for half interest. I said, "Where would I get that much money." And he says, "You needn't worry about that." He said,

"I know you can get it." I says, "Where?" He said, "Have you talked to mother." I says, "Yeah." He said, "Well, you just go ahead and talk to her and see what she says." So I asked her about it. She says, "I have the money, you can use." And we had an old soldier stayed with us he was, oh, he was with us for 40 years and he died, he died in this house. And he said, "I'll make up the rest of it." He said, "I'll give you a check," he says, "you fill in for whatever you want." So that was done. I went in with Harry and we worked together for between 25 and 30 years before he was, he had diabetes and I had, I had gotten a dose of tomain poisoning, and my stomach never seemed to, I never seemed to get that thing to work. And I hemorrhaged, I hemorrhaged _____ . I was in the hospital for two months one time. And I don't know how many transfusions they gave me. But that stomach just seemed like, well one ulcer would heal up and another one would break loose. And I would get so deathly sick, and Harry had diabetes. And one day he said, "I think we'd better sell out, get out of this thing." He said, "Well, somebody may come along some day and make us an offer." We at that time then had built the ABC drug store building. Put in brand new fixtures and put in new stock and put in quite a lot of money.

I. What year was this approximately?

N. The ABC building?

I. Yeah.

N. It was about 25 years now. And so Kramer and Decinings, his partner come in there one day and said they were interested if we'd sell out. I said, "Well, might if we could get a price," I said, "we never,"

F) 62-5

we were thinking of selling if we could get a price for it." He said, "What do you want for it?" "Well," I said, "I don't know, I'll talk it over with Harry." He was back there filling a prescription at the time, they said talk it over with him and see what he has to say. He says, "Who are they?" And I told him, I told him it was Decinings and Kramer from Marysville. And he says, "I know Jake Decinings." And he says, "They got the money too." I says, "Well, what do you think?" He says, "Tell them 25,000 for the stock." I says, "25 hell," I says, "30 for the stock and fixtures." So I went out and I told them that's what it would be. They wanted to know if that included the building. I said, "Good Lord, no." I said, "It don't include the building, I should say not." Well, what rent would we want. Well, we agreed upon that. Well, he said, doggon it, that was on a Tuesday night, or a Tuesday evening and they said they were in a hurry to get back over to Marysville, but not to do anything till we heard from them. And Thursday we had a telegram from the, "Be there at the bank, ready." And son of a gun they come in Thursday evening and laid down a certified check for 20,000. They said, "We'll pay up the rest just as soon as we get things straightened out here." And we agreed on the rental, beginning a five year lease. And they took the second five year lease with an increased rate of rental. Then we wanted more room on the building, we had planned to put a _____ back there. I said, "Well, why don't you guys go ahead and do what you want to and fix it up the way you want to and we'll give you a 25 year lease. And you're going to have to pay us some more rent." And they finally agreed to that, they put in about, oh, something like \$10,000 or more into the building. And changed all the wiring, lowered the ceiling and put this addition on the rear, and put in a different heating system, had a hot water heating system

F/62-5

and put in a gas system of cooling and heating unit both. Well, they done
all right. It's all in their expense. They've got 12 more years, I think,
on that lease to go now. And that woudn't that deal up. Harry died two
years ago and his wife died about a year ago. He finally had a leg ampu-
tated, and the other leg was getting bad, And we thought another case of
amputation and he couldn't take that, couldn't stand it. Wouldn't think
of it. And yet besides diabetes he got, oh a little bit of everything.
And finally when he did go it was oh right quick, just gone like that.
Before that happened, before he died I had a hemorrhage here one night after
Bill Kirk here. He wanted to know what the heck had happened, if I had
Hemorrhaged. "No," I said, "I don't have any hemorrhage, I haven't seen
any sign of it at all." I suppose he thought maybe I'd been throwing up
some blood or something. I wasn't though so I wanted him to wait. And the
next day it cut loose again. I could just feel that blood spurting in
there. "We're going to get you down to the hospital right now. And they
did. And I don't know how much of my stomache they took. And checked on
my gall bladder _____ to death. About 30 gall
stones so they took the gall bladder too. Then I didn't do much of anything
for quite a little while it was just a little relief work in the pharmacy.
I did though, after we sold out the drug store, I did go to a pluggers
school in Colorado Springs in Denver, a pharmacy and that's when I flunked
the examination and that was only because I wasn't a high school graduate
and all that sort of thing that they require now. And then, they're pretty
touchy about those things. I kept myself in good standing while I done
relief work for, traveled awhile, different places, in Cawker City, Hill
City, Quinter and I helped in Shangcoff down there a little bit. Ellis

F/62-5

Beeche wanted me to work for him one day down at the drug store, wanted to see me. So I went over there to see what he wanted. He wanted me to go to work over there at the office. So I was there almost 20 years and because of the damned arthritis that I have. That wouldn't be so bad. I got a cold and got the flu and darned near turned into amonia, pneumonia rather and feeled like it settled in all my joints and end of all needles, that fever. Get a nasty spot, couldn't lift your arm there being poked with needles. I had the hives, ten hypos in a week with sodium salsoates and stuff like that, no dope. The medicine is just supposed to act as relief. Hasn't done a whole lot though. And now it's just, last month he told me I better just take a lay off for awhile.

