

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Canfield Fair Project

Canfield Fair Board

O. H. 205

HOWARD F. KOHLER

Interviewed

by

Carrie A. Stanton

on

May 5, 1983 :

HOWARD F. KOHLER

Howard F. Kohler was born in Springfield Township on January 28, 1901, the son of Lee and Ellen Kohler. He and his wife, Evelyn, are the parents of three children. Mr. Kohler attended North Lima High School and later the Wooster branch of Ohio State University and received a bachelor's degree in agriculture.

Mr. Kohler is self-employed and owns a dairy and grain farm which he runs with his son, Lee.

He was a member of the Canfield Fair Board for many years and was connected with the Machinery Show at the Canfield Fair. He is a retired member of the Board with his son taking his place upon his retirement.

Mr. Kohler is a member of the Lutheran church and the Ruritan.

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Canfield Fair History Project

INTERVIEWEE: HOWARD F. KOHLER

INTERVIEWER: Carrie A. Stanton

SUBJECT: Canfield Fair; Canfield Fair Board; farms;  
farm machinery; parade

DATE: May 5, 1983

S: This is an interview with Howard Kohler for the Youngstown State University Canfield Fair Project by Carrie Stanton at the Fair Board Administration Building on May 5, 1983 at approximately 10:00 a.m.

Do you want to tell me about your background, your younger days?

K: From childhood?

S: Yes.

K: I was born in Springfield Township on January 28, 1901, and lived in a house that was built in 1838 by my great-grandfather. It was a homestead. I went to a little one room schoolhouse in Harpers Ferry. There were eight grades in one room.

S: Where did you go to high school?

K: I went to North Lima High School and from there I went to Wooster for two years. I transferred to Ohio State and took up agriculture and majored in Dairy Manufacturing. I graduated in 1925 and came back to the home farm and went into partnership with my brother. In 1936 I started in the production of hybrid seed corn and certified wheat and oats. I have a daughter that lives in Cleveland and I have a son taking over the farm now. Another daughter lives on the homestead.

KOHLER

S: Where did you say your farm is?

K: On East Calla Road, just east of Evans Lake. In fact, two farms border Evans Lake. We had a small dairy. My son has about forty-five head of milk cows and is farming around 800 acres. Part of that is rented.

S: Your son is on the Fair Board now?

K: Yes. He followed me on the Fair Board and he's on the State Seed Certification Board.

Last year we traded houses because he has four children. He had a large mobile home. We wish we had traded years ago. (Laughter) When I was thirty-two, I was elected to the Health Board and the School Board. I served on that for sixteen years.

S: Which one?

K: I was on the Mahoning County Health Board for fifteen years.

S: Which school board?

K: Springfield Township. That was on through the Depression, when teachers might not have a check for three months.

S: How did they live without any money?

K: Well, I happened to be Chairman of the Board for quite a few years and I'd have to sign some papers so that they could get a loan from banks.

S: Did they go around and live with people?

K: No, that was a generation before. My mother was a school teacher and she taught up at Simon Road where WKBN is, and she went from home to home.

S: What did your father do?

K: He was a farmer.

In 1927, the European Corn Borer came in and I worked with Mr. Hedge, the county agriculture agent, for about two years on the educational part.

S: What was that? What did they do?

K: The Borer came in and spread over the United States for

five or six years. The mother would hatch out in the spring and lay eggs on the corn leaves. They'd hatch out and go into the stalk and go up and down it until the stalk would break over. They've bred in resistance to them and there's times that it causes quite a bit of damage, but as a rule not too much any more.

When I worked with Mr. Hedge during the summertime I had time for the 4-H work. I was called assistant county agent but I just worked part-time. I did all the field work.

S: This was a disease, the European Corn Borer?

K: No, it was an insect.

S: Eventually what did they do, hybridize them?

K: Yes, they'd breed resistance. They'd even breed resistance to the other insects and they'd have a strain that would withstand the damage more than others. It's really interesting. In 1936 we got into producing seed hybrid corn. We were one of the first in Northeastern Ohio to produce it and my son still carries on in a much larger way than we did.

S: How many acres?

K: We have on the one farm, 100 acres, and we have two other farms that are about 80 acres. One's on the south side and in fact, we have land right up to the lake. He also rents 400 to 500 acres.

S: He rents out or he rents himself?

K: He rents from other farmers.

