

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Dorset United Methodist Church

Personal Experience /

O.H. 971

NELLIE D. DEAN

Interviewed

by

Patricia Beckwith

on

November 25, 1977

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Dorset United Methodist Church

INTERVIEWEE: NELLIE D. DEAN  
INTERVIEWER: Patricia Beckwith  
SUBJECT: youth, parental teachings, work, problems,  
past ministers of the church  
DATE: November 25, 1977

B: This is an interview with Mrs. Nellie Dean for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Dorset United Methodist Church, by Patricia Beckwith, at 2803 Rt. 193 Dorset, Ohio, on November 25, 1977, at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Okay, the first thing that I would like to know about was your childhood. Could you tell me where you were born and some of your earliest memories?

D: I was born in Queens, West Virginia, on January 12, 1907. We were raised on farms, and me and my brother did all the chores. We milked the cows by hand, and we fed the hogs, the cows, the chickens, the turkeys, the ducks, and everything. We went to school in a one-room school. We had a barnside stove. We had a 10 gallon water fountain that had a spigot on the side. You could turn the spigot. You had a little folding drinking cup that you carried with you at all times. And we played out in the snow. When you didn't abide with what the teacher told you, she sent out and got a chestnut switch, and that is what you got. But I was one of the lucky ones, I never got no switches. I knew how to behave, but my bother sure got in trouble. And so did my sister. But I always kept away from trouble.

- B: You had some good example that showed you what not to do, right?
- D: That's right. When our parents told us not to do or to do something, you better do it, because if you didn't, you were going to suffer the consequences. There were no explanations, only that you didn't do what you were told. That was it.
- B: What did your father do?
- D: My father worked in the lumber woods for Warren Temple. He rode the log trains. We stayed in the camp all week and we rode the log train home on Saturday nights for the weekend. There were eight of us children, and I was the oldest. So I tried to set an example for my children. And we were taught to be good to everybody, respect the elderly, and respect people regardless of color, sex, creed, or race. We were taught not to mistreat or misuse nobody.
- B: So as the oldest one, you had a lot of the responsibilities?
- D: Yes. There were four girls and four boys, and I was the oldest. I was the chief cook and bottle washer.
- B: For a long time? (laughter)
- D: For a long time.
- B: How did you come to Dorset?
- D: Well, my husband, we was married on May 21, 1927.
- B: Where was he from?
- D: He was from West Virginia, but he was closer to Buckhannon than I was.
- B: How did you meet your husband?
- D: We used to have box socials. The girls would take a box at the school house. We didn't have it at the church. We would have them at the school. The girls would take a box, and the boys would bid on the box. And whosoever box you got, that was who your date was. So that was the way that we got together. We weren't allowed to go to dances. We weren't allowed to have dances.

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- B: This was a school function, right?

D: Yes, to make money for your school. We didn't have all of this tax money and things to pay for school. You had to stand by your own school to a certain respect, or you didn't have . . . they bought crayons or library books. There were no libraries at that time. Of course, we lived in the mountains of West Virginia. It was about 28 miles to the closest town. And we got to go to town on the week before Christmas and the week before Easter, to shop. So that was our Christmas. And, we went on a road wagon drawn by horses.

B: What's a road wagon?

D: It is a wagon that older people would know about. It has four wheels, and you put two horses to it. There was a tongue in it and they got hitched at their breast, they got collars, and they were hooked to that tongue. That was the way you would go to town. And if it was snowy at Christmas, we got to go on the sled. My father would heat the bricks or rocks and put it in the sled and wrap them in a feed bag to keep our feet warm.

B: So how far did you go in school?

D: I went to the fifth grade.

B: And then, why did you quit?

D: [I quit] because my mother was sick and there were four little ones to take care of. I was the one who did it. And if you went to high school in my time, you had to go 28 miles to Buckhannon, and you had to pay tuition, and you had to pay room and board to go there. You sure couldn't go to Buckhannon High School with horses and wagons every day.

B: So it was something special to get to go to high school in that day?

D: Yes, at that time, there wasn't very many people that went to high school. My mother-in-law was an A-1 teacher. I've got her papers here. Her grade was an A-1 school teacher, and she only completed the eighth grade. At that time, way back then--of course she was older than I and would know quite a bit. She would teach school, and she was an A-1 teacher.

B: You didn't have to go to college or anything like that?

- D: No, we didn't have a college, then. The first college that they built was in Buckhannon. I think they built it in about 1839 or 1840, or something like that. It's a mammoth, big college. It's a beautiful place.
- B: So then, what happened after you met your husband?
- D: We got married, and we were married in Maryland.
- B: Why did you go to Maryland?
- D: Because I ran away from the house. (laughter)
- B: You eloped?
- D: Yes, we did. And when we came back, we lived in my husband's grandfather's house for about a month or six weeks. Then, we got furniture. Our living room furniture was a bed, chairs, a stained table, and a desk. That was what we had to live in.
- B: So then, you lived in West Virginia for a while?
- D: We built our house in 1936 in Daysville, West Virginia, about 10 miles from where I was born and raised. We went west. And we owned that. We never sold it, and haven't yet. Then, I cooked at Mill Creek, West Virginia, about 30 miles from where we lived, at a lumber camp. But we didn't move. We would just go for the week, and then, I would come home on the weekend.

And then in 1942, my husband was a truck driver. He was working for the Wood Preserving Company. The lumber camp was being run by the Wood Preserving Company of Wheeling, West Virginia, down the Ohio River. The cook that they had, they didn't get along with, because she let too much drinking and things go on in camp. And a fellow that I went to school with, Quay Koon, he told my husband--that's who my husband was working with. Of course, we were raised within hollering distance. And when I was little, he was older. When me and my brother were little, he would carry us across the creek to get to the schoolhouse when the water was deep. He would carry us on the foot bridge because he was afraid we would fall in. So he told my husband, "I want your wife to come up here and cook." And my husband said, "We have four children. It is entirely too much. She cannot do it." He called my husband again and he said, "Jim, I want you to bring your wife up here!" He said, "I'm going to pay you, and I'm going to pay you well." He said, "The men can keep up their own bunkhouses." My husband said, "My wife isn't allowed up because they'd make too



much. . . . She won't allow that." He said, "She will do it!" Jim said, "It is entirely too much." He said, "Tomorrow morning at 11 o'clock, I am coming to your house and I want to talk to your wife." So he then came home and told me the story. And I said, "Well, I suggest that we try it." He said, "I'm afraid it's too much." I said, "No, no way."

There was a big man that let him have a store. That's what it was that they let him have for the lumber camp. And the big storeroom--it was as long as this house and wider. He cut up a shed, you know, a building house for supplies. And he told my husband, "I told the company that they could have that and rent that for a bunkhouse for the men." So they made bunk beds out of wood and put [them] up and had some beds. I think there were 16 beds. My husband sat down and explained it to me. And my dad was coming to go to work up there, but he hadn't come yet. So I said, "When dad comes, he will help us and William, too." William was in high school. He was going to high school in Virginia. He would have gone. He was going to high school there, and then he would transfer to Virginia. So I said, "With the boys' help, I'll make it or I'll try it."

So Quay Koon came and talked to me. I said, "Well, my husband is denying me the job." He said, "Jim, how can you do that to her?" He said, "No, I haven't denied it to her. I'm sorry, but I don't believe she can do it." Quay said, "Let her try it. If she can't do it, we'll get somebody to help her. But I have got to have somebody." Old man Dodd was the man who owned the building, and he was an old man. He says, "He is not going to put up with the drinking. It has got to stop." "Okay," I said, "I can't go this week, because I have got too many things here that I have to get straightened up, and I have to pack our clothes and the bed clothes and some of the things that we have got to have."

B: Your whole family was going to move?

D: Yes, we were going to take the four kids. Oh, I wouldn't leave the kids behind. He says, "You can come home every weekend if you want to." I said, "Oh, no, that's too much. I couldn't take dragging the four kids, coming home two or three times a month or whatever." Anyway, he says, "We will all stay there to get out when you want to come in." He was married and had two children, so the next morning, we took off. My husband came home and then we took off. We went way over the Blue Ridge Mountain Range, way down past Charlottesville, Virginia and on past Virginia. We got in on a Saturday morning.

The men were all going home, because most of them were originally from Buckhannon or part of them were. They had some rough characters as you know, because there was a family of Pitts there. They were raised on bottles and cans. That was all that they ever knew were drinks. When they came back Sunday evening, why, Koon says, "Come on in to super. We have a new cook as you know, because Miss Pitt hadn't been watching." [That was] their mother. Some of them didn't even want to talk to me. "How are you? What are you doing way out here?" I said, "Well, the first thing I want to tell you is that I came out here to straighten you guys out." Well, some of them kind of dropped their head. I said, "I'm going to tell you now." Koon says, "Just a minute. There is going to be no drinking." I says, "Now, I came here to cook for you, and I will clean your bunkhouses, and I will respect you, and you better respect the family--I was in the kids' room. And I said, "We will have no drinking. We won't have any argument about it. But the first fellow that goes out on Saturday night or any other night and gets drunk, don't come in to the camp, because if you do, you are going out." Well, John Lamb was there. He was an elderly man about the age of my father. He said, "I have known this girl ever since she was young. She is a straight, upright girl. I do not want anybody mistreating her." Everybody said, "Hurray for that." I told them, "You will have your hot biscuits, your breakfast, your fried potatoes, and you will have your ham as long as you don't drink. When you go drinking, I think then we are going to do something else. Koon said, "We are going to fire you the first time." I said, "You won't have to because I will do it myself." (laughter) Don't you know, I cooked there until that job was done, which was about 19 months, and I never was respected any better in my life. We had no drinking. We had no quarreling. We had no fighting. Out of about any where from 20 to 26 men, you could expect most anything.

B: Yes. (Laughter)

D: But I will tell you that we had a wonderful time, and everybody enjoyed themselves. Men that wanted to get drunk waited until the weekends when they went home. There was a big truck that had seats in it. My husband would take them home. If I didn't go, he would take them. If they went home and wanted to get drunk, that was their business, and nobody said to keep out. I never had a better time in my life, and I made good money there.

At that time, I bought these home cured Virginia hams. You see them in the paper now. They are \$2.69 a pound. We bought them anywhere from 35 cents to 39 cents a pound. They bought all of the groceries, and they gave me \$235 a week.

B: That was very good.

D: For that time, yes. My husband was driving a truck eight hours for \$5 at that time.

B: That was very good.

D: They had to have somebody, and that was their. . . . Of course, the company was paying the Wood Preserving Company in Wheeling, West Virginia. They were making good money off of the timber because it was beautiful timber.

Willie and Bud went to high school there. Herbie was just, oh, I think he was about three and a half years old. Mr. Dodd took a liking to him. That was the owner. He had a big farm with cattle and hogs. He would come to the door, and he would say, "Where's Julian?" He would call him Julian. His name is Herbert Junior. He wanted to take Julian with him. I would say, "He hasn't had his breakfast." "Don't worry about that. He ain't worried about breakfast. They got a restaurant right down here." He would take him out. He would put a bushel of corn out--he had a big hog pen. Oh, it was as far from over here to that Mellinger house, with that outhouse back in the edge of the woods. He had a great big hog pen there. I don't know how many hogs he had. He would take them out and kill them, then he would put in some more. But anyway, he would put this bushel of corn out twice a day in the bushel basket. He would tell Julian to go feed the hogs. He would dump corn over the fence to the hogs, and then, he took Julian with him to get his breakfast. One particular day--Julian didn't obey very good. He took him out to the cattle where they were loading cattle. He told him, "Now, you stay in the pick-up truck while I go out here and help herd these cattle." Julian saw the cows coming, and the gate was open. He got out and shut the gate. He said that Julian didn't mind very good. He says, "You get your curtail right back in that truck!"

Then at tobacco cutting time--they cut tobacco stalks, you know. They had this funny thing. It was only about this wide, and it was pretty near long as that davenport, and it had runners on it. There was a horse hooked to it to pull it. They cut the back. Then when they would get that cut so far round, they would get in

the cart and go driving the horse. So the horse decided to run away. Bud and Willie were in with the tobacco. Old man Dodd went running down through the field saying, "Oh, my Lord, the horse is going to kill the boys." He was so funny. "I have to get to them. I have to get the boys out of there." The kids' dad went down and got the horse stopped. He said, "I don't know if I would put them back in there anymore again." The kids' dad showed him and said, "Your horse has got a sore neck. That's why it ran off. The collar kept pulling on it. But they helped to take out the tobacco."

B: They probably got a good ride.

D: When we went to leave there, that old man owned 70 farms. He told my husband, "If you will stay here and live here where I can be close to these boys, you pick the farm, and I will make the deal. It will never cost you a nickel." But my mother-in-law was getting old, and my husband thought that we better get back home. He [Old man Dodd] cried when Julian and the kids left, and he cried like a baby. But the job was done there, you see. He was closing out everything.

B: So, what brought you to Dorset?

D: Well, my husband was driving a dump truck over the strip mines. It was when things were kind of tough. My mother lived here and my father, and I had cousins here.

Johnny Martin lives in Andover. He is my first cousin. He had been out there for Labor Day, and we weren't home. We had gone up in the mountains to visit some neighbors, and we didn't come back until he came home. He left a note for us that he had a job for my husband at the Racer Tannery. So we came here in December of 1950. We came out here for Thanksgiving, and that was the reason. I can remember the snow that we had! That was in 1950. We came to my sister's in Champion on Thanksgiving Day, and it was a day just exactly like today. It wasn't any colder than today, and it was just a dreary day, like today. We drove all through Wadesroot, West Virginia. That night it started to snow. You can remember probably what a snow we had, because it was waist deep to me any place that I tried to go. So he came up and left from the Tannery. He got interviewed for the job.

B: Was that Tannery at Andover?

D: No, it was in Ashtabula. the Racer Tannery in Ashtabula.

B: Ashtabula.

D: He went up there and got his job. We went back home. We left on a Friday. We traveled all night on Friday night and got home on Saturday, so he could come back on a Sunday to go to work on Monday.

B: You had to go down to get all of your things?

D: I didn't come back right then. I stayed down there for a few days. Then, we got a place to move into. He rented this house down here by--it was Stokey's Store, then it was Taggart's--where they lived. We rented that. My husband rented that and had the electric turned on before he ever got a deed for this. Of course, things were different back then. Then he got this house, and we moved in here. We moved, I think, in 1952.

B: So you have been here for 25 years?

D: We've been here longer than that, because this is. . . . It is about 27 years this coming March.

B: Have you been in this house 25 years?

D: Twenty-six [years], because we came in December of 1950.

B: So your family had gradually migrated up here because of jobs. Is that why your cousins came up here?

D: Well, Bud was still in high school when we came here, but Willie had just graduated the year before. Then Bud went to high school down here for, I don't know if it was one year or two years. Then, he decided that he was going to quit and go to the Racer Tannery, so he quit. Jim was just a year old.

B: When you moved here?

D: When we moved here, he was just a year old. His dad had just got a deer, so he had the deer feet mounted. We brought them here. After June got married, I gave it to him because he was just six weeks old when his dad killed a deer, and I think he is the one who should have the deer feet. So he has got them hanging off of the. . . .

B: Has going to church and everything has always been in your family?

D: That's all we did on Sunday was go to church. When we were kids at home, we weren't allowed to do anything. We could only sit around and play some games. We went

to church and to Sunday school and came home and had dinner. Then, we just had to sit around and be quiet or play in the lawn until it was time to milk and feed the cows and take care of the sheep.

B: It was always very quiet all day?

D: I will tell you. If anybody ever came in there when there were a lot of people, they would probably remember, because they were like that here. West Virginia was full of them. If anybody got sick, there was no welfare. There was nobody or no way to go get anything. We had a poor farm. If everybody in your family died, and they had no place to go, they would take them to this poor farm. But everybody helped. People hooked up the horses to the wagon; they would fill up with potatoes and feed, grain, corn, and buckwheat. Buckwheat is what you get your family. They would load that up and take it to the mill; wheat and buckwheat and corn, take that to the mill and have it ground. Then, they would take it to these people that their husband or their wife was sick, and they were down and out. The closest people would go and milk the cows and do their feedings and things, taking turns.

It was a different world. Everybody loved everybody. We didn't see any fighting. We went to a picnic one time--I was about 14 years old then. Pete Stanton and Sam Angler got to trading horses, and they were drinking. They got into a fight. You know, it wasn't 45 minutes until everybody was gone, and they were there fighting themselves. That was the first fight I ever saw, and the only fight I ever saw until I got married and we moved to Buckhannon. [It's] close to town, about six miles east of Buckhannon.

B: Do you remember what it was like living through World War I? Do you remember having to give up things?

D: Yes, I remember when my dad walked nine miles. That was the only transportation we had, outside of a horse and buggy, was a train nine miles to the railroad station. You could get on the train and go to Buckhannon or go to Elkins or go any place you wanted to. If you wanted to go to Ohio, you could change trains and come to Ohio. That is another thing.

Once a year we got to go to see my dad's sisters in Elkins, West Virginia, which is 34 miles from where we lived in the country. We would go on the train, and we looked forward to that, you know, going to visit my aunts and uncles in the big city. Elkins is a big city, and that is where my father was from. But my mother was raised within a half mile of where I was born and raised. So my dad got up this morning at four

o'clock in the morning to go catch a train to be deferred, because there were six of us children. I can remember him going out, and I was asking him, "What are you taking money and going to so far away for? Why are you going this early in the morning?" He says, "Well, I got to go to the track board to see about getting deferred, because I've got you kids." But he didn't have to go, but a lot of people did.

Then before I was married, there was a guy. His name was Paul. I was between 15 and 16 years old. He told my mother, "I'm going to wait, and she is going to be my bride." He was about 13 years older than I. But he tried to go with me.

B: How about the Depression? Do you remember what it was like during the Depression?