I. You've been working at the power plant?

N. Power plant, the office, that's for Gary.

I. Gary Gottschalk. Well, let's see I, let's see you helped in the, you were a barber, worked in the pharmacy, I mean these are former occupations, you held.

N. Well, I first was a baker.

I. A baker.

N. Then a butcher.

I. Butcher.

N. Yeah, then a barber and then I went into pharmacy. I was in the store for oh quite a number of years before I even got a chance to go and take the examination. And this public school that they had in here, boy they gave it to us. We went through a whole course of chemistry and quantitative and quality analysis and all that sort of thing in nothing flat. And it was a three and four, three and five hour course. And we had to go through that darn thing in about three months.

I. Now let's see I need just a bit more information here. One thing, what's your father's name?

N. Frederick William King.

I. Frederick William and let's see he was born here; where was he born?

N. He was born in Germany.

I. Germany?

N. Um hum, he left Germany during the Franco-Russian war to come over here in the 70's, early '70, well it was late '69. And he got a job at New York as a, well he drove a doctor. He drove the doctor on his calls there and he went out every Sunday and he'd hitch up the ^{surry(?)} serry and go out to report and watch the cavalry. And he got crazy about the cavalry and wouldn't you know he couldn't get in. He served in the old Fifty Cavalry from September 26th, '70, '75, 26th, he must have got here oh '48.

I. '48?

N. Um hum, Mother come here.

I. What was your mother's name?

N. Her name?

I. Yes.

N. Before marriage?

I. Well, I think we just need her first name.

N. Well, they, her nickname was Gretchen, of course, but then her real name was Ellen Margaret.

I. And she was born in Germany?

N. She was born in Germany, but she didn't know Dad until they met here. And she had promised Mrs. Henry Kruger, the man who built this

F/62-5

Midwest Tobacco Company building down there. She had promised her, when she got married and come over here to live, after her father died, that's after mother's father died that she would come over and be a companion. And the day that she got in here, the morning she got in here, they stayed at Abilene all night, they wouldn't run at night, the train wouldn't move at night. They stayed at Abilene all night and they got in here and there was blood all over the depot platform mat, planks. She hugged them, "What's this all about?" she asked Mr. Kruger about it. "Oh," he said, "They've been shipping a lot of buffalo hides" and he says, "alot of buffalo hides." But that wasn't the truth, two guys had been killed there the night before.

I. Where was this at?

N. At the depot. That's when the depot was right out in front of where Butler is now. And of course, she found out in a few days what it was all about. Well, those were some of the specimens that went to Boot Hill. And just before the train pulled in they drug them inside the depot off the platform. And they had laid there from ten or eleven o'clock the night before, see, all night.

I. Was this sort of a bar room fight type of deal or . . .?

N. Well, it seems that, the way I got the one fellow had shot and killed a pal of some other guy, a pal of his, rather, so he walked up behind this other guy on this platform and he plugged him in the back of the head and when the bone's shot that was all. Now this picture here is 18th Street, that is just two blocks north of here. And they were grading that street through there and that's the way they run into the bodies. See the bones in the boxes, hammond and brown shoes.

F/62-5

I. Oh yeah. Well, what was the, was this?

N. Those are all characters that were buried up there on boot hill.

I. Oh this was Boot Hill up on 18th Street?

N. Yeah, now here's some more smaller pictures of bones and stuff that I had, that I got myself. I had charge of the cemetary out here for 11 years. I just donated my time and worked.

I. When was this?

N. Now?

I. When did you work out there?

N. Oh, that's been several years ago now since it went over to the city. Here's one guy we got.

I. Yeah.

N. You can see how he was crouched.

I. It looks like somebody mashed him along side the head there.

N. Yes, he did. I picked up one fellow up there with a stick he poked himself, his eyes out, you know.

I. Oh?

N. And picked up his skull and the bullet fell out of the back of it, the whole back of his head come out so. . .

I. So you don't think old Dodge City was such a rough shooting town compared to Hays?

N. No, Dodge City didn't have nothing, well they come over here to get their lumber to build what they got over there and come over here to get their organization papers to organize the city. Now here's something that is kind of unusual.

F/62-5

I. A mountain lion?

N. That was killed right out here north of town. That was Jace Spat and Bill Appleboy, his son-in-law, Chet Lillie and all them guys. They had that lion down at the, the museum for a long time.

I. Well, they've got one in there now, I don't know, if it's the same one.

N. They have? It's probably gotten moth eaten or something. And here, I didn't go to school down there but they rooked me in on every damn thing they had there. And they had operas and stuff. Princess Bonnie, that was a good, that was a pretty good old play for high school.

