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Narrator

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Interviewer

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CP: 00:00 —I was asking when were you born?

HA: 00:02 1921.

CP: 00:03 And were you born?

HA: 00:03 August 10, 1921.

CP: 00:06 Okay. Where were you born?

HA: 00:08 August, 1921.

CP: 00:09 In which town?

HA: 00:12 Oh, I believe it was in Georgetown, Minnesota.

CP: 00:19 Okay. When did you move into Stevens County?

HA: 00:23 Oh, I must have been about five years old or so [inaudible
00:27] I was born.

CP: 00:35 When you were five years old? Okay.

HA: 00:36 Yes.

CP: 00:36 Did you go to school in Morris, then?

HA: 00:39 No, I went to a country school.

CP: 00:41 How long did you go to this country school?

HA: 00:44 Until the 8th grade. [inaudible 00:44] back in '21, there would be [inaudible 01:05].

CP: 01:08 When you grew up, did you live on a farm, or did you live in town?

HA: 01:12 I lived on a farm all my life.

CP: 01:13 How many other brothers and sisters did you have?

HA: 01:17 Three brothers and two sisters.

CP: 01:22 When you grew up, did you marry?

HA: 01:26 Yeah, I married in 1943.

CP: 01:29 After you got married, did you continue to work on the farm?

HA: 01:32 Yeah, I lived on a farm until about five years ago, then I retired.

CP: 01:38 Now, I have some questions about radios, specifically. When did you first listen to the radio? When did you first find out about it?

HA: 01:48 Oh, I suppose my folks didn't always have one. I don't know how many years before I was born.

CP: 01:57 So, for as long as you can remember, your family had a radio, then.

HA: 02:03 Yeah.

CP: 02:05 Do you remember what stations were available to you?

HA: 02:11 I couldn't tell you that.

CP: 02:12 Do you remember if they were local, if they were more distant?

HA: 02:14 No, they were I suppose from like Fargo, Moorhead something like that. It was quite a distance to bring it in on. We didn't really use the radio much, [inaudible 02:32] wanted to keep that for the news and whatever, and they had some special programs in the evening [inaudible 02:43].

CP: 02:48 Was there any other things that your parents maybe used, or you used, to get your news, or listen to music besides the radio? Did you get newspaper?

HA: 02:58 We'd usually get the paper here; I don't know if they call it *The Tribune* still or not. [inaudible 03:07]

CP: 03:16 What other types of things did you do for entertainment? Was there a theater that you went to?

HA: 03:21 There wasn't much for entertainment, except we used to go to the neighbor's field. They had a big hill, you know, and we'd sled down that [inaudible 03:30]. I'd go into town, if we ever went to town, it'd be maybe once or twice a week. Go there for entertainment.

CP: 03:42 Were you quite a ways out of town, then?

HA: 03:43 About seven miles.

CP: 03:49 Do you remember which types of programs were on the air?

HA: 03:53 No. I can remember one, *Amos 'n' Andy*. Some of those [inaudible 04:00] I don't even remember which was responsible. But they were just [inaudible 04:11] just before [inaudible 04:14] programs. That's the only way [inaudible 04:25] library and find out [inaudible 04:27].

CP: 04:34 Do you remember which ones you liked best? You mentioned *Amos 'n' Andy*.

HA: 04:37 We always liked *Amos 'n' Andy*. There was another one, I don't remember what it was called, [inaudible 04:43]

CP: 04:48 Was it *The Shadow*?

HA: 04:50 I couldn't say it is, but then [inaudible 04:54] it had kind of a 50s style.

Interviewer: 05:09 Did you ever get Western shows out here?

HA: 05:11 There wasn't really too much of Westerns in those days. Local programs, they were actually behind a speaker, they were more like in their [inaudible 05:34]

Interviewer: 05:35 [inaudible 05:35]?

HA: 05:37 Yeah, there were kind of a little spooky, like ghost stories. I can remember my grandpa [inaudible 05:53] and stuff like that, [inaudible 06:03]

CP: 06:11 Your whole family, did you sit in front of the radio and all listen?

HA: 06:15 Oh, yes. Most of the times, really. [inaudible 06:19]

CP: 06:24 Was it kind of a treat to get to listen to the radio?

HA: 06:25 Oh, you bet it was. Yeah, in those days we didn't go to town much, and you used to get together with the neighbors and listen.

CP: 06:48 Can you name, or do you know what other members of your family may have liked to listen to? Did your mom listen to any shows in particular, or maybe your father?

HA: 06:56 No, not really too much. By the time we had our chores done, there was no electricity in those days [inaudible 07:07]

CP: 07:15 After you got electricity, did you listen to the radio more then, I suppose?

HA: 07:17 Yeah, lots. In them days, we used to listen to [inaudible 07:21]. Like watching movies, [inaudible 07:31] like that.

Interviewer: 07:46 Did you do anything else while you listened, or you just listened to the radio?

HA: 07:49 Well, we played cards and we had some games. [inaudible 07:57] like I say, we used to get together with our neighbors and [inaudible 08:07]

Interviewer: 08:14 For your radio, was it just a big speaker, or did you have to listen with headphones?

HA: 08:19 It was about this wide, about this high, and it had a battery sitting right on there.

CP: 08:26 It was a little bit bigger than a loaf of bread; would you say?

HA: 08:29 Oh, yeah. It's about like that toaster, there, or maybe it was bigger than that.

CP: 08:35 But if you had the earphones on? Or maybe you had both?

HA: 08:39 We used to have these, how do you call them, phonograph records. We'd have them around the [inaudible 08:54] like a record, you know. We never had one, but my grandparents had one where you'd have to wind it up and [inaudible 09:07]

Interviewer: 09:09 [inaudible 09:09]

HA: 09:11 Yeah, [inaudible 09:13]. Now, they're run by electricity [inaudible 09:18]

CP: 09:33 Do you remember listening to those while at your grandma's house?

HA: 09:39 Oh, yeah. Yeah, we put them on [inaudible 09:42]. What type of music we played, I don't know that we... folk.

CP: 09:58 Folk music, maybe?

HA: 09:58 Yeah, something like that. Wish we had pictures. We used to have photographs of them. After it gets old, you just put them away.

CP: 10:19 How many radios did you have in your house? Do you remember?

HA: 10:20 We had one. That's about all we could afford.

CP: 10:27 Where was that radio in your house?

HA: 10:31 It was in our living room.

CP: 10:35 Were there any rules that you had for listening?

HA: 10:38 Yeah, I said after our chores were done, then we'd turn the radio on for maybe an hour and then when that's done, then we'd turn in.

CP: 10:52 Who decided which programs you got to listen to?

HA: 10:55 Well, mostly my dad did. He worked all day [inaudible 10:58] you didn't have too much to say about what he wanted to listen to. He'd turn on programs that sounded good. In those days, if you had nothing else, you enjoyed it, doing that. Now you're used to the TV, watching that stuff, you know?

CP: 11:30 Not too much. When I was younger, I did. I have too much homework.

HA: 11:34 [inaudible 11:34] to do, now.

Interviewer: 11:38 After you were older, after you were married, who picked the shows then?

HA: 11:43 We had... I went to the [inaudible 11:47] store and bought a radio there, I used that [inaudible 11:56] they had what they call an built-in antenna, before we used to have a large one [inaudible 12:06] that's where we hooked up the antenna. They wired it for out for a built-in antenna. They had two plugs there, one is for the antenna, and the other is for electricity. I know a person who plugged their radio into the electricity, and that was the end of our radio. [inaudible 12:35] we had to wait until we could afford to buy another one.

CP: 12:44 So, after you said the first radio you got blew up, but after you got a radio after that, was that a couple years later then?

HA: 12:54 Oh, it was a few years later, then we bought a regular radio like a TV, where it had the antenna like they do now, where it had the little ears on top.

Interviewer: 13:09 What time did electricity come on the farm?

HA: 13:11 We got ours in... I mean, they had it in different places, but on the farm here, you had to wait for, they call it the REA, to get around to get the lines [inaudible 13:34].

Interviewer: 13:37 What does REA mean?

HA: 13:38 Rural Americans. What does REA stand for?