S: That's interesting. Do you have cattle too?

K: Yes.

S: How many head?

K: I don't know whether I actually could tell you. Approximately 45 milk cows, and 40 young stock.

I was on the State Seed Certification Board for four years and that's where I was glad to see my son. Just this last January he was elected on the board.

S: You were talking about the Depression. What do you remember about the Depression? Was it bad around here?

- K: Oh yes. We were growing potatoes on 40 or 50 acres between 1927 and 1936. One year we had a big crop and we didn't have any place to store all of them. The Farm Bureau was putting up a potato storage bin in Columbiana and they said if we'd buy some stock we could store potatoes there. We took up several thousand bushels and we got a return of 40¢/100, which figures 24¢ a bushel. At that time we had an orchard with a lot of peach trees and we had a wonderful crop of peaches. I sold them from house to house. A peck, five of them for a \$1.
- S: Oh my!
- K: For a year and a half we didn't take in enough money to pay our taxes.
- S: What did they do?
- K: Nothing. We got some money, but we couldn't pay it all. I went in to the treasurer and said, "I can pay some of that, but I won't pay any if I have to pay a penalty." He said, "Don't you worry about a penalty. Any time you have something bring it in."
- S: Good. Do you know anybody that went under during the Depression?
- K: A lot of people lost their homes. We had a man come up from Youngstown, and he had owned a home in town, and he just begged for work. He'd work for a \$1 a day. He drove out and he would be out there at six o'clock and eat breakfast, lunch, and supper with us. He always thanked me. He said, "You know, we lost our home, but they took it in produce." We gave him a lot of produce. We had a cow and we were going to sell it, but it only would bring 3¢ or 4¢ a pound. He said, "oh, let me butcher it and I'll take half of it." His wife cold packed it.
- S: The meat?
- K: Yes. You know, they put it in jars, then put it in water and boil it. At that time we had no electricity so the only way to keep it would be to can it or salt it, cure it.
- S: I've never heard of canning meat before.

KOHLER

K: Oh, you didn't? They generally brown it in a skillet first and then put it in jars.

S: How does it taste? Good?

K: As good as fresh. Maybe because I was used to it.

You had to pick up the potatoes by hand, but now they have machines that dig them. We had to turn away help. We didn't need to spend any money. The people would just line up in the mornings, and we couldn't use them all. They'd take their pay in potatoes.

S: You hired people during the Depression?

K: Oh, yes.

S: So that's what you remember about the Depression?

K: Well, there was a lot more.

S: When I was talking to Mr. Schaeffer, he was saying that he went to school in a one room schoolhouse. Did you go to school in one?

K: Yes, I did. I don't know how these teachers now are so over worked. You can imagine a teacher having eight grades!

S: How many children would there be?

K: There would be around 25 to 30.

S: All in different grades?

K: Yes. Two coal stoves.

S: Did you use the McGuffey Reader?

K: Yes. I've got quite a few of them left. Of course, I had a sister and a brother and we kind of divided them up.

S: They're worth some money now.

K: I still contend that the old arithmetic system was better. These young ones can't figure anything out in their heads.

S: I heard of a school now that's going to start using McGuffey Readers again. What did they have in them? Did they have a little poetry and stories?

KOHLER

K: Yes.

S: How did you come to be associated with the fair?

K: I was one of the first 4-H'ers with a dairy heifer club. That was the first 4-H at the Canfield Fair.

S: Were you in 4-H when you were very young?

K: When I was sixteen years old, about 1917. H. O. Brown had been on the Fair Board for a good many years. Then he resigned on account of his health. From what they tell me they asked him for a reference. Mr. Zeiger called me one day and said, "Would you drop in the office some time when you're downtown?" That's the way I got on. I was on it for 36 years. I went in as the youngest on the board at that time.

S: How many board members were there when you started?

K: Twelve.

S: And there's now how many?

K: Sixteen or seventeen. When I got on the board they really socked it to me. I had charge of the educational building and the farm machinery. Rabbits were coming in and they took the poultry building and put rabbits in it.

S: You mean they didn't always have rabbits?

K: No. They just about voted not to have poultry. I said, "My gosh"--poultry was the third highest farm income in the county. I had Mr. Hedge back me up on that, he was sitting in on the meeting. They said, "Will you take the poultry?" I couldn't leave them with a tent that I didn't want. So I had them in a tent. Over fourteen hundred chickens of all kinds, and a few water fowl. The second year we had this tent, the night before the fair opened, about nine o'clock, a storm came through and flattened that tent right over the coops. Chickens were running! We were lucky. There were only twenty-some chickens lost and the rest they caught. So I told the fellows to turn in their loss and the value. They only cost us, I think, forty-two dollars. (Laughter) We had a bunch of carpenters in and they worked all night, and the tent fellows came and they took the tent clear down. It was torn. They put another one up and the next morning it looked fine when I came back.

S: That must have been some time ago that you had a tent. As long as I can remember they've been in a barn.



KOHLER

K: Yes. I don't know just when that was moved down there south of the grandstand. That was around, I'd say, the late 1950's.

S: Where was the tent before?

K: As you come in you go in between the coliseum and the cattle barn. It was right at the left-hand side, right at the end of that coliseum.

S: Were the chickens in with the rabbits then, or did they have their own tent?

K: The chickens originally were in the pumpkin building. And then when they brought the chickens out that was for rabbits until Homer started the pumpkin shed.

S: So that was your first duty on the Fair Board, the educational buildings?

K: There wasn't too much. The Board of Health was in there and Dr. Patton, not the young one but his dad, was county health doctor and he had a booth in there. Really all I had to do was see that they had their supplies and hire the help that worked in there.

But going back to the farm machinery, that was just a small thing. Right in back of this building here, at the Fair Board Administration Building there was a race track. That's where the race track had originally been and the grandstand was just down here a little way.

S: Was it wooden?

K: Yes. On both sides and down there to about 250 feet that was all machinery. I don't know what year, I'd say the early 1950's --the 4-H building was built. We had that laid out and a fellow said, "How are we going to get the people to it?" So, I guess I was a little selfish, I said, "What if we just put a street down there and then let me put my machinery on both sides to the 4-H building?" We had one or two members say, "Look at the space we're going to lose for parking, that was all for parking." After a lot of talking we won. That was the start of the fair going that way. Right now the machinery show here is, I think it's safe to say, the biggest of any county fair in Ohio.

S: Do you think it's as big as it used to be? It seems as though the machinery show was larger in earlier times.

KOHLER

K: No. Besides changing it over... I think you're right. It was kind of hard for me to do that, but we had so many lawn mowers and not farm machinery. Now they've got, I'd say ninety percent, actual farm machinery. Some of these combines and tractors run \$50,000 or \$80,000 for one piece.;

S: Wow! That much! They last a long time though, don't they? Not like buying a car that falls apart in five years.

K: Vernon Crouse wanted me to start a hay show and he wanted me to put it around in the different machinery tents. I said no, that's too confusing to the judges. I said, "If you fellows want to pay the money and pick a man to handle it, I'll put up a tent." The first year we got a forty by sixty and we ended up with a forty by a hundred and twenty. If it rained, we were in trouble because the water would run in. So I kind of kept nudging for a building and the board, around the 1960's, started to make plans. They said they were going to make it about a hundred and twenty and I said, "Why don't you go the whole way between the two midways." They said, "You won't need that much room," and I said, "You could rent the extra space." It wasn't too long after it was built, or maybe while it was going up, a fruit exhibit was put in. I just love that. That really makes a show.

S: The apple show, it smells so good in that building.

K: Yes, it does. Hay smells good also.

Then I got the crazy idea that I'd like to have them put in sunflowers. The board backed me on it. I didn't have any idea how it would turn out without background with sunflowers. The first year I was sent to Burpees and got ten pounds of seed. I put them in little packages and passed them out to the board members and I said, "Give them to your friends."

S: Do you still do it that way?

K: No, but to get it started I got the seeds and passed them out. That was the only year.

S: Now how do they do it?

K: There's quite a bit of complication in that. You'd be surprised. Sometimes we really get more than we can handle.

KOHLER

S: How many entries do you usually have?

K: I imagine we have 50 or more. Some of those tall ones were hard to bring in. They have to bring them in with the roots. Then they'd have to have a container to keep water on them because they'd dry out. Even now they dry out.

S: What was the tallest one? Do you remember?

K: I think it was around fourteen or fifteen feet.

S: Almost to the roof!

K: Yes, that's right. A lot of them are on the outer side, but a couple of years ago they had one right in the center and it was right up to the ceiling.

S: Who grows these sunflowers? Are they mostly kids, or people from all over?

K: A lot of them are entered under kids, but the parents are as interested as the kids.

S: Do they pay premiums on them?

K: Yes. I think the top is five dollars and then they get smaller in diameter. The tallest is another class and they have another class that is ornamental, and they have little sunflowers. Then the one with the most flowers. They generally go down \$6, \$5, \$4, \$3, \$2, and \$1.

S: Who judges them, do you judge?

K: No. Cliff Morrison does the sunflowers. He's the head of the experiment farm. He does the measuring and he's done it ever since they started. The hay and grain judge is always somebody from the university. That was one thing I had trouble with when I first started on the hay and grain. I couldn't get anybody to judge out of the university. My son was going down to state and he was telling this one prof what nice alfalfa we were making. We had a dryer that we dried it in. He said, "I don't think he believed me." So one weekend he was home he took a bale down and when he went in the class he carried it in. The prof got kind of interested in it and my son said, "You know, Dad's always tried to get somebody from the university to come up and judge hay and grain but nobody would come." Well, he said, "You tell your dad to call me." And that's the way it started. You can't get too good a judge, I don't care what you do. The best thing is not to get local people to do your judging.

KOHLER

S: What kind of grains do they have?

K: Wheat, corn, oats. Of course, there are so many different varieties. Like corn--there may be ten, fifteen different varieties. Small seeds, grass seeds, buckwheat, rye. The biggest part of it is corn. There's two classes. The one that'll be grown this year will be shown in one class. Corn that was grown last year will be shown in another class.

S: You arranged for the apple people to come in?

K: No. I have nothing to do with that. Francis Less has charge of the fruit exhibits.

I always have the watchmen. Yes, we have a man that sleeps in the building because somebody will get in there. A lot of that goes on. The night crew comes in and sweeps the floors and then opens it up, but we always have a man in there. The first night and the last night of the fair, they stay.

S: When do you start getting ready for next year?

K: Right after this fair closes. They plan on that. Generally starting about June they meet every week. There's a lot of planning.

S: When you head up your part do you have people that work under you?

K: Yes.

S: Do fair board members get paid?

K: Yes. We got four dollars a meeting for one meeting a month, that's twelve months at forty-eight dollars, and then we were allowed ten cents a mile, for twelve meetings. You'd have twenty-five or thirty meetings a year. They've got more now. You've got to love what you do.

S: You put a lot of hours in?

K: Yes. My son was up here a week ago Saturday before noon. He was on a grounds committee or something. The last month you're going to average being on the grounds one time or another every day practically.

S: That is a lot of hours. When do you think you're ready for it, then? The day before?

K: Well, you're not ready till it opens up the first day.

KOHLER

S: Then what do you do? Can you relax then, or are you still busy during the fair?

K: Yes. They start to judge the hay and grain at 9:00 the first day.

S: Do you have to be there?

K: No. I was always there if any question came up. You have clerks. It takes three or four people a day or two before and the first day, then the rest is practically just watchmen. It takes two clerks to work with the judge. Then another fellow because they have to open these bales of hay, take a slice out and re-tie it.

S: To judge it?

K: Yes.

S: When do they bring in the farm machinery?

K: We hope they bring it in on Monday or Tuesday. If they bring it in on Wednesday, they're getting better educated, they can't move it around. The midways are full of people. Last year my son wrote letters to all the exhibitors and urged them to bring it in on Monday or Tuesday, most of them did last year.

S: They used to have parades with the machinery in. They don't have that any more, do they?

K: No. I hated to see that dropped, but it was a big worry. At that time of day moving that big machinery through those midways. They'd line up a bunch of policemen, but by the time they started to move they weren't there.

S: It was probably just too dangerous.

K: Yes, but the people really enjoyed that. They could see the machinery sitting down.

S: You were there all the time?

K: Well, I really can't take it any more. I generally come up in the morning for two or three hours and then I go home. I came up for the steer sale because I had two grandsons in it, in the evening, and I came up with one daughter for a night show.

S: When you were on the board earlier, you would just come and stay?

KOHLER

K: Yes. I'd come early in the morning and go home after the show was over.

S: Was that your fun time, when you had all the work done?

K: It was still a lot of work. Everybody runs out of tickets, and they're running you down, or this, or that, one thing isn't right and you've got to straighten it out.