I. Now what was this?

N. Princess Bonnie.

I. What is that?

N. down here at the college, Fort Hays State. And these are some pictures that was taken down there.

I. Have you donated any of these, any pictures like these to the college.

N. Oh yeah, a bunch of them down there.

I. I know there are several of them that look quite similar to these, like these.

N. Well, I'll show you some. Here I think I was singing Pretty Plume, without any hat.

I. Oh, you mean you actually took part in these.

N. Oh, sure. Yes, I had leads in all of them. Old Henry Edwards Malloy grabbed me every time he had a chance.

F/62-5

I. Who was this?

N. Henry Edward. He used to be head of the music department. This one here is, I think it's pretty well _____, of course then.

I. It looks like you had some pirates here or something.

N. Um hum, it was some Spanish dancers, yeah, this is where Mrs. Robinson. And this one here, ^(M. Kido?) McCotto.

I. Oh, yeah.

N. Do you know who sings that?

I. Let's see.

N. He was bald headed old loot.

I. Oh, when was this taken here?

N. Oh, gosh that was a while back, quite a while back, Bohemian Girl, ^(Chimes of Normandy?) have you seen that? Shansnomity, Cornie Bell.

I. My gosh, you were quite a, quite a musician.

N. There was a young lady and myself who done a wooden shoe dance and got stoned one night up here at the VAR Hall and an old old benefit proposition. They called us back seven times. Now this is what Hays, it used to be. Back far enough?

I. I guess, 1896, 1881. I see quite a few barrels here, what are those, whiskey barrels or something?

N. Oh yeah.

I. Feed sacks.

N. Most of the, this picture here belongs to Buffalo Bill. And there I met Buffalo Bill and shook hands with him.

I. Oh?

N. And went up to see his grave. He was scout for dad's old Fifth Cavalry.

I. Well, you have two arrows in this picture, what was this person?

N. That's Charlie Howard, that's a, he used to be here, he used to be here in Hays.

I. Oh.

N. And here is the last of the bunch of the old members of the VAR.

I. VAR that's the Veterans of the. . .

N. Veterans of the Republic.

I. Oh, those are veterans of which war, the Civil War?

N. The Civil War, uh huh, now they're done and gone. And this one is the way our drug store looked when we sold it, it was inside of ABC. I think I got another one here of the old store, maybe not. Here's the gang out in front of our store, R^Exall Store, see?

I. Uh huh.

N. Out in front of our store when we were up on North Main Street. That was a bunch that won out World War I, or was it Spanish-American?

I. It must have been World War I.

N. Yeah, 1917.

I. The Second draft call, huh?

N. Now here was our first rootster.

I. A what a. . .

N. That was in that building that was just recently torn down out here.

I. Let's see, let's see what kind of, 1917. . .

N. Here's two band pictures of the Hays Military Band. That's the town band. There was state, a, representatives that went to Washington, and to New York. And this, I am proud to say, is one of the best darn football teams that Hays ever saw.

I. It was a, it was a college team wasn't it?

N. We beat, we beat K-State.

I. Oh?

N. We beat a Fort Riley, ^URsssel, Salina, Salina All Stars, and up west _____ they have a Rettin letterman from KU and K-State and Emporia. And beat them. The only game we lost in three years was by a two touchdowns at half score. The half score was _____. And they were trading everybody but Jim Fox. And the house the two houses Arch Ket and that whole darn bunch. And KU, Missouri, Nebraska, Oklahoma all refused to play them that year.

I. Oh? Is it an _____ you three?

N. In the Rose Bowl. Oh no _____.

I. What are these, what are these things they have around their necks here for nose guards?

N. Those were nose guards, about the only thing we had and a shin guard. Old rubber nose guards. Variable caddy, we had a real honest to God coach. He was assistant coach under one of the staff for oh, I don't know how many years.

I. Well, what, what did you call yourselves?

N. Just Hays team in all. Just Hays football team. We a took on a bunch of, they gathered everything they could from Salina out to Plainville, along the road and teach 'em how to wrestle like professional wrestlers. And we had guys over their betting two to one and getting half their money back if they lost. And we beat that bunch. We had guys that could go. We had an awfully good Fort Hays High team coming up.

