

Poweshiek History Preservation Project

Interview Transcript

Interviewer: Frank Heath

Speaker: Lucille Reavis

Date: 2013

Place: Grinnell, Iowa

Persons present: Frank Heath-I

Lucille Reavis-S

Heath: I'll just glance at it occasionally to see if it still works. Other than that, we don't care. But I will ask you as I do most everybody, to tell me your full and proper name and when and where you were born.

Reavis: Well, Lucille Maxine Olson. Now it's Reavis. I was born on my grandfather's farm about seven miles southeast of Grinnell. In 1921.

Heath: 1921?

Reavis: November 13. I was born a minute after midnight. My mother tried to get the doctor to make my birth certificate November 12th. And he said no. It was November 13th. It was a minute after midnight.

Heath: And did she want it the 12th because she didn't want to...

Reavis: She didn't want it on the 13th.

Heath: Yeah. How big a farm was that?

Reavis: Well I don't know for sure. I imagine it was probably a hundred and sixty or a hundred and eighty. It was not a huge farm. And I don't have any pictures of it. I wish I did have.

Heath: Sure.

Reavis: But um, and I don't have, I wish, you know you wished have asked your parents a lot more questions. Now. But I don't know. I don't know where my dad met my mother. I wish I knew. Because my mother grew up in Kellogg, Iowa. And she, they moved to Grinnell when she was evidently in high school. Because she did not graduate, she lacked a quarter of whatever she had to have. And so she, and she didn't graduate with her class. Instead she got married. But I don't know where she met my dad. Because he didn't go to college, he didn't go beyond eighth grade. And he was a farm boy. So I don't know where she met him.

Heath: Hm. Yeah, those mysteries.

Reavis: Yeah. And you don't think, you just didn't ask questions I guess.

Heath: I'm going through the exact same thing with my family right now. Exactly, all the things I could have asked my grandfather. I spent a lot of time with him but I never asked.

Reavis: Right.

Heath: So your father was a farmer?

Reavis: No. He grew up on the farm but, he left the farm and he was, at one time, he was a fuller brush salesman. And he was, he ended up being mostly a painter and a paperhanger. Most of his life that's what he did. And so we never owned a home, we rented. And couple times when we were still in the country we lived in a tenant house, you know. So.

Heath: How big was the family?

Reavis: I had one brother and one sister. And I'm the only one left. So. I'm the old goat I guess.

Heath: Ha-ha, not exactly the word I'd use, but ah, yeah.

Reavis: But ah, my dad's family, he had one brother and he had four sisters. And at the time when I was born, I think it was just at the time my mother and dad were married, my grandparents had built a new home in the country. So I was born in the new house.

Heath: Tell me about that house. How big was that house? What kind of house?

Reavis: It was a big house. And it had big rooms in it. And, they evidently expected to have a big family. Cause, they had the dining room was almost as big as the living room. It was a big dining room, it was a big house. And I've got a picture some place that shows part of it. But I don't have one that shows the whole house. And now some young people have bought it and it's been remodeled. But it was a modern house. Way back then, it had electricity, had a bathroom, it had a furnace, running water, so.

Heath: So it was built...

Reavis: It was built in 1920-21. Let me check in the bedroom. I've got a picture in here that might show a little a bit of it. But I'm not sure. No it doesn't. But if you would like to see a picture that is my beginning and everything. Do you want to come in here and you can look it. One that I have put together.

Heath: Alright.

Reavis: Just don't look at everything sitting out.

Heath: Oh wow.

Reavis: This is what, and this is my mother and father and myself and we are at the farm there. And then of course this is me after I was born and they lived down on Broad Street. Where the Mayflower is now built.

Heath: Oh okay. And this?

Reavis: That's a little church.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: It was called the Christian Church at the time. And so this is just, you know, one more issue. This is my, that's me, my sister, and my brother.

Heath: Quite a conglomeration. I'll be.

Reavis: Yeah, I didn't know what to do with this.

Heath: This thing.

Reavis: That some of the pictures are fading. That's my husband. And he worked at the Post Office. This is my, you know Randy? Gene? This is my son Randy and myself and his two girls.

Heath: Um.

Reavis: This is my mother with his two girls. She was in the nursing home. At that time. And this is Randy and Gene and two girls.

Heath: I, I know the face.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: He's a city mail carrier.

Heath: Okay. Then he'd know Ron Carlson.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Yeah. Ron plays in our Dixieland band.

Reavis: Oh! Yeah. Cause Ron. I used to live out on Seventh Avenue just a few houses from Ron.

Heath: Small town.

Reavis: Yeah. And this is my whole family. We're down on Old Ponderosa. My sister owned farm on Lake Ponderosa. In fact, part of their land went into the making of Lake Ponderosa and we were all down there for a picnic.

Heath: That's quite a group.

Reavis: Yeah it is. Well, I only had one son. That's all I had. And my sister had four children. And my brother had two. So we weren't really a great big family, but—

Heath: But it develops.

Reavis: Produced pretty good. [laughs]

Heath: [laughs] Yes.

Reavis: So. I don't know what else you want to see. And you probably don't remember. A long time ago, how they kept the body at home? This is my grandfather in the living room of their home when he died. My grandmother thought we should all have a picture.

Heath: Yeah. Casket that opened up and pleated in there. The whole thing, yeah. How old was he when he died? Do you remember?

Reavis: Yeah, I can't tell you.

Heath: Hmm.

Reavis: He had retired from the farm and then he lived in town, they had bought a house over on High Street.

Heath: Hmm. And I see Roger Preston here that was probably the photographer.

Reavis: The photographer. Yes.

Heath: Okay.

Reavis: He had a shop up on Broad Street. Up, what's a, that would be where part of the Wells Fargo bank is now I think, but it was up on second floor because it used to be all stores along there. So, anyway. And this is, I don't have the date but this, do you remember when they had the "Pot of Gold" show on the radio?

Heath: Yes.

Reavis: My grandparents won.

Heath: Is that right? [Reading] "Olsons will fix up their farm with \$1,900 from the 'Pot of Gold'. Radio program dropped \$1,900 in his lap. John and his wife and daughter Fern live on a farm about eight or nine miles south and east of Grinnell."

Reavis: That's it.

Heath: Yeah. Oh and Horse Height.

Reavis: Horse Height's band you know.

Heath: Yeah. I'll be darned.

Reavis: That was really something, cause they had an old world telephone and they couldn't hardly hear on it.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: [laughing] And they called.

Heath: “They lived in the same farm for forty-seven years. His wife for forty-five. He was seventy-two, asked what she would she would buy herself out of the \$1,900. Reward for performance on the phone. She didn’t say. She said she didn’t know that she could get anything. But we think she ought to at least get a really nice new dress.” And so they called on the phone...

Reavis: On the country telephone. And you know, you couldn’t hear very good on those.

Heath: And then they asked some questions.

Reavis: They asked them something and then they, see this was a program that was on every week or so and they’d said, “oh listen to it”.

Heath: Oh.

Reavis: With nothing else to do, yeah. And they were lucky.

Heath: Do you know what they listened to it, while there’s a picture of the radio itself. Yeah one of those table models. Oh my. That must have been a big deal.

Reavis: Oh yeah. That was very exciting for our family.

Heath: Yes.

Reavis: Anyway. I had looked through some pictures and, and I didn’t find any. I don’t know what you really—

Heath: Well. We’re after your experience. And your stories.

Reavis: And this is me and this is when we lived down on Broad Street. South of what is now Mayflower. And it doesn’t say what year.

Heath: Yeah, does it say...

Reavis: No.

Heath: Okay, got your name, yeah.

Reavis: This is my dad’s family. This is his mother, his brother, and his four sisters. People just didn’t write dates.

Heath: I know but you got to.

Reavis: But I should put the names.

Heath: Yes you should ma'am.

Reavis: Yeah. And then this is my mother, I think it's on her ninetieth birthday. My brother, my sister, and myself. And this is a birthday cake.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: Yeah so, well you know who this is.

Heath: Mmhmm I do.

Reavis: So anyway. I didn't know what you were interested in seeing. This is my high school graduation. 1939. I always take a horrible picture. In fact, my husband took this one. A big one of this one was hung up out in the garage. [laughs]

Heath: [laughs]

Reavis: And this is my baby picture. And I was the only one of my family that had a baby picture taken. I guess they couldn't afford anymore.

Heath: And that was Anina Win Gross Studios.

Reavis: Yes. And see that was before I knew anything about studios or anything.

Heath: Get him holding him down. Yeah.

Reavis: So.

Heath: Nice picture.

Reavis: And I don't know what this one is. Well that's my mom and dad. Their wedding picture.

Heath: And that was Pratt Studios.

Reavis: Yeah. And my mother was raised in Kellogg. She was Lorene Benson.

Heath: Okay.

Reavis: So, anyway.

Heath: Thanks for showing me those.

Reavis: This is my husband and myself. And here he is when he was in, in, just in the army. It's in Little Rock Arkansas.

Heath: Ah.

Reavis: I saw him one time before he left in April of 1942, and he never came home until August of '45.

Heath: Oh my.

Reavis: His parents never saw him from the time he left 'til he was discharged. I saw him this one time. My mother and brother and I drove to Arkansas to see him. So anyway.

Heath: And he was in the army?

Reavis: He was in the army.

Heath: Where did he go? What was his service?

Reavis: What did he do? Well, we don't need to stand in here.

Heath: We can sit sure.

Reavis: He went, he was a, his group was the first group to only get six weeks basic training. And I was working and I was trying, I was going to go, he was at, at that time, he was in Maine. And I was going to go out and on my vacation and I got a telephone call that said "don't come. We're shipping out". And they went to England. And that's where they practiced for the invasion of Europe. He missed the practice session because he had malaria. See, he had gone to England and then he went to the invasion of Africa, Italy, and Sicily. And then back to England. And he got malaria in Africa. And then he had another siege when they got back to England. And that's where they were practicing for the invasion of Europe. And it saved him because, you know, America, the United States, lost so many men during that but they kept it a secret for years.

Heath: Exactly.

Reavis: Yeah, it was called "slapped and sands".

Heath: Exactly.

Reavis: And it was kept a secret.

Heath: I'm just reading about it in a book I have at home now. Yeah.

Reavis: But he did not have to participate because he was sick with malaria at the time. And that probably saved his life. Maybe.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: But then he was in the invasion of Europe. On Utah beach is where he landed. And he was in the engineers, they were the first ones to go in.

Heath: Oh my.

Reavis: So.

Heath: Yeah. And engineers went in to clear the—

Reavis: They went in to clear and then he was in the engineers and they built bridges and roads. So they were the first people to go in. And so many of them drowned, you know.

Heath: Yes.

Reavis: And he said it was because the, he always said, “those fresh second lieutenants that had just graduated. Panicked”. They were driving the boats. They panicked and put their boat in reverse and the men were still jumping off and the water got higher and higher they drowned. Because one of his good friends drowned.

Heath: Yeah. And they panicked and they let the guys off.

Reavis: They panicked and started to back up.

Heath: Yeah. And they were dumped with all that gear on and...

Reavis: Yeah. They couldn't swim. Yeah. So. So he was, his parents never saw him all that time that he was gone. And I only saw him once.

Heath: And he was right in the midst of it.

Reavis: Right in it.

Heath: Oh my.

Reavis: I always maintain that shorted his life. [coughing] I don't know what's wrong with me.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: Anyway.

Heath: Yeah. I've read so much about it. And I just finished a book called *D-Day*. And I've got another one at home. I get them from the library.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Yeah. Just amazing what they went through and what they accomplished.

Reavis: That's right. And there's a lot of things he never told you about or anything. But for several years after the war, after he was home, we were married, his, he had two very good army buddies and one lived in Maryland and one lived in Michigan. And we used to get together. And

that would be the only time you would ever hear anything. When they would get together and talk.

Heath: Yeah. Lot of guys couldn't talk at all about it.

Reavis: Right.

Heath: It was...

Reavis: And then we went to a few army reunions. And they would, you would hear things there.

Heath: Was he a private? His rank?

Reavis: He was—

Heath: Engineer?

Reavis: What was he? Some kind of a sergeant. When he was dismissed.

Heath: We need to back up quite a bit here.

Reavis: Okay.

Heath: I'm too interested in what you're saying. Where did you go to school?

Reavis: I went to school, I started school in a country school and that year we happened to be living back on the farm with my grandparents because my grandfather got sick. And my dad gave up his job and we moved there to help them. And that's where I started school. And you know, I think it was called Pleasant something. And I don't know the number of the school. And I've got a picture someplace but I could not find it. That's where I started school because my two aunts, my dad's two younger sisters, they were only five and seven years older than me so I could go to school, walk to school with them. We had to walk two miles.

Heath: Winter and summer?

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: If it was nice weather and the bull wasn't in the pasture we could cut across the field.
[laughs]

Heath: Yeah. Do you remember your teachers?

Reavis: Yes. My first teacher her name was Louise Larson and she married a man by the name of Henry Nester. And when I first moved in this building she lived here.

Heath: Oh. Ohh. Ohh. After she got married could she still teach?

Reavis: I think, I'm not sure she did, but I kind of thought she did for a little bit. She was my teacher and then we went to, we had Sunday church and Sunday school at a regular country school house. And her sister as my Sunday school teacher.

Heath: Ah.

Reavis: So.

Heath: Yeah. What did you do about lunch when you went to school?

Reavis: You carried your lunch.

Heath: And what would that be?

Reavis: Well, some kind of a sandwich, probably peanut butter or something that wouldn't spoil because we didn't have any refrigeration at school. Maybe some, an apple, some fruit.

Heath: Yeah. And you stored it. Was there a room when you went in the school, coat room and...

Reavis: Yes. There was a coatroom and usually a, a big bowl, that you used to wash your hand in you know. But they had to carry the water in from outside and usually the, the heat was just a heating stove. The teacher had to stoke the fire all the time.

Heath: One of those potbelly stoves?

Reavis: Potbelly stoves. Yes.

Heath: Was there a bell on the schoolhouse?

Reavis: I. You know, I don't remember there was. But I think there must have been on every schoolhouse but I can't really feature it right now to see.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: But –

Heath: How many kids, in the schoolhouse? How many in your class?

Reavis: I can't remember how many where in my class but I know that the last country school I went to was, it was Washington Number One, I believe and we had almost thirty students. Thirty kids in that whole school. But there would only be one or two in a class. You know, the teacher had all grades to teach. First grade through eighth grade.

Heath: That's a job. [laughs]

Reavis: I don't know, I never went for that. My sister was a teacher. And she taught country school. She taught down by Sully. And some of those kids down there, had never, they had not had a Christmas tree. They were just amazed when she put up a Christmas tree at Christmas.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: That was a big treat for them.

Heath: Yeah I'll bet.

Reavis: It's just kind of hard to believe. I mean we all grew up poor. Fairly poor. And I know we were not very wealthy. My dad, we never owned a home until I think I was probably in high school.

Heath: Did, well, the house that you grew up in then had indoor plumbing?

Reavis: Yes.

Heath: What luxury.

Reavis: Yes it was a luxury.

Heath: It certainly was.

Reavis: They have running water in the kitchen. They had a bathroom upstairs and a bathtub and everything.

Heath: What about the school you had to go outside?

Reavis: Yes you had to go outside.

Heath: Same toilets yeah.

Reavis: Yeah. It was cold.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: And we always had to carry the water in from a pump outside. So.

Heath: How do you feel, how did you feel about the education that you got in country school?

Reavis: Well I never thought about that. [laughs] I think it was, I think it was, pretty good because you're teacher had more time even though she had to teach eight grades she still could spend quite a bit of time with each class. And most country school teachers were, you know, they were pretty strict.

Heath: Yeah I bet they had to be. Some of them anyway. And you heard the other kids' lessons.

Reavis: Yeah, because you were all in one big room.

Heath: Yeah. How long a day was that? What time in the morning, what time in the afternoon?

Reavis: I think we went, I think we had to be there by nine o'clock. Just like they do today, nine o'clock and get out at four.

Heath: On your farm, on your grandfather's farm, he had horses?

Reavis: Horses that, not horses that you ride, but horses that worked the field. Cause they didn't have tractors then.

Heath: Yeah. Yeah. That was a fairly big farm then, hundred and sixty, hundred and eighty at that time. And your grandfather must have been doing alright to be able to build such a big house.

Reavis: He evidently knew how to manage what money he had.

Heath: Where was he from? Do you know?

Reavis: No, I really don't. He was a Norwegian. His family were Norwegians and I never knew his, course I didn't know his parents. But I knew his step-mother. His dad had married a younger woman after his first wife passed away. And I knew her. But I didn't, wasn't very close to her or anything and she lived in Minnesota.

Heath: So after country school, you went to eighth grade. Up to eighth grade in country school?

Reavis: You could, but I didn't. We moved from the country into town and so when we moved into Grinnell, I think I was in seventh grade, and we lived way out on Prairie Street which was almost the country at that time. Cause, it was up by Bailey Park and we walked downtown cause I went to the, what is now the Community Center. Cause they had junior high and high school there. And I think I was in seventh grade. And then I went to high school there.

Heath: That must have been quite a change to go from country school to Grinnell seventh grade.

Reavis: It was.

Heath: Yeah. A lot more people. A different teacher.

Reavis: You weren't used to being around. Because I know, um, well the kids were all, they seemed like they were ornery to me. Because they did things and had been allowed to do things that I knew nothing about. That you know, we didn't do because you went to school and you went home. You didn't roller skate and ride bicycles and things like that.

Heath: Were your parents a church-going people?

Reavis: Not really. We did go to country Sunday school and a church that was not too far away.

Heath: What did they do on Saturday night for recreation or...?

Reavis: Well my folks played a lot of cards. They played Five Hundred with some of the relatives and the neighbors [laughs].

Heath: Yes.

Reavis: And we kids, we learned to play cards, Old Maid and some of those kinds of games. And my folks used to go to barn dances and they took the kids with them you know? So.

Heath: I talked with Mike Mintel—

Reavis: I know him.

Heath: Do you? Yes. And they played a lot of barn dances there.

Reavis: Yes and his dad.

Heath: Yes.

Reavis: His mother's still living.

Heath: Yes. He had some good stories about playing music.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Yeah. Did you dance too, you and your husband dance?

Reavis: Oh yes. We went to a lot of dances. He did not dance. He came from a Quaker family and you didn't play cards and you didn't dance and you didn't do hardly anything. [laughs] Until after he met me, then we learned to dance. And then when he came home from the service he joined the Elks Club so when, it got so we had a group of friends and we went to a dance, every month they had a dance. And we all went.

Heath: And it was a big deal then wasn't it?

Reavis: It was because that was mostly our entertainment. You know.

Heath: Did you go to the movies?

Reavis: Some. We didn't have a lot of money.

Heath: There was the Strand and, I forget what the other one.

Reavis: The Strand, and,

Heath: Oh, I should know this.

Reavis: I should too. And I can remember when we, we lived in the country, of course, the big thing was on Saturday night they came to town to buy their groceries and we all came. But we kids would go up stand at the theater at the side door and could watch the movie. [laughs]

Heath: [laughs] Other people I think would try to sneak in that door, you guys just,

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Before I forget, what about Jacob Switch?

Reavis: Jacob Switch? And I can't remember how old I was when we moved there. But Jacob Switch had, they had had a country store there and there was one old house still there. The store was closed. And there was a stock, well, they called it the stockyards. It was a place where, I think, probably the people around there brought their cattle and hogs there and probably could load them, just send them to Chicago.

Heath: So the railroad?

Reavis: Railroad. Yeah. M&C railroad. And we, they had a train that, had a passenger car on it, and an engine, and a coal car. And it was a very small train but it came through by just north of our house a ways every morning and every evening. And my mother and we three kids in the summertime, we could ride that train into Grinnell because my mother's sister lived just houses down here where Hardy's is at now. And we would spend the day there. We could go shopping and etcetera. And then we would get on that train late afternoon and go home and we would be home you know, five, six o'clock.

Heath: After a day in the big town?

Reavis: Yeah, that was a big treat to us.

Heath: So Jacob's Switch...

Reavis: There was nothing there when we moved there.

Heath: Okay.

Reavis: Except the railroad. The train went through there. That was all. And there were people that, there was a family that lived in the house, but, you know, they had nothing to do, Jacob's Switch was just a name by that time. And so I don't know what it was like earlier.

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: But there was a store, an old building there that had been a store.

Heath: Because that's a mystery now to many people. Where was Jacob's Switch?

Reavis: Yeah. Now, the last time I was down by there, you could not even see where the railroad tracts had been. Time before when I went down, you could see where they'd torn up the railroad tracts but now they've torn it all, it's all up, and you can't even see any, you know, marks of it or anything.

Heath: So if we were, if I were to go try to find where it had been, I go down 146.

Reavis: Well. Yeah, you do down 146, and you go east and I don't know how far you go. You go down to the, there's a paved road that turns off 146 south of town, you know where that is?

Heath: Yeah.

Reavis: Okay. And you go east on that. I can't tell you how far you go but you go and then you can turn to your north, to north and you will go up the road, I suppose a mile, half a mile and that's where Jacob's Switch would be.

Heath: Okay. Okay.

Reavis: And then we lived in this tenant house. It was the first house south of the railroad tracks and we walked from there, we walked north to the school house, it was at the end of the mile.

Heath: Okay. Yeah because, I had no idea where it was, and I even talked to people been there a long time.

Reavis: And they don't know either.

Heath: They don't know either.

Reavis: Yeah, cause it's not, you don't see anything about it on a map or anything.

Heath: No and when you go to the internet it doesn't tell you anything there either.

Reavis: Isn't that something?

Heath: I expected I'd find it, but I didn't. Hm. M & Saint L. The Switch on the M & Saint L. They called that Tootin' Louie.

Reavis: Well we called it the Doodlebug. And one, um, Easter Mom and we kids had been to town and she bought us each one a chocolate Easter bunny which was a big treat. We got off the train when we got home, we got off the train, we left our Easter bunnies on the train.

Heath: Oh.

Reavis: And oh, boy. The next morning, I don't know who it was in the family, was up by the railroad track when the train came back going to Grinnell. They stopped and the conductor had our Easter bunnies. [laughs]

Heath: [laughs]

Reavis: You wouldn't find that today.

Heath: No. No.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: You mentioned Easter. What did Christmas amount to for kids?

Reavis: Well. One Christmas I can remember and we were all quite small, but we did have a Christmas tree. My dad went out in the tinder and cut a tree. And we had a Christmas tree. But it had candles on it. It didn't have electricity. It had candles. So Mom would light the candles and we could watch it for a while and then the candles had to be blown out.

Heath: Yeah. Cause they are very dangerous.

Reavis: Yeah. And they were just on the front of the tree 'cause the tree sat in the corner. I can remember.

Heath: Yeah. What toys did you have as a young girl?

Reavis: I did not have very many toys. But now, when my little sister, she was the youngest of the family. She had a lot more toys than I had. She had China doll dishes and, 'cause my aunt bought them for her 'cause my aunt had boys, she didn't have any girls. So, but no, we didn't have very many toys. One year I can remember, we got a red wagon.

Heath: Yeah. Coaster wagon. Yeah. Did you have jobs to do at home? Chores?

Reavis: Not until, oh, I don't think we had to do anything until we got, until I got, late junior high. I was taught how to iron and everybody started out learning how to iron the handkerchiefs and the pillow cases. [laughs]

Heath: Yeah. Electric iron or a sad iron.

Reavis: Oh no. One that was heated on the stove.

Heath: I can remember my mother wetting her finger, to check whether it was hot or not. Yeah. So then you came to Grinnell. Again, I bounce all around because I get interested in what's happening. When you came to Grinnell you went to Grinnell high school.

Reavis: Yes.

Heath: And did you graduate?

Reavis: Yes I graduated in 1939. And everybody was very poor in 1939 and it took me all summer to find a job. And because I wanted a secretarial job and I applied, seemed to me like every day I was applying for a job someplace. But, I got beat out of a job at one place because they hired another girl that was in my class but they said she needed the job worse than I did because she came from a very large family.

Heath: Well.

Reavis: So. So then I finally got a job. My first job was in the office at the Morrison Cholet's Glove Company. Our leather manufactory was all together. And I was the secretary. I was secretary to G.S. Lanum for a while.

Heath: And how big an operation was that? How many—

Reavis: Well that developed into quite an operation because it was G.S., Morrison Cholet's manufacturing. They made gloves. Then there was Lanum. G.S. Lanum was with them and he was from Dolehoma, Tennessee and he had a baseball factory. So they had a baseball manufactory. They made baseballs in Dolehoma, Tennessee. And then eventually he built the shoe factory in Grinnell. And he had a son. Sharp Lanum Junior and he ran the shoe factory.

Heath: At the museum we've got several of the plasts that they used to make the shoes and things like that but I didn't know that.

Reavis: And then they also had a glove factory in Gloversville, New York. They made dress, ladies' dress gloves. Maybe they made men's too, I don't know. But I know we girls who worked in the office drew a picture of our hand and sent it to the guy and he made us all dress gloves.

Heath: Were they the long ones?

Reavis: No, they were just the short ones.

Heath: Okay. And they were made out of...?

Reavis: Leather. Don't ask me what kind! Pigskin I suppose.

Heath: I suppose yeah. Some of them were very soft. Very nice gloves.

Reavis: They were very nice.

Heath: They had, we did some looking into the Monroe Hotel and the glove factory had big dinners there I think.

Reavis: They might have. I don't remember the glove factory ever taking us over there for dinner. 'Cause the first time I think I got to go there for dinner I was gonna say it was Reinsurance but I don't really remember.

Heath: Hm. Yeah. Um, yeah, well, I don't know who they had the dinner for but it was all glove themed, everything was about gloves.

Reavis: Well they had salesmen.

Heath: I think that's—

Reavis: And that's probably what it's for if they had dinners there. Because they would come in, gather for a convention you know.

Heath: Yeah. What do you remember about the Monroe Hotel?

Reavis: Oh, it was just to me, to me it was just a huge building. I didn't really have too much to ever do with the Monroe Hotel. We had a high school class reunion there once. And, once in a while, a friend and I, after we had graduated from high school, we both had jobs, office jobs, we'd go there and have lunch. So. But it was, you know, to us it was people that came and went. We weren't involved in any of that.

Heath: Yeah. When you were a secretary to Mr. Lanum what was your equipment? Typewriter? Did you take...?

Reavis: I took dictation.

Heath: Okay.

Reavis: Short-hand. Which they don't teach today. Not with a pencil anyway. They have little machines that they push buttons.

Heath: And you learned that in high school?

Reavis: Yes.

Heath: Dictation, yeah?

Reavis: I took a commercial course which was bookkeeping, short hand, typing, yeah.

Heath: And of course you had a typewriter.

Reavis: Yes.

Heath: One of the old Orials maybe.

Reavis: Yeah.

Heath: Smith-Corona maybe?

Reavis: Smith- Corona? I don't know. I don't remember what it was. And when I first worked there, I was secretary for Mr. Oleum who was the office manager and then, after I had been there awhile and the girl who was Mr. Landum's secretary quit. She got married and she moved to Des Moines. And then he had me, I was his secretary then. You were the secretary and receptionist.

Heath: Okay. Was there a switchboard?

Reavis: No.

Heath: Just the phones, yeah?

Reavis: Phone system. If you had to call in by phone you had to run down.

Heath: Yeah. And that is in what is now the glove factory building.

Reavis: Down on Broad Street.

Heath: Yeah. Yeah.

Reavis: The college has it now.

Heath: Pretty much remodeled in there and yeah.

Reavis: And after I left there I worked at the telephone company for awhile. Not very long, but I worked there for a little while.

Heath: And what did you do for them?

Reavis: I was secretary. I worked for Joe Vanhorn, he ended up being the President.

Heath: What year would that have been?

Reavis: That was before I got married. So it had to have been in 19, early 1940s. 'Cause I didn't get married until 1945 so—

Heath: And then how did you meet your husband?

Reavis: We went to the same high school and he lived just a couple blocks from me. And we used to walk back and forth from school together.

Heath: Regular small town stuff. Same with us, my wife and I. And your husband was, again tell me his work.

Reavis: He was, he worked at the Post Office. His father was a carpenter so during high school, during summer vacation and everything he did carpenter work with his dad. And then he got out

of high school, he got a job at the Post Office. So he was very lucky because his job was there when he got back from the service.

Heath: Yes. Yes.

Reavis: So.

Heath: Did you notice any change in him when he came back from the service other than not wanting to talk about the war? Was he the same person?

Reavis: Well. Pretty much so I think so, except he had learned to smoke and drink.

Heath: Self-defense over here I think.

Reavis: Evidently.

Heath: Did you belong to clubs?

Reavis: Yeah, I used to belong to a bridge club and I have been a charter member of the BFW Auxiliary since 1945 when I got married. Still go to it. If they'll fix the Memorial Building so we'll have a place to have a meeting.

Heath: I think it looks as if it might happen. I wasn't sure for a while.

Reavis: There's still some who want to tear it down. Anyway. Yeah, and I belong to what's called Sunset Club. It's one of the oldest clubs in Grinnell. It was formed I think in eighteen something and I belong to that. I still go to that.

Heath: And what does that do?

Reavis: It's just a social club. Programs and eating and things like that. But they read the minutes, the old minutes, and they used to entertain their husbands and for a meal and they did a lot of different things and we don't do those things anymore. This is strictly for women. Would you like a cup of coffee?

Heath: I would I guess. Thank you.

Reavis: After all this knowledge you got. If you need a cookie...

Heath: I pretty much always need a cookie. [laughs]

Reavis: Nothing very fancy here.

Heath: I'm used to nothing very fancy and a lot of it.

Reavis: Now did you write the book about the farmers? I have it here...

Heath: You know, I'd say I wrote it but really all I did was take their words and put them together. So I really did very little writing in it. And, it was just talking with a bunch of people as I'm doing with you and learning a lot of things. I've only been in Iowa seven years, moved here from Pennsylvania and I wasn't a farmer so I would always, when I talked to the people, I'd say, "look, I'm not a farmer, I'm probably going to ask dumb questions but just do the best you can with me". So, I've learned a great deal. I always learn when I talk with people.

Reavis: Well, you know my dad went back to farming. After I was married and left home, he went back to farming. He lived in town, the folks lived in town and he got too old I guess to paint and paper and do all that. And so he had a tavern. He had a tavern and a pool hall which was at the south end of what is now Total Shipping downtown and it burned one time. Thirty below zero in January it burned. So anyway, then they went across the street, he and his partner, and they had a tavern over there and that building is still there. It's right at the end of the Frontier restaurant, you know, there's a little building there. Some man has run into it with his car. You know the front. Anyway, that was his tavern and why? Well, Grandma and Grandpa had moved to town because he was no able longer to farm and so I don't know who farmed it for a while. Anyway. They talked my dad into coming back to farm. So he moved back to the farm and that's when my folks, I don't know when they moved back in to Grinnell. But anyway. So.

Heath: My mother worked at a place called Dickens' Inn, which was one block up from our house. It was on the highway in Michigan. The highway between Kalamazoo and, I mean between Detroit and Chicago. And she worked up there as a waitress and on Sunday morning my dad and I would go up and clean the place. Sweep the floor and do this and that. And I always liked that because I would always find some change on the floor. [laughs] Yeah, yeah it was a tavern. What was the name of that tavern?

Reavis: [laughs] A & O. Arthur and he partner to begin with. When they were on the east side of the street. He had a, it was his painting partner, they painted together and they had this pool hall and tavern and that burned so then they, but, after that burned just my dad opened the tavern across the street. The partner, he left he got in some romantic problems and so he left. And then, Dad sold it and he went back to the farm because Grandma wanted to have somebody to be on the farm and she wanted, preferred that it be somebody in the family so she talked him into doing it.

Heath: Big change. Big change. That's hard work farming.

Reavis: Yeah, it was. Well, but at that time it was fairly easy. They had tractors and all these kinds of things.

Heath: And what happened to the farm eventually?

Reavis: It has been sold to, well it was a couple that owned the farm to the south of that. And their son has it now. But now they have remodeled the house so it doesn't look exactly like it

used to. The gal that lives there told me, she said, if you like to see the house you're welcome to come out anytime. I've driven by a few times but I've never stopped.

Heath: Might be fun though.

Reavis: Yeah might be. [laughs] It was quite a house. It was a huge house. You know, had all these hard wood floors that they had to polish and wax all the time.

Heath: And I guess that's one reason, well, one result, big farm families they had people to do that stuff. And with sons you had somebody to go out and work on the farm.

Reavis: So anyway. Yeah, they had quite a household with all those girls. And they had, we had relatives in Chicago and to those kids, it was a treat to come to Iowa to the farm. Every summer, here they come. [laughs]

Heath: My, we have two daughters, one is in California, and she has boys, ten and five, and we'll see them in August. They come out here. We took them to the State Fair last year. And the ten year old loves animals so every time we saw a horse or a cowboy he's right there petting. When it came time he could milk a cow, there he is, he's milking a cow. The other one who's four at the time, just kind of hangs back and looks around.

Reavis: He's trying to decide. [laughs]

Heath: Yeah he decided not to. So we'll see them again. What do you remember about early radio? Radio programs that you used to listen to?

Reavis: I don't remember a lot about that. 'Cause I don't remember that we, we didn't just sit and listen to the radio an awful lot I don't think. I can remember my mother used to always turn it on though when she was doing ironing or something like that and she had programs that she listened to. But I, "Stella Dallas", was there one called "Stella Dallas"?

Heath: You bet.

Reavis: Then I can't, I really don't remember much of anything about that.

Heath: Yeah. One lady's said that her grandmother had a soap opera that she listened to and she'd listen to it every day. And she said "that was so unlike Grandma. Grandma didn't do that kind of stuff."

Reavis: My grandma didn't either. She was busy working. She raised chickens and she always had a big garden. And she canned and, you know, you picked strawberries and you picked raspberries. Did all those kinds of things. You gathered the eggs. I didn't like to do that.

Heath: I've heard about that. Did you have a cellar where all the canned stuff went?

Reavis: Yeah they had the basement. That's where the furnace was and that's where their separator where they separated the cream from the milk, you know was in the basement. And their electricity was run on batteries. They called it the Dell Co. System or something like that. 'Cause if the batteries got too low you didn't have any electricity. Had to use lamps then for a while.

Heath: And when the electricity did come along I would think, I just thought that would be a major change for everybody.

Reavis: Well, I suppose it was but I—

Heath: You were used to it.

Reavis: We had it.

Heath: You had it when you grew up.

Reavis: Yeah we were used to it because we had it all the time. And we had running water, you know, you took a bath in the bathtub and everything like that. But to a lot of people it was really something.

Heath: Yeah it sure was. It sure was.

Reavis: It was a luxury. So how he could afford to with that big a house with all those conveniences I don't know. I can remember it had a big screened in porch clear along the south side of the house. And there was a door that went into the kitchen and over here was a door that went into the dining room.

Heath: Boy. Pretty nice.

Reavis: So if you didn't want anybody to go through your kitchen you took them through the dining room.

Heath: That's unusual for that time.

Reavis: Oh, and they had a piano, everybody had to try to learn to play the piano. I never was musical.

Heath: Who did play the piano?

Reavis: Well, I don't remember that my grandmother did, so I don't know why they had the piano because nobody there took music lessons. But yet they all could figure out how to play a little bit. 'Cause I know, my mother, she played, she taught herself.

Heath: It was a mark of status for one thing I think.

Reavis: I don't know.

Heath: I grew up in Michigan and we didn't have, we had a pump. That was our running water. And we had an outhouse 'til I was twelve years old. I taught high school classes and the kids did not believe me when I said that we didn't have an indoor toilet. "Oh come on, tell me". Well, that's just the way it was. That's just the way it was. What was your first car that you remember?

Reavis: Model T Ford. That's what we had.

Heath: Did you drive it?

Reavis: No. I never learned to drive until I was, thirty years old. I learned to drive a car the same year I got pregnant. Virginia Swisher. Have you ever heard of Virginia Swisher? She was an old gal who had a dress shop. A lot of people didn't like her. But she said to me, I went over there to get something. She said to me "Boy, you're doing everything in one year. What'cha gonna do after that?" [laughs]

Heath: Must have been an exciting year. [laughs]

Reavis: It was. Because all my, my brother and my sister had both been married and had children by that time and I was the last one in the family to have a child. And they all thought I was way too old to be having a child. [laughs] Well, we waited.

Heath: Did you have the child at the hospital? Have the baby?

Reavis: Right, I did.

Heath: That was already past the point where people always had them at home I guess. Yeah.

Reavis: And you know, I don't even know where my younger sister was born? I presume she was born in a hospital, 'cause I think my brother was, but you know, I don't know. I was born out on the farm and I had um, my grandmother's sister was there from Portland, Oregon, visiting at the time I was born. And she was an RN. So I had a private nurse.

Heath: Pretty nice. More luxury. [laughs] You've been in it for a long time.

Reavis: And my dad's sister, the youngest one, she was only five years old when I was born. And she was wanting a doll for Christmas. Well, see I was born in November so Aunt Clara, she wrapped the new baby all up and took her and she said, "Now here's your dolly". [laughs] So I was always her dolly.

Heath: [laughs] More luxury I guess.

Reavis: Yeah. [laughs]

Heath: Did you see signs at school, country school maybe that other kids maybe weren't as well-off as you seemed to be. I say well-off, I guess that's a rather big term.

Reavis: Well, there were some of them that seemed to have quite, you know, be pretty good. Then we had some that just didn't have anything. In fact, you know we all carried our lunches but there was one family and I can remember them, their lunch, they hardly, they carried everyday it seemed like they had a cup of something. It looked it cornstarch pudding or something. It just looked like starch to me. But, they didn't have hardly anything. But they were tenants, they lived in a tenant house on a larger farm. But I don't know, I can't remember if the dad worked for that man or, 'cause some of these people, by that time, did not have hired men that lived in their tenant house, you know, they rented their tenant house out.

Heath: Do you remember during the Depression, the Thirties? People have told me that if they lived on a farm the Depression really didn't make that much difference because they already had their food. They were taken care of that way. Yeah.

Reavis: Well. No, we were poor. And I can remember the one year, and I don't remember what grade I was in but we had moved into Grinnell and we lived way out by Baily Park School which wasn't built up by that time; but, I can remember my dad developed, Rheumatism they called it, one summer and he couldn't work. It was so bad he couldn't work. And for Fourth of July we got a treat. We got to go downtown to the ice cream shop and have some ice cream. [laughs] Some kids would turn their noses up at that today. My kids probably would.

Heath: What was that ice cream shop called? Do you remember?

Reavis: Kelly's Ice Cream, it was located... It was on Broad Street. What would be there now? Would it be about, where that Radio Shack is? Right along in there.

Heath: Kelly's...

Reavis: Kelly's Ice Cream. The man, an elderly man and woman ran it.

Heath: Where did you buy food when you moved into town?

Reavis: Where did we buy food? I don't know what grocery store my mother went to. United probably. That's the only one I can remember. And Edward's. Edward's had a grocery store on Fourth Avenue along where there's a photography shop right now. Along in there. And they had things other grocery stores didn't have. I can remember hearing my dad say to my mother, "You go to the most expensive place there is! But I like that." [laughs]

Heath: [laughs] Now she'd be going to McNally's.

Reavis: Right. [laughs] Well, I wish the McNally people all the best there is.

Heath: Yes. You bet cha'.

Reavis: I like Julie and Randy very very much.

Heath: One time, this is as usual off the subject somewhat, I have a collection of old horns. Tubas and trombones, and things, and one of my friends called me, I was out of town, and said and well the people at McNally's have a couple horns for sale there at the front of the store. Oh, well I said, "I'm really interested", he said, "well, maybe they'll be there." So I came back that afternoon and looked around, they were gone. I said "well, shoot. Missed it. That's the way it goes." But I went in the next day and said to Julie, I guess it was, "I guess you had some horns in here yesterday for sale huh?" "Oh yeah, they're out in the car" she said. "Oh". She said, "you want to see them?" "Oh yes I do." So she brought them out and one was a trumpet and one was a baritone horn and I said, "what do you want for these?" "Oh no, we're not selling them. You want them? Take them." Just gave them away. I still have one of them at home. Very nice people.

Reavis: Do you need some more coffee?

Heath: You know what? I would take a little more.

Reavis: Grandma here's got it in the hip.

Heath: Oh, yeah I know about that.

Reavis: I don't make my coffee very strong so I don't know how other people like it.

Heath: That's fine. Did your folks take the newspaper? *The Grinnell Herald*?

Reavis: Oh, yes, the newspaper. On Saturday evening, *Post magazine*, I think that was the only magazine we took and I can remember my dad sitting at the kitchen table. He always loved those guys. The artist, Norman Rockwell. He'd sit there and look at his cartoons and read his jokes and just laugh. Excuse me, I've got to get a Kleenex.

Heath: Sure, okay.

Reavis: You're probably wondering, it's not Santa Clause time. I've got Santa Clause over here. I made that years ago. And I thought I was going to try to make some more of them and I couldn't find the pattern. So I'd given this one to my, the kids, and they just let Santa Clause sit out all year 'round. They don't put him away. So I brought him home to see if I could copy it.

Heath: My grandpa took *Saturday Evening Post*, and he also took *Farm Journal Magazine*. And I don't know why. Well, actually, maybe I do know why. I mean he wasn't a farmer. Well, we've recently learned that he had farmed or tried to farm in South Dakota. Which, I think it didn't work too well. And then he was in Nebraska. And then he went to Missouri, where he—

Reavis: He didn't pick very good states!

Heath: No! No he didn't. And he worked for, first we thought it was coal mining, but it turned out it was teamster, he drove wagons.

Reavis: Oh.

Heath: Probably hauling coal. And then, because my daughter's been doing the genealogy stuff. And then they moved back to Michigan where they stayed and where the family developed. Grandpa was a drummer and he had his own square-dance band. And as a kid I would go with Grandpa to the square-dances and I could sit up on the stage with Grandpa.

Reavis: Oh! Say!

Heath: Yeah I was good. I was a big deal! When you went to dances did you do square-dancing, or round-dancing?

Reavis: Round-dancing. Yeah. We were, there was a group of us. We all belonged to the Elks Club. And we used to, they used to have a dance with a big band. Once a month. And there were, I suppose about six, seven couples, so it was quite a group. And we would take turns of entertaining before the dance, go to somebody's house and have a few drinks. We'd all go to the dance and we danced every dance and we were there 'til it ended. Then we went back to that house and we had lunch. So it was quite a production. Anyway, that's what we did for years. We had a lot of fun. And you know what? I'm the only one left out of the group. The whole group.

Heath: Proves that dancing was good for you.

Reavis: Well it must have been. I didn't realize I did that much but anyway, I don't know.

Heath: When you say a big band, what were some of the bands. Do you remember any of the bands?

Reavis: Well we didn't have Glenn Miller, or anybody like that, but there was a band out of Washington, Iowa. And I think the leader of it was the music director of the high school down there. But he had this band and they would travel around. And the Elk's dances were usually on a Monday night. Because they could get a good band cheaper on Monday night than you could on Friday or Saturday night. So they were always on Monday night. And that's when the Elks Club was up above Total Shipping. That's where we went.

Heath: See, I didn't know it was ever up there.

Reavis: That used to be the Elks Club yeah. Up on the second and third floor.

Heath: And they've remodeled those things into apartments up there now I think. Although now that building is for sale.

Reavis: Is it for sale? Oh.

Heath: Up above. Well no, I shouldn't say.

Reavis: I don't think so. 'Cause they just got those done.

Heath: I'm thinking yeah. They're—

Reavis: Across...

Heath: A block down, yeah, you're right. Yeah, I sometimes mess up the details. I'm practicing for being older. [laughs]

Reavis: We can blame a lot of things on that.

Heath: I've been doing it for some time.

Reavis: Well, I lost my keys a couple weeks ago. And I could not find those keys anyplace and I'd been out to the filling station to fill up my car and when I went in to pay for it the clerk said to me— I was out at Casey's— she said, "did you put diesel in your car today? I said, "well I didn't intend to." Well I paid and I came home. Well I was telling the kids about it. So Randy got worried for fear I had put diesel in my car. So here on Sunday here he came, he said, "Come on, we're going for a ride and we're going to take your car." I said, "Where are we going?" He said, "We're going out to Casey's". He said, "I want to see the pump you got your gas out of." He said, "Did you get your receipt?" And normally I don't take the receipt, I just say "no I don't need it". And that day, I happened to say "yes, I'll take the receipt". For why I did it, I don't know, but I had the receipt, and it didn't say diesel. Anyway, I showed him the pump I'd gotten the gas out of and I did not have diesel. Well he said, "you know the diesel pump would not fit in your car anyway. You could not get it in there." Well I didn't know that. Anyway, they all thought maybe I'd really made a boo-boo. You know, old-age. Well we came home and came in the house. He handed me the keys and I unlocked the door, we came in and I said, "Oh, wait a minute." He went out on the patio. I said, he had given me one of these things that lights up at night, you know, gets the sun and lights up at night, for mother's day and I had a couple others and I said, "wait a minute, I'll have you put those out here by the patio." So I laid the keys, evidently on the sofa and I never lay them on the sofa, they are always lying on the table. But, you know, there's always time for goof-ups. Anyway, the next morning I get up, I go for coffee every morning at seven o'clock. And I couldn't find my keys. And I looked and I looked and I could not find them. I had the neighbors looking. Well it so happened I had an extra key for the car and I had an extra key for the door to get in. That's all the keys I had. Anyway, there's a new lady has moved in the south building. And there's a little boy moved in upstairs and he just went around to everybody 'cause I asked him if he'd seen any keys 'cause I thought I might have left them sticking in the door. No, but he started asking everybody if they'd seen any keys 'cause he was really working on it. The lady over there, she came over and knocked on my door, she said "did you find your keys" and I said, "no I haven't." And she said, "Well let's say the little

prayer, “Saint Anthony, something has been lost and we must find it”. I said, “Why don’t you come in?” I opened the door, she came in, walked over to the sofa, picked up my keys. [laughs]

Heath: Oh. [laughs]

Reavis: So anyway. Saint Anthony found my keys. [laughs] We kidded about it. She said, “it works!” It did that time.

[Gap due to audio error]

Reavis: He died six weeks before my son’s wedding. And I stayed in the house for four years. Then I decided I had to get out. I didn’t know how to mow the yard. I could shovel snow, but I didn’t really prefer to. But I didn’t know how to mow and we had a big lot because it was out on Seventh Avenue, well you know where Ron Carson lives. It was east of him, three or four houses. And there’s no alley through there so your lot is a half a block deep. I couldn’t find anybody who wanted to take on that lot to mow it for me. So after four years I decided I had to get out, so I sold my house and moved over here. I’ve been here ever since.

Heath: It’s a handy place.

Reavis: I lived upstairs when I first moved in. Because I never, I hadn’t lived in an apartment by myself and I was kind of afraid to live on first floor. And then after being up there for a while and this became available, I knew the kids who lived down here. And I said, “If you ever think of moving let me know.” So they did and so I’ve been down here not quite a while.

Heath: Good. You say you go out for coffee every morning at seven? Did you see that rainbow this morning?

Reavis: I missed it. My friend that I was having coffee with, she saw it.

Heath: It was a nice one.

Reavis: I didn’t even know it was raining when I went out. I stepped out the door and it was raining. I had to come back in and get my umbrella.

Heath: Now each morning—

[Gap due to audio error]

Reavis: I worked at the college, secretarial work. Office work. And then I ended up working in the mailing department. And I worked over there for several years. I worked until I was eighty-two years old!

Heath: Did you?

Reavis: It wasn't steady or anything, but I worked at the college in the mailing department and then once in a while I'd do a little secretarial work for somebody. But, and that was just a job, "come when we need you", you know, it wasn't a steady job. So, and I didn't want a steady job. And after I quit there and ah, Dorrie Pearce who had the ladies dress shop downtown, she said to me one day, "Are you working?" And I said, "Nope, not anymore." She said, "Well would you like to work just a little bit now and then?" And I said, "Well, yeah, that'd be alright." So then I worked for her some. And finally, when I was eighty-two, I said, "Dorrie, I think it's time I quit. I'm eighty-two years old." Now I'm ninety-two.

Heath: Good for you. I would not, if they said "How old do you think she is?" I would never have said ninety-two.

Reavis: It's beginning to show up. I'm losing my balance. And my losing my taste.

Heath: Well the balance is more of a problem I bet. It is for me.

Reavis: Yeah. A group of we gals, that worked over there. They started an exercise program, the college did. And so, um, they said, you girls want to start it and go on and join. Well we said, Well, we didn't really want to join it but we did our own. So every morning when we were working we would meet and walk, and then go have coffee and then go to work. So I just got in the habit of getting up early and going for coffee. And I've just kept on doing it. And now, out of that group, I'm the only one that still can move. Well, there aren't any.

Heath: Where do you go for coffee?

Reavis: We go, I go down to A&M. And this friend of mine, her husband's gone, and she lives out north of town. I think two miles on Penrose and she meets me. She comes into town and she walks every morning. She's got a phobia about walking. She's got to walk or the earth is gonna collapse. So anyway, I don't walk anymore. But I do get up and go because if you do get up and go, that starts your day. Otherwise, like if I don't go once on Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday, I get up but I maybe won't get dressed, I'll have a house coat on all day or something like that. So it does get you going. And that's why somebody says, "well why do you get up that early that early and go have coffee?" I said, "Because it helps you get started."

Heath: Yup. Since I got this bicycle, that's what I didn't ask but you reminded me. What did you do about a doctor? When you were growing up?

Reavis: Well, I don't think, I don't ever remember going to a doctor until I was in junior high probably. I don't remember seeing a doctor. You know, they had Vicks, they had Goose Grease, and all that kind of stuff that they doctored you up with. And you got a cold and you, I remember, I had the measles, or when did I have...? I didn't have measles until I was almost grown up. I don't remember, we didn't have.

Heath: How about when you were in Grinnell?

Reavis: And you didn't go to a dentist. You used salt and soda mixed together for your toothpaste. Until you got to be junior high probably.

Heath: But in Grinnell now? What doctor, if you had to go to the doctor? Or if your family did, who was the doctor?

Reavis: Um, we went to Doctor Perish. They always called him Old Doctor Perish because his son came back here and he was a doctor too. And he was Young Doctor Perish. But we didn't go to him. I think I went to him once. He was kind of gruff, he was kind of scary. We didn't have any one particular doctor until, oh, I didn't have a particular family doctor until I was married I think. Then we always went to Doctor Korfmonker. And he delivered my son. So.

Heath: Yeah, the names, Perry, Perish and Kormonker are the people who are mentioned.

Reavis: We had a Doctor Howl was here for a while. But he was, I didn't know him.

Heath: Yeah I haven't heard of him.

Reavis: And then, oh, oh, Randy started kindergarten and I worked out of the office in the old Saint Francis Hospital for a while.

Heath: So you've been in a number of offices around town.

Reavis: And I worked for Grinnell Mutual Reinsurance for several years.

Heath: We live in a duplex and the lady that was on the other side just recently sold it, but she worked at Reinsurance, I don't know how long she been there.

Reavis: Who was that?

Heath: Rosie Serber. I think that was her name. She and her husband lived in

[End]