

Q: Well, there's a lot of people, I don't know if we should call them old timers or there are at least a lot of older guys that are involved in steam engines and keeping the tradition going and they seem to have a lot of fun. Are there any younger men coming that like steam engines?

Yes, there are enjoying the steam engines. We have quite a few ~~from~~ up at Dalton there and I've been running an engine up there for about 9 or 10 years myself and there's a lot of older fellows that have a son and they seem to enjoy it.

Q: So you don't have to worry that threshing bees will be discontinued, you'll figure that they'll be around for years to come?

I think they will. I think most of the fellows enjoy it.

Q: One question I always end up with, Albin, how old are you?

I'm the same age as the Citizens Bank in Morris. And I'll be 80 my next birthday, Lord willing.

Q: Thank you much. We've been talking with Albin Kling of Donnelly on Reminiscing in West Central Minnesota.

Hervey Richardson

This is Reminiscing in West Central MN a Sat. KMRS News Feature. We're talking now with Hervey Richardson of Morris, the former city assessor at Morris. Well, Hervey, were you born at Morris?

Yes, I was born across the street from the TEKE house what was the Congregational parsonage at that time.

Q: So your dad was a minister.

Yes, at the congregational church here.

Q: Like most ministers, they move around a little bit. Were you young, did you live in other towns?

Yes, I think there were about 4 or 5 before I started ~~the~~ school.

Q: O.K. then you made it back to Morris before graduating from high school, when did you move back to Morris?

About 1916, I was a sophomore, in the middle of my sophomore year in high school.

Q: What did you do after high school?

I went to Malcaster College for 3 years and 1 year at Minnesota Law school after which I got a Bachelor of Arts Degree from Malaster.

Q: I would imagine ~~that~~ back there before 1920, there weren't a lot people that were able to go to College. How was it that you were able ~~to~~ or what were you interested in? I was interested in a business course and it was quite general. I took political science as my major at Malaster.

Q: Then after you got your BA you ~~had~~ had a chance to go to New York. How did that come about?

I had a ~~friend~~ fellow shipped to the school of retailing in New York City, I lived in Brooklyn and I went to school in the morning ~~at~~ in Washington Square which is ^S at the end of 5th avenue. In the afternoon I took the subway over to Norton, N.Jersey and worked in a department store about the size of Daytons' here in Minneapolis.

Q: Coming from Morris back then and hitting New York City for the first time, were you pretty awed by the size of it all?

Oh, it was ^{to} not too much difference than St. Paul. I only did a lot of my traveling around by walking and St. Paul could look ^S as big as New York as far as that goes.

Q: Well, you ~~weren't~~ weren't out east too long. ^Y You came back about a year later? I came back about a 1/2 year, the February of the next year.

Q: What was the reason for that?

My father had a farm here in Stevens County and he wrote that he needed some help so I thought that it was better that I ^(sh) could come back and help him.

Q: You were some ~~an~~ east coast executive in a ^d department store?

Yes,

Q: Well, tell us about farming back then in the 1920s. What kind of operation did your dad have at that time?

We raise a lot of Timothy seed. The Timothy seed didn't, it's a perennial so all we had to do was cut and shock and thresh the seed and we shipped about a car load every year and baled the straw and sold that for horse feed until the horse market got... the tractors came in why, that market went down, so we went into general farming; Milking cows, we milked about 30 cows for several years.

Q: And when the horses went out, the tractors came in. What were some of those early tractors like?

We started out with a Waterloo Boy, a 2 cylinder ~~x~~ and we had a Fordson for a while and when the rubber tires came in we bought a row crop tractor, a Farmall with rubber tires. Rubber tires were _____ at that time.

Q: One of the ~~x~~ interesting things ~~was~~ about your life was that you ran for the state legislator and elected in ~~8~~ 1960 and served during the 1960 session. ~~Was~~ What were some of the issues back then, you know, 1960 doesn't seem that long ago but when you look on the calendar ^{at}, that was 16 years ago. What were some of the things they were fighting about down in St. Paul then?

Oh, I think school age was one of the big issues and then at that particular session we passed the withholding tax for the income tax, the federal had had it for several years but there was a lot of opposition to withholding for the income tax. One of the bills I was kind of interested in was in the committee when they proposed the loon for a state bird and I seconded the motion in the committee. There was a lot of talk about we wasted ~~the~~ time passing the bird but I assured you it didn't take long to pass the bill.

Q: That's kind of interesting. So if any one doesn't like the loon, you're the one to talk to. Well, then you were living on the farm still. When did you move to Morris? In the winter of 1966.

Q: And shortly before that you became the City ~~Assessor~~ Assessor. Was that different from any of the other work that you'd been doing?

Oh yes, it was quite different. I had some experience though. I was on the town born in Synnes township and we went through ^{OK} the Board review and I knew something about the mechanics of the assessing. And my experiences in New York City of the retailing and

I had worked for the telephone company, our rural lines ^{and things} ~~XXXX~~ so I had some ~~XXXX~~ general experience.

Q: Well, the land prices and the home prices had really changed in the last 12 years, about how many times have they doubled or how ~~much~~ ^{in that period of} have they changed ~~since that time?~~

I think it's about 3 times. I'd ~~had~~ have to look it up to be accurate but I think it was something like three times as high, today as they were in 1965.

Q: And do you think they ~~are~~ are going to continually increase or is that's any body's guess?

It's anybody's guess. Every body says it's got to stop sometime, they said that 20 years ago.

Q: Well, Hervey, you've had many different jobs and lotsof different experiences. Wer there any that you like the best of did you like the fact that you were able to ~~xx~~ try so many things?

I'm interested in a lot of things and I can't say anything~~x~~ that I preferr ~~xxxx~~ above the other really.

Q: You've just had a lot of interesting experiences?
Right.

Q: And one question I always ask for a final~~e~~ question. Hervey how old are you?
Oh, I'll be 75 pretty soon in a few months.

Q: All right, thank you much. We've been talking to Hervey Richardson, the former Morris City Assessor on Reminiscing in West Central Minn. a Sat. KMRS News Feature.

Ken McKay

This is Reminiscing in W.C. Minn. a Sat. KMRS News feature.
We're tlaking with Ken Mc Kay ~~xx~~ of Morris the former Stevens County Treasurer. Well, Ken, how many years did you come to Morris and where did you come from?

I came in 1920 from Redwood County Minnesota and that's 56 years this March.

Q: What brought you to Morris?

We came up to farm in Morris township shortly after I was married and we lived there for 6 years.