I. Yeah, any more its the Cadets that are tops in sports now isn't it?

N. Yeah, but this bunch here, boy they, they're good, quite a bunch of boys.

I. You've got quite a collection of pictures here.

N. I've got some more pictures but I tried to find them and I was unable to locate them. They were pictures that I got down at the James' farm. Out south of ^{Excelsior} Ecelsia Springs. I was down with my mother one time she had rheumatism so awful bad, and we took her down there and a I was acquainted with the boy that run the, oh, that trained the horses. High class ^{saddle} stuff and show stuff. And I ask him how many horses he could put together for us, there was about 20 of them that wasted to go out to the James' farm. They said they thought they could fix us up. And they did. And I had a Willow Bay. Oh, she was a beaut! She handled, just handled with the reins was all. Do all kinds of ^{gait} gates and not as much as a whimper out of her. She handled by the reins. Well they let me take her and we were at the James' farm. There was a lady and a bunch from Canada. Her name was a Pancraft. And I forget. And she was in pictures, of the old flicks. Well I was standing under kind of an old oak tree shade to get a picture of the bunch of older folks that had come out here. A bunch of them come out on a carriage. They're standing at the pump getting a drink. She wanted a picture of them too. So she wanted to be in the picture and wanted to know if I would smap the picture for her. I said, "Yeah." So I went over and snapped the picture and it was under this tree that old lady James, Jessie's mother, kept a mound that looked like a pioneer grave. There were a few of them buried but ~~not~~ nothing was ever buried there. He was killed in St. Jo. Where he was buried, I don't know. But she saw me snapping these pictures and she come out. She really grabbed it. She wanted two bits a snap, or a quarter.

I. The old lady James?

N. Yeah. And she had one arm blowed off, ya know? She was sitting there just like we say for instance the, the TV there is a fireplace. She sat in front of the fireplace through the window just about like that would be. And the Pinktons thought they had her, had Jessie in there. And they threw a bomb in. About that big. Killed the kid in her arms and blew her arm off. After that she was worse than ever against the law. And a, but she insisted on getting the 25 cents. I says, "Oh no, no." I says, "Mrs. James not me." I says, "Not from me. I wouldn't give you a nickle." She says, "By gosh, you will," she says, "I'll follow you to the fires of hell till I get it." I said, "You're just talking to the wrong person." I said, "This isn't my machine and I'm taking pictures for myself either." I said, "We'll have to talk to this lady down here and see what she says." I pointed her out and she went down that way and they got together. I don't know just what the arrangements was but everything was all right. I had those pictures and someone come and got them or they were misplaced or something. I don't have them.

I. Well, she was, she was living there by herself or. . .

N. Oh no, whe had, she had a couple of kids there and Frank James, ya know, had a family. She had some, some of her kids were there, three or four children there. But over the door as you went in on the inside was a big plaque, bronze. Sacred to the memory of Jesse James who was killed by a man whose name was on the wood on the sacred plaque.

I. What, about what year was this that you took those pictures?

N. Oh, that was a long time ago, gosh, its been two or three years ago now. The lady, they had a big log house, built of logs and they had

every solid space about that big in the logs to stick their rifles through, that they hold over there at the most. Oh, that place at the fort there. You notice the spots there where they have those rock. Well, that's what they was for. Well, that year was invaided by Indian attack, they could use those holes to shoot from.

I. Also to keep the law away, I suppose. Well, was the James family all bad or. . .

N. Oh, I don't know, the father was originally a minister, I was told, but the boys got to stealing and robbing and they got with this younger outfit and see they raided barns and all around down through that country. They just raised the dickens everywhere. Well, I met Teddy Roosevelt before he was elected and afterwards.

I. What was he doing that was he out here?

N. Yeah.

I. What was he doing around here at that time?

N. Messing around, and Charlie Curtis the vice-president, a real good friend of ours. There was three or four different times when we called on him for some help, and he would help. The first time my dad's discharge papers were burned, my brother Charlie, who lives next door here, had them out in the country and his house caught fire in wooded area, couldn't save a thing. He had no business having those discharge papers out there but he took them out and they burned. Well, we wrote the war department and asked for a copy. They said it would be five or six years before they could find it even. Well, that was in '75 and we wrote Charlie Curtis and we got a copy of it now and it wasn't ten days after. And another time during World War I, they trained a bunch of boys down here at school. They had a bunch of them down there. And they come up to the

store and they wanted _____ . I said, thousands of basket of apples and everything else. I had to wire and get some for them and it was a long time after they left before we couldn't get any satisfaction out of them, couldn't get any money, couldn't get a bid. And I finally took it up with old Charlie and it come right out. And then we had a boy that had worked for us when the war was over, had lost a brother over in France and he was a pharmacist's mate on the ship, they were back New York harbor laying there not doing a thing and he wanted to get out. They said not a chance. But he did get a days, he got a few days leave and he come out there and all the politicians around here, he asked them to help him get a release so he could finish up on his pharmacy. And oh they, all agreed to do it. They wrote to old Charlie and when he got back to New York on board a big shot says, "Johnson," he says, "how long would it take you to get ready if you had permission to go?" He says, "Not very long." He says, "You can go, we've got permission for you." Now that was three times there and there was another deal that he pulled for us that was kind of nice and gosh the vice-president of the United States. You don't get too many vice-presidents of the United States but old Charlie Curtis had more friends, I believe, than any politician today. Boy, when you wrote him a letter you always got an answer. It didn't make any difference if you're, whether you're republican, democrat or what. He was Indian, you know.

