

Central is how old they are, and as I mentioned every time so far no body's refused me and I've even had ~~x~~ some lovely young~~x~~ ladies that have told me their age. Ken how old are you?

Well, I'll just have to say 4 score, tha's 80 years old.

~~X~~ Q: Thank you very much. We've been talking to Ken McKay of Morris.

Henry Schmidt

We've talking now with Henry Schmidt of Morris and Henry, where were you born?

~~Q~~ In Illinois, about 80 miles south of ~~Chicago~~ Chicago. Peru was the name of the town, _____ county.

Q: When did you come up here to Minnesota?

I came here in~~x~~ 1900.

Q: What do you remember about Stevens County way back then, I bet you it's a lot different now?

I haven't forgot any of it. The sidewalks were all wood, 19 saloons~~xxx~~ on main street, a couple of hotels, all kinds of excitement.

Q: Kind of a wild town back then?

OH, every body drank. The only thing, they didn't carry guns like you see on T.V. now.

Q: Just ~~xxx~~ like the old West. Well, tell us a little about where your family settled when you came to Stevens County.

We settled on the farm across from the ~~Mike~~ Mike _____ ranch down there right back of the golf course. There's ~~xx~~ a 320 hill farm there.

Q: I imagine ~~x~~ you worked on your folks farm as a young man. When did you get your own farm? When did you start on your own?

Well, when I got married in 1912 this old _____ said, you can have a half section I got over here and rented, anything I got, you can have he said.

Q: What kind of a farm was it?

Good one, but it was not like now. We didn't have the equipment and stuff you know and

farmed that half section myself ~~xxxx~~ ^{that} year.

Q: When you started out farming, what type of equipment, what type of machinery, I don't
x imagine you had tractors, you had horses.

~~Qx~~ Oh, horses and gang plow an ~~ax~~ drill and my folks bought a new binder and they
gave me their old binder. That's ^{about} allx I had until I PICKed up more as I went
along.

Q: What type of farm~~s~~ prices did they have ~~when you started farming?~~
They were really something, but I ^{can't} remember ^{just what but} ~~that~~ I had a field of ~~fx~~ flax that I
think, I don't remember what the price ~~was~~ of it was but it wasn't much. I don't w
know what it was, maybe 60¢ a bushel.

Q: What about ~~for~~ lives^ock, hog prices for example?

We sold our steers ~~fx~~ from the home place for 3¢ a po^und for feeders.

Q: Times have really changed and what about farmers today, they seem to have it
pretty rough, that they really have to work hard and therey's some going broke and jsut
can't make it. What's the secre^ete of your success?

Well, my secre^ete was to rais^e everything, I ha^d cows and hogs and chickens and we
didn't have to buy much fuel, we burned wood and corn cobs. We didn't know what
money was and when I worked, I worked for noth^{ing} ^c practically all the time.

Q: So in other words a lot of hard work went a long way?

A threshed for 20 years and the neighbor said I had all his money. Well, they really
didn't because I was threshing cheaper ^{than} anyone ~~xxx~~ in the ~~x~~ whole country. I'd
get ~~2x~~ 2¢ a bushel for threshing oats and I was below everybody and they come to me
and says, You have to charge more for the^{sh}ing, and I said I have a hard time collecting
the threshing bill now.

Q: What ~~about~~ blizzards, now every body's starting to talk about blizzards because
we ~~just just~~ just had one ~~bit~~ this past week. Do you remember ~~sh~~ anything when you
were out farming, was it really bad?

Well, ~~in~~ ^J the blizzards, they were always in the winter time. A funny thing, I lived on
that one farm near about 31 years and was never hailed out. See I never spent money

for such, I stood on my own two feet, no hail insurance, no income tax, so you see what they're up again. They have all this stuff to pay for.

Q: O.K. I've talked to a lot of people that've talked about it. It does cost a lot of money to get into farming. Do you think something should be done or how are you going to ~~h~~ keep people on the farm?

That's a question I couldn't answer. I think the government believes in big farming.

Q: In other words with other programs and that, that you think they're trying to squeeze the little guy out?

Yep, I do. But I do ~~n~~ blame a lot of good farmers pushing their neighbors off the land, I ~~don't~~ don't like that.

Q: In other words the bigger ones are kinds of squeezing out the littler ones again?

Yeah, the rich get richer and the poor get poorer.

Q: Well, what did you enjoy about the farm? I now you raised a pretty big family, how many children did you have?

10. 6 boys and 4 girls.

Q: and were they pretty good workers on the farm too?

They always left me have my older ~~f~~ boy, they didn't take him in the army in 1941 when the war broke out for 4 years. The rest of them are gone.

Q: Most of them are still in farming?

Well three of them are out here across the river. Everybody knows them.

Q: Why don't ~~xx~~ you mention names for the people who haven't met them?

Oh, I ain't oging to do that.

Q: O.K. if you'd rather not, you know that they know them.

I'll mention one name, we've got a young fellow in town Bunny _____. When we go to VFW our crowd he says Schmidville is here tonight.

Q: IN other words when the Schmidts come to town every body knows it then? O.K. there's one more question that I ask, like I mention every time, now one has refused yet and that's when I ask how old you are.

Well, I'll be 89 April the 20 this coming April.

Q: 89 years old? Have you enjoyed living in W C MN?

Much so, body, I've ~~xx~~ had more fun here!

Q: Thank you very much.

I'm a Morris booster, I just love Morris.

Q: Very good, thank you. We've been talking ~~x~~ with Henry Schmidt of Morris.

Lewis Elder

This is Rem. in WC MN a Sat. KMRS News Feature. We're talking now ~~xx~~ with Lewis Elder of Hancock and Lewis, you've been in ~~Hancock~~ Minnesota for some 20 years now but you're one of the few people whose father was in the Cival War.

That's right.

Q: and tell u sabout that. I understand that you ~~gx~~ just got some information, that took you quite a while to find out some of the discharge ~~paxpers~~ papers about your dad? Yes, we just got them recently about a year ago. We tried for several years to get his discharge papers which we don't know what become of the original, but what we have now is the copy.

Q: Tell us, when your father went into the Cival War and how old was he?

He went in Sept. the 3rd 1864, he was 17 years old at that time. And he was discharged June the 6th of 1865, that's when the Cival War ended.

Q: So he got in just the last few months of the Cival War?

Yes, so he was in 9 months. His boundy is the same as the same as the _____ pay of today. He got 33 1/3¢ and I think that was every 90 days that he got the 33 1/3.

Q: So when he was in there, as far as pay, he got a little over \$000 then?

That's right, about \$100 while he was in the Army.

Q: What ether kind of imformation did you get out of these papers, there was something about that he docked a little bit of pay because he lost something?

He lost a curry comb and they fined him 87¢. Made him pay for the curry comb. He was in..

Q: The calvary I suppose they call it?

Yeah, he was in the Calvary.