

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Niles, Ohio

Personal Experience

O H 1584

LOUIS KROK

Interviewed

by

Marcelle Wilson

on

November 1, 1994

Louis Alexander Krok was born on December 29, 1919 to Joseph and Theresa Krok. He was one of six boys and grew up in the Niles area.

Mr. Krok attended St. Stephen's School and Niles McKinley High School through the eleventh grade. After eleventh grade, Mr. Krok quit school in order to work. He has held numerous jobs in his life. He worked for C & M Welding, the Niles Fire Brick and Republic Steel. He married his wife Betty on October 11, 1941. They have two daughters and a son. Mr. Krok attends St. Stephen's Church, belongs to the AARP and enjoys collecting and repairing clocks.

W: This is an interview with Louis Krok for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Niles Project, by Marcelle Wilson, on November 1, 1994, at 1517 Sunny Estates Drive, at 6:00.

What was your childhood like as you were growing up in Niles?

K I guess we were poor, but I never knew it We had a place to sleep and eat Otherwise, we had a lot of fun. You had to make your own toys. You get a broom stick handle and you whittle it down and hit the end of it and hit it with a stick Cat-o-nine-tales, they called it. We played kick the can and a few others I cannot say on there Other than that we played marbles No one wanted to play marbles with me because I would always hit them out

W: I hear you were the champion.

K Yes, at one time That is a funny thing, I was champ for one year, then the next year I could not hit a marble

W: That is the way it goes sometimes.

K. It was not like today, your mother or father takes you and picks you up from school. My mother and father never owned a car If I wanted to go some place my dad would say, "Well, you know how to get there "

W· You had to walk

K· [The] town was close, you could walk there in ten minutes from where my mother lives. I used to live across the street until I came up Sunny Estates Drive in Niles, Ohio.

W. What street was that on in Niles?

K. Emma

W· Emma Street?

K. Yes, 240. It is just like any other neighborhood. There are grapes at our house and there are the neighbor's grapes. You went over at night and took a few. You know what I mean [laughter]. It always tasted better. Other than that, I was like any other kid, knock a light out once in a while. You never really did much damage. Not like today. Kids are bad. Other than that, when we were younger all brothers had to help Dad on Saturday when he was off If someone wanted us to pave a walkway going to the house or making steps up some place. It was concrete and we had to mix it by hand, all the boys except Eddie. He was not even around at that time

W How many brothers did you have?

K. There were six boys in the whole family There are only four of us left. My brother John, he died My brother Dave died here about four years ago. I lived in Niles all my life, but lived in Warren for about a year and a half I bought a home up there. I called it a home It was about the size of a double garage or less Hey, it was a home. My brother Joe had a 1929 Chevy It had mechanical brakes Every Saturday my brothers Dave and Joe would go to Cleveland and spend the night there and whoop it up Cleveland is a big town It still is It was not like most kids could do things. A lot of things I could not do because I had Polio when I was a kid I did the best I could on that My brother Dave was a scout master He was an Eagle Scout I was a Tender Foot at twelve years old I was supposed to walk from my place, Emma Street, to Waddell Park, which was supposed to be a mile I would go maybe a block or two and could not walk anymore. They would sort of tease me a little bit [laughter] That is how I got through going to boy scouts What else do you want to know?

W: What was your neighborhood like when you were growing up?

K It was great

W. Were there all Hungarians around you?

K. No, all different nationalities Russia Field Did you ever hear of Russia Field?

W I have heard it mentioned

K: You had Hungarians, Italians, Slovaks, Pollacks, all different nationalities They all more or less went to that one spot. They called it Russia Field. On our street, my mother built a house Then, one of her friends built a house, and another one built a house. There were quite a few Hungarians on our street among a few other streets down the road. We had a lot of fun. We did not have any money We did not know we were poor.

Like I say, we made up our own games We played a game. I do not know what they call it. Hide and go seek, or go find me, or something. You would have two or three boys or girls, whatever you want to play with You would start out and draw an arrow which way you were going on the sidewalk or telephone pole Sometimes you caught them and sometimes you did not. That was one of the games we used to play

For another game we used to play, we would take two cans of water and have a string tied onto each can. We would put it across the sidewalk. When anyone comes along they would kick it and get wet [laughter]. I did that to my mother and I did not know she was coming I tripped her She found out who did it and it was me.

W. Did you get along with your neighbors?

- K Yes, we had to We were all poor We did not lock our doors We did not have any furniture, or rugs on the floor until later on My older brothers, they took the floor in the living room up to dance I was the guy that played the Victrola. I had played it while they were dancing. Not every Saturday night, quite a few times in the week, maybe Wednesday and Saturday. Other than that, that was a big entertainment, the Victrola.
- W How did you get it to keep going the same speed?
- K. You had a governor on it At that time you only had one speed You just put it on and you had to wind it, put a record on, pull a lever, put the head down on the Victrola On the record the needle hit it I always wanted to play my records They would always say, "Do not play that record We cannot stand to dance with that record " I would sneak it in every now and then
- W What kind of records did you listen to?
- K: I cannot remember the names. One was Red, Red Robin That was one of them. I cannot remember the other ones.
- W: What kind of records did they like to listen to?
- K: It was dance
- W: Hungarian?
- K. No, not Hungarian
- W. Dancing music?
- K: Yes, just the regular records. There were a lot of American people. English if you want to call it They could not dance to the Hungarian cha-cha I suppose they could. Later on it was the big thing to have a radio. It was a little radio about that big. It was something else We listened to Guy Lombardo, Rudy Valley, Lawrence Welk and a few of the others. Then you had the Shadow Knows. Maggey and Molly, George Burnes and a few of them Whoever bought the radio had the first chance to listen what station they wanted. The only time I got to listen to it was on Saturday night because everybody would leave. I got to put on what I wanted to hear [laughter]. I used to like Hawaiian music coming from Hawaii You could hear the ocean or whatever. We had a lot of fun
- W: I know your brothers and your parents lived with you. Did anyone else live with you in your house on Emma Street

- K For a while my uncle lived with them Other than that, there was nobody else.
- W Did your mom ever take in boarders?
- K Yes, sometimes she had maybe two or three boarders I do not know how we did it. I guess we had to sleep on the floor I cannot remember We only had three bedrooms. I know when I set the table there were quite a few mouths to feed. I know that. The fellows that stayed at our house worked at Falcon Steel up here up by Waddell Park. They worked there They walked to work We needed the money They would play cards with my dad When we were smaller, we played a lot of card games. I cannot remember half the games we played, but I learned to play a lot of card games from my older brothers
- W Joe is the oldest, right?
- K: Yes
- W Then you?
- K No, Dave-he is dead, then Gay, Johnny, but he is dead, and me, then Eddie Six of us I guess my mother had a girl at one time and a couple more boys that died along the way some place
- W: You are the youngest?
- K. Yes, I was the baby I got babied. The last one in the family was my kid brother. Twelve years later Eddie was born. I was twelve years old when he was born.
- W What did the house you grew up in on Emma Street look like?
- K. It was a three story house. It had a first floor, then the second floor was the bedrooms, and then the attic It was just an ordinary house My dad used to have bricks in the back of the house We had 2X4's with grape vines growing all over it to make shade. My dad always had a garden No one was allowed to do anything in the garden but him. He was the boss. My mother wanted to boss She was the boss when no one else was around [laughter]
- W. How did the first members of your family come to Niles?
- K. How did they come?
- W Yes, weren't they from Austria, Hungary?

K: No, my mother was born in Budapest, around that territory as far as I can remember. My brother Gay has been over there a couple times. I wanted to go, but the last time Gay was there, the soldiers were coming in and chased them off the plane and took their seats. You had to wait around and get another plane or something. I said, "I do not want that." So I would go to Hawaii or some place, Puerto Rico, Scotland, or Wales. Some other place. Lately I have just been going to Florida every year. We had a lot of fun on that street though. Nobody had any money, but you could not steal anything because you did not have anything. If you wanted to take the can, go ahead.

W: Where did you go to school?

K: I went to St. Stephen's, then I went to McKinley High.

W: What were some of the fun things you did when you were in school?

K: Monkey around. I did not learn anything. I was too smart.

W: You knew it all, huh?

K: Yes, tenth grade. Then I went in eleventh and said, "This is not for me." They were not teaching me anything. I said, "I am going to go out and get a job." You wanted to go get a job like I say. Welder or some place. You had to walk from one place to another. Who wants a sixteen year old kid that does not know anything. That was my schooling.

W: What was your first job?

K: First job, you mean real job?

W: Yes.

K: Brick yard.

W: What did you do?

K: I did things like, work on the farm, help pick apples and potatoes. I worked for a dollar a day, ten hours a day and they wanted fifty hours of work done. The brick yard was the first. When nobody was around, I worked the afternoon turn. I would go and put the welding machine on and try to weld. Do you know what welding is? You put a rod in the thing and you strike it. You are supposed to move it. I would get it down there and I could not get it off [laughter]. I learned how to weld a little bit, but not too much there. After I got married, I lived on Emma Street. My brother Dave used to own a house a couple doors up. So I rented off him. There were four apartments. One neighbor in the same house said, "Hey, why don't you come up to the shop and weld." I said, "I do not

know how to weld " He said, "Well, do not tell the boss that. I will tell him that you are a tack welder " All the tack welder does is, if you put two pieces together you put a little weld on it to keep it together The welder would do the rest We were making a blast furnace for the Rio De Janeiro We would make elbows about ten or twelve feet big. About the size of half of this room A lot of places there would be gaps like this, but I do not know how to weld so the guy that is the fitter said, "Don't you tell the boss that you do not know how to weld You are a tack welder." I said, "Okay " He set the machine up for me and showed me how to do it I could not weld very good on that.

The first day I worked was twelve hours. Five times twelve hours, I started to weld a little bit Then, I just went from there to a car shop Then I went from one place to another to work, Allied Metal and different places In Warren, I worked there. We were making stuff for the war I did not work on the landing mats. You have seen the landing mat, it is like a little buckman The doors fall down and they take the tank off. The women did most of that welding We were making the bigger stuff, the heavy stuff.

W Where was that at?

K. I am trying to think My wife could tell you right away. I have a book on it.

W: Was that during World War II?

K: Yes. I think I started working there in 1943 When the war ended they took the whole place down. That was all government staff We did a lot of things there, but I worked on mostly turbines, big heavy stuff We would have to make a weld that was six inches deep They do one side then you flop it over on the other side and get the other side. It was nothing to burn 110 pounds of welding wire. That is a lot of wire to burn.

After that, I went and worked at Republic Steel I wanted to get a job as a welder. They said, "We need a crane man " I said, "Well, I do not know how to run a crane." They said, "That is the only job we have left open " I said, "Okay, I will take it." I took that job and I stayed with it I quit and worked for Clydecole for a while.

Then I went to C & M Welding That was in Girard on Churchill Road. From there I did not weld anymore I went to Republic Steel from there and retired form there. I quit in 1950 and went back eight years later on the crane. That is about it, I guess, unless you want something else.

W: Yes, I have a lot of questions. What did you do when you worked for the Niles Fire Brick Company?

K: At first, I shoveled what was called Slack. It looks like a dust and little pieces of coal. That is the stuff you put in the holes around the kiln. You had eight holes around it. The fireman, when he first started out, would let the fire die down because he had to take the Clinkers off and take the ashes out Then he would throw coal in there and keep packing it in there Then they block it with more coal Then, after he did all eight of them, I had



to go around and get the ashes out of the pit and take it over in the ash pile with the wheel barrel. When we were not doing that, they put us on emptying the railroad gondolas, open cars with coal. They made a continuous kiln for bricks. It is like an oven. It continued on. It went in dry here and it came out done. Then they bought a three wheel, like a dump. I had to take that and fill it up and take it around the eight holes.

W. Fill it up with ash or coal?

K. Coal. Then I had to go take that big truck and load it up, dump it where I could get in with the little jeep. If I could not reach it, I had to take the wheel barrel and fill that up and bring it to the eight holes. They kept you going.

W. It sounds like hard work.

K. I had a lot of blisters at first. Then they went to calices.

W: What years did you work there?

K. I think I started either around 1938 or 1939.

W. How long did you work there, until 1943?

K: No, I worked there a couple years because I just got married on October 11, 1941. I moved in an apartment Christmas Day. I must have started in January, just down the street, at a place called Niles Standard Bailer and Plate.

W: How long did you work there? From 1938 until when?

K. About two and a half or three years.

W. How much did you make when you worked there?

K: When I first started out, I was making 33 cents an hour. Then I got on this dump thing so I was making about 59 cents an hour. Good deal [laughter].

W. Sounds like it. It really increased your wage. How many of your family members completed high school?

K. Not very many. My brother did. I do not think Joe did. Dave, Gay and Johnny, and Eddie did.

W: Is that four?

K: I went into tenth and went into eleventh and said that is enough

W: Where did your family go to church?

K: My family here?

W: No, your family grown up

K: St Stephen's in Niles

W: Who were some of your ministers?

K: All I can remember is Father Gallagher and Father Roach. That is about the only two I remember

W: How long did your family attend that church?

K: Ever since they moved into Niles I do not know exactly when they moved into Niles. It must have been, maybe 1918, or somewhere around there

W: When your parents came over here from Hungary, were they married?

K: Yes, Joe was born over there and he was just a little baby when he came over on the ship.

W: Did they know there was work over here in Niles?

K: Yes, my dad's brother got him a job over here as far as I know. I do not know what he did Then, later on he did work at Falcon Steel Now it is a different company

W: Didn't he work for the Fire Brick?

K: Yes, he worked there.

W: What did he do for the Fire Brick?

K: When I first got there, I used to take his lunch to work. They had this big bucket about as big as this table. They had a little crane come along on the track and put the empty down by the pile of slack and fill another Then they would take it up and fill this other bucket, back and forth So that was my dad's job He had to clean up the ashes like I did and wheel the slack around He put them all in a pan What they did, a pan was like a big pan and it has two big wheels The pan and the wheel would go around and make it just like powder It had to be real fine clay. They used that for fire brick. We used to send it out to make the brick, too. Then they had the other pan called the Silicon pan where you

put the Silicon brick

W: What did they use the fire brick for?

K They used it for fire places, anything in the steel mill where they had the big ladles They would line the brick up which keeps it from melting the steel away They use it all of the time in just about anything for heat, like a furnace or a fire place or anything like that.

W: Did the Niles Fire Brick Company employ a lot of people?

K Quite a few I would say maybe 90 people I do not know about the office people or the other bosses and so forth About 90 I would say. At that time, when I first got to work there, you had to come out at 6 00 in the morning. The boss would say, "You, you, you, and you go to work The rest of you guys come back at 2 00." He would go, "The rest of you come out at midnight " They had the guys that worked for the company, they had the company houses, and they had the company store You had to give them preferences and make those guys would work for sure Then me and a few other guys would have to take the leftovers

W: What were some of the company houses like? Did you ever see them?

K I have been in a few of them. Nothing fancy, just like a barn You have got a living room and a kitchen Maybe you had to pump water, I do not know.

W: What color were they?

K Mostly a light gray

W: What jobs did you and your brothers have when they were growing up?

K Eddie worked at Mullen's Manufacturing and made kitchen cupboards and stuff like that Then later on, he worked for A & P, as a stock boy He did something else and he went to the service and came back and became a printer. Johnny, he started out being an usher in a theater in his spare time in the evenings He did a lot of sign painting. He is a freehand guy He is great with his hands After that, he left here and went to Buffalo and managed a woman's store, all dresses He stayed with that a long time. He was a draftsman, too. He was good at that, making blue prints and stuff. He designed for a milk factory where they purified the milk

W: Pasteurized?

K Yes. After that, he went to different jobs, but I cannot remember what he did. Gay, he was an usher Then he worked for Republic Steel pushing a broom. That was one of the

dirty jobs. Then he went into printing. He worked for the company that printed things for companies, time cards or whatever. After that he went to the service. He came back and worked for somebody up in Warren. He said, "I cannot make any money with these guys." Then he went into business for himself.

Dave retired, I do not know what he did. When he was about eighteen, he went to New Jersey to live with Aunt Elizabeth. She had a big poultry farm and he worked there. Then he worked at a motel. I do not know what he did there. He came back, went to the service and I think he was working at Youngstown Steel Car. After the service he went back there and that is where he retired from. He got the job being the superintendent of the parks in Niles.

Joe, he must have been about fifteen years old. He worked at Falcon Steel. My dad got him a job there and he got hurt. Then he went to Republic Steel and that is where he retired at. That is about it on that.

W: What kind of refrigeration did your family use when you were young?

K: We did not have to because there was nothing left. We did not have a refrigerator.

W: How about an ice box?

K: We did not have an ice box either. My brother [Gay] when he worked at Republic, got a refrigerator. I remember that. First we got a Maytag washing machine.

W: What was a typical family meal like for you when you were growing up?

K: Mostly soup, wasn't it honey [his wife]. That is about it. The meat swam through it real quick, or chicken. Other than that, it was a lot of soup. On Saturday, all we had for supper was baked potatoes. She would throw a bushel in there and let it go. That was the main thing, but we had a lot of soup.

W: Did you have a lot of vegetables out of your garden?

K: Oh yes. My dad always had good stuff.

W: Did you eat a lot of Hungarian meals?

K: Yes, that was all we ate. Somebody said, "Well, we had strawberry shortcake, or upside down cake." What were they talking about? You did not take the cake upside down and eat it.

My brother Johnny had the woman's store up in Buffalo. He worked for Abraham. He invited all of us to go up and eat dinner with his boss. So we went up there. My dad was sitting like this. Twelve o'clock we eat, not five after or five minutes until, twelve o'clock. We went up and we were all hungry. "What is going on here?"

Pretty soon, here it comes. It was a big kettle. All of us look at each other, "What is that?" Spaghetti. We never had spaghetti. We never saw spaghetti. We did not know how to eat it. So we ate it. From that time on my mother made spaghetti. My family went for it.

W: You really liked it.

K: I did not particularly like it that well. We had some yesterday. It is all right. We had a lot of Hungarian stuff, though. Cochina, you know what Cochina is? It is pigs feet. It looked like Jell-O. That is what I used to think. We would go down to the cool cellar and kept the things down there. My dad always killed the pig himself. The only thing we did not use was the squeal. We used everything on the pig. We did not throw anything away. We called it Cochina. "Boy that Jell-O looks pretty good." Get the spoon, pooh, no more of that stuff. Everybody else liked it. People came over to the house. Not me, I did not like it. I will tell you, if you did not eat what was on the table, there were no seconds, you starved. You did not get anything to eat. That is the way we were brought up. You eat now, not later.

W: Was everybody present when you ate a meal?

K: Most of the time. You made sure it was 4:30. If you did not, you are just left out. What I used to do, my mother baked bread then, I would take a big chunk like that and throw it in the sugar can. That was my meal.

W: Did anyone in your family belong to a local social club like the Elks or the Eagles, or a Hungarian club?

K: I think my dad did, but I cannot tell you what it was. They had a Hungarian club of some kind.

W: You did not belong to anything like that?

K: No, I was too busy trying to make money.

W: What did your family do to celebrate a birthday? Do you remember any special birthday's as you were growing up?

K: My birthday is December 29, so I got kind of cheated [laughter]. My brothers always made sure that they buy toys and stuff like that for me. I remember my first scooter I had. I left it behind Joe's 1929 Chevy. He did not know it was there, backed over it and that was the end of my brand new scooter. I did not get to use it very much.

W: Did your family do anything special for holidays like Christmas?

K: Yes, we put up a tree and we had candles. You had a clip and a candle holder was in there. We made our own popcorn and apples.

W: Did you like the candles on your tree?

K: Oh yes.

W: It never caught the tree on fire?

K: No, we were lucky.

W: What kind of gifts did you get for Christmas? Was it mainly clothes or toys?

K: Once in a while we got some clothes, but I did not want clothes. I wanted toys. I did not get very many toys, but we did get some wind up toys, tractors that climb up or roll, or whatever it did. For Christmas one year, Eddie got his first train. Joe bought him his first train so I took a can and I made what was supposed to be a water tower. I painted it and everything. Then I made a manger. I had that for a long time. I think we finally threw that away this last year. I should have kept it. That is about it.

W: What kind of transportation did you use besides walking? Did you ever take the bus, train, or the trolley?

K: When my mother used to take me to Youngstown, she used to carry me on my back. We had a trolley car that went from Niles to Youngstown. I think it went up into Mineral Ridge. It went up a ways. We did not have a car. All we had was the trolley car. That was it.

W: Do you remember how much it cost to ride on the trolley?

K: No.

W: What happened when a family member or a relative died?

K: No one died in our family. The Hungarian's always had the casket put in the living room and had it there. They put some candles around it and some flowers.

W: No funeral homes?

K: No.

W: Did they have them back then?

- K Yes, they had them back then, but you could not afford it You are lucky to eat We never had any deaths in our house until Johnny died My dad died first, then Johnny, then Dave, then my mother
- W What did things cost as you were growing up?
- K Well, I could get gasoline some places for eight, nine, or ten cents a gallon I used to get some free ones sometimes. I would get a hose and stick it in somebody's tank [laughter]
- W: You siphoned gasoline.
- K I just did not have any money I would call Betty and say, "Give me a dime so I could get a gallon of gas " How far could you go with a buck
- W: That is true How about a cup of coffee? How much did that cost?
- K: I could not tell you My mother used to use Chickoree She would buy the beans and we ground our own I could not tell you I suppose maybe ten cents a pound
- W How about bread Do you remember what bread costs?
- K. We used to buy it for five cents a loaf, unsliced. They did not slice it, then later on they did You could buy bread maybe a penny cheaper if you went to the bakery if they had some leftover bread from the previous day Skim milk, you go down to the dairy there and they would take the skim milk and throw it down the drain. My mother would say, "Take this gallon and go down there and give them a nickel to fill that up " They would fill that up for a nickel So I knew the guy pretty good after going down there for so long I would say, "I lost the nickel," and I had it in my pocket. He would give me a free one That was the only way I would get a nickel once in a while. That was like a dollar.
- W: How much did candy cost back then?
- K: For a penny, you could get five, maybe six pieces It costs maybe about five or ten cents a piece, maybe a little more
- W: What were the 1930's like for your family? Do you remember?
- K: That was the start of the depression My dad worked on WPA We did odd jobs, then we went out to Green, Ohio and they called them Muck Farms. They had good dirt and they raised carrots and bean, all that stuff We had, I think, three and a half acres of onions, that was all we had Crop sharing, we did the work and at the end of the season, they would get ten bags and you would get two bags. I will tell you, we ate a lot of onions

[laughter] I think we sold a 20 pound bag for a quarter or something like that. That was a lot of money back then. We had to weed that. No sooner we started here you had to go back and start weeding again

Then, every now and then the farmer next door would have maybe five or six acres of onions. We would go over there and pay my dad for all of us. Maybe a buck all day for five of us. We did not make very much money. My dad made enough money to pay the interest on the house so we did not lose it. We would come back to the house every weekend and check the house over. The fellow that stayed there had a little farm and a house there. The house that we were in, used to be filled it up with oats, clear up to the windows on the second floor. That thing would just shoot it in there. We cleaned it all up and we stayed in there

W: How long did you stay there?

K: I think two seasons, one year and then the next year.

W: Did you have indoor plumbing there?

K: No, we pumped water outside, no hot water. Wash your face in the cold. We would come back to the house in Niles on Emma Street, we would light up the tank and get enough hot water to wash your feet. That was about it. We could not afford to run it. One guy took a bath, the other guy jumped in, then the other guy jumped in. We used the same water. What are you going to do?

W: Did you have indoor plumbing on Emma Street?

K: Yes.

W: Did your family participate in any local politics or unions?

K: I belonged to a union, yes. I do not know whether Eddie belonged or my brothers. I could not tell you. I think my brother Dave belonged to a union down at Youngstown Steel Car.

W: What happened when you or your brothers would get sick when you were young? Did you go to the doctor?

K: He would come to the house. I had my tonsils taken out on the dining room table on Emma Street.

W: Do you remember it?

K: Oh, yes. I remember when the doctor came over. His name was Doctor Buck. "Come on



son, get up on the table Lay up there and let us take a look and see if you can jump up here." This was fun for me I did not know I was going to have my tonsils out. I laid down. I remember them putting the mask on and that was it. They told me if I laid down and I woke up that I would get some ice cream I said, "Oh, sure, I will lay down " That was how I got my tonsils out My brother Johnny, they took his appendics out. They brought him home and it busted open, so Doctor Buck came over and sewed it right at the house. My brother had diphtheria and another one caught it. I had to go next door, my second mother I say, Mrs Tompkins I stayed there for a whole month I was not supposed to go in the house or anything My mother would make toddy and stick it out the door so I could drink it. Every once in a while I would sneak in I was not supposed to go in, but I did anyway

W: Did your parents use a lot of home remedies?

K: Yes, there was a lot of this, that, and the other Goose lard was good for colds or coughs. Mother boiled beet juice, which was good for coughs When I was twelve, I had this spell when I could not walk Somebody came up with the idea. They had a galvanized can about that big around They put boiling hot water in it They made a little platform. Cow manure thrown in there and covered my legs up I had the steam and everything It was for that.

W: Is that when you had polio?

K: Yes.

W: Is that the only treatment you got?

K Well, I had another treatment where you had a glass tube coming up with a little knob on it. You could see the electric going through there We had an iron bed that I slept on. I grabbed the iron bed and it shocked me. I never did that again I do not know what Youngstown did. I think they used that light on me

W: That helped?

K: I guess One leg is shorter, not as strong It is like a peg leg more or less. I cannot stand on the one leg I will just fall over If I stood on it, I would go I did the best I could.

W: Did a lot of people get polio back then?

K: No They did not call it polio They called it Infantile Paralysis. Then it went to Polio later on.

End of Interview