I. He was?

N. Part Indian, uh huh. He was sure a dandy. My kids would sit on his lap down at the store and he'd buy them candy before he bought himself stuff. Yeah. Now that I, I brought in Washington in at the pentagon at this present time, a major.

I. Oh?

N. I wanted him to stay three months, but he says he'd be damned if he'd do it. He says, "I'll put in one month." He says, "I've had too much running around." He had been on this educational proposition of the Air Force in Montaray, California to Washington. The southern states and all over there. They sent him all over.

I. This is your friend you say?

N. Uh huh. Yeah. These schools pick out the bright boys, you know. Names was. . .

I. Let's see you a, do you remember anything about the, getting back to the early days now, a do you remember anything about the a, oh, law enforcement around here?

N. Law enforcement? No.

I. Do you know any of the old time marshals?

N. You know, they say there wasn't any law out here. And Wild Bill was here. But of course, I didn't know then, I never knew him. I've been up to his grave, Mount Rushmore, at Mount Rushmore, not Rushmount.

I. It isn't in Colorado, is it?

N. No, it's in Dakota.

I. Oh.

N. His grave and Calamity Jane and Poker Alice and those characters. There was three or four of them buried right together. See he was killed up there. When he was here as a marshal there used to be a saloon south of the post office. That's the way they tell me. He went in there and there were three or four soldiers in there raising the devil. And he called them on it. They commenced to make little of him. Told him if he didn't have that star and all that sort of thing and carry a gun like he did he wouldn't get to first base. He said he'd take them off. Take his star off too, and take 'em on one at a time, the whole damn bunch of them.

But they took their belts and they had those big U. S. buckles. And they belt him with that. And the bartender, he threwed his gun on the floor and kicked his gun over to him. He got a hold of his gun, they, they beat it then. But that was the last of Wild Bill here. I don't see Wild Bill could ever kill so many people as they said he did. In fact, he had more in Abilene, he had more trouble down there than he did here. He run for sheriff and was beaten, as I understand it. And they had, oh, there were a few killings, _____.

Three or four murders. Somebody asked me the other day if it was true that Hays has never had a murder since the soldiers left here. Well, when the soldiers were here, I've been, I've gone out to the fort with Dad, and we used to sell them bread over there, cakes, pies, and stuff of that kind. I've come along over here with him, of course, he made me sit in my seat there. He'd get into the exchange and get himself all liquored up. Well, he had a lot of good friends. He was a pretty good fellow, he was all right. After he took _____ he never touched another drop. And mother raised a buffalo calf for him that she got from the Indians. You know where the depot is now, the present depot? The big house just south of it, where all those trees are? Those big trees?

I. Yeah, that, ya mean that. . .?

N. Used to be the Reer house?

I. That old Eody Hotel or something like that. Is that down there?

N. No, no, no. It was south of the depot. Rough stretch south of the depot and due west.

I. I can't rightly remember the location, but I know where the depot is.

N. Uh huh. Well, Mother planted those trees down there.

I. Oh?

N. And she carried water from the court house. And the court house was up here where the present court house is. She carried two buckets of water on a yoke over her shoulders to water those trees. And they had a circle of them at one time. And they had seats in there. But that's been dug out some way. They, they ruined that circle. Those trees she planted are there yet. And there wasn't a thing between that place then and the Midwest Tobacco Company, where Kruger had his store. He dealt with the Indians a whole lot. Traded with them.

I. So there really wasn't too much of an Indian problem around here was there?

N. Oh, not right here.

I. Well, what, what did they. . .

N. But they, when chief Black Horse and his bunch come in here, they were hungry. They wanted food, some clothing, blankets and stuff. They took care of them, fed 'em, started them out. And then they go over north on the river. Then they started inland. Right here in town we didn't have any trouble. The only real trouble we have had here was with the ninth cavalry--niggers.

I. Oh?

N. They, a fellow shot one of them up there on what used to be north main, but it's tenth now or west tenth.

I. Uh huh.

N. And he was way down there where the south edge of town. Picked up a rifle and said, "Watch me hit that guy." _____ if he didn't. He a hit the nigger in the leg. And son of a gun he had a fight. Well, they wasn't on the reservation yet so they had to have

post mortum and Dr. Middlecough from _____. He used to live here around the corner, west of us. Had to hold a post mortum and then they buried him over at the fort, at the fort cemetery. I was over there one time to a funeral, but the folks wouldn't let me out of the buggy I was still too little, I was too little. Old Doc had charge of picking these bodies up and they come and picked them up and took them back to Leavenworth and buried them there. They had to sell those boxes to take care of each one of them and name them off as we _____.

As a kids we used to play, before they started to dismantle the buildings and stealing them, moving them away and one thing and another, us kids used to play over there lots of times. We'd go busting in barns and around the old houses and the old hospital building, and stuff of that kind. Now, now we've had some bad storms. Of course, if you go through a dust storm, that'll do it to you.

