

INTERVIEW WITH ELAINE C. SCHAEFFER
BY CAROL SWENSON, DENISE BENSON
ON JULY 30, 1975
AT THE HOME OF MS. SCHAEFFER

Q: This is Carol Swenson and Denise Benson at the home of Elaine C. Schaeffer in Elbow Lake, Minnesota. The date is July 30, 1975 and we will be talking about the early village of Pomme de Terre and remembrances from Elaine's life. Okay, could you start by telling us what you remember about Pomme de Terre and what your association is with the village?

Well, I know where I was born but I don't remember it. (Chuckle) Well, now, let's see what I should say about that. My earliest remembrances were at our home across the river and I must have been about the age of three or so when we moved there.

Q: Is that the Pomme de Terre River?

There was the Pomme de Terre River and the old August Schaeffer house where I was born is still there. They are the ones that had migrated you see, and had been here and there and all over, but you don't want to know all that. Here they built the grist mill. My father was the youngest member of a family of six when he married. He lived at home there for a year or so. And he wasn't a youngster when he was married, 35 and then my mother finally captured him. (laughter) And then, some of my earliest remembrances that I can recall, must be when I was around three or something like that, because, I started school in that brick schoolhouse, that's still there, when I was five.

Q: What, do you remember any tales or stories that your grandparents told you about coming across from Germany and migrating across the United States?

Well, I know these about migrating in the United States, but as far as coming across, I don't remember any of those.

Q: Could you tell a few of those about coming across the United States?

Well, I told you this wild one...yesterday or whenever it was, you know, when...well now let's see...my grandparents, that is Mr. & Mrs. August Schaeffer, they immigrated from Germany to the United States in 1851. And then they located at that time on a farm near old Damon's Station, which is right on the outskirts of present Milwaukee and at the present time, that is one of the most exclusive residential areas of Milwaukee. That is still called Ferry Chasm Area. And I can remember this, that they raised a few chickens and that my grandmother; they had their homestead some 160 acree, some place there in that old Ferry Chasm Area. She walked twelve miles to market some of her eggs at what was known as Damon's Station.

Q: Do you know what prompted them to come to the United States?

Well, there's no doubt about it; it was a result of revolutions in Prussia of 1848, if you know that background of history there, Because there was a revolution of people who were raising up against the totalitarian government. It wasn't Germany then, my dear, because at time, it was known as Prussia. Because Germany as such you see, oh this

is too much history for you, started with a little Duchy of Brandenburg and then that was usurped by Prussia and then you went way, way on through these years of history; and Germany as such was never realized until 1871. That's the first time we had Germany as such.

Q: What did they do over there? What business or occupation was your grandfather involved in?

I don't know what my grandfather Schaeffer did, I'm sorry, maybe my brother does. But I know my grandfather on my mother's side, I think he started as a baker; and then he came to the United States so I, I well, I got all the dates here some place; but you don't want all that now.

Q: Okay, kind of coming back into where we were before, when we were talking about your grandparents, the Schaeffers living outside Milwaukee, how long did they stay there?

Well, let's see now, I don't know if I have the dates in this article or not, they're here someplace. Let's see now, they came in 1851 and that's where they were in the Ferry Chasm Area and then they immigrated to, Minnesota, that time a territory. We didn't become a state until 1858. They immigrated to the Minnesota Territory in 1857. And then they homesteaded near Owatonna, Steele County. They were there from 1857 to 1861. They sold their farm there and then they went to Pine Island, Minnesota and that's where he bought half interest in a grist flour mill. It was there in Pine Island that my father was born. And that's where the Schaeffer's originally became interested in the flour milling business. Eventually they came up here. I've forgotten the date of that...let's see now. Immigrated to Pomme de Terre in 1873, the Schaeffers.

Q: And they were some of the first families to settle this area, correct?

O yes, definitely.

Q: Did he come...he (August Schaeffer) start the grist mill with his son-in-law or brother-in-law? Fred Williams...

It Fred Williams, his son-in law. I don't...well, you mean my father?

Q: No, August Schaeffer...

August Schaeffer, you see, was my grandfather, and my father was Frank Schaeffer. The the August Schaeffers and their family arrived in Pomme de Terre in 1873. And that is where they built the mill that was completed. They came there in the spring and they completed that grist mill by November 1st, 1873. So then you see, it was during that period of time that they had oxen train flour deliveries. They had, I've forgotten how many oxen they had on the trains that took flour to the Black Hills. And it was on one of those trips that Anton Schaeffer, my father's brother passed away from spinal meningitis upon his return from a trip. Then they had another deal, where by they took flour from their mill here in Pomme de Terre. They hauled it to Wahpeton, and then they ferried it by barge up to Winnipeg. So you see, they had those two where by they supplied flour for this area. Well, not only this area, but you can imagine that track to the Black Hills and that area. Now I've forgotten what they brought back with them,

they brought something, my brother probably knows, but I don't remember that.

Q: Was most of the grain gotten from the immediate area here?

It was gotten from this immediate area. Then, of course, you see, this grist mill was run by water power.

Q: And it ran in the winter too, then?

They what?

It ran in the winter too then?

Well, that I don't know, I...that is a good question, because I just can't see how it could have run in the winter in this climate. The mill was completed in '73 and then in August 27, 1887, it was destroyed by fire. This milling business was one of the very first ones in the northwest.

Q: And then they just never...once it was destroyed by fire, they never bothered to rebuild?

Well, oh, then, there was another mill there then. Now I can't remember if August...no my father built that. And that was a feed mill where they ground feed and all that type of thing. It was just a crime that they needed the money and tore it down eventually; but you see the water power was destroyed by the removal of the dam in old Pomme de Terre. I should get you girls down there someday and see some of that; but for years my father ground feed for people in this area, and then they'd come up here with bags of grain and all that type of thing and he'd grind it; they'd take it home by some means of conveyance. And I remember a lot of that because our home, was just a little bit over to the northeast and so on. I used to go down there a lot and of course, you can imagine all of that dust and everything. And then they had one of these oh, you've never seen one of these either, one of these push cart, two-wheel deals. The wheels were iron and then they had a long back slat you know, where when they hauled the flour out, who ever was going to take it home, that's where they put the sacks, big, big grain sacks & haul them. Well, then sometimes they weren't doing too much, and I was stupid enough to go down there as a kid and my father would have to give me a ride around the building on that, I remember that very distinctly. Then of course, they had narrow footbridges. You don't know what a footbridge is either, and the river was awfully high; then to go over to the home across the river, oh heavenly day, this was real high above the water and the river was high and I'll bet those boards weren't any wider than that (about 2") Huh? (About a foot or two feet wide?) no, they were about like that. To this day, I can't understand why we didn't fall off and drown. (Laughter) and then across the mill race, too you know, well of course there they had wider planks. You'd have to visualize it and see pictures of it.

Q: What was this dam you talked, you mentioned? (Hmm?) The dam that you mentioned that was torn down. (Yes it was.) Where was that located?

It...I don't know, I don't remember when it was torn down.

Q: Was it located though further up the river or was it right by Pomme de Terre?

It was... It was, well, there was a feed mill and then there was a so called race you know and so on, and then up beyond this road that was the main street of the village of Pomme de Terre, why then just up a little ways this big dam. And of course to be lulled to sleep by the waters of that old dam I can still hear them. And then, there were a lot of rocks and everything around the bottom, and heavenly day, we'd go down there and of course; we just loved to fish and catch sunfish by hand in those rocks. We could have drowned in that mess too but of course it was fun.

Q: Did you swim much in the lake then, or in the river too? (Pardon me) Did you swim much in the river too?

Well, I'll tell you the river was so high they were scared to death to have us go down there. So we didn't do much of that type of thing. Of course the kids used to in later years at the old country school there, why of course, some of these boys really played hooky and went off and fished in the river. My brother was one of them.

Q: Could you recall some of the things about the country school? You mentioned that was a brick building...?

It's still there...I still have records here, I haven't given all of them to the museum; I have to get organized on those. Some records when August Schaeffer, my grandfather served on what you could call a school board.

Well, in those days, a teacher was kept by various people in the vicinity. They boarded there, roomed there, and what have you. And if possible they were given about \$15.000 a month. Well, of course, that was even before my time, even as old as I am; but I mean as far as Pomme de Terre school is concerned, it was all brick, a very substantial building and it's still standing.

Q: It was a one-room schoolhouse?

It was a one-room schoolhouse, yes. And we had the typical blackboards, you know, around all the sides and everything. And then, well, they have some of the same seats and all that up at our school building at the museum, you know. That is from another district, they finally got hold of that. But then, some of them were single seats; and some of them were double seats, and then you had your class for ten or fifteen minutes, why of course regardless of how many would be in the class of reading or whatever it was. Well, then the teacher would have her little bell and up you'd go; and you'd sit in that long seat and recite and what have you.

And then of course every kid, had to bring his own meal with him as I told you, of course I was lucky, because I could go home; I didn't have very far. But in later years, I must have been 8 or 9 when we moved to the other farm, a mile and a half west, and that's when we had to walk. That was a mile and a half distance.

Q: You mentioned something about how you kept your lunch from freezing, yesterday.

Well, they had a big pot-bellied stove. Then in the winter time your lunch was in, as I said, in one of these old-fashioned tobacco boxes; it had a hinged cover over the top. And it was put in there, and you'd put it on the floor around the stove so it wouldn't freeze. Because you can imagine

that building wasn't too hot either, since heat was centered in that area.

Q: How many grades were taught there?

Eight grades and we usually had about forty students, one teacher.

Q: Was the teacher usually someone from the area who had gone on to high school or gotten her teaching certificate or was it someone who came in from outside the community?

Well, we had quite a number of them. One of them wasn't a relative of ours, her name was Schiefer, S-c-h-i-e-f-e-r and, gee I can't remember now, she... where her original home was, but I think she taught in a country school around Wendell there, too. And then when she came to Pomme de Tere, she roomed at our house. And she was the one who was largely instrumental in saying after all there was no sense in my staying home since I had only a few steps to go to school; so she was instrumental in my starting at the age of five. And to this day, I can see us around the old dining room table; she was trying to teach me how to write cat. I can still see the scrawl. Poor old Hattie said "Come, on, come on." (Laughter)

Q: Was it common for children to start at five, or was that...were you an exception?

I just don't remember that, you see I...you could go, there was no restriction on age in those days. (I see) No, there was no restriction what so ever, your birthday, before you were seven or after you were seven or anything. Now when some of the rest of them started, I just don't remember. But then we had a family of five, belonged to the Olson family; we had that great big river bottom too, the Pomme de Terre River just meandered through Old Pomme de Terre and down to Pomme de Terre Lake some of it's down by Morris too, you know all that. Well, this family lived down at the end of the river bottom, five kids. They were Norwegian and their father had learned, how to make skiis, you know, the right way, and in the wintertime, I can still see those five kids coming up that river bottom by ski. And one of the boys, is my same age, he's been, chief salesman here at Chevy Auto Company in Elbow Lake for years. But there were five out of that one family.

Q: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

One brother and one sister. They're both living. My brother lives, here in town; he's beginning to give up some of his work now, he rented ...oh the only farm he's got now is right out of town here and he's renting that out and his wife has a parlor downtown, that consignment shop, where people have been bringing things in from allover creation; it's really been something. If you want to see something unusual go down there. And people have come in from all over, Barnsville, and all over creation. It's surprising, you know, what ability people have in arts and how creative they are and all that. Of course, that's entirely out of my line, I just don't like to sew, I don't..., and I'll tell you why I don't. My mother could sew, of course, it was a necessity. You didn't have any money and afterall if you could sew and make clothes, that was it and if your husband

had a shirt they had to be saved and you'd turn the collars back you see. They'd get holey up here, then you'd take them off and turn them around. (Oh) Well, she would crochet, she could do a lot of beautiful things. Well I'll never forget this. She was trying to teach me how to crochet once, it didn't work at all. I started to bawl and my dad said, "Oh, mother, come on now, cut it out, you can see that kid doesn't want to do it," he said, "I think if she would read a good book, it would do her a whole lot more good." I've never forgotten that. I said maybe that's why I'm so crazy about reading.

Q: What else was..or constituted the Pomme de Terre Village besides the grist mill, the school and the...

Well, that is in...that is in some of these articles you had here, that these kids wrote, you know, you know the different businesses they had there. (Yeah, there was the fur trading...) Well they had the store, you see, a general store and then they had this combination hotel and what have you and of course they had a saloon for a trading area, but then of course you had all that in there too about some of these block houses and everything, but that combination store and what have you, that was still there when I was a kid.

Q: What do you remember about that?

Well, I can...'cause that was just a little bit north of our house. I can still see it, it was a huge gray building, and then of course, it had big bins where they had, I don't know if they had flour or what, they were pulled out and then there was this great big counter deal, now I can't remember if...that's in one of those articles, whether the hotel was part of that or not, I don't remember cause...it's in one of these articles around here that Keith wrote or Dwaine Mau wrote, I don't know.

Q: It was still quite a step over place when you were living there a lot of travelers stayed there.

Not in my day, that was all before. (That was all before) That was all before and a lot of that is in part of this article I wrote. It wasn't really an obituary you know, this was after father passed away. And this... instead of writing, somebody writing an obituary, I thought well to, the heck with it, I will write a great deal on his life history instead. You see this is what followed after he passed away, and I sent to the paper. I do remember having seen the remains of the old fort. You see the old fort Pomme de Terre was a couple miles from the village of Pomme de Terre. And some of that was still standing and you could see, oh, I don't know what you'd call the holes they had where they put the guns through and what have you, that's in one of those articles too. I can still, I still have a memory of having seen that. Of course, a lot of that has gone to pot you know.

Q: Did the children used to go there and play a lot when...

Well, you see, that was quite a ways from Pomme de Terre proper, so beyond that I don't know. We used to drive around a lot, the family and everything you know...(I see) it was, it was interesting to go by there. I was pretty young to remember a lot of those things.

Q: When you finished country school, then you came to Elbow Lake to go to high school?

I came to Elbow Lake, after Easter vacation during my seventh grade.

Q: While you were still going, you were in seventh grade at the country school?

I went, yes, to seventh grade, part of it you see. And then I came to Elbow Lake (to finish) and stayed with my grandparents here. So I finished all of my grade school and high school in Elbow Lake, because they were living here. My grandparents you see, on my mother's side, the Trieses. Because this is the old Triese House, where they lived.

Q: Was that quite customary for children from the country to come in, like to Elbow Lake?

Not that I know of, I think I was the only one that did. But I suppose, I mean, it was advantageous, you see, for the folks, having a place for me to stay. And they thought probably, I'd be a little better off because we had to take...Oh, in those days you had to take a lot of stupid state board examinations. I still have certificates of them around here. And they were sent out and you had to take those and you received grades on those. Of course, they took them in the country schools too. But, I don't know, they thought probably having an opportunity to attend classes in just one grade, they thought probably would be better after you reached that level instead of being in a country school where you had eight grades. And of course, I'll never underestimate what the country school does for anybody. Never. I think it is just a crime that they have to go by the board but I know why it's necessary and they're getting plenty of advantages that we never got. But...

Q: Your brother and sister never came to school in Elbow Lake then?

My brother lives here, (Did he go to high school...) He went to high school here and so did my sister. (And they stayed with your grandparents too?) No, uh huh, my folks still lived on the farm you see, so then...oh gee, how did that ever work out. Well then, my...oh did she start, it would be... she is seven years younger than I. But she went to high school here, she graduated from high school, my brother didn't. He went about two years and he went...on he went down here to Morris and, took something in agriculture and all that type of thing because...well of course, it was during the war too you know and my dad was farming. He needed help and that type of thing, so...but of course, he is, he's a great reader too and he's done a lot, but I think sometimes he regretted it; but he's had an awful lot of fun, too. A great fisherman, hunter, farmer, civic worker and gardener... he claims that...and our whole family has been hepped on planting evergreens. You should see all the evergreens I have. I think my father has planted more than anybody in Grant County and my brother is just as bad in old... Pomme de Terre River bottom. Well, you see the government has a, projects, you know, reforestration projects whereby the government pays a certain amount and you pay a certain amount. And now, within the last few years, I think he has had 25,000 trees that have been planted in that river bottom. He said that if there isn't anything else he's going to leave to posterity he's going to leave trees, instead of having people cut the trees down and have barren prairies. He said, "There's one thing I'm leaving when I die."

Q: Do you know why they've always been so interested in planting trees? Is it...

Well, I don't know, it's just engrained in us I guess. We like to see things grow. Oh, you should see my crazy backyard. But of course, a lot of it is going into weeds, but it's just, a...I think, appreciation of beauty too.

Q: I was wondering if it was maybe a carry-over of when they first came here to the prairie and there weren't many trees and maybe they...

Could be. It could be. I don't know...people of Germanic decent and we are Germanic on both sides of the family, right to our back bones; and I think the Germans as a rule have always been interested in gardening of any type. Because even in Germany, amny, many years ago even though, here I go to History again, Old Frederick the Great, even though he was a devil in many ways, he encouraged the planting of many fruit orchards of various types even along public roads. It is sort of an engrained characteristic.

Q: Now you went to college down at Macalaster.

I got my B.A. there from Macalaster...well, this is all in this junk.

Q: Yeah. Did you stay at a dorm when you went to school there?

I stayred at the dormitory, the dormitory is still there, known as Wallace Hall, on Summit Avenue. And we had only a short distance to go over to Macalaster across the street. Let's see there were three stories, I've forgotten how many girls, a hundred or a hundred and twenty-five girls. And of course, we ate our meals there. We had our breakfast, lunch and dinner and all that right (at the dorm) at the dorm. Of course it wasn't far to go over to classes. And after all, ten o'clock to bed. We had a lot of studying to do and I know we switched. They had a student government you see too where there were girls that were called proctors and so on for each floor.

Q: And what did the proctors do?

Well, they were supposed to see to it that you got to bed; and you weren't noisy and all that type of thing. Then the woman that was, oh I don't know what, Alice Clough was her name. I don't know what her title would be, but at least she was the woman that, came around and inspected rooms every once in a while and believe you me, you had to have your rooms clean. She not only looked in your closet, but went through dresser draws and everything, and this is the gospel truth.

Q: And she had every right? Nobody protested, the students?

She had, because it was her responsibility to see to it that the girls had clean orderly rooms, that was it. I don't live up to here, because I can tell you...well I did there yes, but I didn't think it was that important. And then another thing, dumb, for instance, you see there were bells on each floor and then when it was time for dinner, six, whenever it was. Then we went down and lined up to go into the dining room. Now this was a crazy stupid system. Okay, seniors went in first, they were lined up, then the juniors and the sophomores and the freshmen. That was the order. Then you had, oh they changed the seating arrangement. You

were assigned to certain tables; and then there was always a senior girl, as a rule who would be head of the table and everything. And, of course, everything was served by the head of the table, see. After all, you had your meat and potatoes and all that type of thing. And it was very formal in that respect. And, of course, the dean of Women was always, there bless her soul. (Here is the one that was there when I was there, she just passed away a couple of days ago.) And grace was always said. And another one when I was there Mrs. Williams. Now Margaret Doty, this is the strangest coincidence in the world, when she taught in a couple of high schools before she went to Macalaster, she was here in Elbow Lake. I was a freshman in her English class. I go to Macalaster; and then she was teaching English there, I was, a freshman in her English class there. And she said, "Elaine for heaven's sake, am I following you up or are you following me?" And I used to hear from her every single Christmas. She was the most wonderful person. She passed away at eighty-three.

Q: What other rules or restrictions did you have?

Oh would you, you'll love this,. Okay, if you wanted to go downtown, as a rule of course, you never had too much time or money. You were supposed to have a chaperone if you went downtown, St. Paul, also bedecked properly, hat, gloves etc.

Q: And who was a proper chaperone? Who qualified?

Well, you'd try to get an older girl or probably one of the faculty members. But then they started to break that down a little. Oh then, of course you were never supposed to play cards of any type, in your room, but we smuggled that too. Oh, then for instance if you received a telephone call of something, they had the central office downstairs. And then a number of bells that told you, whatever it was, that bell would be rung on your floor. Say for instance, I know one room I had for a couple of years, was 303. Well then for instance, say for instance any of the girls' parents were there or someone, and there would be a man, naturally a father that was coming along with them to visit, there was a certain bell to designate on each floor that there would be a man there; so the girls wouldn't be running around. Of course, they didn't go undressed or streak in those days, heavenly day no, but that's another system they had.

Q: And what were your weekend hours or what were your hours (Pardon me) What were your dorm hours for coming and going out of (visiting priviledges)

Oh, this would be just a visitor you see. Say for instance, a mother or father was coming to visit their daughter, say late afternoon or evening you see, that was the idea.

Q: Could they come any time during the week?

Oh, yes, anybody could; but of course they'd know the schedule of their girls, you know, when they'd be in class and all that type of thing.

Q: Were you ever allowed to have men guests in your room?

No. That's where now I think is the craziest change in the world, now, because Macalaster that was so terribly strict in those days. It was an old Presbyterian school and there were a lot of them a hundred times,

worse. But now days, even Wallace Hall where I was, well, now they have girls and boys, and a lot of them can cook together and all that type of thing and that's the usual thing. Perhaps a good idea!

Q: You were...before earlier to day we were talking about your being an assistant or a principal during the Depression, at Kasson, Minnesota?

Yes, that's where I was principal. That was during the depression wasn't it? Yes.

Q: Yeah, you graduated from Macalester in '24 and then...

I graduated in '24 and then the first year out of college, I...oh boy, that was a nightmare at Mapleton, I had to teach some subjects I knew nothing about. And, I don't know, I was about 20 or 21 I've forgotten then, I was petrified.

Q: Could you, did they hire you just to teach any high school subjects?

Well, they wanted somebody for primarily history, so I had history and ye gods, I suppose one English class or something and then they had to have somebody for general science. Well, science was far beyond, me, the only science I really loved was geology and I really, I loved that. Of course, I took that in undergraduate work at Macalester. Well, that was it. Did I ever study on that and I thought now, well, in the sciences they need a lot of, you know, demonstrations and all that. Well, I had one boy in my class that was very, very clever and boy did we have a lot of demonstrations by him. (Laughter)

Q: What did he demonstrate?

Well, you know, some of these simple experiments in chemistry; he'd probably have something in biology cut up some frogs or something, well at least we got by. Of course in the mean time I had to read a lot and keep up and give a few explanations. That was really funny. Well, then after that I came to Elbow, then I took off to California, after that.

Q: Was the Depression very prominent when you were in California, do you remember, it was just sort of beginning then wasn't it?

It was '34 and '36 you see, that I was at Kasson. Yes, and you see here we were still suffering a lot from the Depression.

Q: Do you remember any particular stories of incidences that happened during the Depression?

All I know, it was a lot of rough going. And a lot of people were out of jobs and that is why I say I was lucky to have a job, even though I got only \$90.00 a month; and I had already spent money and received my masters degree; end then I had all these previous years of experience too even though I was a vagabond, you know.

Q: Did you notice there were fewer students during the Depression than what there were before?

No, I didn't. Of course, no, I really didn't, we had...I suppose there were certain seasons of the year when some of the farm boys, had to be absent more or, were excused. They didn't have these D.O. programs like they have now which I think are wonderful.

Q: Did you...how did you cut corners, in order to make ends meet, like with the school budget? (Well, you mean the school itself or my budget?) No, with the school itself.

I don't know how they did it, they must have done it all through taxes. And then of course...

Q: You weren't very much involved in dealing with the budget then for the school.

Oh, no, we had nothing to do with that. You were hired, and if you got your check on time, fine, which we always did. No, we had nothing to do with that whatsoever. (I see) That was your school board and superintendent and so on. Don't you ever repeat this, though. I'll tell you an experience that I had down there. Then there was that at Kasson; it was at Kasson and of course, I wasn't, I was getting on in years; but I still wasn't aged. Well, we had a girl there, that I was positive was pregnant. And of course, you cannot go ahead and accuse a girl that seemingly was pregnant and of course, that was really something in those days. Now days these kids in high school, it's not uncommon. Let's put it that way. Well, then I thought, now how am I going to get around this; and it seems as though in that area, around Dodge Center and Kasson, there was a rumor to the effect, I think they had a few cases of small pox. Yes, it was smallpox and not diphtheria, so I thought, now this is my outlet. All of these will have to go to the doctor and get shots and that type of thing well, then of course I put a bug in the ear of the doctor and that's how I found out about all of this. Well, then I let her stay there for quite a while, and well, she told me all of this.

Q: Would you like to comment on the changes in education you have observed over the years?

Well, I've observed many, many changes from grade school through graduate school, plus graduate school. And I think one particular field in which present day education has really fallen down and that is in the encouragement of reading. I think television has had its place and a very fine place in present day education. But at the same time, any child sitting before a T.V. set--I don't think he is using his mental powers to the extent that he would by learning to read, because I believe so thoroughly in reading and have read so much to the effect that many of the present day graduates are absolutely deficient in the field of reading. And I think if a person is going to acquire knowledge, why from what sources are you going to get it. You're not going to get it by gossiping with your neighbor and the field is absolutely unlimited where a person can learn. And if a person's eyesight remains, what shall I say, remains good, through his advanced years, why there is pleasure that's absolutely, I think, cannot be equaled.

Q: You don't necessarily believe that all of the audio-visual equipment and the tendencies to go toward audio-visuals in the classroom is all that beneficial then?

Well, I'll be honest about it, I do not know enough about it. I can, I know it has it's merits and I think it's done a terrific job and on the other hand, audio-visual in school certainly has its place, but when it comes to children at home having one of their chief entertainments by viewing TV say for a couple hours, that I don't believe in. I think it should be limited and I think what they view on TV should, should absolutely be controlled. It's being controlled more now by networks and probably they will succeed there where children aren't exposed to all these horror and crime pictures and there is where I think parents have a terrific responsibility to control the time that children spend on TV at home.

Q: Do you think there's been a change in the attitude of the children towards school and how they value education, from like, from over the years, the different students you've worked with?

I think we still, I'm never going to under-estimate the sincerity of a child or student, because I think there are those who wish to learn and wish to improve the minds that were given to them. I think that particular category of student is still going to do his utmost. On the other hand, there are probably some of those that are attending school just because they are required to; but on the other hand, you can't tell me that at least some of the good effects of their associations there, some of those effects are going to be beneficial to the kid.

Q: Do you think...then you think that children are taught that education, that education is the key to the future more or less?

Well, I just read an article here in Psychology magazine to the effect that they're beginning to wonder now if the thousands of dollars that is being spent on education, if it is really worth it, see. Or was that in another magazine because now days, many, many students cannot afford to go to college. Their parents can't afford it; and if they belong to a certain middle income class group where their income is, I've forgotten, the amount of money, a certain amount, they cannot receive loans. So I think this is where vocational school education is extremely valuable. I think, many, many young people at least that have abilities in various fields contribute an awful lot and that's where we do have a need, a terrific need. We have too many PHD's now all together. Ph.D.'s, well the country is loaded with them. Because a lot of them have, well, you know, they receive money through the Veteran's Program. Well, now, people won't even hire them as a taxi cab driver because they think they're in a rut after receiving a PhD in a certain category; they wouldn't know how to associate with passengers in the taxi cab. It was...a lot of that has really happened. They won't hire them. So I think that vocational education has been very, very helpful and beneficial to the entire American society.

Q: Is there anything else you'd like to comment on before we finish the tape?

Well, I think my last comment is to the effect that you two little girls have been very patient during all of this hot weather, to listen to a lot of my old wild stories. (Chuckle) That's my conclusion; and I thank you sincerely, I think you're doing a very fine piece of work, but I hope you don't take as much time and waste so much of your time as you have on me.

Q: Well, it's been very interesting and enjoyable talking to you, it has been no pain. (Laughter)