D: Well, the Depression was really bad. The one that was in the 1930's, I can remember it real well because there wasn't anything, hardly. If you didn't raise your food, you were bad off. People that lived in the country. . . . They had stores. People had more canned food and more potatoes. And we buried our own cabbage, great big cabbage heads in the ground. You would go out and dig a trench, put a board over it, and put straw over it. Then you would set your cabbage down on that. Then you covered it up. You don't take the stalk off. You'd leave the stalk. Then, when you wanted a head of cabbage, you would go out there and pull it up or dig it up. Oh, I know my folks holed their cabbage and potatoes under there. They would make a great big hole and bury the potatoes outside. But after the Depression, my dad bought the second farm. By then we had a fruit cellar and an apple cellar. It was made, and it was filled with sawdust between the walls. Nothing would freeze in the apple house. Up above the ground, we had a saddle saw. [We] would cut rock and that. People would go in to their potato holes, and their apple holes, and load up and take it to these stores. Then, they would hand it out to people. Jellies and apple butters and. . . .

B: Anything that you had extra, they shared?

D: The store merchant knew who needed it worse, [and] he would give it to them. There was nobody that starved to death, but there were people who got sick and died because there weren't any hospitals. The doctor had to see you at home. If you couldn't exist on that kind of treatment, you just passed out. But there weren't very many people that died. They weren't hungry, because every farmer or every four farmers had a coal mine under his property. They would dig this coal out, and they would have wood cutting, sawing down trees.

People didn't have work, and they just had plenty of time. They would just take these old. . . . I've got my husband's great long, cross cut saw down in the hallway there with the handles, and it's long. One would get on each end, and you would just go through there. It was a different world, I'll tell you. And that's what is hard on me. I can't understand why these people want to fight with one another, pulling people's hair, screaming, cussing, and carrying on. I don't see it. I can't figure it out.

I had a time with Rose's wife when she was first married. I loved her as much as I loved anybody, but I really had a time getting her straightened out. She had a temper like. . . . Of course, her mother was full blooded German, and her mother was born in Germany. She had a temper, but she now, you wouldn't know she was the same person, unless you just jump on her. I suppose she would, then. I just talked to her and reasoned with her. Betty John said, "I never saw a girl in my life that wasn't sweet as she is and as quiet as she." I said, "Well, she takes that after her grandmother." (laughter)

B: Not after her mother, right?

D: No, I'm just kidding. But Rose is real good now. She has gotten settled down, and she is just real good.

B: What was your first impression when you came to Dorset, when you came to live here?

D: Well, the John's lived in the next house to us. I shouldn't tell this to you, but it about scared me to death. We were sleeping upstairs, I think, right on the side next to him there. One morning, it was daylight. It was in the early summer. It was daylight, and the birds were singing. John's car drove in, and he got out. Of course, he used that fowl language. I was after him an awful lot about three weeks ago. I'd babysit for 10 weeks on Monday nights, because there was a league in Ashtabula. It just finished two weeks ago. We got to talking, and I got to telling him a thing or two. He said that he didn't believe me.

But anyway, this morning we heard the car door open. We heard him get out cussing. He goes around, and he grabs her arm and hair of the head, and he drove her up the three or four steps up on the porch. We heard him--of course, the window was up because it was in the summer time--slam her down on the floor, and I said, "Oh, my Lord, he's killed that woman. He has just killed her." My husband said, "Be quiet. We don't want to get involved." I said, "Well, go over and see



if she is still living." He said, "I will not. You have to ignore it." We worried until about one o'clock. Then finally, we saw her daggling through the house. She had three little kids then. That was awful. I thought, "Oh my God, what kind of a place had we got here? Oh, let's get out!" (laughter) He said, "Just never mind. Just be quiet. They ain't going to bother you none." I said, "I don't want to see anybody killed." He said, "Don't worry about them none. They will be all right. They have done this all these years." We just got so that we just didn't bother. There was nothing that you could do about it.

B: That was your first impression of Dorset? (Laughter)

D: That was a first impression of Dorset. That was surely a big one because we weren't used to that. Before we came here, we lived in country. I am telling you; we moved to his grandfather's house when we were first married, and we moved into Buckhannon after that. That was two moves. Then, we moved out into an old storehouse at Daysville, where we were building our house. That was three houses. We moved into our house, which was the fourth house. Up here, we moved twice. That was the sixth time that we moved, not counting the two times we went to Virginia. We just shut our house up when we went there, and I did when I went to Mill Creek, West Virginia to cook. That was six times in our married life, and that was all. I went over to Pear Pond on May 21, and my sister and I bought a half of a hog. It was only 220 pounds for all of the pick, I guess. I went to sign the check, and I said, "On, May 21, that is our anniversary." That would have been 52 years we were married.

B: So what are some of the changes that you have seen at Dorset since you have been here?

D: Well, just like I tell it to Stainfield, it isn't like when we first came here. You know, there are men who are filing divorces, even my own son. This younger generation, two-thirds of them, aren't like the old people. That makes a difference because they don't see things like we do. In other words, they don't do like we did when we were their age because when we got married, we got married to live together and stick together regardless, as we took our vows. Now, I will tell you, I blame the lawyers for two-thirds of it, because if you get into. . . .

I straightened my sister out; I want to tell you that, too. She married Richard Miller, and every time that him and her would go out and get to drinking, they got into a fight. Then she would go up to Diamond, and she would give him \$150 to sue for divorce. Five different

times she did it. And every time, she would withdraw. So the last time, I called him up. The receptionist answered, and I said, "May I talk to Mr. Diamond?" She said, "Which one?" I said, "The old one." He came to the phone. I said, "I am Mrs. B.D. Dean. I want to talk to you, and I am going to tell you just exactly how I feel." "Well, what is wrong? What is your problem?" I said, "It really isn't my problem. It's your problem. My mother is up in the hospital just about to pass away. I'm her oldest daughter. Her youngest daughter was up in Ashtabula today in the hospital, Mrs. Richard Miller. You are familiar with her, I am sure." He said, "Well, I do their business." I said, "Yes, I realize that, too. One thing I want to explain to you. You get it as I tell you, too. Every time she comes over there and gives you \$150 to sue him for a divorce, if you would tell her to take that money home and give it to some poor person or put it on her bills, you wouldn't have this money." He said, "Well, she comes in here. I listen to what she says." I said, "Well, I want you to listen to what I have got to say. The next time she comes, you tell her to go home, and when it comes time to go get drunk, if she can't get drunk and quit fighting, you tell her not to get drunk. You remember the mess just in March that they tried to haul, don't you?" "No." I said, "Oh, yes, you do, too. That is the last time that she sued him for divorce." I said, "Well, now, okay. If you just continue taking his money and sticking him in jail . . . if you are going to put one in jail, put them both in jail. Do you know what she said to me? She said, they put her in. Where did the police find her?" He said, "Oh, I wouldn't know." I said, "Oh, you do know, too. It was in the paper. Shamefully, it was in the paper. She was laying on the floor when the police got there, drunk. Of course, she claimed that she had gotten knocked down." I said, "She ought to have been kicked out in the street. The police took her son out and put her husband in jail. They ought to put her in jail, too." He said, "Mrs. Dean, I just can't read you." I said, "Well, if I was close to you where I could make it a little more plain to you, you would read me. The next time she comes in here and gives you \$150, you tell her to take that money home and put it on her bills, or quit using it to get drunk on." He said, "I'm going to call her and tell her what you said." I said, "You do it. That is what I want you to do. How would you like for your wife to take three of your good suits out when she is on one of her rampages and throw it right out on the sidewalk in Ashtabula?" "Well," he said, "I wouldn't like it." I said, "Well, that is what she did." He said, "Really?" I said, "If it is not true, she told me. I told her right in the Ashtabula hospital just a week ago that I would be ashamed for anybody to see my face if I did

that. Then, you stick him in jail. If you are going to put one in, put them both in." He said, "I'm going to call her and tell her what you said." I said, "You do that. If she denies it, you call me, and I will come up there and bring her over there. I will tell her right there before you." He said, "I'll do it." So he called her that day. That ended that now, and that was in 1973. They have not had a fight since. He and she are living together, and they are getting along good.

She didn't even get mad at me, either, because she knew that I told the truth. You can just straighten anybody out if you try, and it takes me to try. But now, Diamond didn't get mad and neither did she. I said, "When you need money, you try to prank on somebody else and not cry on her shoulders. Check her out and tell her to go take that money and use it. She lives right out there on Walter Boulevard, in a beautiful home. Throw her husband's clothes out. I will tell you one thing; if I had done that, my husband would have killed me, and it would have been an honor for him to do such a thing." He said, "I'm going to tell you. I know your brother, and I know your sister. I'm not real well acquainted with you, but I believe that you have got more sense than any." I said, "Well, maybe I don't have more sense, but I put it to good use." I did, that right over that telephone.

B: I believe you! (Laughter)

D: I paid \$2.33 for that telephone bill just to . . . and I broke it up. She comes here today, and there is no problem. I'm telling you, I don't believe in that. If people would just back up to people like this and make them straighten themselves out a little bit instead of saying, "Well honey, you come on home. If he hits you, I will hit him." I told him, "Well, if they knock the dickens out of someone. . . ." I've had that knocked on me. When my husband was drinking, I didn't dare say "boo" to him, or he would knock my brains out. I have been attacked when he was drinking. He has said to me different times--if I was ready to go out the door to go to church and he was drinking, if he told me not to go, I wouldn't go because I knew not to. He said to me many times, "I don't want you to go over there, because I saw so-in-so last night over at the beer garden." I said, "Thank God you didn't see me there, and you never did near nobody else."

B: Even if they were at the beer garden, drunk the night before, it's still better that they're over there.

D: Right.

B: So, what was your first acquaintance with this church?  
How did you first get to know this church?

D: When we first came here. . . . Mrs. Small lived across from us. We moved in here on a Saturday, and she came and knocked on the door on Sunday morning and brought me a little plant, and asked me to go to the church down at the Baptist. I told her that was where I was converted. When we were going to church, you didn't go to church unless you went to the morning session and found the Lord. You didn't go in and say, "Well, I'm a Christian. I want to belong to church." or something like that. It was in the Baptist church, so we went to the church down there. Then, we came up here. The kids went to Sunday school down there, too. But when we came up here, it was a little too far, and I just didn't go very much. Howard Kaus' mother knocked on my door one night. They were having an Evangelist meeting over here, and they asked me to come to church. I said, "Well, I will consider it." She said, "It is a Methodist church?" I said, "My father was a Methodist. I have never joined any church, but I have gone to church all of my life. I was converted in the Baptist church." She said, "Come on over to our church." She was a sweet old lady.

B: What was her first name?

D: I can't think of it. I think it was that summer. That would have been in 1952, but maybe it was 1953. Reverend Sullman got to talking to me. He sent out letters about joining the church. I had said to my husband, "Well, I have always said. . . ." My mother was a Catholic, in other words, and my father was a Methodist. Well, if we went to the Catholic Church, my dad didn't care about it. He didn't say much, but he just didn't approve of it too much because he was a Methodist. When we went to the Methodist Church, my mother didn't mind because she was born and raised a Catholic.

We used to have revivals in West Virginia when we were kids. We would get on horses. My mother would get on one horse and my dad on the other. One would get behind on the saddle. After they had the four children, she would take one on the lap, and he would take one on the lap. Then, we would go.

Well anyway, then after the family got bigger, of course, he had to use the buggy or the wagon. We would go to these revivals. I was about fifteen and a half, maybe 16 years old. We were in a revival meeting. I wanted to go up front. My mother wasn't going to let me. My mother got between me and the lady I was talking to. I said to her, "That's all right, but if I ever live to get on my own, I'm going to be a

Methodist. Just don't worry about me." So I told them how it was. I joined the church over here, and I said, "Well, that's what I've always wanted to do, be a Methodist." When Reverend Sullman sent this letter out, I went over and talked to him about it. I talked to my husband first and he said, "If you want to join the church, that's good and well. I was raised a Methodist, and I'm ready." I said, "That is up to you. I want to have the kids baptized. I'm going to have the kids baptized if it is all right?" He said, "Oh, it is all right." I went on a walk with Reverend Sullman, and he suggested that I . . . . I said that I could learn to live with it. I have been going to church. Reverend Snyder was who last converted me. I was converted. He was a minister. He knew about where I was. He was a minister. He has known us all because of my mother and dad. He said, "This isn't necessary at all." I said, "I'm going to talk to some of the people. I suggest Mrs. Freeman first."

So, I called Mrs. Freeman, and I told her that I wanted to talk to her. She said, "Anything personal?" I said, "Not really. But I just want to talk some." She came over. She came in, and I said, "Sit down." She said, "Well, I'm in kind of in a hurry." "Well," I said, "I want to talk to you. It will take a little bit. I want to explain to you." So she sat down, and I told her, "I have been considering joining the church over here. I didn't want to unless I talked to some of the neighbors about that." She said, "Well, Mrs. Dean, it is very good. If you want to join the church, we will be glad to accept you." I said, "Well, I want you to know that I was converted in the Baptist church in Buckhannon, West Virginia. I was 21 years old. I have gone to different churches, but I still hold to--this was a Baptist Church--the Methodist Church, because my father and my aunts were. Of course, that is just the name that don't carry to no place if you don't live it." She said, "Oh." I said, "I was converted at the Baptist Church. I can get a letter, but I never joined any church. I wouldn't attempt to join the church if I hadn't been born again. They call it that. I've been converted. I'm sure that I wouldn't have." She looked at me like I had never. . . . She said, "Well, it's all right." She said [to Reverend Sullman], "I don't know what she meant by being converted." "Well," he said, "I can tell you. Everybody should be."

Well, after she left Reverend Sullman's, I felt bad. So I looked bad. I said something that I know when through Mrs. Freeman. He said, "Now, Mrs. Dean, you don't have a thing to worry about. The good Lord laid that on your heart to tell her. You told her just exactly what you ought to tell her. Don't worry about

it. It was about being converted and that is in the Bible." So I went over and joined the church, then. So, I've been going ever since.

I tried helping him. I feel bad because I just can't pledge, because if I was working, I would in the winter time. Now in the summer, I can do better. I would get 25 dollars a month at the church. I put that right back in. I missed Sunday a week ago, when I went Sunday, I gave 10 dollars. I would give them the 25 dollars back, plus I buy all my cleaning fluid and mops and things like that to help the church. Reverend Manner told me the other day that I shouldn't do it. I said, "That is one sure way that I'm sure, as long as I can keep able to do that, I'm going to be able to pay that into the church and it's going to help the church out." She said, "If that is what you do, then you need not worry about pledging, I think. That is a pledge enough." I said, "In the summer I will do a little better. I have got 56 acres of coal, oil, and gas in West Virginia that my dad made me clear in 1965. When I sell that, I will certainly pay you in the event that I can spare from that."

B: Can you tell me why Reverend Sullman was so special? Everybody talks about him. Everybody remembers him as the best one.

D: Well, you know, I was up in Penny's Store. Mrs. Ponnis was an old lady. She was like Mrs. Spencer; she was everybody's friend, and she came to me. She began to talk, and she told me, "Mrs. Dean, you know, Reverend Sullman is getting ready to leave. Reverend Sullman is just patting everybody on the back and telling them this is all right and that is all right. He is going to have to answer." I just looked right at her and said, "Why?" "Because," she said, "he is not supposed to do that. When you do wrong, you are not supposed to be patted on the back." I said, "Well, did I do anything wrong?" She said, "Oh, no. You know, there are people that he just pats on the back and says forget it and that is all right. You just don't do it that way." So when he went to leave here, why, this climber down here in Cherry Valley told him, "I think it is time that you would get out. You have been bottle fed long enough."

He told us in the pulpit about that. I hated to see him go, of course, because the boys were real good friends with his kids, and we were real good friends. But I had no trouble with none of the ministers, none of them. Because, as I have told the kids and everybody else when they see me, "I go there to get the good out of it, and I go there to listen to what they say. I'm not the one who is supposed to tell them. They are

telling us. If the minister tells us wrong, we are supposed to pray for him, not talk about him. That's no way to live. That is no religion in back of it." The kids will say. . . . I would say, "No, that is not right. We weren't raised like that. You guys weren't raised like that. You better knock it off." But the Bible does say. . . .

I will tell you, the hardest whipping my dad gave me in my life--and I never will forget because I went to a dance with my mother, to a Catholic picnic. And they dance. When I went home, he told me, "You can go, but I don't allow any dancing." My daddy never drank a drop in his life. He never smoked or he never danced or anything like that. He was strictly a Methodist. When I got home, he asked me, and I said, "I did." Boy, I sure got a big thrashing for it. But the Bible does say that there is time for drinking, and time for dancing; there is time for everything. The Bible tells you that it is not what goes in your soul that damns it, it is what comes out. You see, that is what drinking is. If you go out drinking and cut a big chime, you done commit a bad sin. I would tell anybody that; I would tell the preacher about that because that is the truth. (Laughter) That is the way it puts it. Well, Jesus had wine, you know. Now at my home, they made two gallons of blackberry wine in the summer. You didn't drink that, but if you got a bad case of dysentery or a bad cold, you got two tablespoons of that with a little bit of sugar in it.

B: Can you tell me some interesting stories about some of the ministers that you have met?

D: Well, Reverend Jones was next to Sullman. Now he was a guy like I am. He was an old minister. He was an elderly man, in other words, and he was raised different from what the younger generation was. Well, he would get disturbed. Maybe I shouldn't tell this to you, but I am.

His wife was a school teacher. Mrs. Jones was. We have had neighbors that would go to his house in the day to see if they could smell tobacco smoke where he smoked. I said to a son of mine, "I will tell you something. I have read the Bible. I have never seen in the Bible where it says anything about smoking. I wouldn't do it." "Well, you wouldn't go over and see it?" I said, "No, that is none of my business. I would be sticking my nose where I shouldn't. No. If he smokes over there and stays over there and minds his business, that is none of my business. I couldn't

condemn a man for that, and I just couldn't mess in his affairs like that. I would be doing more harm going to his house than his wife going than I would sticking my nose in."

They were going dancing, some of them, too. I didn't like that, but I got along with all of them, and I saw no fault in it. The only thing, Deutsch was a guy that didn't mingle very much. Now, he was the only minister, him and Reverend Won, that ever ate a meal in this house. They were the only ministers, him and Reverend Won. Reverend Won, every time I would be ready to cook and have spare time to fix for him, why, he would have something else he had to do. He was an awful nice guy, too. But I had no bad comments for none of them. Of course, when McElroy was here when my husband passed away, Mrs. McElroy would just tell me, "I don't know what the problem is." She just worshiped me and the kids when she was here. She would talk to me.

Reverend Shelling was another guy. He was a nice guy, too. He wasn't really up to being a minister when he first started. He would tell you that, because he started out trying to. . . . Mrs. Shelling was, I don't know, all nerves. She was all tore up. She had been in the hospital, and she had him all worked up. Their kids were small, too. He wasn't really up to the ministry like he should. Working with that, you know, that is tension up there and disturbing. He was under a lot of pressure, but he did good. He didn't do anything that was contrary to anybody.

I have gotten along with all the ministers and the whole families because as I say, you go to church; you go there to listen and to learn. You don't go there to condemn somebody. That is the reason I set for myself, because we were not allowed to go to church to talk. We were not allowed. When I was eleven and a half years old, I got out of church one time. I talked to one of the girls going out to the spring across the road to get a drink. I was sitting with her, right behind her. I whispered, "Do you want a drink?" She shook her head. "Will you go with me?" I shook my head yes. I went, but I will tell you, I came back. I didn't get to the spring. She came out and splashed. My daughter put me back in the church. So that ended that. I can't get up and go out of church now when church is going on. I just feel like I'm smothered if I do. I don't do it with the kids.



One Sunday I had to take little Julian out and, oh, I couldn't get his pant off. (Laughter) I don't believe in this. It is the way you are raised. If you are raised that way and you respect your parents, you just can't come away from that. But we didn't only respect our parents because we were raised in a different. . . . Everybody had a different attitude, like now. So many people have got different attitudes about this. We just lived with people that were all of the same nature. You know, we all believed in the same thing because there weren't these things that there are now. We didn't know anything about skating. I never went to a movie until about one year and a half before I was married. That was the first movie that I ever saw in my life. I can remember the first carnival I ever was at, and that was in Elkins, West Virginia. My aunt took me, and I was only eight or nine years old. I rode the ponies, you know, on the merry-go-round. I never did forget that. Things like that when you get older, it just comes to you just automatically.

If you do anything, or if I do anything, your conscience bothers you. If I say anything that I know I shouldn't have said, it will come right back up in your throat just like you knew better than to say it. That is one thing with today. There are so many people who don't stop and consider what they are doing. If they go out and drink, then they should respect it. Just like my husband, he got to be an alcoholic, but he got with this gang at the Tannery. He would get drunk up there and jump in the baths up there, the old, dirty baths that they had. Then, the boss put up Holding, which he knew he needed to work. He was a good worker when he was sober. When they knew the insurance man or someone was coming, they would hide him and put him in the house where the hare was, to protect his job. That was good of him, and he meant well, but it just upheld him. He just got to be an alcoholic, and he just couldn't. . . .

B: Function.

D: No, it just got so bad that he would never come home while he was drinking. Sometimes he was good, and sometimes he would pick on you. But you didn't dare talk back on him because he would just land bash you in the pond if you did. It was a miraculous life, but I will tell you right now, I don't even miss him. I don't care. My son talked to me. I had two guys that I thought surely I was going to go out with. I said, "No way."

There was a guy coming here from Pennsylvania. He just met Jim, and Jim was pushing a battery down the road one day for one of the boys to start the car on. This guy came up to him and asked him what he was doing. Jim told him, "I'm taking my brother this battery to get the car started." He said, "Well, my car is down here by McGills, the fruit stand. It is out of gas. I have to be at the post office and it closes at 12 o'clock. Will you go up and get a can and take it down and put it in my car?" I saw him talking to him, and I knew he was a stranger. Jim said, "Well, I better ask my mother first." "Well, here is some money. If your mother will let you go, you go up there and get it. I'll be right back and go down with you, then. We'll put the gas in," he said. He came back, and I told Jim to go ahead. He came back, and he went with Jim. You know, I was scared to death when he went down there with that guy. So he brought him up here, and they drove in the church lot and they talked and talked. His father had just died, and he wanted Jim to go get something to eat in Jefferson with him. He would take him to a restaurant. I told Jim, "Well, if you want to go, go. But don't go off any place and not call back, or let me know where you're at. But don't go any place, only to the restaurant, and tell him that I said you could go to the restaurant." So I walked down on the porch, and I told him, "How are you doing?" He said, "How are you doing? Are you Jim's mother?" I said, "Yes." He said, "I want to take him to get him something to eat." I said, "Well, I could fix his lunch." "No," he said, "I just want to take him out. We've had a big talk over there about our fathers." I said, "Well, he can go, but don't take him off any place because I'll get worried." So he came back, and he came in here and sat and talked. The next week, I think it was, Jim got a letter from him. He wanted Jim's sizes. He was going to buy him some clothes. He was an old bachelor. I didn't know what to do about that. Bud was in the service, so I called Herb up, and I told him. He said, "Well, I don't think he is hurting anything. Mother, I don't think there is anything wrong. I think he is a very nice guy." So then in a couple of weeks, why, I got a letter from him wanting to know if I wanted to go out with him. I told him no, and that I was busy and didn't have the time. He insisted that I go with him, but I didn't. I didn't want to. So he came over and Jim was down there. Herb lived down there, in Grams house. He wanted Jim to go with him that evening. I called down there, and he insisted that I go with him. I just told him, "Well, I don't go out." He said, "Your husband is dead." I said, "Oh, yes, but I don't go out." Then he said, "Well, why? I would just enjoy taking you out. I think we could enjoy ourselves. I've never been married, and my mother is getting old." I told him, "No."

In the summer of 1966 when my father was sick, I was down there quite a bit. When I came home, my mother's table and mantle had a big bouquet of flowers on it with flowers that he brought me. But he went away, and he only came to see Jim and wrote letters to Jim. He and his mother started for California, and we have never heard from them since. That was in 1973. I don't know whether he got killed, but he was from Conneautville, Pennsylvania. He was a bus driver. That was the reason he was through here so much. He was a Greyhound bus driver. He would go from here down to Warren, to the bus terminals. He was a real nice guy, but I just never wanted to go out with him. I've had different people asking to go out with me. See, that Spencer keeps kidding and saying, "I'm going to get you a man."

B: (Laughter) He is a character. What was your opinion about Reverend Won coming, having a Korean coming into our church?

D: Well, if we live up to according to the Bible, it says that we are all God's children regardless of sex, color, creed, or race. We have got to accept it. Of course, these colored guys. . . . I can not see that, because that is not right. If we are so lucky as to go to heaven, what are we going to do with those colored people? They ain't going to be stalled there. That is what I tell them. Willie's awful bitter at them.

I heard somebody, Bud's wife, she don't. . . . I tell her to hush and that I don't want to hear it. I can't see it. I have got good colored friends. Mrs. Basey down here. Miss Kean called me, it will be two weeks tomorrow, and said that she had a letter from her [Mrs. Basey] and she wanted to know if she hadn't heard from me in a long time. Well, I just have been working five days a week over there and then baby sitting some of the night. I just got behind with my work and everything. I just have been so busy that I just haven't had time hardly to say, "Amen" to nothing. Sometimes I drag to church when I am tired. But I have gotten along with all the ministers.

Reverend Edgars was another. He was another elderly minister. He believed like I did, and so did Henry Kean, too. Of course, they say that you can't contend with people because they are raised different like we were raised one way this day and time, and they are raised another [way]. They don't do wrong as much as people think. Well, "That isn't right." Or, "That is wrong." Well, the Bible says that you shouldn't judge men. Another place tells you to judge a tree by the

pruner. So, you have got to be careful with your tongue because the Bible says that the tongue is a little weapon and full of deadly poison. You can hurt yourself a lot worse than I can hurt you or somebody else. When we were kids, if we saw a lady minister coming to church, we would have probably flipped. We wouldn't know what was going on. But now, my husband had a first cousin who turned out to be a lady minister. But you just can't. . . .

B: How do you think our community has reacted to having a woman minister?

D: Well, I don't hear much. I was asked questions about that not too long ago. I said--I wasn't asked, I was told. I said, "I'll just tell you something. I'm going to frankly tell you that I don't go to Sunday School." When you go to church, you don't hear anything. You come on out and you don't hear anything. If I go over there and I say something about somebody, I feel bad, and then I know that I did wrong. If I hear somebody talking about somebody, I get all confused. It makes me nervous. It just tears you to think that you will go to church, you know, and then sit there and condemn somebody. We got some people over there that get their tongue crossed up pretty bad, so I've heard. I didn't hear them say it, but I will tell you, we better watch our tongues. Thora Keep, I heard her tell Miss Corbett in the church here about a year ago this spring--it hasn't been that long, because it was this spring that it happened. I heard her tell Mary Corbett, "You better watch your tongue. You are just doing harm to the church and the members." She said that right there in the kitchen in the back of the church. If you get on people like that, they won't come back to do right, and if you try to uphold them and pray for them, they will come back. They will make. . . .

B: Changes.

D: Just like Bill Johns, when we were coming from Ashtabula one night. They took me up, and they brought me back from Ashtabula. We got to talking about the church. I said that I didn't know what to do without Bert Freeman. I don't know what they would do, because I live right here and I see it. He's doing something; he is building something; he is doing this and doing that. Him and John, both worked real hard at that church. Well, they put all those trees and everything out. Nobody didn't help none. I said, "I don't know." Well, Betty John said, "Well, he didn't get any credit for it." I said, "Oh yes, he gets credit. Some people do." Well, Bill just up and said that he believed that nobody did any wrong, and that I should forgive. I

said, "I'll tell you. You better read the Bible." He said he didn't believe in the Bible. Oh, I just felt the chills go up my back. I said, "You better change your attitude." I was in his car. I said, "I want to tell you. If you don't change your attitude, I have got news for you, you are going to be in bad shape when you leave this world." Well, he didn't think so. "Well," I said, "I don't think so, because I know so. The Bible says that if you don't forgive your enemy, your Heavenly Father will not forgive you." Well, he still didn't realize it, and there was nothing I could do about, so I said, "Let's just skip it."

B: Sometimes that is the best way. (Laughter)

D: So he said, "I don't believe that God will forgive anybody." I said, "Well, that's your belief." Betty told me, "Well, I agree with you." So when I got out that night, I said, "Well, I want to know if I made any hard feelings by saying what I said about the Bible." "Oh, no, no, no, you didn't," he said, "I will think it over." You know, last Sunday morning I was in the bath room getting ready to go ring the first bell--I ring the first bell. I heard somebody knocking on the door, and I said that I would be right out. He was standing at that door, and he asked me, "Will you give this to Betty Kean?" It was an envelope. I said, "I will." "Thank you very much," [he said]. He went away, and you know, that was a check for the building. Sometimes you know, you can just talk to people. He thought that over. If he didn't believe that it was, why did he bring that check? So if you just talk some reason to people, a lot of times you can. . . .

Another thing, what I do and belong to church over there, somebody else could see me do something wrong. Then they'll say, "Well, I'm no worse than she is." Just like I told her about . . . the scarf. I told him this year. I said, "You are not planting it." We were going out for supper, me and Mrs. Spencer. We were going across the tracks down there. I said, "Last year Herb planted on Sunday. This year, he is not planting on Sunday." He said, "Well, Mrs. Dean, what about the people who go to church and then go home and work in the hay field or other things all day?" I said, "Hey, that is not me. Right there you go. Just stop and think what you said. They won't condemn Herb for plowing that garden. They condemn me. There she is going to church every Sunday and somebody else is plowing a garden on Sunday." "Well," Mrs. Spencer said, "that is right. You have got to look at it both ways." So you have to be careful what you do and what do you says.

B: Yes, because you have to be the example.

- D: You have got to be the example, and you have to know what you are doing and you better watch what you are doing.
- B: Yes, very much. What do you think about the music program of our church?
- D: The choir?
- B: Yes.
- D: I think it is good; I think it is nice. I think it is helpful for people. I think most everybody enjoys hearing them singing the hymns. I do. I think there are so many churches today that don't have a choir. I think it is a coincidence that we have [one] with a small congregation like we have. I do hope and pray that the congregation will build up. I hope and pray that they will get to build a new furnace, as I've told you. Whenever I sell the coal, oil, and gas, it would be later on. I'm going to put down a good thing to the church because I think I deserve it.
- B: What do you think some of the problems are that our church has faced?
- D: Well, in the first place, if I do something wrong, if you ask somebody out of the church to come in, they will say, "Look what she did. I saw her do so-and-so." Or, "Look what he did. I saw him do so-and-so." So we shouldn't condemn the church for what somebody else does, but that is people's alibi. That is the devil working, in other words. That is the reason that I be very careful of what I do, I be very careful of what I say, and I don't go to Sunday school, not that I envy any of them. But if they have any discussions about this and that being wrong, I'm not in it. They can't say, "She said so-and-so." I don't like to hear it because after all, it is a church. You go there to get the good out of it. You don't go there to pick the bad. If you are out of it, then you don't hear it. If anybody asks you, you don't know a thing about it, and you never heard it.
- B: So you think that everybody should be more conscientious about their actions and how they represent the church?
- D: I think so, yes. Just like Reverend Sullman told me, he said, "Mrs. Dean, don't worry about what you said to the ladies. Don't worry about it. The good Lord put that on you to say. When you shield yourself, you are doing wrong. When you shield the other fellow, you are doing wrong. Let your light shine. That was put on you to say."

B: When you were young, was tithing important in your area?

D: Well, no, we took up a collection. Everybody would give what they could. With the ministers, see, now the ministers in West Virginia when I was young, where I was born and raised, they had the parsonage. All of the members--it didn't necessarily have to be the members, but most everybody--went to church, then. Of course, the population wasn't as big, you see, back in the mountains, then. It wasn't nearly as big in the towns as it is now, because the population has increased quite a bit. But everybody would take in a wagon load of potatoes and dried beans and corn and all that stuff in the fall. There was no such a thing as oil. Maybe the towns had gas. They might have had natural gas. But there wasn't any such a thing as fuel. Everybody burnt coal and wood. You had fireplaces and stoves. The parsonage was supplied by the members or by the people with the fuel. Well, their lights were oil lamps, even in the churches. You knew that didn't cost too much. Well, that was all furnished. They would take up a collection, and the minister got. . . . There were no conferences in those days. We knew nothing about that. That all went to your minister, and that is what he lived on. He rode horseback, so you know very well that he didn't spend much money getting around on a horse. Of course, if it was real bad, he would put on his burlap blanket over him and his coats. He would get in the sled or in the buggy and go that way to keep out of the snow. We used to go on a sled. We would put straw in the sled and put a blanket over it and sit on it. Then, cover up with a blanket.

But I would like to see--and I probably won't--people get the attitude of: "I love you. I don't care what you do to me. I love you." I know one time after my cousin over here died. He lived right here, of course. Bud was home. He was working for King down here and Ramona McGee. I don't know what had happened, but that little boy of Hudson's had been over there to McGee's. He had done something to that little boy of hers. She came up here looking for him, and she came on the porch and was cussing away. John was with him, my John. She was going right over there to Hudson's, and she was going to beat the "H" out of him. I told her, "Hey, you better calm yourself. That boy is an orphan. You better calm yourself." Bud was sitting right there at the table eating his dinner. She was going right over there. She turned the corner, and she went over there. By the time she pulled in there and got parked, Bud was right behind her. He told her, "Hey, get out of the car. I want to tell you something. Don't you lay a

hand on that boy. Don't you touch him, because if you do, you hit him and the next one is going to be mine." She said, "Why are you guarding him?" "Simply because," he said, "that boy is an orphan. You're a woman. I will hit you. I never hit a woman in my life, but I will hit you. Anybody that has got no respect for an orphaned kid. . . . That kid eats half the time at my mother's. We respect him, and it is time that you start." She got in that car and went back down the road. She never spoke to Bud for a long time after that. But he told her not to lay a hand on that boy. But that is what is the matter with people. They don't stop to think. He said, "How would you like for somebody to beat on you if you were an orphan? You have to reason with them.

Mrs. Wagner lived down there. She said, "I don't know how you can stand anybody coming on the porch and cussing and carrying on like you did and not knock her off the porch." I said, "I have been as bad as she was." She probably would have wopped that kid up a good one, and then, there would be another big fight. His dad might show up. The Bible says, "Blessed is the peacemaker." But, it doesn't say anything about the trouble maker.

- B: Have you ever been active in the woman's aide or the ladies?
- D: No, I belong to WSCS over here. I'm going to try to start going. Every time I think about going, I have somebody's grandkids or something since I quit working. But I am going to try to start. Of course, I pay into it. Not a lot, but some. I pay into the Sunday school some, but I just don't go because as I tell you, if they want to bicker, let them bicker. But I don't want to be involved. I don't know that they do, [I only know] what I hear. But you take somebody like Johns over there where he has got that shop and people are going in and people are going out, and people are yacking. You know, the devil just leads you on to bribe the church members into doing things, to get up a mess or something. So I would rather just play it straight. No, I don't know if they do, but I was asked some questions. I said that I knew nothing about that because I didn't go. They said, "Why don't you go?" "Well," I said, "for one reason. Barb is a Sunday school teacher. I go over there and watch Terry because most of the time, Jim works third trick on Sunday night, and he doesn't feel like watching him. Another reason is, if they want to hassle, let them hassle. I won't be a part of it."
- B: You don't have to be a part of it, right? (Laughter)



- D: I don't have to listen to them, because if they get too rough, I just get too rough, I just get up and walk out and forget it. I just can't take it. I don't believe in it, and I can't take it.
- B: Do you have a favorite hymn?
- D: Well, I like all the old hymns. I like that one and the one that says Jesus took me in.
- B: Do you have any favorite sermons, something that has been real important to you?
- D: Well, where it says, "An eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth." That dawns on me because Mr. Wagner lived down here, and she was very high strung. Finally, I told her, "That is why your blood pressure is all the time up, because you are too high strung. You have to calm that." She never could do it. If anything went wrong, she just flipped, you know. I would talk to her, and she would say to me. . . . "Well," I would say to her, "Mrs. Wagner, you shouldn't do like that." "Well, the Bible says, 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth.'" I said, "Yes, but you didn't read the other verse." We went on that way for I don't know how long. One day she called me, and she said, "Mom, I have something to tell you." She called me mom. I said, "What now? What have you done?" "Nothing," she said. She said, "You know the verse in the Bible where it says 'an eye for an eye and a tooth for a tooth?'" I said, "Yes, but you don't say it like it says. It says, 'so they say an eye for an eye, and a tooth for a tooth,' but if you read the next verse. . . ." "Yes," she said, "I know. I found it. It says that they slap you on one cheek and you turn the other." I said, "Didn't I try to tell you and you wouldn't listen?" She said, "I know, and I'm sorry." (Laughter) If you just cope with anybody, you can bring them to it. That is the way they should do over here. They should think before they say anything. I like Mrs. Corbett. I think the world of her. I have heard her say things.
- B: I've never heard you talk about her.
- D: Especially if you go over there like I do in the mornings to ring the bell, her, Mrs. Mellinger, and Mr. Corbett are over there. You know, the insulation that was put in that church was put in there with the intentions of being a good job. It was put in there, in other words, of taking the other man's word to do what he said he did. Well, I have heard them holler, "Well, it wasn't guaranteed. You can't expect it to hold." There wasn't nothing said about how long it would last and all this stuff. You hear them talking about that. Well, especially when they are out there ringing the

bell, you can hear it. Well, the man put it in there. Maybe he did the best that he could. We hope it will last. But why do we want to start an argument about it before we know what is going to happen? We could do more damage to ourselves than we are doing to the church. We are doing more damage to the man that had done it than maybe we would be justified doing. Accusing him of something, in other words, that we don't know. We have to wait and find out.

B: It might last forever, you know?

D: Well, if it doesn't, it was put there for the purpose or the good Lord would never let it go on. And the good Lord would help take care of the bill. He always has. We got to look at the bright side instead of the worse side. We got to understand that we are not always going to be here, and we are not going to come back and make an apology for what we did while we were here. We are going to answer for exactly what we had done, and we are not going to answer for what the people say we do. That is what I try to get through to the kids; it isn't what people say you do, it's what you do that you are going to answer for, because God is the judge. But when you set up and hear somebody say those things. . . . I know one time if I got a hold of Bill Spencer--that's one time I really got disturbed with him. He told my John--he was only about 14 years old--that there was no here after. That when you died, you were like an animal. John did something, and I was chastising him for it. If you do, you are going to get your ass whipped. I never heard that. But now, John joined the church, and that little Jason lives down here, that little boy. He is only five years old.

B: This is your son, Jason?

D: Yes, Jason. He was down here in February. He said to me, "Grandma." His dad said to him, "Tell your grandma what you did at church today." I said, "Oh, something bad?" "No, grandma," he said, "the preacher asked me to pray." Now he won't be five years old until February. He said, "I told him no." I said, "What did you say?" "I told him no," he said, "do you know why?" I said, "No." "Because they weren't going to feed me, and you only pray when you are going to eat." (Laughter) I thought that was a good one.

B: When you first moved here and as your children were growing up, did they attend the youth meetings or youth activities?

D: Yes, they were in the scouts and all that stuff.

- B: Do they have an MYF or youth group at church? Do you remember them going to that?
- D: I don't think I remember. Jim has been a scout. Now, he just can't make around here to go to church. He is a sergeant in the guard, and he has that to take care of.
- B: He never knows when he has to go to work, does he?
- D: No. He had to work yesterday. He wasn't here for Thanksgiving. He had to work until 4:30 yesterday. Then, he was supposed to have today off, and after he went hunting, the railroad called him to go to work. He went hunting today because they told me that today was his day off. I didn't know with him working yesterday. Well, he makes good money; he made double time and a half yesterday. But then, he still would have liked to have been home.
- B: Do you remember Mrs. Moses? Did you know her?
- D: I saw her a few times. I remember when they put all those paintings in the church, and when they made all them.
- B: Do you remember why she did that?
- D: Well, that was one of their hobbies, to put that in the church so that the younger generation could see what the older people did. See, they hand painted those things. That is something that you don't see too much of today. This younger generation should get in. I have got grandchildren. There's Bud's girl. She will be 18 this coming May. Julie will be 17 in June. They should get into things like that. Julie is working; she is working at Falkan's in the office. She went to work there last December, and she wasn't 16 until June of this year. She went to Fort Deedmoth in her high school days. Then, she worked all summer. Now, she is back home, after she gets out of high school.
- B: That's an awful lot.
- D: I know, but she is an intelligent girl and [I'm saying that] not because she is my granddaughter. She told me something. I was up baby sitting with them one night not too long ago, because their mother and dad just went away. They leave Sandy and Julie together, but they don't leave one girl alone with the two small ones because they don't like for them to open the door if anybody comes. They don't like for them to be alone. We were talking, and she said, "Grandma, I don't think this world is going to stand too long." I said, "Well, Julie, you have got the right opinion. You

always be a good girl. You know that if anything does happen, you know where you're going, and you don't want to go to destruction." She said, "I know, grandma, you have told me that ever since I was little." I said, "I know. I want you to be two good girls." Their dad and mother are very strict with them. They have a certain time to go out. They are not allowed to date until after they are 16. They have a certain time to be in, and they better hope to be in or there goes their driver's license. They came down here yesterday. We always have to get a table or go to church. Johns' couldn't be here until late yesterday evening, and Jim couldn't be here until late yesterday evening. Of course, as much as I hate to tell you, Bill's wife has just tried every way to tear them. I've been praying for her, because she has got a bad attitude just because I invited their son-in-laws over. He was here to see me Saturday. I called Wednesday night, and I asked him if they were coming down. He said, "No," because they were tied up. They were going to her family's [house]. I talked to her, and I'm praying that the good Lord will take care of her. I can't, but He will. But it hurts, our families have always been close like this, and then, somebody comes in. The other daughter-in-laws just get together, and you would think that they were having a picnic. They laugh, and the kids are jolly. But it is hard to tell you. The two girls went to church and got a table and set it up. I didn't know that they set it up. I didn't see it until the kids were all in there around it, in there eating. They went and got other bowls and put stuff on the table. And the grown-ups ate at the dining room table. It's just immaculate, and it just makes you feel like you have done something worth your while when you have got a family that unites like that and respects you like that. They will say that it is too much on you. It's been a tradition of our family--when we were young, that was what we did, we went home for holidays. My mother-in-law did the same thing after my folks moved to Ohio. We went there, too. We always went to both places. You couldn't go the same day, but you had to make different arrangements. Just like I have Christmas on Christmas Eve so the daughter-in-law can enjoy their home on Christmas Day. We can just as well enjoy Christmas supper here and the gift exchange Christmas Eve, and they all get a kick out of it. Then, you take eating two full meals in one day. You can't do it, no way. If the weather is bad, I like for them to get off the road before the weather is bad. Your life is the way that you live it. You can make yourself miserable, or you can shake it off if you just have the trust and faith to do it.

B: I think everybody has to make their own happiness.

- D: You have got to cope with whatever comes, regardless. There is a reason for everything. You have got to try to make the best of it. The worst is not in the picture. That is not the word for it. You have got to make the best of everything because we are here. We have got to stay until our time comes to go. The more peaceable we are and the more enjoyment we put on ourselves, our families, our neighbors, our friends and everything, it just makes life worth living.
- B: Get along with everybody.
- D: Well, it makes you feel like you are here for a good purpose instead of a bad one. I can't see this trouble; I don't understand. Just like that, four little babies were thrown in a lake. That man's marriage snapped or something. He never did that automatically just to be mean; he never could.
- B: Next year is our 100th birthday. I want to ask you for suggestions on how we could celebrate? Do you have any ideas on how to celebrate?
- D: Well, I think that everybody ought to go to church with a big smile and praise the Lord for leaving the old church stand up. (Laughter) That is the way I feel about it. I think that it is a miracle that we live in a place that the church is 100 years old. I know that we have got some of them in West Virginia. I would like to go back down there where I went to Sunday school and church and see. I bet our church is that old; I know it is. This January, I will be 71 years old, and I thank God for my health and the way I can work and the mind that I have got, because I have been through some drastic things. Life hasn't always been. . . .
- B: No, not for anybody.
- D: No. As I tell you, you can take it or you can make the worst of it. It just doesn't help any to complain and cry and scream on somebody else's shoulder. The best thing that you can do is go talk to the good Lord because He will take care of you.
- B: What are some of the projects that you would like to see our church start? Is there any special thing that you would like to see our church start?
- D: Well, I really don't know of anything that we can start. I know we need to do something to financially help, but I have been wondering how in the world we could do it. Some people suggest that we make rugs or quilts or something. I don't know. They do sell good quilts, too.

- B: So you would like to see some kind of special project to help our financial situation?
- D: When summer comes, you know, probably you remember when this parsonage was rebuilt over there. You know how a lot of that was paid off, just with these, you know, Macaroy's and us had a bake sale right across the street. They had a booth. Lou carried it out there every Saturday. Some of my boys helped do it. We sold homemade bread and pies and stuff. You know, you would be surprised at the stuff that you could sell. There were so many people doing it. Of course, now there are so many women that are working in this younger generation. They are busy, or they have got children. The older people totally don't feel up to it, but I don't think that it would hurt any of us to help out and have a bake sale this summer over here, and try to see what we can do anyway. We need to come down with this church finance, that's for sure.
- B: Especially now that we got the roof.
- D: That has just made that church just. . . . Everybody or most everybody you talk to thinks what an improvement [it is]. You'll see people go to the road and look at it. I live right here, and I sit here and look out. I sit here on Davenport and look out. You see people go by and just turn their heads, you know, and just stare at it thinking, "Well gee, that is immaculate to see something like that on a church."
- B: Yes, I think that it improves it a lot.
- D: I was going to get one of those trains like the one Jim's kids got for me two years ago this Christmas and put it over there. But the minister thought maybe it wouldn't be appropriate for the church. So I told him that I was going to get a wreath and put it on the door for his birthday this month. I haven't done it yet, but I have got a few days. I might get it done. I have got one more Sunday. I hope that I can get it done this week. I don't know.
- B: What are some of the changes that you have seen in your life time? What are some of the most amazing changes to you?
- D: Well, as I told you, it is the attitude of the people today for one thing, because they don't have the attitude the older people have. As I tell you, the first fight that I ever saw, you didn't see that [back then], and you didn't see one trying to get ahead of the other one. "If he is going to have that, then I have got to have this, and if they are going to have that, then we

have got to have this." Jealous, I call it, of everybody else. I just enjoy anything anybody can have and the more that they can have, if that is what they want, I enjoy it. I think we ought to be more considerate of what we say to people, and we ought to just try to get a little more love in our hearts and give it to everybody. I don't care where I am at. I go up to town, and people look at me and smile, and I smile back. I speak to them. The other day, people I never saw before and probably will never see again, knew my kids. I said, "Hi."

B: What about some of the scientific changes that you have seen? What are the things that amaze you the most, like cars or going to a movie?

D: Well, I'll tell you. Right there is something I'm going to resent. I don't believe in going to the movies. I really don't see any sense in these cars being made to drive, because if they cut down on car speed, there wouldn't be so many people hurt and killed. We just wouldn't have to have so much law. If people would use the right attitude, there wouldn't be so much of this law.

I don't believe in people condemning everything that anybody does. I don't believe in the cars going so fast, but maybe somebody else does. But I don't. But if the government would stop letting them make them so fast, this younger generation would have to grow up. These younger kids would have to grow up. I don't care who you are, you have to grow up in this day and time. When I was raised, I grew up the way the old people had us grow up and raised us to grow up. Well, this younger generation is raised like the other fellow does. [They think,] "Well, if he can drive fast, I will, too." They don't no any better; they don't see danger, and a lot of parents don't sit down to explain the danger and say, "You don't do that. Stop that, and don't do that. You shouldn't do that because you could get killed. You could be crippled for life. You could be paralyzed. You could lay in bed like that poor girl did for years." How awful could it be, but I don't know.

B: What do you think of the clothing center in our church?

D: Well, it's there for a good. . . . You know, Jesus condemned that. But I think this is a different thing. Maybe I'm wrong about that, but the way that I see it is that it was put there for a good purpose. That isn't put there for a rowdy place. That is put there for a quiet place to help the poor people. Now, I think that is all right. I can't see anything wrong with that. Of course, if we had it some place else,

maybe it would be better than in the church, but there is no harm being down over there. It's not open on Sunday. There's no rowdy over there, so I can't condemn that. It's for the poor people, and it's for a good purpose.

B: Exactly, it's to help everybody.

D: Yes. I went over there Tuesday. There was nobody over there working. I went over there Tuesday and sold \$2.70 worth of stuff. That colored lady down in the first street--I can't think of her name. I'll think of it later on.

B: Daisy, is that her name.

D: Yes.

B: I don't know her last name. That is all that I know, her first name.

D: She was over there, and she bought a coat and a blouse. There was another lady with her. I don't know who she was. The other lady bought a pair of shoes over there that actually had never been on anybody's feet. You could tell that unless it was to just try them on for a quarter. Well, she needed them. She had on a pair of tennis shoes. That helped her, and it helped the church. She bought four pair of trailer curtains that had been over there for some time. They were nice, too. They had appliqued flowers on them. They were a cream color, and they had yellow embroidery and appliques on it. She found four pair, and she bought all four pair. She bought that coat and those drapes and a blouse. So I can't see anything wrong with it. I don't think that there ever has been, I suppose.

B: I know several people who have come up and told me that they compared it to Jesus throwing the money changers out. I said, "Well, I really don't see how you can compare that to money changers. Nobody is cheating anybody."

D: No, and if this wasn't for helping poor people, it might be wrong, but this is to help. There is no place really to have it, because you can't put it in the town hall. They can't get anybody to work over there, you know. I'm going to work over there tomorrow. I told the minister I would work there tomorrow from nine o'clock to 12 o'clock. There are things I can do, but there are things that I can do that will wait, and I can help out.

B: You can write your letter to Mrs. Basey while you wait.



- D: Yes.
- B: When I work over there, I always take magazines that I want to read or I take letters to write.
- D: That is something that I can't do. I can't stand the magazines. I get disgusted when I read the paper a lot of times, because there are so many things about what is so bad in there. We don't need to know about the bad. We need to know something good. We want to hear something good once in a while, besides so much crime and everything.
- B: What minister that we've had really stands out to you as being special?
- D: Really, I don't have one. I really wouldn't know. I really just don't--as I tell you, I got along with them all. I can't resent none of them. None of them ever mistreated me or my family. As far as I know, they were there for the good of the church, and I couldn't condemn none of them. I have nothing against none of them right out of my heart. I enjoyed them all; I enjoyed their families. Deutsch was the only one, and I don't have any resentment, but he is the only one that was hard to bare acquaintance. You know what I mean. He was younger.
- B: Hard to get to know.
- D: But his wife, she was real easy. When Judy was down in Warren with the baby, she wanted to know what one of the Dean's she was. She remembered. When Barb was down there, she wanted to know what one of the Dean's she married. She's very friendly. She works in the maternity ward. She was more talkative than Deutsch was, but he treated us all good. He was the only guy who never cared about going out to eat or anything. I would ask him. They would have something else or something. He and Reverend Won never ate, but I thought the world of Reverend Won. A lot of people did.
- B: I think that they have to understand other people, too.
- D: He did nothing wrong. We couldn't condemn him. He didn't do anything wrong. Why, he was just real sociable, real friendly, and he tried to talk to everybody. He tried to be good to everybody. I put my trust in him. People would say to me, "I don't know why you won't lock your door at night." I told them, "I am not afraid. They can only do one thing to you. They can kill your body, but they can't kill your soul." He said, "If you are not, I am with you always." Or, "If you don't trust him, you might as well forget that."

B: Right.

D: I never locked that door. I would go to bed and never lock that door, never. If the kids would come here and the door was locked, they would probably go into orbit. They wouldn't know what was happening. (Laughter)

B: Then, they would get worried about you, right?

D: They would probably break the door down. I will tell you, I am not afraid and never was. People say, "Oh, people can go by and soap your windows." I said, "Well, they've got reason for it if you keep hanging on them." They will go around and soap people's windows. They don't soap my windows because. . . . If they do once in a while, somebody will slip a little soap on that storm there, and I never let on like I knew it because I didn't care. It don't bother me that much.

B: If you had one sentence to describe your experience at our church, what would it be?

D: Well, the truth is the truth. I go there to get the good out of it, and I enjoy it. I don't see any wrong.

B: So you think that you've had a good experience with the church?

D: I have had a good experience with the church, and as far as I know and I can tell you that I love them all. I have enjoyed them all. They have all been good to me, and I have no bad comments so far for none of them. They're a bunch of good neighbors and a bunch of good friends. I have no enemies that I know of. If I did, I certainly would certainly. . . . I can't help that, so I have done it all for a good purpose. I'm like Jesus, I love them.

B: I think that will take just a little bit of time.

D: I'm like Jesus. I love everybody, and I hope everybody loves me. When I leave here, I don't want to leave here and leave any enemies, for I don't intend to come back. I tell the kids, "If you don't behave, I'm going to come back." Jim will say, "Oh."

B: He doesn't want you to do that, right?

D: No.

B: So as a whole, you have had a good fulfilling experience? You made a lot of friends here at the church.

- D: I have got a lot of friends. I have got friends wherever I go. As I tell you, I love everybody over there, and I hope everybody loves me. I try to do everything I can to help the church and help everybody that is over there or any place else that I could. I've even got a lot of friends in the Baptist church. As far as I know, I have got no enemies in Dorset and no place else. When I leave here, I would like to leave here with a good old. . . .
- B: Clean slate.
- D: Clean slate with everybody, because I don't believe in bickering; I don't believe in fighting. I had one sister that she didn't even love herself. She told people when she left that she was going to rest. If you don't speak to your in-laws or if you don't speak to your brothers and sisters and leave here, then I don't know how you are going to rest. She resented everybody. I don't think she was really responsible, for I really don't think she knew. I think she was disturbed.
- B: Do you have any special memories to add? I don't have anymore questions for you. Is there anything special that I haven't asked you about?
- D: I just hope and pray that we can get along like we have and that we can have no bickering, no hard feelings, and we can pay off our bills and be happy ever after.
- B: Okay. Thank you for your time. (Laughter)
- D: You are welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW