

they are and so far nobody's been afraid to tell me, Art, how old are you?

I'm 87

Q. 87 years old and have you enjoyed living here in West Central Minnesota?

Yes, I have I like it here, <sup>the winters</sup> get too cold ~~up~~ sometimes.

Q. Other than the weather you love it?

Huh?

Q. Other than the weather you <sup>really</sup> love it then?

Oh yeah, freeze your self

Q. Okay we've been talking with Art LeSage on Reminiscing in West central Minnesota, A kmrs new feature.

## Oscar Annerud

Q. This is Reminiscing in West Central Minnesota, a Saturday KMRS News Feature, We're talking now with Oscar Annerud of Donnelly and Oscar maybe

you could tell us a little bit about when you ancestors came to this part of the country?

Well, ~~at~~ I wasn't around when they came but, ah, I've been told it was in 1877 <sup>that</sup> ~~when~~ my grandfather homesteaded this farm where ~~at~~ I'm living on, and ah, well he died in 1893 and my father who had married the daughter <sup>of</sup> the homesteader ~~the~~ took over farming and farmed until 1926.

Q. In other words this farm has been farmed by <sup>Annerud's</sup> ~~honored~~ for a long long time? its been in the <sup>Annerud's</sup> ~~honored~~ name, ownership ever since it was home staded.

Q. Well tell us a little bit about when you were a young man one thing that ah people appreciate now is ~~a~~ health care, and back then when some one was sick <sup>many</sup> times they died, it was kinda rough.

Well I can especially remember when you had a tooth ache and the only thing that was done about it was to pull the old tooth, there was no filling of teeth and I was 14, 15, 16 years old perhaps the kids in town had the benefit of a dentist but we didn't out here in the country, so we stuck it out with a

tooth ache <sup>him</sup> and we got to disturbing the whole household <sup>then</sup> and they took up to the local doctor and he yanked the old tooth <sup>tooth</sup> out.

Q. <sup>One of the</sup> ~~What were the~~ things too that young men, wether they matured any eariler or not they were expected to do a full works, a full days work even at a pretty young age.

Well I finished 8th grade in Donnelly at about age 14, close to 15, and right away I was considered a man, we worked in the harvest fields, shocked and of course, it was chorse a moring and noight. I don't suppose I did as much as <sup>a</sup> the grown up but man I thought I did it anyway, I tired to be a man.

Q. A little <sup>bit</sup> later on you had a chance to go ~~the~~ West Central for ~~an~~ short time, when was that.?

a In '25 and '26, I was already, been grown up quite a while then I took myself. a business course, I felt I needed a little nore education.

Q. Start <sup>ed</sup> a little bit late in your class, how come that was?

Well you see we picked ~~the~~ corn by hand in those days and ah it generally took ~~atill~~ thanksgiving time <sup>before</sup> ~~we~~ you got ~~the~~ last ears picked and hauled home.

Q. A lot of people are talking a bout grain prices these days and sometimes <sup>they're</sup> high and sometimes there t low but ah you remember when grain prices did ~~make~~ a lot of difference.

Well, I suppose that was during the drought y <sup>ears</sup> in '33 and '34 when we didn't get any crop, ah it didn't really make much difference then but the prices were poor preceeding that in the ~~2~~ late '20's and into the '30's. oats came down at one time as low as about 10, 12¢ a busshel and corn I don't believe it was more than 40¢.

Q. Oscar back in 1935, you got your first tractor, did you barter for that or did you pay cash?

Oh, I bought it on time and got ~~in~~ <sup>a dinner</sup> ~~doner~~ once a month.

Q. What did you trade in on ~~a~~ it?

I traded in 3 horses and then I paid a little bit ~~of~~ cash to ~~be~~ boot.

Q. So, in other words you were useing horses then for quite awhile, ~~and~~ were they pretty dependa <sup>ble</sup>?

Well yes, they'd always start <sup>if</sup> ~~it~~ seems but you know, you had, you couldn't put in the long days with them than <sup>+</sup> you can with a tractor and ah you always had to give them an hour at noon, and when you come home in the evenings <sup>from the fields</sup> it wasn't to just shut off a switch and walk slow toward the house to have supper you had to get them put away in the barn and unharness the <sup>it</sup> it was kinda a rough life, i figure.

Q. Then just a couple years later <sup>about</sup> ~~and~~ 1940 you got electricity, how much difference did that make on the farm?

Well it made an <sup>awful</sup> ~~of~~ lot more interesting, you could see to do chores <sup>e</sup> in the dark and of course in the house it helped the wife out ~~alot~~ <sup>aw</sup> to have electric washer a h before that it was to have one with the gas motor and they seemed to smoke and ~~ah~~ were awful noisy and it was quite ~~and~~ improve ment and lights in the house was <sup>aw</sup> ~~aw~~ <sup>ful</sup> ~~gg~~ <sup>thing</sup> good <sup>to</sup> have.

Q. Well, right now you're still kinda busy your still ~~eh~~ helping your son on the farm ah you got your plowing done ~~ye~~ yet?

No, we haven't because he farms so much over 12 hundred acres but I have personally plowed over 400 acres <sup>and</sup> ~~then~~ I plow a little every day. Ah, he's picked all the corn himself, without any help and ~~the~~ the sun flowers, he did them mostly himself, I hauled a little, did some of the hauling, so he's more busy than I am of course, I'm only a "helper outer."

Q. Well, I think there one ~~other~~ thing too, when you mentioned the name of Oscur Annerude that alot of people have heard of you and I think that you perhaps enjoy your hobby ~~of~~ doing this ~~to~~... ~~wa~~ what is that?

Well it tume its called <sup>mazurka</sup> ~~mazurka~~, you mean what <sup>+</sup> ~~is~~ instrument this is ?

Q. Its your fiddle ok, lets <sup>HEAR</sup> ~~hear~~ it.

( music)

The end