Female Speaker: 13:47 Rural Electrification Administration. [inaudible 13:50]

CP: 14:01 What time of the day was the radio on? You said you listened in the evening when you were younger.

HA: 14:06 You really had to wait until the evening [inaudible 14:09] for the good programs to start up.

CP: 14:16 What about in the '40s when you had your radio that was working?

HA: 14:20 Well, you mean what would we listen to?

CP: 14:22 Yeah, when?

HA: 14:24 Well, in the early days, I didn't have too much time... working, I did the farming. In the evening, we'd turn it on for [inaudible 14:31]

CP: 14:40 What did you do when you were listening?

HA: 14:43 To the radio?

Interviewer: 14:46 Yeah.

HA: 14:47 Well, there wasn't much. Sometimes we used to go to our neighbors and play cards. [inaudible 15:00]

Interviewer: 15:02 You'd play cards and listen to the radio at the same time?

HA: 15:07 In older days, we'd usually get together for dances. Someone would put on a pep band on the nights that we put that on. I remember that when I was [inaudible 15:19] or maybe 11 years old. All the kids who were the same age as you would get together and try and dance [inaudible 15:28]. They tried to kick us out of the house. [inaudible 15:34]

CP: 15:53 Did you ever talk to your friends about the programs that you listened to?

HA: 15:59 Now or then?

CP: 16:01 Did you discuss them?

HA: 16:02 No, not too much. [inaudible 16:04] we'd get together, we'd just play outside all day. Playing different games. [inaudible 16:15]

CP: 16:18 Did you tune in at specific times to hear a certain, favorite show?

HA: 16:22 Oh, yeah. Yeah, [inaudible 16:24]

CP: 16:28 Was there a certain show that you were turning on to hear, or did you maybe just listen to whatever was on?

HA: 16:32 Well, we just liked [inaudible 16:34]. This is my daughter, Joann.

CP: 16:57 Why did you listen to the programs that you did listen to?

HA: 17:01 Why did we?

CP: 17:02 Yeah.

HA: 17:03 Entertainment. We had [inaudible 17:11] Do you know of any? Any programs we listened to?

Female Speaker: 17:25 [inaudible 17:25]

HA: 17:33 [inaudible 17:33] of course in my mind, now, [inaudible 17:40]

CP: 17:45 Do you remember listening to the radio, in the area of news, about the political events, specific political events, like the Fireside Chats? Do you remember anything about those? Okay. But you said you used the radio to listen to news?

HA: 18:05 Yeah. [inaudible 18:09] My parents would do that. They'd turn it on. They had a few programs.

Interviewer: 18:23 [inaudible 18:23]

HA: 18:29 [inaudible 18:29] We only had so much. There was work done and [inaudible 18:39] and that's how it was. Unless the neighbors came over, then we'd stay up a little later.

CP: 18:49 Did you ever get any useful information off the radio that you could use on your farm?

HA: 18:53 Well, there wasn't too much then. They used to have some programs [inaudible 19:03] but it isn't like the news nowadays, [inaudible 19:15]

CP: 19:31 Do you remember anything about the commercials?

HA: 19:34 No. No, I don't think there were too many commercials back then. [inaudible 19:43]

CP: 19:50 Can you remember any instances where, when you listened to the radio, that it gave you a very strong emotional response, like when you listened, maybe, to the war news, or something like that?

HA: 20:06 I can recall some things from the war... Pearl Harbor. That was widely broadcasted. [inaudible 20:22] But then, [inaudible 20:26] 1941 in the Second World War. [inaudible 20:29] involved in it [inaudible 20:44]

CP: 20:48 How did you and your family react?

HA: 20:51 Well, at about that time, I was about 18, 19, I didn't think too much of it.

CP: 21:00 Were you drafted then?

HA: 21:01 No, I was on the list of given to the colonel, but the week I was supposed to go over, they said they weren't taking on farm boys, [inaudible 21:22]

Female Speaker: 21:30 Did you get the announcement that they weren't taking on farm boys?

HA: 21:36 No, I don't know if they announced it. I suppose they probably did. Because I got a note through the mail that I was deferred because I was a farm boy. [inaudible 21:58] I was farming at my own at the time, [inaudible 22:05].

CP: 22:23 What about any of your brothers? Or you were the oldest.

HA: 22:27 [inaudible 22:27]

Interviewer: 22:46 While the war was on, did you get a lot of your news about the war over the radio?

HA: 22:52 Oh, yeah, all the time. Then, our family, we were using radios better than [inaudible 22:58] We listened to the radios rather than going into town. [inaudible 23:01] involved in the war in Japan I think.

CP: 23:25 Do you remember when you first got television?

HA: 23:30 [inaudible 23:30] get their TV [inaudible 23:45], "Dad, you're going to buy a TV? The neighbors just got one, you can see the antenna outside."

CP: 23:58 You were talking about your boys, your children?

HA: 24:00 No, that was a neighbor. We worked together on the farm. [inaudible 24:09] now you're going to go buy a TV. [inaudible 24:27] When we first got a TV, [inaudible 24:35]

Interviewer: 24:40 Did you listen to the radio over the television?

HA: 24:44 Oh, yeah. We only had one station we could get in at that time. While there were more stations, we couldn't drag it

in. [inaudible 24:56] They'd say we lived in the Stone Ages, they'd call us Stone Age people.

- CP: 25:42 Is there anything else that you'd tell us that you remember about when you listened as a family to the radio? You said you listened at night after you got your chores done.
- HA: 25:57 Yeah, [inaudible 25:57] came over the radio. We had [inaudible 26:04] radio, too.
- Interviewer: 26:14 [inaudible 26:14]
- HA: 26:18 Well, yeah. There were mostly about the same thing as you have. In the summertime we didn't listen to the radio, we were outdoors, [inaudible 26:33] I don't remember what—
- CP: 26:49 What about during the winter? You said during the summer...
- HA: 26:52 Well, winter, we used to sled in the wintertime, [inaudible 26:56] big hills and we would sled, take turns, there were more kids trying to walk up the hill then those trying to ride down.
- CP: 27:13 Did you listen to the radio more in the winter, did you say?
- HA: 27:16 Well, I would say so, yes. Right now, [inaudible 27:22]
- CP: 27:36 Do you remember what time of the day *Amos 'n' Andy* was on?
- HA: 27:39 Well, I'd say 6:00, 7:00, 8:00, somewhere in there.
- CP: 27:47 Oh, so it was in the evening.
- HA: 27:47 Yeah, it was evening [inaudible 27:48]. News would be on [inaudible 27:52].
- CP: 27:57 Do you remember anything specifically about *Amos 'n' Andy*? Was there one show that you remember?
- HA: 28:01 Well, they were kind of comical shows. There's different acts going on, there was always kind of a [inaudible 28:15] act it out. [inaudible 28:28]
- CP: 28:46 We have read some books like that. We were just wondering what were ones showing in the area.
- HA: 28:50 Oh, you've got some books?

CP: 29:06 I'm trying to think of some questions, here. Is there anything else that you'd like to add?

HA: 29:11 Well, [inaudible 29:13] once a week, [inaudible 29:23].

CP: 29:26 When did you get your first car?

HA: 29:28 It was '30, I think, in there. [inaudible 29:45] didn't have much for gas [inaudible 29:50] money went a lot farther than it does now. [inaudible 30:15] to a show, or [inaudible 30:27]. Is there anything else you want to know?

Interviewer: 30:37 [inaudible 30:37]

HA: 30:40 I probably will think of a lot of things when you leave, all kinds of things. [laughter]

CP: 30:50 Do you remember the War of the Worlds? Did you hear that broadcast? It was called the War of the Worlds.

HA: 30:55 No. You mean this was on TV now?

CP: 30:58 No, it was on the radio. It was broadcast.

HA: 31:01 No, I didn't. Maybe it was on, but maybe [inaudible 31:06]

CP: 31:12 Did you ever get stations from a real long distance away?

HA: 31:18 Well, I think Fargo or some of the bigger towns, they had [inaudible 31:26] never had any [inaudible 31:30].

CP: 31:42 I think that's all the questions that I have.

Interviewer: 31:47 [inaudible 31:47]

HA: 31:48 I don't know if I helped too much.

Interviewer: 31:50 No, there's a lot of good stuff.