

## Rose Farrell

Rose Farrell was interviewed on March 9, 2004 at her home by Rachel Sandler. Rose was born 10/23/1921 in Pulaski, Michigan. Her mother was from Poland and her father was from Russia. Rose grew up on a farm, went through nurses training and worked as a nurse in various capacities during her life. She and her husband bought a house in Pittsfield Township in 1953 where she still lives. She served on the Pittsfield Planning Commission for 23 years.

- Parents' background
- Going to a country school
- Nurses training
- Service and marriage during WWII
- Her career as a nurse
- Family management as a working mother of 3 boys
- Managing concessions at Saline Fair
- Serving on the Pittsfield Planning Commission, 1967-1990
- Tales of private duty nursing
- Taking care of her husband in his final days
- Volunteer work with the Red Cross, as an election inspector, etc.
- Changes she's seen in the Township
- How her family helps her now

Side 1:

I: Okay. This is Rachel Sandler interviewing Rose Farrell on March 9<sup>th</sup>, at 2 p.m. on...at the interviewee's home for the Pittsfield Township Historical Society Oral History Project. So I guess we'll just start at the beginning. Where and when were you born?

R: Born in October...October 21...23, October 23, 1921. And I was born in Plasky, Michigan. You know where that is?

I: No.

R: I don't know, it's about 25 miles on the other side of Jackson. Over by Hanover.

I: Oh, okay.

R: I know it's on the other side of Hanover.

I: Um-hum.

R: And at about five miles and....that's it.

I: Okay.

R: Born at home.

I: Born at home?

R: Yeah. Way back then, you know.

I: Yeah.

R: Eighty some years ago they don't...they didn't go to the hospital. They just...My sister was born out in the...oh, I shouldn't say that. Oh, yeah, out in the...

I: [laughs]

R: ...out in the cornfield. Yeah. My mother was out there working. But I was born at home.

I: Okay. How many siblings do you have?

R: Ah, my kids got...and I got...

I: No, sit...you said you had a sister. Do you have any idea...?

R: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I have four sisters. We had...my father had a farm and he had five girls.

I: Oh, really.

R: But we worked like boys.

I: Yeah [laughs].

R: You know, what is.

I: Oh, yeah. I'm sure everyone needs to do their part, so...

R: Milked cows and all that kind of stuff so...

I: Were you the oldest, or the youngest?

R: No, I had...I was the next to the youngest. I've got two of them passed away and two of them are still living.

I: Um-hum.

R: So...

I: That's good. So where were your parents from? Had they lived in the area?

R: Mother was...yeah, mother was from Poland. I don't remember exactly where from Poland. And dad was from Russia. Not too far from Kiev, Russia.

I: Um-hum. Did they meet over here?

R: Yeah. Met over here. Mother was, was married and was pregnant with my oldest sister and her husband was killed in the army over there. They had some kind of fighting over there in Poland, so her dad took her and brought her to America. Her dad and her come. And the dad and mother and...I don't know whether her mother was killed or died. But anyway, her husband was killed.

I: Um-hum.

R: Her first husband.

I: That's okay.

R: And then they met here. And...

I: Did they move to Michigan together? Or did they meet...?

R: Um, mother lived in Michigan and...I mean, she lived in Kalamazoo. And dad, dad lived in Michigan. He worked on the railroad tracks. He knew several languages and when they went on the railroad track, then the foreman had a lot of foreigners working, laying the tracks, you know?

I: Um-hum.

R: Fifty...what was it? Fifty...more than 50 years ago. Way, way back, when they came over. And so he had dad interpreted with what the people were saying, you know. He had...

I: Oh, wow. Interesting.

R: And he knew quite a few languages. I don't remember how many now. But quite a few.

I: Um-hum. So then they settled together and...

R: Yeah.

I: And so you...they were farmers?

R: Yeah. They...When they got married, they bought a farm, and they both work out in the field. So did mother.

I: Um-hum.

R: And, because they didn't have any help to hire anybody, you know. So any money, hire anybody. Because I...we had...maybe we had...we did everything but plow. We brang, cultivated and did all that kind of stuff out in the...with horses, no tractor.

I: Um-hum.

R: You know, way back then.

I: Yeah. Did you like that or...?

R: Oh, yeah. I...I enjoyed it. They had to get up early in the morning milk cows before we could go to school. I know first year...first year in the high school, we had no...I had no way of getting there. I'd usually hitchhike. And it was about six miles and, oh, because I wasn't old enough to get a car. Couldn't afford one anyway. But I know was some truck driver always used to pick me up about a mile up the road, come down the main road and go down to towards \_\_\_\_\_. Always pick me up and drop me off at the high school.

I: Oh, that's great.

R: And if I wasn't there, he always tell me to leave if he wasn't there. And if he...if I wasn't there, then he'd wait, and he's an older man. But he was nice. Then he come down and met my folks, and then when he dropped me off at high school, he met the professor.

I: Um-hum.

R: The superintendent of the schools. So \_\_\_\_\_ was \_\_\_\_\_ me because I had no way of getting to school.

I: Um-hum.

R: About the middle of the year then a neighbor boy's switched schools, so I got a ride with them. But sophomore year they got a bus. So that was all right.

I: Hm. Um-hum. And that was all for high school.

R: That's...yeah. That was all for high school, was a bus. We didn't have...we had country schools up to eighth grade.

I: Country schools? What are those?

R: Country schools.

I: Small?

R: Yeah. You don't know what a country school is?

I: No, I don't.

R: Oh! They have country schools around from kindergarten to eighth grade. It's in the community, in your area. And all...the kids from there go to that. We had 21 go to there, to that school. It had a teacher. And...

I: And...of all the grades?

R: Of all the grades, yeah.

I: What, 21 students?

R: She taught...she taught from the...she taught from kindergarten to eighth grade. We started out lower, not that many kids. And then gradually, as people moved in the area they had more kids and young people had kids, so...

I: Um-hum.

R: But she taught kindergarten up through eighth grade. And in the ninth grade, we went to high school.

I: Um-hum. Was...so was it a...it was a one-room school-house then?

R: But...yeah. The country school?

I: Yeah.

R: Yeah. Um-hum.

I: And then was the high school...How many students were in the high school?

R: Oh, I can't remember. It wasn't that many that graduated, that were there. But I can't remember exactly how many. It wasn't that many like they have now.

I: Yeah.

R: Well, I'm sure it was under a hundred, but I wouldn't know for sure.

I: Um-hum.

R: Yeah. Um-hum.

I: Okay. So what did you do after you were...after you left high school?

R: Well, after I left high school, I went to...I wanted to go to nurse's training. So I went to work for a year in a restaurant. Lived with my sister in Albion, and worked at Albion in a restaurant. And I worked eight, ten hours, and sometimes I worked seven days a week. I wanted to make the money for my tuition. But then I got a letter from Foote Hospital saying that my tuition was paid for. So then I quit, and in September, I worked on some

of it. I was going to work for a year, and then in September I went to Foote Hospital. Family doctor paid for my tuition.

I: Oh, wow, that was nice.

R: He was nice, yeah. And...and his son \_\_\_\_.

I: Okay [laughs].

R: Don't put that in.

I: Okay.

R: I mean, I \_\_\_\_\_ he paid some of that. I don't know how much he paid, but I had some money from the waitressing, so I had...

I: Um-hum.

R: So...and it didn't cost much then to go nurse's training like it does now.

I: Yeah. So you started right after, in the fall after high school.

R: Yeah, uh-huh. After I graduate, I went and had the nurse's training.

I: Uh-huh.

R: The whole nurse's training three years.

I: And that was at Foote Hospital?

R: Foote Hospital, and we took some courses at Jackson Junior College to get our credits.

I: Um-hum.

R: And then I graduated from there. Heavens to Betsy, I don't remember the date now. I've got it written down somewhere. Um, then after that, I work...my husband, when I was a sen—junior in high school, or sophomore in high school...junior...sophomore, junior, he went to the Army. He was in college and they pulled them all out and then sent to World War II.

I: Right.

R: And so he had to go drop out of college, and he had to go. And so I never dated anybody after he left, right? Just studied my subjects and when you graduated from high school, from col—nurse's training, I wanted to go to earn my degree in surgical nursing. And I had applied in Chicago and had it all taken care of. And then some of the nurses that graduated with me were going to join the Army, so I wrote and asked my husband, "Do

you care if I join the Army?" He says, "I don't care, if you want to," he says, "You're learn a lot. Go. You be home when I get there."

I: Um-hum [laughs].

R: So...

I: Was he in the Army too, or...?

R: Yeah, he was in the Army. He was in the Army Air Force. Yeah. He was a major. He worked himself up in just a couple years, no time at all.

I: Wow.

R: And, you know, he was that kind of a man. And so I joined the Army, and I was in the Army for just about a year. And they were going to ship a bunch of us overseas. The war ended. They were going to ship us overseas, and...but those that had husbands coming home, will be discharged in six months, couldn't go overseas, because they said they had to sign a paper to stay for a year once they went overseas.

I: Um-hum. Um-hum.

R: I wouldn't sign the paper, because he told me I had to be home. So...[laughs].

I: Yeah.

R: So I decided, well, I better stay home. I mean, the...you know. So I got discharged. And then he come home about, I don't know, he was supposed to come home in December, but he...they had a strike or something on the ship, I don't know. So he didn't get home until the very, very last of December, after Christmas.

I: So what year was that when you went there?

R: Oh, gosh! How do I remember? Let's hang on just a minute.

I: Okay.

R: I think I got it down, written down. I had it on my...my husband's discharge papers. And if you...if there's something you don't get and you want me to get, I can get it tomorrow and then call you.

I: Okay.

R: Just write...write down what you...you want a piece of paper.

I: Yeah.

R: Write down what you want. And...because I don't have...well, it's in the course I took. I don't have...I don't have...you know, like I said...The year that I got out, I can't remember. It had to be the year I graduated from nurse...she wants to come in sit. But I have to look up those dates and...

I: Okay.

R: ...and...You want me to write them down, or are you going to write them down, what you need?

I: Um, I can write them down.

R: Okay.

I: And also actually once we're done with this, I'm going to type it up, the...the tape, and then I'll send it to you...you...so that you can check it and make sure there are no errors or no, you know, if I misspell anyone's name.

R: Oh, that was nice of you.

I: So, yeah [laughs]. They're...they're trying to be careful about doing everything. So then if you want to check for the dates, I can just circle and write "dates" because I know, as far as a timeline it would help to know, you know...

R: Yeah, what...

I: ...what year you left high school or...

R: If you...if you give me what you need, I can look it up tomorrow or the next day and, you know, have it on hand. I always hate to...with the furnace running continuously, this cold weather, you know, you never know if your house is going to burn down or anything, and I have to keep all those important papers in the...in the vault.

I: Yeah. That's smart.

R: Yeah, right. Deed to the place and birth certificates of all the boys and my will and everything is in the...in the vault.

I: Yeah. My parents, we had some water in our basement and we lost...

R: Did you?

I: ...a few boxes of old pictures and stuff so...

R: Oh, that's too bad.

I: It's...yeah, it's smart to keep the...the important stuff. At least it was not the...you know, like that, like wills or...



R: You live in the country or city?

I: City, actually.

R: Oh, there.

I: Yeah. So we don't know what happened but...

R: Okay.

I: All right, so...

R: But I don't know exactly, as I said, the year I got out, or what year he was discharged.

I: So you were married before he went away?

R: Yeah. Ah, well, when I graduated from nurse's training and then I worked at the hospital before I graduated from...in surgery. And then he was...said he'd...he wrote to us he'd probably go going overseas. And he didn't know when, but maybe sometimes December, and his mother wanted to see him. She was alive yet. She wanted to see him, and so his mother and I hopped down to see where he was. When we were down there...

I: Where was he?

R: He was in Mississippi.

I: Um-hum.

R: And he's...when we got down there, he says, "Let's get married before I go overseas." I looked at him, I said, "Are you proposing?" His mother laughed.

I: [laughs]

R: And he says, "Yeah." And he said, "Let me talk to the major," and he says...the guy that's...was with him. And he says, "Major General said..." -- I think he was a major general, because my husband was a major -- and he says, "Ask him if, you know, if I had time and how much time I had." So he come back and he said, "We got to get married no later than next week."

I: Um-hum. Wow. Because he was leaving that soon.

R: So, yeah. Yeah. But he didn't say exactly when they were leaving. But then the major, his wife and my mother-in-law stood up with us. We got married in a rectory. I mean, in the Catholic Church, because he was Catholic. I was Catholic but I never went to church. And...

I: Hm.

R: ...oh, through the church we got married, and he stood up with us and we went out to eat. And then I think, what?, six, seven days later was when I come home, and he went overseas, couple days after that.

I: Wow.

R: So it was really a fast, fast, fast, you know.

I: Um-hum. So how long was he gone?

R: Ah, he was overseas about two years.

I: Two years. Did you see him at all during that?

R: No.

I: No.

R: Uh-uh. He was overseas then. No, I went...I come back then and I felt, well, I'm not going to go to school because if I go to school, we never know when he's going to come home. And...So I went to work for the family doctor. He gave me apartment free, right next to his office. And I lived there and worked for him and then my husband came home.

I: So it was after you got discharged you worked?

R: Yeah. After I got discharged I worked for the family doctor. And then after that, for a while. And then...

I: Where was the family doctor living?

R: Concord.

I: Hm.

R: Um-hum. And I worked for him and...and, let's see, then what happened after that? Just trying to think what I did. Hm...I gue—then I guess he got and came...got discharged, came home. And we lived there for a few months and he went to U of...U of M to get his chemical engineering degree. And he'd...he'd hitchhike, because he had a car and he had all that money he'd sent, you know, he sent to his mother to save. She spent every single bit of it. She even sold his car.

I: Oh. That's awful.

R: He was so mad at her he didn't even want to hardly talk to her.

I: Um-hum.

R: And she would be—

I: He was sending his paychecks to her?

R: Yeah. All his paychecks. He'd just keep five or ten dollars out and all the rest of his Army paychecks, he told her to save it because when we got married we'd need it and buy a house.

I: Um-hum.

R: I sent all my paychecks to my sisters. I kept out five dollars a month and all the rest of my paychecks went to my sisters. And she put it in the bank account for me. We were a close knit family.

I: Um-hum.

R: She was really good. And...

I: Which sister is this?

R: The next to the oldest.

I: Um-hum.

R: And...

I: What was her name?

R: Steph—Stephanita. We called her Steppie.

I: Uh-huh.

R: And she kept all my money for me, and then when I got out of the Army, she give it to me, every bit of it. And...but he didn't have any till we got married. And then he...then he started sending his checks to me and I put them all in the bank, because his mother says, "I suppose now I'm not going to get anymore money from you."

I: Um-hum [laughs].

R: And...but she was a strict Catholic and I...she didn't need to spend the money because her son lived with her and he paid all the bills and everything, you know, grocery bill...

I: Um-hum. everything. But I think she give most to her church. I'm not sure. She never did say. But...

I: So that was before you got married?

R: That was, yeah. Before we got married is when he sent all the money. Soon as we got married then he changed the account so it wasn't given to me.

I: Um-hum.

R: But he didn't know that she'd spent all that money either. He never asked her other than when we were there. We were there such short time, you know.

I: Right.

R: Until he got out of the Army, and then he found out. But...and he went to...I don't know, three years I think. He had to finish up...he went to University of Michigan. So then we...

I: So he was in school and then he got...

R: Yeah.

I: ...drafted?

R: He was in Jackson Junior College, and then he had to...they pulled, a whole slew of them had to go. I mean, you know, then, you didn't have no choice, you had to go.

I: Um-hum.

R: And so when he come back, then he had enrolled in University of Michigan, and...

I: In Ann Arbor?

R: In Ann Arbor. And he'd...he'd drive back and forth, so...I told him not come to come every weekend, but he came home most every weekend. And then he had no car. He hitchhiked. So then we took the money out and borrowed some money and bought a car. And finally I said, "Well, look..." He says, "Well, let's find a place in Saline..."

I: Um-hum.

R: ...a bit closer then for me for college." He had a job in Saline. So my mother had a cousin who lived in Saline, and she says, "I know a woman that's got a house apartment upstairs that you can live in. She...it's empty." So we come in to see her and she rented it to us.

I: Um-hum.

R: So we got the apartment. And in Saline. I have no furniture. That's because I didn't need any in the doctor's apartment, it was all furnished. But my aunt give us some stuff, and my sister give us some stuff, so we got started. We got a rough life, I'll tell you! [laughter] I look back at it now, the way...way young kids do now, it's...it's amazing, you know.

I: Yeah. You had to work a lot harder.

R: Yeah. We had to really work for everything we had. But then we got to...then we got into Saline and he went to U of M, and drove back and forth. And then I worked at Saline Hospital in that...not the state hospital they got now, the old hospital. You probably don't know where that was.

I: Um-hum.

R: So downtown, that used to have been turned into a library and I don't know what...what it is now. But it was a great, big, big house upstairs. I worked there for...there for I don't know how long. I'll have to look at my records see if I can find how long I worked there. And then they closed that, because they were going to build a new hospital.

I: Um-hum.

R: So then they started building the new Saline Hospital.

I: Do you know roughly when that was? What...? Had you worked at the old one for a long time?

R: I worked for the old one quite a while, yeah.

I: Yeah.

R: And...and then they build that new hospital. While they were building the new hospital and they closed the other one, I went and worked at St. Joe. And I worked at St. Joe for...I don't know how long I worked there. And then from St. Joe, they had a new hospital was open, so I come back because it was closer to Saline, and worked at the new hospital.

I: Um-hum.

R: That was fun when we started. We had a very nice director. And they had no lab there. Another girl and I drew all the blood with all the patients that came in.

I: Um-hum.

R: And we drew a little blood to send to St. Joe, and they eventually built a lab onto it. Got a lab technician. But I just worked in every department. This girl and I, we just filled in in surgery, emergency room, delivery room. You know, there are different ones, assigned to different floors, but they didn't come in or they were overcrowded or something, well, then we'd go out there and help them. But...

I: So you got to see a lot of different things and...

R: Yeah. I did a lot of different things. I enjoyed it. Both of us did. She and I kind of stuck together. We went to work everywhere, all over. But then we...I can't remember how many years I worked there. Twenty years? Long time. I did work with Records too.

I: Twenty years at the new hospital?

R: I think. But I'm not sure, for sure how long I worked there. Maybe it wasn't that long. But then the directors got...the director got married and they put somebody else in there and seven of us quit. Including the pharmacist, because he was doing everything.

I: Oh, wow.

R: And it was a foreigner. And he...he was doing everything...

I: People would...

R: ...he looked like a...No, yeah, it was...really now it would be illegal, but they let him get away with it. And...

I: Financial kind of things?

R: Pardon?

I: What kinds of things was he doing?

R: He did everything. You had surgery, and the doctor'd do surgery, and he'd never have an assistant. You always have an assistant. He'd go in there and assist.

I: Oh.

R: And stuff like that. You know, he said, "Well, I'm saving the hospital money."

I: Oh. So he was doing things for...?  
[together]

R: But he was charging. You know, and like laun—delivering laundry and...We didn't have a laundry-mat [sic.] and delivering laundry to the hos—from the hospital would be taken, and we had a man, older man that always took...come in, picked it up and took it to Ypsi. He followed him and he did it.

I: Hm.

R: So you know darn well, he probably was getting paid, he wasn't doing it for nothing. But we never did find out what...I know the pharmacist seemed to have seven of us, but this one girl, why, who'd do the blood. We went to U of M to work.

I: Um-hum. That's...

R: And...

I: Around when was that?

R: I don't know. I would say I'd have to...

I: Okay.

R: ...look it up to make sure. And I worked to U of M. And...

I: Same hospital.

R: I liked...I liked it. It was interesting. But didn't put this on, take it off, you know, that...but [break] So I'll have to let her in, she's going to squash that door if I don't to let...

I: Okay.

R: ...her in. [break] And...

I: To the state hospital? That's what...

R: No. Mental Health Department. And I really liked that. These poor people that really needed a lot of help and a lot of attention, that's what I like to do. I...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...help people as much as I can. And it was...it was interesting. There were a lot of things in there that the state didn't check too thoroughly on. People come in, you know, like you send your mother in and then you get a lawyer in there and she signed her property over to you. So if she got out she wouldn't have anything anyway.

I: Oh, really?

R: Yeah. They...

I: She would sign it over to the hospital?

R: Yeah. Well, she's mentally ill, you know, and...

I: Oh.

R: ...not to the hospital, she'd sign it over their kids. But I guess now that...I don't know whether later they could...she could sign it over to the hospital, what. I know nursing homes you have to...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...sign your property over, but...

I: Oh, really.

R: Ah, after you're in nursing home, it's...you sign it over to the kids and it has to be five years that the kids have had it. If not, then the state can take it to pay all her bills.

I: Oh, I see.

R: So...so...I'm going to go over here, sit down. Um...But anyway, so we were there for, oh, I don't know how long. Yeah. Because they give me a big party when I left. Just, not just before I left, because I'd been there so long and I was on several floors. But, yeah, well, they closed it. And...but I enjoyed it because I worked with the social workers. Lot of times we'd place patients out in various homes, you know, to have them live...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...in a home. And then a social worker would go out and check on them, see how they're doing. And I went with her and checked the patients to make sure they're taking the medication and make sure that they were in good condition. I made a lot of trips with her to Detroit and all over.

I: Um-hum.

R: But that was interesting. I enjoyed it. But when they closed it, then I stayed home for I think a year. Meantime, in between, I had those three boys. From the time I was in nursing, I think I only took off one summer. Not a whole summer either, when the...when the second boy was born. But after that then I knew she would change my shifts. My husband worked days, I'd work nights, and he'd take care of the kids.

I: Um-hum. I see.

R: And he didn't have any money for baby-sitters, you know. We're trying to buy a place and we bought this one in '53, I think...'51 or '52, '53.

I: This house here?

R: Uh-huh.

I: Um-hum.

R: And so...and then if he went on afternoons, then I'd see my shift change. He'd work 3 to 11, well, then I'd try to get there at 11:30 and work from 11:30 to 7:30 or something like that, you know.

I: Um-hum.

R: So I didn't get much sleep, but I...trying to sleep when the kids took a nap, so...and...



I: Um-hum. Were the three boys close in age?

R: Yeah. There...the oldest two were born October 1<sup>st</sup> two years apart. Both of them had their birthday first of October.

I: Oh, wow, that's...

R: Two years apart.

I: ...interesting.

R: And then the youngest one was three years later.

I: Um-hum.

R: After the second one. But they're close together. I think that's why they're...they look so good together, because, you know, the ages is close, yeah.

I: Yeah.

R: But...and let's see, what'd they do after that? I did a lot of private duty. I did a lot of...maybe not...some I did and didn't get paid for. I just did to help out the people. If their mother was sick and they had to go somewhere they'd call me a ride. A woman down the road had a cancer of the leg, and I'd go down every morning and change her dressing and give her a bath. I didn't never charge her for it because I didn't...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...they didn't think she'd live too awful long. She didn't need a....she moved her...but...

I: This was after you...

R: Actually...well, yeah. And couple of them in Saline that I took care of. One of them, the husband came out and give...giving me some money out here. He made me take it. Otherwise, the other one, I never asked for any. I wouldn't take it from them. They didn't have that much money anyway, you know, those days.

I: Um-hum.

R: And my husband was working through Universal Dye in Saline. He wasn't doing too bad as far as making money that...at that time.

I: Um-hum.

R: But then, let's see, what was I doing then? Then I com—then I took a correspondent course from...in Indiana. Some college. I'd go down there once every two, three months -- I can't remember, I'd have to look that up too. I'd go over and stay two or three days. And then otherwise, everything else was done by correspondence.

I: Oh, so you would mail in.

R: Mail it in. Do the studies, yeah. I did good in that. I got all A's and B's in that one. And I wanted to finish it, and I would have had my degree. But my second sister, the one that kept my money for me all the time, had to go in for...she had some stomach trouble. Took her in and she was loaded with cancer.

I: Oh, no.

R: And so the doctor...we went to see her and I talked to the doctor, and he said she'll live maybe six months to...six weeks or two months to live. So I decided to pack up. My kids were all bigger then, and they could be left alone with my husband. And I'd go every Monday morning to Albion and I stayed with her and then come back Friday afternoon. Then my other sister would come in and stay weekends with her.

I: Um-hum.

R: So she didn't want to go to the hospital. She wanted to stay at home. So we said, "Okay, we'll...we'll take care of you."

I: So she lived alone then and...

R: And, no, her husband was with her. And I did all the cooking and bathed her and did her dressings and everything, took her to the doctors and took her in for her treatment. She was loaded with cancer. But she lived until September.

I: How long was that?

R: From January. She had her surgery in January.

I: Oh, wow.

R: And she lived till September. And her doctor said it was...he said, "I want to give credit to the people that looked after her, because," he said, "they...they got her, they made her move around, not just lay there, you know." I made her get up. She said, "I don't think...use a bedpan". I says, "Hell, no, you ain't using no bedpan. You walk to the bathroom."

I: Uh-huh.

R: And, you know, stuff like...I made her do that stuff, because I knew that she...she'd give up, then she'd go faster.

I: Right.

R: But her son was a doctor also. Orthopedic, but he...he used to come over. He'd be there once or twice a week, and...But then she did all right, as far as I...really, so...She died, I

took...we hired a private duty nurse, two of them -- one in the days and one in the aftern—one at night, and one in days. And then afternoons, my other sister was going to take care of her. Make a Saline fair. And I had to take off because I was selling all the merchants buildings and concession stands at the fair.

I: Um-hum.

R: So I had to be there. And the last day of the fair on Saturday, they called me and said she'd died.

I: Hm.

R: I said, "Here the last week that I couldn't spend with her, doggoned it.

I: Yeah.

R: Made me feel kind of bad, but...couldn't be in two places, at the fair...I enjoyed the fair.

I: Um-hum.

R: I've been doing that for 41 years. But...that was a job in itself. Selling all those concession stands and...

I: Yeah, I bet.

R: ...you know, all the merchants box inside. You ever been to the fair?

I: Yeah. But only a couple of them.

R: All those merchants in there, you have to sell them, you have to organize them. You can...you know, you can...if you had two cosmetics come in, you couldn't put them close together and all that. Yeah. Yeah...

I: Um-hum. So you set up everything?

R: Yeah.

I: Organized, had the layout?

R: Forty...41 years, yeah.

I: Wow.

R: It took me...I started in January calling all of them. And take me from January and down to the middle of October. Where I'd get...you know, get everything organized and everything in order and...

I: Um-hum.

R: ..reports all made out and...

I: I bet. It's...it's a pretty big...

R: Last year I quit. I told them to get somebody else to do it. I wanted a year, I wanted somebody to help me and they couldn't find anybody to help me, and a lady helped me but...she wasn't good. But anyway, I said I'm going to have to drop out. I'm getting too old to do this. This takes too much of my time up. So they give it some younger kid. I helped him quite a bit last year. But he didn't want help. Don't put that in there. Because if they ever read it...

I: Okay.

R: He didn't want help. He...he said he knew how to do it.

I: Um-hum.

R: But I always had more...I have turned people...

Side 2:

R: ...help me.

I: Um-hum.

R: But nobody wants to do it for nothing. You know, you just do it because you like it.

I: Right.

R: So he's doing it and somebody's going to help him again. I don't know, we'll see what happens this year, but I'm not going to go out and help him this year at all. But I know that some of them won't be back, because they said that he never was around. When they needed something, they had to go to the office and they had to page him. And he was helping others instead of sticking in his building. When you got that big building you got to stay right in there.

I: Um-hum.

R: "I want a nail, I want a hammer, and I want a, you know, ladder" -- they want something all the times...

I: Right.

R: ...when it's coming in. And, well, let's hope he does better this year. But, let me see, what else I was going to tell you? I was on the Pittsfield Planning Commission for I dare say 21 years. I went into open heart when I was a supervisor.

I: When was that?

R: That was, oh, I don't know, I \_\_\_\_\_ I got the plaque.

I: I think I might have seen...

R: I had this all written down, but I didn't know how much you was going to ask [break]. '67 to '90 is how... '67, '67...'77 to '87, '88, '89, '90. Twenty three years, ain't it?

I: Yeah.

R: Yeah, 23 years. And then I...and then on the senior...then secretary and superintendent of commercial buildings. Yeah, I got that in '85, but they didn't tell...and I don't know how long...I mean, I was on...last year it was 41 years, because I helped him.

I: Um-hum.

R: So...

I: Wow. That's great.

R: ...but I'm still on the board.

I: You're still on the Sa—

R: Yeah. We...I knew there was night...

I: ...the fair board.

R: ...\_\_\_\_\_ so I can see it. I got a couple letters here. People want spots.

I: Oh, yeah.

R: See, they're still sending them to me. Ah...

I: Um-hum. Well, I guess if you've been in charge for so long, they like how you handle things.

R: So...I'm just trying...I don't know what else I can tell you.

I: So after...You said once you...the state hospital closed down, and then you were doing...you were helping out people in their homes.

R: Yeah.

I: Did you go back to work after that or you...?

- R: Oh, yeah. Well, I...I, ah...let's see. I did...I did some private duty for quite a while. I had one woman at U of M I took care of. She was more or less depressed. Doctors...doctors gave up on her, because they said they gave her medicine and everything and she just didn't want to live. But we pulled her out of it, and she lived I don't know for how long after that. Went home. My husband she was a changed woman. She was...she'd lay there and she's like, "I have to go to the bathroom. Give me the bedpan." I said, "There's not...there's not a damn thing wrong with you. Get up and go to the bathroom."
- I: Um-hum.
- R: And she said, "Boy, you're a mean old nurse." I says, "Get up when I get you...get you in good order because your husband's out there waiting and he's sleeping on the damn floor out there in the dayroom. And he's just waiting for you to get better to go home."
- I: Um-hum.
- R: I said, "Don't you know what love is?" And she looked at me. But when she left, she give me, I can't remember what it was. She give me a real nice necklace. And then they traveled a lot, because she sent me some gifts from Spain.
- I: Oh, okay.
- R: Said, "You know, I guess life is really worth living, Rosie. Life is really worth living." And I still got them in there. And she...
- I: So you really had an effect on her.
- R: Yeah. I mean, you know, her doctor says, "I don't know what you can do. If you baby her, she's just going to lay there and wait to be waited on." I said, "I won't baby her then. And how mean can I get?" And he says, "Mean as you want to get."
- I: Um-hum.
- R: And I get mean, she tells me she's going to fire me and get a new doctor. But she says...she may saddle you with the same thing.
- I: Um-hum.
- R: But she come around. She lived several years and I used to get Christmas cards from them. When they went to France, I got a real nice head scarf. Never wear it but I got a real nice head scarf she sent me from France.
- I: Um-hum.
- R: So I got...It's rewarding to me, I always...since I'm...when I'm sitting there thinking, you know, well, I don't know, I...I've did the best I could with a lot of them, you know, and I think I did help some of them. But I don't know.

I: Sounds like you did.

R: I enjoyed it. I love nursing. It...And then, let's see, what did I do after that? I did...I went to work somewhere. Where did I go to work? I went to look at my records. Because my husband has...had emphysema, and he had to retire at 63.

I: Um-hum.

R: And...

I: How many years older than you was he?

R: He was one year older than I am.

I: Right. \_\_\_\_

R: And...and he went from Universal. They closed down. And so from Universal he went to Detroit to work for a very nice company.

I: Um-hum.

R: And I still get it from the man at Human...at Christmas time. They always send me a card. But they...truly he should retire. But he worked until 64 so I could retire at the age of 63.

I: Um-hum.

R: So I had to retire. But, oh, I didn't want to retire.

I: Yeah.

R: I was trying to think where was I work then with he quit? I went to work somewhere. St. Joe...I'll have to look it up. Can't remember. Oh, but I was working, and I had...I had to quit working and stay home with him and...

I: To take care of him or...?

R: Well, not so much that he...he...oh...he was pretty good up until...He's been gone now three years. Up until about the last year before he died.

I: Uh-huh.

R: Then he got...he was on oxygen for a long time. Carried it around with him. But last year before he died, I did quite a bit for him. He didn't want to take a shower, and I said, "Well, how do you feel?" "Well, I feel tired." I said, "Oh, I'll give you a bath today." So I bathed him. And if he felt good, then he'd take a shower, you know, sit down on a chair and I'd bathe him in the shower, in the tub. But for the last few months, he'd lay...would

stay on the couch, and mostly walked from the couch to the computer and played the computer all the time. That's all he had to do. I mean, he couldn't do anything. And then lot of times he'd set there and go to sleep, you know, in the chair by the computer.

I: Um-hum.

R: Because he didn't have any wind.

I: Right.

R: But...And I fed him his meals. And finally, the last two months, my...I lay on the floor and sleep by that davenport. That's where he used to sleep, because he didn't want a hospital bed. He said that davenport was comfortable. And it was. It opens up into a bed. But he wouldn't open it up.

I: Um-hum.

R: And my son got me a cot, and I laid the cot right by the bed or couch and whenever he wanted anything, you know, a drink or turn his oxygen up and down, there's a lot of times he'd just reach over and hit me and I'd wake up and...

I: Um-hum.

R: So, last two months was pretty rough but it was worth it, to make him feel better, and then, let's see. Then he...once he says, "You're getting all worn out." He says, "This is ridiculous that I'm wearing you out." He says, "Just let me die." And I said, "Why?" I said, "You'll go when your heart stops beating, you don't have to make it stop."

I: Um-hum.

R: "Well," he says, "I don't want nothing to eat, nothing to drink." And so when my son come home from work, I told him, and he says, "Well, dad, we're going to the hospital." He says, "No, we're not." I says, "Yes, you are."

I: Um-hum.

R: So I called his doctor. We took him into the hospital and they give him some IVs because he was dehydrated. He wouldn't drink much.

I: Um-hum.

R: And he was there five day—four day—no, four days. It was ten thousand dollars for four days. Can you imagine hospital bill?

I: No.

R: Over a thousand dollars for...



I: That's horrible.

R: ...the room. Yeah!

I: Um-hum.

R: And then my son from California come home. I call him and he come home. Dad says, "Mike, I know you'll let me go home. Nobody else'll let me go home to die. But I don't want to die here. I want to die at home." And Mike looked at me, went out to the desk and the doctor was out there. And he says, "Doctor we're talking him home. He wants to die at home. Not here."

I: Is Mike your oldest?

R: He's the second oldest.

I: Second oldest.

R: Second one. And he works for Boeing right now. Been with them for 20 some year. And anyway, he...Doctor come in, he says, "Well, you can go home, Garner, but you're...Rosie's going to have to get some help, because she's worn out." And...

I: Did...you said this was three years ago?

R: Yeah. About three years ago. And then he's been gone three years. And he went Easter Sunday. And so they called Hospice to help me. Well, they come out and did a lot of talking and yakking. And she called me every day to see how he was coming, how I was feeling. And only one day she sent a man out for four hours so that I could get some rest. I never got any more help for him. I didn't ask for it anyway.

I: Um-hum.

R: And if I'd ask, I think I could have got it. But they were nice. And he just \_\_\_\_\_ home and just died one morning \_\_\_\_\_. So...

I: You were married for a long time, weren't you?

R: Yeah. But he did. He got the kids, he told the kids what to do and look after me, and...and he give them a good lecture. I know, because Mike wanted to say something, he's "Don't interrupt me, I don't have any breath," he says. But he told them what they should do, and take care of the place for me and let mother get some rest now because she's all tired out. But...So he was good right up until the very end.

I: Yeah. Still watching...

R: Yeah, but, you know...

I: Yeah.

R: And then...then he just went to sleep and...ding, ding, dune, so he went to sleep and just...

I: Um-hum.

R: I said, that's how I hope I go.

I: Yeah. That's true.

R: You know, so you don't bother the kids any, and...I'll just drop off and...but he knew he was dying, so...You got...you got emphysema, the doctor called it emphysema, but he also said he...he was a chemical engineer, and when he worked down at...in Saline in there, he'd...they'd get in the plants, those great big chemical plants they had.

I: Oh.

R: Looks like \_\_\_\_\_ tower things, you know, and these great big thing, get in there and clean them. And way back then in the 40's, 50's, oh, they didn't put on boots or masks or uniforms. He'd come...

I: Right.

R: ...home, and he'd have burn spots on his face, his hands were burned. His shoes, see, I don't know how many shoes he had. We had to air them out. He had burns on this legs from the chemicals.

I: Um-hum.

R: And the doctor said that he would breathe them in and it burned...he had some burn spots on his lungs.

I: Um-hum. Yeah...

R: He got burned.

I: ...they're finding out that stuff...

R: Yeah.

I: ...is so dangerous...

R: Uh-huh.

I: ...to people.

R: And he got...he had burn spots, two of them. They...one died before he did. And then...But after he left there, he went to this other plant, and they were a little bit more

stricter with him. He did a lot of traveling and...and he had...didn't have to get in and clean the tanks so much. He just did a lot of traveling for this company in Detroit, and...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...all over. We'd fly and everything and help all the country—you know, the companies that needed help.

I: Um-hum. How long did he work with the...for the company in Detroit?

R: Oh, I'll tell you. Just a minute. He got a plaque up there on the wall.

I: Okay.

R: I knew what you were going to ask me, I...[laughs]. Whaaa...ten years. He worked for them ten years.

I: Ten years?

R: Yeah. After that plant closed and he went...he took a...he was going to the other plant right away. The other plant...he was a real nice guy that run the plant. And he usually come out there a lot. And they did business with that plant. So he knew what he was like.

I: Um-hum.

R: So we told him and, "Take a week off, and then come work for us." So he took a week off and oh, and then they...

I: That's nice to have a week off.

R: ...yeah, he got the whole week off. And he just stayed home and relaxed and went hunting in...in the back there and...And he went to work for them.

I: Um-hum.

R: So...But then after that, when I...when I quit working, well, then I just...I was...oh, that was before. When I was working I think I was sec-treasurer for the Saline Senior Center.

I: Um-hum.

R: For I don't know how many years. I was going to call Rina and find out, but she was president then. She was president for a long time. And I was their treasurer for a good many years. And...

I: Before you retired, you're saying?

R: Yeah. Way before I retir—I was working too at Saline Hospital at that time. So... and I was their treasurer there.

I: Um-hum.

R: And I worked for...I volunteered for the Red Cross and I drew blood, those two drawing blood. And, as I say, I worked on the election board for I don't know how many years. Ever since we moved here I guess, every year I've worked except one year when we had to new secretary in there and she put her sister in instead of me.

I: Oh.

R: And...

I: That's not being fair.

R: ...she...she's not there anymore. She's nothing...she was nothing but trouble. And...But now they've asked me to come back this year, I think. Yeah.

I: Do you think you'll do it?

R: Oh, yeah. I'll tell them. But I always had to take it and be in charge and tell the women what to do and show them, you know, when we go to classes and say "You work here, and if you get tired I'll let then you too, and you can switch. But let me know if you switch," because...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...you have to know if they make mistakes. You know, and you can make mistakes real easy.

I: Oh, I'm sure.

R: And when I...I told her, she says, "You're going to help me this year, aren't you?" And I says, "If you need help, you can't find anybody. I'm getting a little old. But I'll be glad to help you if you need help." And, but I said, "Don't put me in charge. Put somebody else in charge and..."

I: Um-hum.

R: ...just give me an assigned job," so...

I: That sounds good.

R: You know, I'll be there to help put you all in a spot, but I don't want to take charge of it. That's too much to do.

I: Um-hum. So...

R: At my age.

I: So what...what other things are you involved in right now?

R: Ah, let's see. What am I doing right now? I kind of took some time off and didn't do anything. I just wouldn't volunteer. When...after Garner, then I had...I had a blood clot in my left leg. I didn't move around very much. The doctor said. And it was a pretty big blood clot. I've had...had to go in and once a month and have it checked on the machine. And take medication. What did they give me? Isn't that something? I've been off of it about a year. But I was always cold. When they give you this medication in your blood, it gets thin, you know.

I: Oh, um-hum.

R: And it thins your blood. And, and you're cold. Well, I'm still cold. I mean, you know here in the house I'm wearing a sweater.

I: Hm.

R: And when I go outdoors I'm cold. That's why I didn't...I didn't walk much this winter, because I just couldn't get outdoors. It's too cold.

I: Yeah. It was cold this winter.

R: But...So I kind of laid back and didn't do much of anything since Garn's been gone. I just...I told them at the township if they needed some help, I'd be glad to help them with anything. But...but, well, the supervisor says, Oh, you'll need two or three, four years of good rest before we get you a-working.

I: Um-hum.

R: Um, now when the...when the township moved from the old hall to here, they had one room that was full of all kinds of papers.

I: Um-hum.

R: And some of us went in and sorted those papers out to help them. Just to kind of help the township. Didn't charge nothing. And then that troublemaker said, "Do not...do not get strangers. The township officials are supposed to do that themselves." And so then they shut it down for a while, and I don't know who in heavens, they got somebody to do it. I didn't go back.

I: Um-hum.

R: I had enough of it. I said that's too much. But [dog panting] Honey, hey, go lay down.

I: [laughs]

R: She loves everybody.

I: Yes, she's so friendly.

R: Oh, she's a terrific lady.

I: Hi, sweetie.

R: Oh, hey. Hey, hey, hey. That's because of my son's girlfriend, she comes over and she lets her lick her face and, ech!

I: Oh!, yeah [laughs]

R: \_\_\_\_ Go lay down, Queenie. Hey, Queen, go lay down. Good girl! She minds pretty good.

I: Yeah, she is very good.

R: Lay down. Says I don't want to lay down. I wanted something to eat. Well, I don't know what to say, what else I been doing.

I: Well, can I ask you just a couple questions about...So you said you've lived in this house since '53? Is that right?

R: Yeah.

I: So what...what changes have you noticed around here?

R: Oh, terrible change. The traffic is terrible!

I: Oh, yeah?

R: And...

I: Right around here? Or in the whole township?

R: Oh, around...when you back up on Michigan Avenue up here, here come Textile Road.

I: Yeah.

R: That's a terrible...

I: I guess State to Textile.

R: That used to be a nice gravel road. Now it's got great big potholes. Double barrel...double barrel...double trucks, you know, that go through there.

I: Oh, the semis?

R: And, ah, barreling like 60 down through there. Well, they tear up the road.

I: Um-hum.

R: Gravel trucks go through there. Cement trucks go through there. We didn't have all that stuff that go right through there. That road was really a nice road.

I: Um-hum.

R: Our road is getting pretty bad out here too. When they back up on Michigan Avenue on Platt, down there on the Corner of Platt, see, they don't have any turning light.

I: Um-hum.

R: That's our biggest trouble. Like...like when they...they had a meeting on Lyden and Michigan Avenue and I went to that meeting and I talked to some of those guys, and I said, "You know, you could cut down the traffic, quite awful." He said, "Platt Road is a dangerous Road." I said, "Sure it's dangerous. You don't have a turning light there."

I: Um-hum.

R: I says, "We got...I've been here for 50-some years and traffic wasn't this heavy, you could turn. And now you set there in the traffic to turn and the traffic to go is one way. You want to turn, you're still here. Let me tell you...you...there's no place to turn. There's no middle lane to turn."

I: Right.

R: And I said, "The traffic's backed up way past the township hall!..."

I: Um-hum.

R: ...trying to make a turn. All you got to do is put a turning light down there and that will relieve that, a lot of it right now."

I: Right.

R: And, um, so instead of going down there, they come down our road and go this way and that way, see.

I: Oh.

R: So...yeah.

I: Right down your street. Campbell?

R: Yeah. Well, they come...they come from Michigan Avenue down our road. We hit Michigan Avenue up there. Down our road, take Textile, and hit Platt and then turn to Ann Arbor, instead of doing down Michigan and taking Platt, because you can't turn.

I: Oh, so they're using this as a short cut. Uh-huh.

R: But you...yeah. So in the morning and at night usually this road is pretty busy.

I: Yeah.

R: Didn't used to be.

I: That's a shame.

R: And then not...and then we used to have neighborhood...the...you know, the neighbors all around here used to be we knew who they were. We had some terrific neighbors there. She was a student...dental...dental student. Her husband was a carpenter. They raised dogs, show dogs.

I: Um-hum.

R: She goes all over the United States, and I used to go and take care of her dogs every day when she was...in dental clinic. Just for nothing to help her out, you know. Because...

I: Um-hum.

R: And I don't know how many years I did it. And, you know, she had little baby puppies, and I'd go over there. She said she's going to have puppies. You go, if you watch them, so they don't...they don't smother in their own...what do you call that?, you know, when they come out?

I: Oh, right.

R: So I'd have to go there and watch and take off...take it off if it...if they couldn't, the mothers couldn't turn around to get it off. It was interesting. It was fun.

I: Um-hum.

R: And the...she works now as a dentist up in northern Michigan somewhere and they...Every time they come down here to see her brother, they stop in to see me and she's setting there. And well, every year she sends me a great big flower.

I: Oh, that's nice.

R: Yeah, great big ones. And the other one I got last year, they've been doing this, almost as big as that one. And I didn't know...

I: Know they...



R: ...they'd keep that long, but they do.

I: Yeah, didn't know that either. It was probably the biggest...

R: We'd tear off the leaves that are dead and then keep it partial light and keep it watered just enough, and doggoned, it was just huge this year, the one from last year.

I: Uh-huh.

R: But, so it's every year they send me a flower or send me a card on my birthday and on the holidays and...But, and then, neighbors, oh, have changed. We got I think one neighbor's right next to us, build their house shortly after we'd moved here, well, 10 years or 12 years later. And they've been there ever since. But everybody else is...they died. The second, third house...second house up, they both died. Third house, they both died. The fourth house, you know, the woman she didn't want to live in this neighborhood. I don't know why. And she wanted a trailer park so they, you know, condensed...um-hum.

I: Um-hum. Yeah.

R: So they sold their place for...And I go down there and baby-sit a lot. She's got two little kids. One in kindergarten and the other's, who know...three years old. She has dental appointments or doctor appointments and I go down there. I don't charge her for it because I figure they're trying to buy a house, you know.

I: Um-hum.

R: So...

I: That's very nice of you.

R: ...I didn't have nothing else to do, so I said to her, you know, but. The kids, now and then we walk by down the road and they bring me in a cookie or a candy bar or something.

I: Uh-huh, nice.

R: "Hey, grandma, we got something for you."

I: Uh-huh.

R: But, and then the other ones, all the other ones up, they're all new people. I mean, they're all...I don't even know them. I mean, they...

I: Um-hum. Are...are they not friendly or you just haven't...?

R: No. They don't...they don't seem to come down introduce themselves or where they are. One of from...Leah, I met her at the township meeting, and she come over and introduced herself and told me what house they live in. And I said, "Well, you get a chance, walk down sometime. You know where I live." She says, "Yeah, you're one of the oldest ones on this road." And I says, "Yep." And...but they never come down.

I: Oh, really.

R: Um-um.

I: That's strange.

R: So, and down that road over there, Van Buren is the first house is, oh, they've been there quite a while. The second, third, fourth, fifth houses are all new. Hansons used to live in the second house. They built it across the road. But they haven't been here that awfully long either. So they're all...the neighborhood has changed \_\_\_\_\_, as far as that goes.

I: For the worse, I think.

R: Yeah. And I don't know. It's...it's people nowadays don't have time for other people I think.

I: Um-hum.

R: These younger kids. They're too busy or something. I don't know.

I: Seems like there are a lot of distractions.

R: Yeah. That's what I try to tell my grandson, and, you know, and my kids out...though they help. My son David, oh, the man that owns that house, he's a tea-professor. And he bought it for investment more or less. And he taught...he wanted to teach here, round here, so he could live there, but he couldn't get a job anywhere.

I: Um-hum.

R: So he went to South Korea last year and he taught there a year at some college. Made good money, he'd call it. He'd come on, and he was home for the summer. Well, that whole summer, he was there about six weeks -- fixed that house all up because the people that lived there moved.

I: Oh. Uh-huh.

R: And out west. He was a minister and he didn't have the money to pay, I think. They weren't friendly at all. But anyway, so he fixed the house all up, and he kept looking all over and applying all over, to Albion College, and...he wanted to teach in a college, because he was a professor of -- what was it? I can't remember, professor of

some...Couldn't get a job, and so he got an offer to go to Japan, so he's in Japan teaching.

I: Oh.

R: He calls me once a month to make sure everything's all right at the house.

I: Um-hum.

R: And he asked my son if he'd kind of look at and help the girls. There's four girls that live there. They all go to U of M. And he...see if they need any help with anything. You know, just give them a hand with it.

I: Um-hum.

R: And so my son does. So...I taught my kids, you know. I think my husband was more like that. He was after the boys more than I was to help other people if they needed help.

I: Um-hum.

R: And they still do it.

I: Yeah.

R: I don't what I'd do if it wasn't for my two sons helping me mow the grass and, you know, like I told...said that door there has to be replaced, I have to call somebody to do it, and Bill says, "Don't worry, mom, just when it gets warmer, I'll take the door and screen off and we'll fix it. If you want a new one, we'll get a new one in there." But just like I told David, I got...I...a guy called me about cleaning out my register, and I said, I know they need it. Because they're dirty. I cleaned them all out here.

I: Um-hum.

R: But I can tell from the dust, you know.

I: Right.

R: And they should be done at least once every three, four years. And they haven't been done in a long time. And...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...he says, "I can do it, ma," and I says, "No, I will hire it done. It won't be that much money. You've got enough to do and you can do little odds and ends for me." That one, I said, it's a big job, and I don't want to...He works all week long, I said, "I don't want to tie you up and do that too."

I: Um-hum.

R: Then the water softener went out, wouldn't work anymore, so I went and told my son to go buy one and I'll pay for it, and he bought one, and he says, "Ah, save you some money, ma, I'll install it." So he installed it.

I: Um-hum.

R: Hooked it all up.

I: So it's nice then.

R: Yeah.

I: Two, so two of your...

R: Yeah.

I: ...sons live in town now?

R: Yeah, well...

I: Or one lives here with you.

R: Well, one lives here down on...here with me and most of the time. And then he's got his girlfriend he went with in high school, and they broke up. And...but he's living with her now. I guess they're going to plan on getting married eventually when he can make enough money he said. But he stays...you know how they are now, he stays at her apartment, huh?

I: Yeah.

R: And my other son does too. He stays with his girlfriend. He's been married and divorced and got two kids. But he's here every other week and Friday, Saturday and Sunday and then ever night he stops at four o'clock and he's there until about six.

I: Oh, that's great.

R: "If there's anything I can do, or if you need any groceries, these are...I'll get for you." All winter long, they bought me milk and stuff. But I wouldn't want to drive in that weather.

I: Um-hum.

R: So they...they're a big help. I don't know what I'd do without them. They fix the...we've got two tractors out there, and he put...put a scraper on one, so he does the driveway when it gets, you know, lot of snow.

I: Oh, that's nice. Yeah, we needed that this year.

R: Yeah. And we really did. And so I usually did it with a snowblower, but you'd have to walk, you know, and push it.

I: Um-hum.

R: And then...then they got me one that you didn't have to push. Went by itself. But...he does it with that one, so...

I: Well, that's nice that you have such a good support system.

R: And cut down the trees. They've cut down those two trees. They got that one to cut down yet, and then they got to dig up...He's got a digger, he's got to get and dig up the roots.

I: Um-hum. Um-hum.

R: And then they got to start and they got to tear that building down that's collapsing. They built that building when they were...I think David was a...I don't know whether he was a freshman or a southmore [sic.], and Mike was in the lower grades. He was taking automotive...he wanted to be a...work on cars, you know.

I: Um-hum.

R: And he got his degree in that, finally. [coughs] And then they come out and he build in...we got all that lumber from the man up there -- Howard, Ralph Howard lived up there. And we were talking about it once and David was there, and he says, "David, I got a old bog. You want to tear it down?" He says, "Got good lumber in it," he says, "you can have all the lumber...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...and build yourself a barn out there." So...

I: Nice.

R: ...he got a bunch of kids from school, they went up and tore it down and they build that. It was a nice-looking thing, but you can see it's...after, what?, 40 some years, it's collapsed. David right now is 53 years old.

I: Um-hum.

R: And so he built it whenever he was a junior in high...a freshman in high school, I think is when he started.

I: Wow. It still looks pretty good.

R: Yeah. Yeah. Now it leaks, roof leaks. I said you got to cut those trees down and then tear that building down completely, and then either build one on just that one part, not so

big, and...to store the lawnmowers and things, because we don't have anyplace to store the lawnmowers...

I: Um-hum.

R: ...and the rototillers and all that stuff. And either buy one and set it up there, and I says, you probably could buy it and set it up cheaper. Because he built his own barn.

I: Yeah.

R: First one he build, it burned.

I: Oh, really.

R: He had it a year. And he was out working on a man's car out there and it got cold and he turned on the, oh, a kerosene burner, spilled some gas out and it exploded.

I: Oh, my God.

R: He was under the car and burned his eyelashes, burned some of his hair. He's lucky he got out.

I: Wow, yeah.

R: And, but it burned right down before the fire department come to put it out and they had come from another fire and they didn't have any water, they had to call...If they here they couldn't have any water, and their hoses just sit there, no water.

I: Oh, no.

R: So, so they called Saline Fire Department and they come out. But by then it was gone.

I: And he's lucky that he made it out with just some burned hair.

R: Yeah. He was...my husband sit here and he says, "Oh," he says, "Look at that." We had a camper in there and we never carried insurance on it in the summertime because we didn't use it.

I: Um-hum.

R: Then just go down to Florida. You know, in five, six years we would go into a camp down there.

I: Um-hum.

R: And we'd go down and stay there, oh, three, four months down there and, so...

I: After you retired.

R: Yeah. After we retired. And that burned. And we had a dune buggy, that burned. Cut...a lawnmower burned. The man's car he was working on, that burned.

I: Yeah. At least no one got hurt.

R: Boy, and a lot of his tools burned.

I: That's too bad.

R: But...so he really quite a while and then he...then he had that...he hadn't...he build that. He hadn't had it up that long. He wouldn't build it until after dad died because dad says, "I don't want to see you out there building another barn." He says, "You hire it done this time."

I: Um-hum.

R: He says you work all day and you come home and work until eight, nine, ten, o'clock at night, building that barn. That's too much for you.

I: Um-hum.

R: So after dad passed away then he...we went and had them build it.

I: Well, it looks like he did a great job.

R: Yeah. He still got the eaves troughs to put on it, and, yeah, his son helped him. And my other boy helped him a little bit. I just hide the wood for him whenever they need -- not the wood, the siding. It's on a pile...

The End