I. Yeah.

N. And in the winter of '85 and 6 they had a real blizzard. And my dad at that time lost 35 head of cattle down there by Toulon. They were all froze to death. They thought they could get down there and possibly get some skin and get some hides and got to Munjor and got up in there and had them all skinned _____. Oh there were a lot of them at that time after they hit on the cattle spurt there as far as sorgum was concerned, holdups and holdups and bank robberies and post office robbery, but they didn't amount to much. There were bank robberies and never any conviction. And that's the way it went. But they didn't even have street lights; they didn't have pavements; they didn't have telephones. They finally got to laying plank sidewalks. In all they didn't have much.

You go down what they'd call Main Street now, used to be Chestnut, you go down that street. I seen the time when it rained here for a week. The folks come to town with four horses hitched to a wagon of wheat and go to the mill where it is now and it goes right down to the hub in mud.

I. Yeah. I imagine in your work with your brother in the barber shop, I imagine you met some pretty interesting characters in there.

N. Oh, yes. We had some characters here that, an old guy, old Doc ^{Kohl?} Coal. I suppose he was one of those guys that got by in the early days. They ~~was~~ doing in the drug business and sold goods for so long before they got their state laws lined up so that they had to pass an examination. They left those old guys in. Old doc was a, and a priest went in there one day and wanted some ^{cochineal} kotchneil. Know what ^{cochineal} kotchneil is? That's a bug they used to color with, red. They spread two of the sheets out under the trees, and the bugs would get on there at night and shake them down and dry 'em, powder 'em. They used to use that for coloring your strawberry syrup and stuff like that.

I. Oh?

N. Yeah, and anyhow they were bugs to begin with and this priest wanted some ^{cochineal} kotchneil and old doc he didn't know what ^{cochineal} kotchneil was. So he went back behind and scratched his head and looked around. And pretty soon he came out, And he says, and he's a Dutchman and he says, "I'm sorry, Father," he says, "that ^{cochineal} kotchneil I got is all full of bugs." I remember those days. We had some characters, but as a rule we didn't have it so bad here. Hays got so that he could jump on them on this publicity stuff but Dodge never. They haven't got anybody in there. The place over there I got two women, the only two women that are buried out here,

F/62-5

prostitutes. One was a white girl and one was a nigger. There was only three decent look like would be caskets. The rest of them, they started to kill was just thrown into any old kind of box they could squeeze it into. They didn't even _____ twist 'em up anyhow. They'd put a hat on and down over their face.

I. Oh?

N. They never had a very good wish for them. No joke about that! These two women were. There's a _____ one. What's the date on that?

I. 1851.

N. There's a hairpin. And there's the way they used those little square nails, those blind nails. Used to drive them in the carcass. All come up there if you needed help. But the woman, white woman, was buried up there. Used to have a lot of friends. I was a; she was buried in a pretty good casket evidently. Her skeleton was complete, everything. In fact, I have it right here in the backyard on the a sidewalk, where it is now. And that there place, what was the name of that, the one who stayed with them? Wooster from the college. Wooster got some pictures of it. He promised he was going to give me some pictures of her, and he lost all of his a film in the flood down there that time. Water had the intention to go up some more. But she had been, fixed up eggs to take to the Quints' and broke. It was a oh, sticky mess. Then they'd smear their heads with it, ya know. With eggs in their hair. And in her hair, she was a blond, her hair was the perfect color. And the way it was on the scalp with that hair hung right on to that little skull just like it was built that way. And the rest of that hair, it was in there, it was four, four foot long.

And this female, nigger female. I did have a shoe like one of her shoes. She wore high, high heels, a green one but I forgot where. Look at the, if you look at the pictures over there in the museum that _____ you'll find quite a few pictures in there of the operas and the stuff of that kind, and that shoe right there and Lady Poncell. We had, of course, _____ the bass of the New York Symphony and we had the tenor of the Chicago Grand Opera and Symphony. We didn't have the music department; and he couldn't at that time and in concert. He sang with us in the operas _____. I had a lead in every one of them. And they haven't had anything like that since poor old Henry Edward is gone.

I. Was this a common practice or were you an exception along this line? Did they invite people from around here to do these things or. . .?

N. Not a lot of them, he'd come up and say, "I've got a part for you." "What you got?" I was in a Joker, a Soldier, I was in a plom, a ^{Mr. Kado(?)} McCotto. Put on Pinafore, or we're going to put on Bohemian Girl or something else. ^{Chimes of Normandy} Chimes Anority and, I a, Robin Hood. I was the sheriff at Nottingham. He said, he named all the members of the cast down there at the school and he'd say, "We've got a good one for that." And we'll have George come down again and so, we'll get drunk, get drunk. And that was one time. It tickled me more than anything else. We fooled with the cast night after night. Come sneaking out from between the drops on the stage, just as far as they could get out, without getting on the stage and see what they was going to pull next. Boy, they had a circus there. Well, what else do you want?

I. Well,

N. Good they're getting scarce, I'll tell you and take the Hacimeyer family. Old Jake Hacimeyer was a blacksmith. He at one time was supposed to had a nigger person up there that was pretty rough and they put a leg iron on him. And Jake was building this leg iron and this nigger spit in

his face or something and he cracked him on the head and killed Mr. Nigger. And that case is not supposed to be known. But this other dead nigger deal I was telling about, this guy getting shot. At that time the cavalry was niggers and they come over here and was going to burn up our town and just raised all kinds heck. The Mississippi J. R. ^{Treat?} Treap, they were way down there in southeast Prairietown got on their horse and rode back way out around to go to the fort and told them what was going on. And they made them all line up, they got that whole bunch lined up in front of the Schwallers lumber yard there and took their arms and straighten their arms and marched them back to the fort. That's when they got rid of the niggers.

I. Were they, were they part of the regular cavalry?

N. Oh, yeah, the Ninth Cavalry well their pretineer all, they're all related now, practically all of them. Just as soon as one of the Ninth Cavalry letters from a few years ago. As soon as one of them would die there would be some relative to fill in. They had an old man, nigger Bowman, we called him. He used to sit up with us kids, they finally named after him somebody, in his speeches, harmless, the best old man you ever saw. He used to set with us kids and tell us stories and sing for us.

I. What did they do with these negroes then they, were they legal to?

N. Because there was bunch of them, they circulated a petition here and a bunch of fellows signed it. They thought they were going to get they thought they were going to get this land over here, this experiment station and the college grounds. They had an idea that they was going to get that stuff real cheap and they could sell it for a good piece of money,

you see, but it wasn't given to them. They didn't get a chance to get it. Now old Charlie Curtis was the guy that worked to get that put in as an education and instruction proposition. Experimental station and educational system. And he kept after things and stayed with it. They better, they had so much time to do this and it just seemed like the guys around here were rather lax on them. And he came out here on time and told them. He says, "Time to get the truck going to have to get busy." So there was a number of others Tom Flair and Charlie Curtis, Jim Reener a number of those fellows that went to _____. Joe Bizme went to Topeka.

I. Jim Reener, now wasn't he a . . . ?

N. He was a judge.

I. Yeah.

N. Judge Reener.

I. In the Topeka Daily Capital, oh a number of years ago they ran a column of his diary, I think it was.

N. Jim Reeners?

I. Yeah, I think so.

N. I know Jim was there about, at least his cousin was at that time.

I. That maybe was the same person, I'm not sure.

N. Charlie Reener, his son, he don't have, his brother Charlie Reener had a son and daughter. Nellie, she's been over in Italy for some time and she was just back here a short time ago. She had been run over by a car or something and got busted up. She had a little child. And Charlie was a doctor, I think he's in California. The Reeners have gone. And Mrs. Middlecoff, if you could talk to her, she is a hundred years old. And she come here as a girl around three years old, something like

that, three to five years old, somewhere in there. And she's down at the hospital, Hadley. If you could get to talk to her or if there is anything very important that you want to get I think she would be more apt to give it to you than anybody else. Her memory has been awfully good, but she is getting now so that her hearing is bad and her sight is bad. But she's a very nice lady and you may get more information from here, I think than anybody around here.

I. Well, I called up one of your brothers here.

N. Charlie?

I. Yeah, and I think I'm going to interview him too. He probably has, he probably has somewhat similar information as what you have.

N. Yeah, he might give you a little bull along with it.

I. Oh.

N. Of course, he was the drum major for this band that went to Washington. He was a stud, he thought he was a regular old killer when he was about a youngster. The girls thought he was smashing.

I. What was your some of your social life around here in the early days?

N. Oh, we used to have lots of good times, nothing like the Beatles now. If you went to a dance, they usually have, we used to have what we called a Sunflower Club. There was just, there was over a hundred of us that belonged to it, men and young fellows. And we had dances at the old GAR hall and we used to have oh a lot of hometown stuff, you know and things of that kind. And then every once in awhile there would be some show come in, Uncle Tom's Cabin., or Pin Knives in a Boiler Room or something like that, you know. But, oh we had, oh Guy Vogel who put on

lots there and boy it looked pretty tough for him, you know. And it just so happened that police judge was up there at the time and he says, "Joe, I just hired you." He said, "Get in there and help that guy." The only thing we can do it get in there and help him. He was strong, big. We got them out. And we started to pick them out to take them out, 22 of them. And they were fined \$25 a piece. They behaved themselves pretty well. Oh, we used to have nice brawls _____ and things like that. And parties, there wasn't any rough stuff, nothing at all like there is today. There is stuff that if the kids had a rough party like they used to. Like 50 years ago, if they had a rough party like that today why they. . .

I. Didn't have any fun did they?

N. Nothing to it. Isn't that about all of that? Do you think you've had enough?

RT
398
F666m
1962
no 5-

48 min

Interview with George King - of Hays, Mo. - born in Hays, Mo in 1885 - Tells of school experience (lots of noices) - was youngest of 4 boys - went to pharmacy business - worked 25 years in pharmacy at ABC Drug store - very sick with diabetes - sold ^{business} out to Jake Beiniss + Mo Kraemer + they remodeled ABC - later when health failed, worked some as relief pharmacist - tells of various jobs before pharmacy - Father's name was Frederick King and born Germany - Came to U.S - was in Cavalry in 1775 - Mother came to U.S also - Stayed at Abilene when she arrived + tells of 2 dead bodies killed that night - Tells of Boothill on 18th Street in Hays - Discussion of pictures shown to interviewee and recollections about them - meeting + shook hands with Buffalo Bill - City of Hays band went to N.Y. - Tells of football games he played in - Talked about pictures at random - Tells about 9th Cavalry of Negroes -

Continued
on Side B

5 min

Talks about Vice President Charles Curtis of U.S. - Politicians - Mentions Wild Bill Hickok + others of earlier days + burial place + law enforcement and people killed.

Tape #	Time	Break between side A and B.
RT 398 F666m 1962 no 5 (Side B) (continued)	30 min	Continued interview with <u>George King</u> - How soldier of 9th Cavalry was killed - talks about real bad blizzard + father's cattle died in storm - tells about bank robberies + never a conviction - Had no street lights, telephones + sidewalks in days - tells of working with brother in barbershop + meeting strange characters there. Talks about Book Hill relics - tells about plays + concerts of famous people - talks about Hackmeier and the Negro and about 9th Cavalry, tells stories - talks about John Schleyer, Charlie Reeder, Charles Curtis + lands / experiment station. Tells about Mrs. Middlekauff, 100 years old - very good source of history, even if hearing + eyesight bad. Social life consisted of dances - had sunflower club - had shows of Uncle Tom's Cabin shows, groups gather to sing - sleigh riding - tape very bad now on -

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name <u>GEORGE KING</u>		2. Date: <u>DEC 2, 1963</u>	
3. Address: <u>111 E 16 HAYS, KS</u>		4. County <u>ELLIS</u>	5. Age: <u>78</u>
6. Place of Birth: <u>HAYS, KANSAS</u>			
7. Ancestry <u>GERMAN</u>		9. Education (circle highest) Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 <u>8</u> High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Language spoken: <u>ENGLISH</u>			
10. Places of residence <u>HAYS, KANSAS</u>		Dates: <u>MAY 5, 1885 - PRESENT</u>	
11. Present occupation: <u>RETIRED</u>		12. Former occupations: <u>BAKER, HOTEL OPERATOR, DRUG STORE OPERATOR</u>	
13. Father's name: <u>CHARLES</u>		17. Mother's name: <u>EONA</u>	
14. Father's place of birth: <u>USA</u>		18. Mother's place of birth: <u>GERMANY</u>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>GERMANY</u>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <u>GERMANY</u>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>GERMANY</u>		20. Grandmother's place of birth: <u>GERMANY</u>	
21. Place and condition of interview: <u>LIVING ROOM OF THE INFORMANT SATURDAY EVE DEC 2, 1963</u>			
22. Remarks: <u>INFORMANT'S NEPHEW ALSO PRESENT (FROM HAYS, IN HIS 60'S)</u>			
		Collector's name: <u>BROOKS KELLOGG</u> 322 SHERMAN AVE Address: <u>EVANSTON, ILL.</u>	

INFORMANT BIOGRAPHY, FORM B

1. Name <i>George King</i>		2. Date: <i>5-13-62</i>	
3. Address: <i>111 E. 16 Hays</i>		4. County <i>Ellis</i>	5. Age: <i>76</i>
6. Place of Birth: <i>Hays, Kansas</i>			
7. Ancestry <i>German</i>		9. Education (circle highest) Grade School 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 High School 1 2 3 4 College 1 2 3 4	
8. Language spoken: <i>English</i>			
10. Places of residence <i>Hays Kansas</i>		Dates: <i>1886-</i>	
11. Present occupation: <i>Retired</i>		12. Former occupations: <i>Butcher, Baker, Barber, Pharmacist</i>	
13. Father's name: <i>Fredrich William</i>		17. Mother's name: <i>Margaret (Müller)</i>	
14. Father's place of birth: <i>Germany</i>		18. Mother's place of birth: <i>Germany</i>	
15. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Probably Germany</i>		19. Grandfather's place of birth: <i>Probably Germany</i>	
16. Grandmother's place of birth: ,,		20. Grandmother's place of birth: ,,	
21. Place and condition of interview: <i>Informant's Home</i>			
22. Remarks:			
Collector's name: <i>Norman R. Mai</i> Address: <i>317 W. 7</i>			