S: All the board members are usually here during the fair?

K: Yes.

S: Do you work in shifts?

K: No. You're responsible for your division. Every noon, we've done this for a good many years in the big board meeting room here, a caterer brings our lunch in and while we eat, we don't waste any time, we do roll call around the room. Any problems are ironed out right at noon.

S: I've seen several members around the fair--they have a tractor that pulls them around the fair. Do you go around and look at everything and check how things are?

K: We tried that several times. I think they have those in a day or two for senior citizens. But, as our midway is set up, it's so darn dangerous to be running equipment.

S: So you've seen the fair go from a little fair to a great big one?

K: That's right. They closed when the sun went down. We had lanterns in the barns. The boys slept in the cow barn and we had lanterns.

S: I heard that they had streetcars come down here. Did they have streetcars coming down here?

K: The railway that goes through Canfield. I guess it's closed now. They'd run specials from Youngstown and right back here on the experiment farm they'd unload them, and make a couple trips a day, and pick them up. Now they have busses make trips from downtown.

S: Back in the early days did mostly farmers come to the fair, or did they get a diversity of people?

K: I remember the farmers. You would hardly see an auto-

KOHLER

mobile. We had an old surrey, that's a two seater buggy. That's the way we came to the fair. If we wouldn't be up here at 7:30 a.m., there was something wrong.

S: How many days was the fair then?

K: I don't know. It wasn't that long.

S: It wasn't five days like it is now?

K: No. We tried it once, six days, and it didn't pay because their expenses stayed up--health expenses--but the attendance equaled out.

S: Grace was telling me that she remembers when they would have it three days and then they wouldn't have it on Sunday, but would have it on Monday. There was no fair on Sunday.

K: We must not have had it--we wouldn't open the gates until twelve o'clock. But they started lining up to Boardman and they had to open them. They kept moving it out. They got a lot of people from Pennsylvania.

S: When did they start Pennsylvania Day, do you remember?

K: I think it was the year of the Centennial.

S: That would have been the year of 1976. Thursday is Youth Day?

K: Youth Day.

S: How do they prove that they're from Pennsylvania?

K: Generally their license. They're not too tough on them.

S: Didn't they used to charge by the car? Didn't you used to pay when you drove in, and now you just walk in?

K: Yes. You see, they have it fenced in and they backed up on the roads so bad while they were buying and arguing if their kid was twelve or ten. That's the reason they put the fence around. So they could get them off the road quick, and then they came through the gates and around.

S: Do you think that's been one of the big problems, the traffic?

KOHLER

K: That's always been a headache here.

S: Who's in charge of that?

K: McMillan, I think.

S: Do you always worry about the weather?

K: We always said if we had Saturday, Sunday and Monday, we didn't have much to worry about. That would take us through and get us a profit.

S: What do they do with all the money that they make?

K: (Laughter) Their big worry is where to get it now. When I resigned, I told Grace, "I would appreciate it if you'd mail me the minutes of your meetings." She said, "Lee gets them," and I said, "Yes, but I don't like to take them from him." Until we moved I had all the minutes of all my meetings. That was a big help. I just got one the other day and one of their big worries are the midways. I just drove around before I came in here and they need a bunch of re-pairing. The county helps out on that.

S: What do they do?

K: They bring their machinery in and do road repairs.

S: Were you ever connected with the concessions?

K: No. Tom Jordan and Holowach. The only thing I have is the farm machinery and, of course, I do all the collecting on that. Or I did. I had full charge of it. On the rest of the concessions, it's Jordan and Holowach.

S: This is such a special fair. We have other fairs around here. We have the Trumbull County Fair and the Columbiana County Fair and the Ohio State Fair. But this is such a special fair. People say, "I'm going to the fair," and they mean "I'm going to the Canfield Fair." Why do you think it's so special? What makes it like that?

K: I had a fraternity brother that came up here about ten years ago to see me. I always exchanged Christmas cards with him. About fifteen years ago my wife and I stopped in to see him. He had been a school teacher. They came up one summer. They were just going to stay a day or two. I brought him up here and showed him the fairgrounds. I said, "Well, you just come for the whole week." They didn't



KOHLER

know, but they came. They came on Wednesday and they went home on Wednesday. So they've been coming every year. The first year I was to make reservations for them to park the camper. They had a van. I made it and then I told Stacy, he was on the board then, I said, "Just cancel that." We had all the room down there for them to stay. I don't think anybody enjoys the fair more than them. They'll stay until the last show is over. After lunch they go into this van, fixed up with a couple cots in it, and rest awhile and then go back to the fair, and they sure get a kick out of it. When we started the seed business I had a few friends in Pennsylvania and I just gave them a couple tickets. You know, they're still coming to the fair, if they haven't died. Or their children are coming.

S: Do you have any idea how many people work at the fair that are paid employees?

K: Grace can give you a pretty good idea on that.

S: Do you get a lot of volunteers?

K: Used to be a lot more than now. The veterans took care of the parking. That was years ago. I forget which group had charge of the grandstand. The Beaver Ruritan Club sells all the ride tickets.

The eating is a little different than it was back in the late forties and fifties. There used to be so many good church eating places. Now the life of a church eating place on the fairgrounds is about seven years. Then they can't get help.

S: Are there any church tents left?

K: There's a few, I think.

S: Who has the one that's a building by Isaly's?

K: That's North Jackson, or one other church in there.

S: Do they own that building, or do they rent that from you?

K: No. They rent it. At one time it was a phone building.

S: There aren't many tents left. It's mostly buildings.

K: It's mostly these little trailers that open up. Western Reserve, they go for potato chips and they might have had a few other things. They really do good.

KOHLER

S: The one place that cooks the chickens outside. Is that a church run place? Or is that a Ruritan?

K: Greenford is the only one.

S: When do you think the fair started to get bigger? Was there a turning point or was it a gradual thing?

K: I don't think they should even try to get bigger. You naturally have changes in the mode of living and so on. You really get a variety of people. It always amused me that the city people spent the time looking at machinery and hay and grains. And they like to ask questions. That's one thing I told them when they started that hay and grain. I just can't have an ordinary man in there. I want a boy who's a teacher or from a farm that can answer intelligent questions. You'd be surprised. Some of the people kind of hesitate to ask, but they want to know.

S: When did you start putting the signs on the tractors? You're not allowed to sit on the tractors any more. Did they have a lot of vandalism?

K: Yes, and there was a chance of them falling off. We furnish those. I started that. A lot of people are in the mood for suing.

S: It was a lot of fun to sit on those tractors. Especially the great big threshing machines.

K: Quite a few years ago the guy right outside of the hay and grain building was bringing the tractors in that evening. One of the fellows didn't pull the key. A kid got on there and the darn thing started. It was a big one. Luck had it--I don't believe it was a guy that was working for us. It may have been a farm fellow--he knew what to do. He jumped on it and shut it off. Boy, did I tell them all! That could have just mowed down a building.

S: It was one of those great big machines?

K: Yes.

S: Do you think the fair is too much midway now, and not enough fair? Or do you think they have a good, healthy balance here?

K: I'll say yes, and I'll say no. If they're going to have that many buildings and overhead cost, that's where you get your money. If they wouldn't have them I don't know how they could keep the buildings

looking the way they do, and the grounds the way they do.

S: It brings money in, do you mean?

K: I've made the statement many a time that it's more than I personally like to see.

S: Is there anything that you'd like to add?

K: There is one little thing that I'd like to put in, when Charlie Findley was here with the auto races. That was the turning point of the build up of this fair, a lot of people don't know that. Another guy and I checked up, it was four years that we had a total income of \$84,000 or \$88,000, which would be \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year. \$20,000 to \$25,000 a year then, really built some buildings around here. That's when they built the 4-H building and the horse barns.

S: Did they have trouble with the neighbors then, with the racing?

K: Yes. Canfield made us stop.

S: How long did he have the races?

K: I remember the night he came in. He was just a young fellow from Pittsburgh. He said, "I'd like to try. I don't have much money to put in it, but they're making money down in Pittsburgh." He wondered what we'd want for a night. I can remember Ed Zeiger said, "You don't know how this thing will run and we don't either. Why don't we let you just start for a while on a percentage?" I think we got ten percent, but it ended up we were getting sixteen or seventeen. He was putting people in the grandstand. He died suddenly and his nephew took over, darned if he didn't die.

S: I thought his wife took over.

K: His wife and nephew, then it just kind of folded up.

S: Was this during the 1950's and 1960's?

K: I think so, yes. He was a good guy and he did a lot for us. That gave us money when we needed it.

S: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW