

~~This is a reminiscence~~

We're talking now with Luther Sunquist of Morris, and Luther, where were you born?  
\_\_\_\_\_, Nebraska

Q: ~~Do~~ Do you have any fond remembrances about your child hood, for example, where did you go to school?

LS: I went to ~~x~~ a country school about northwest of \_\_\_\_\_ about 7 miles.

⊙ I went there to about 3rd grade, I started broke up and started to working out, my mother was all alone on the farm when my brothers left there so she had to seel out and I got about 11 years old or 12 years old, something like that and I had to start to go into to it myself.

Q: And you started working as a hired man then?

LS: I started working as a hired man, I was suppose to get some money for it, but I wokked for one man down there for 2 years, I was supposed to get \$10 a month. All I got was a ~~suit~~ suit of clothes for \$6, and once in ~~x~~ a while we'd go to celebrations and he'd ~~g~~ give ~~x~~ me a dime or som-ething like that for spending money for buying something to eat or something. We thought that was pretty good to get a dime to go to a celebration at that time.

W Q: Well, one of the places you worked on was a dairy farm and you had kind of a unique way of separating the cream.

Well, we did. We had about 25 to 30 cows ~~x~~ to milk by hand in the morning and night and a lot of times I had to do that all by myself. The fellow I was working was out ~~shelling~~ shelling corn, he was gone most of the time. It was up to me and ~~you'd~~ I'd milk, and you get enough milk ahead and you'd ~~x~~ start a separator going, we had an old ~~3~~ \_\_\_\_\_ power, ~~xxxx~~ I don't know if any of the folks know what \_\_\_\_\_ power is. It's sort of like conveyors ~~xxxx~~ only made out of wood slats and going ~~g~~ around you'd have that. We had an old billy goat that pulled the tread power and you'd put him in there and he'd have to keep it going for probably three hours and separate the milk and oncc in a while he'd get tired and he'd back out and he'd go run out the door and hide someplace and you'd have to go look him ~~x~~ up and shut the separator off

and come back and you'd have to get after him with a pitch fork or something, then you'd get enough tread power and he'd be going back on an pulling like a good fellow when you come back. Once in ~~w~~ a while he'd get out, ~~so~~ so I got tired of it so I went a through some nails in a board and tied it of behind him so he couldn't back out of there and I didn't have any more trouble with him after that. That was about 8 hours for him every day to walk in there, ~~and~~ he'd get kind of tired.

Q: I don't blame that poor billy goat. What year did you ~~g~~ come to Minnesota? I come here in 1913, the fall of 1913, the 16th of September. That's the year they had the corn and alfalfa show here. We had beautiful weather that time, and winter ~~time~~ time was about the 12th and 13th of December, that corn and alfalfa show. We'd go walking around in our short sleeves in the middle of the night, nice and warm you'd be sitting around visiting on the sidewalks, ~~xx~~ just like summertime.

Q: The way they built that arch is a little bit different than they did 100 years late during the centennial. They erected some scaffolding and kind of stuffed it. How did they build it way back then, do you remember?

This is all built out of solid bales, ~~is~~ The only enforcement was on top where they had some timbers running across for the bales to lay on on top of the arch. The rest of it was made out of alfalfa bales.

Q: Then you were involved in farming for a couple years and you started in many many different types of jobs. One was in construction work and you helped to build some of the buildings that is now the University of MN Morris Campus. I believed you worked for Frank Hancock. What do you remember about that?

Well, I worked for ~~Frank~~ Frank Hancock when he had the construction of the engineering building up there and we built that and we built the boys dormitory up on the northwest corner up on the hill there next to this new building that they put in, the Fine Arts Building and that's ~~the~~ about the only 2 buildings that we build but we used to help, when we lived on the farm up on the hill where the University has their farm campus, we used to come down, I think P. Miller was superintendent of the school at that time and he used to come up and get us to help cultivate corn or put up alfalfa hay. We

used to help him a lot in the busy seasons.

Q: Tell us about the time when you taught Frank Hancock how to push concrete.

L.S. Well, It's a good thing that he's gone because I don't think he'd like to hear this very well, but the time we were building the <sup>ginee</sup> engineering we used to have these steel wheel barrows with steel wheels on the wheel barrows. You didn't have any rubber tires then, it was all steel wheels and we used to wheel the concrete from the ~~n~~ north end of the building to the south end and then ~~a~~ over to the west end of the wing and that's about 300 feet, to start with and kept getting less as you fill it in. One time he was, he'd have trouble with the corners breaking off of the planks you was wheeling on, gravel stones would fall on there and you'd ~~k~~ skid off and stuck once in a while. ~~xx~~ I was coming along one day wheeling along and the corner broke off the plank and I 'got stuck. Frank wanted to help there and he started to get mad at me and he said 'Youx should take these things and run with them on these planks.' I set the handles down and I says "Grab ~~o~~ hold of this and see how far you can go with it." He went about 20 feet and the corner broke off the plank and down he went and he went head first down the concrete. Everybody on the job htere started hollering and laughing and he got mad and he went out and got washed up, ~~xx~~ but he never said anymore about running off of the planks after that.

Q: Sounds like a lot of hard work. After that you were involved in road construction, you <sup>w</sup>orked for the railroad and then you started to work ~~x~~ for home builders and how many years did you work for them?

L.S. I worked for the home builders there 44 years.

Q: everything from selling hardware to <sup>u</sup> hauling coal?

L.S. That's right, I started out by hauling coal and delivering lumber and stuff like that and you'd have to shovel it on the wagon and shove it on the truck and shovel it ~~back~~ <sup>off</sup> and get down in the basements and \_\_\_\_\_ and you'd have room ~~for~~ to fill the basements up and you'd probably haul about 16 tons a day, that's a big days work.

Q: Sounds like a lot of work. Luther, for the many jobs you had, were you ever afraid of hard work?

I never was afraid of hard work and I still can do it a little bit, it bothers me a little bit.

Q: There's one question I always ask people and that's your age. Luther, how old are you?

83.

Q: Have you enjoyed living around this area?

Yeah, I like it fin.

Q: We've been talking with Luther Sunquist of Morris on Reminiscing in WC MN, a Saturday KMRS Sat. New Feature.

# Bill Torgerson

This is Reminiscing in WC MN a Sat. KMRS News feature. We're tlaking now with Bill Torgerson of Starbuck. Bill, where were you born?

In Fargo, N.D.

Q: What did you dad do?

He was pioneer doctor in Yellow Medicine County.

Q: O.K. You lived in what towns in Yellow Medicin?

Clarkfield

Q: As you were growing up, what type of jobs did you have around Clarkfield?

Oh, I started out at a livery barn and a lumber yxard and a general store and in the bank.

Q: You were working in a bank at the time when you were asked to come and workat Starbuck. How did that all come about?

Weel, the president of the bank in Starbuck here lived in Clarkfield and he came to me one night and said he wanted me to go to Starbuck in the bank up at Starbuck. And I said, "When do you want me to go?" He says, "Tomorrow morning." I says "No, I can't do that," "I made all the arrangements." he siad. " All right I'll go" And I came up xhere but I didn't know what I was getting into. The former cashier had misappropriated \$30,000 and left one night and the teller in charge had to go back and I had to come up and take charge of it and I didn't know what I was getting into