

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

History of Leetonia Project

Resident Experiences

O. H. 799

Michael Mancuso

Interviewed

by

Theodore Carchedi

on

April 9, 1986

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

History of Leetonia Project

INTERVIEWEE: MICHAEL MANCUSO

INTERVIEWER: Theodore Carchedi

SUBJECT: WPA, Cherry Valley, Grafton, Black Hand, black market, McKeefrey family, Kelly's Park, streetcars, schools

DATE: April 9, 1986

C: This is an interview with Mike Mancuso for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, by Ted Carchedi, at Leetonia, Ohio, on April 9, 1986 at 3:15 p.m. This is a history of Leetonia, Ohio.

Mike, you said you were born in 1911, right?

M: 1911.

C: Are there any members of your family that can tell you about the war years? You said you didn't remember about the war itself, World War I. But are there any family members that can tell you something about it?

M: Not that I know of right now.

C: The Depression years, you probably remember a lot about that.

M: Oh hell, yes.

C: What was it like in Leetonia living through the Depression? How did it affect you? How did it affect members of your family or friends that you had?

M: It affected all of us when that bank went under you know.

C: Which bank was that now?

M: What did we call it? City Loan? City Loan, yes.

C: It was called City Loan?

- M: Yes. Mr. Greenamyer was on that. Then he disappeared. Wherever he went, I don't know. He left there. The first thing you know, he was dead. He died. They brought his casket here, but they never opened his casket to find out if he was in it. After his boy came up, Ed--I went to school with Ed--he inherited \$45,000 from his uncle. I still think his dad wasn't in that coffin. I recall a lot of other people thought the same damn thing. He took all that money and left. The wife was still here in the big house down here.
- C: Greenamyer's, that was a noted family?
- M: Yes, they were a noted family in Leetonia here.
- C: Besides the bank did they seem involved in anything else?
- M: That's all he was involved in, the bank. Unless there was something else that I didn't know.
- C: When it went down the tubes . . . When are we talking about here, 1929?
- M: 1929 when it went under.
- C: Do you remember the day the stock market collapsed?
- M: No, I don't remember the day the stock went down.
- C: But the general period of time?
- M: Yes.
- C: What was it like in Leetonia? I mean, how were people affected? They lost their jobs obviously.
- M: Everybody lost their jobs. It hit them hard in Leetonia here. Then they came up with this giving the food out you know, beans and bacon and stuff like that. Then they started that WPA later on.
- I used to hunt rabbits in that place where they have the schoolhouse right now. That was a field there.
- C: Where the schoolhouse is?
- M: You know where the schoolhouse is, the high school is? That was a field. And we lived over here and I used to take my dad's bucket down to the furnace.
- C: The high school was where on the north side, the old high school?
- M: The old high school was right down there were Jonesy lives now.

- C: Right. This newer high school, or what was new then, was a WPA project?
- M: Yes, that was a WPA project.
- C: 1937?
- M: Yes. I used to take my dad's bucket down there every day. You know, I used to go right straight down this alley and right down over the hill, right down through that field.
- C: Now were you working at the time of the Depression?
- M: No, I couldn't get on it; I couldn't get on it because my dad was on it. See, they wouldn't hire me. So I had to go pick beans, and hoe corn, and pick potatoes and stuff like that.
- C: So you had to really pull yourself.
- M: Yes, pull myself. But when the furnace was running there and it was doing . . . It was starting to go down you know.
- C: Cherry Valley?
- M: Cherry Valley. See then they had dropped the furnace down here. They had two furnaces; there were two furnaces in this town. Then there was the twenty-some saloons altogether. They only had two cops then, two policemen. The one who worked days had one arm bigger than the other. Jake Mullen worked nights. This was a rough town. It was rough then.
- C: Okay, we are going to be getting into that in a minute. You said that Cherry Valley Iron Company, before it was two separate companies, is that right? I am not too familiar . . .
- M: Cherry Valley Coke and Iron was what it was.
- C: I remember reading somewhere that there was a consolidation, that somebody . . .
- M: That's when they sold out. Somebody else, a different company, bought them, out of Pittsburgh.
- C: Was it running during the Depression?
- M: No, it was down, everything went down. During the Depression everything went down.
- C: Did anyone that you know work there before the Depression?
- M: Oh, yes. My dad worked there and my uncle worked there. And then my other uncle came from Italy and he was working on the ore bins up on the tressels when it broke down. You see they

were all wooden tressels then. You see there weren't any iron tressels.

C: You were telling me about someone getting killed there?

M: Yes, my uncle from Italy. He came over there and was working on the boxcars on top. You punch the ore down through them in gondolas; they go down to the bottom of the tressels. They have a crane there that picks it up and puts it in a hull and runs it down to the furnace down there.

C: I see.

M: I got a job. I was young then; hell I must have been about fifteen years old. I got it close to fifteen, sixteen. See I only went to the seventh grade; then I quit.

C: The school you attended?

M: The public school right down here on top of the hill, then I went to Catholic school.

C: Where was the public school? What do you mean the top of the hill?

M: Where Jonesy lives? Do you know where Jonesy lives? They call it "crazy hill". William Jones lives on Elm Street on the ground where the first school in Leetonia was built, back in the 1800's. Do you know where the First Presbyterian Church is? Right across from it there was a school there. Jonesy has got a house built there now. You see that used to be the public school. That's where I started school. Then I went to the Catholic school. Fourth or fifth grade was down at the Catholic school.

C: Let me ask you this. When they built the high school in 1937, the new high school, from what I understand this was a combination WPA/PWA project. Do you know people who worked on that building from the community?

M: Jesus, I bet they are all dead now. I couldn't get on it.

C: Because your father was on it?

M: Yes, because my dad was on it, you see. They only allowed one person per family.

C: Now your parents came here . . .

M: They came here to North America from Brazil.

C: They were in Brazil. When did they come to Leetonia?

- M: I couldn't tell you right now. It must have been 1905 or something like that.
- C: Can you remember anything at all about what they told you about the community that was different than what you remember of those early days? Did they tell you anything about certain businesses that existed that didn't exist when you were a young man during those times, Anything at all that you can relate?
- M: Not that I can remember. I know they were talking about Mr. Citino, that's Frank Citino's dad. That was when he was running up the OSI. Where the Catholic school is now there used to be a wooden building there; that was the OSI then.
- C: There was the Mafia.
- M: Yes, we called them Mafia.
- C: The Black Hand?
- M: Hell, they were shooting each other . . .
- C: La costro nostro.
- M: Shoot each other on the goddamn road.
- C: What was it like? What do you remember about all of that?
- M: About that? Oh Christ, I know one that shot him that day, the Fourth of July.
- C: Who are you talking about now?
- M: Mr. Citino.
- C: Who was he? What position did he have that they wanted him?
- M: He was the big boy in that society. He was the president, you see. Oh Jesus, his own relations shot him. We used to play ball on the road here. There was Tony Tomato. Three guys came up this road here. The neighbor there--the neighbor next to where Jack lives now--she had a cow--where Corky Wurster has got his house right now. You used to pasture your cows there. Three guys came up there and we were playing ball on the road. Young guys, you know, that's all we did, play ball; we had no television. Three guys came up and pretty soon two guys came down. The third guy didn't come down. This woman, her cow was supposed to have a calf, so they went up there looking for the calf. They found Tony Tomato dead. They shot him up there.
- C: Why did they shoot him?
- M: I don't know. They must have had some kind of an argument.

When they walked up there they were talking to each other. You know how Dagos do, they swing their hands and this and that and I know they were arguing about something. I know they took a walk up there then they . . . Why, they shot him . . . They must have had some kind of an argument. Just like Mr. Citino now, he was a big shot. They were always blowing off at him; that is why he got shot.

C: How was he involved? What kind of things did he do in the organization? Numbers?

M: No numbers, nothing. There were no numbers then. There was stealing. There was this and they wanted that. Black Johnny got it. He owned that poolroom down where John Nitsky, next to his place; Black Johnny owned that poolroom there. I was going to school. They shot Black Johnny up here, right here at this corner. He won \$500. You know, he wanted to bribe with \$500 and they were waiting on him. They shot at him but they didn't kill him. So he hid his money and gun right there at the bank and then he came back the next day and got it. Then he asked for some money at the Clover Hill. They call it Clover Hill. That's up on the hill where Wranues live. You don't know them. You know right across, you know where the new road went in?

C: 550 meets 558?

M: No, not 558. This new road went in down here. It is 344; it goes into Salem.

C: Oh, yes.

M: You know where the bridge is?

C: Like the underpass?

M: You know where the underpass is?

C: Yes.

M: Up over the hill, they call that Clover Hill. There used to be that big house up there. He went up there to collect the money that night. They shot at him forty-seven times. They killed him that night. You know how far he got? He got clear down to Hi Ho.

C: Right downtown by the Sons of Italy?

M: No, no right down Washington Street.

C: Okay, that's on Washington Street.

M: They shot him with a high powered rifle to kill him. This

is some town, Jesus Christ. You know in Italy anybody that talked bad, the country used to beat the goddamn hell out of you and bring you home and set you on the porch.

C: So the Mafia was mostly stealing?

M: It was . . .

C: Anything?

M: Anything they could get their hands on. Christ, the farmer couldn't let his goddamn sheep and cows out, chickens and stuff like that. This guy here, Tony Nicotera, he was bragging nobody could take his. He had rabbits and some chickens. Now the goddamn Black Hand, they took all his chickens and all his rabbits and took his billy goat. They didn't want the billy goat, so they put it down here in the shanty.

C: What years are we talking about here? When were they most powerful?

M: Oh that was back in, I would say, around 1927, 1928, 1929.

C: Going into the 1930's?

M: Going into the 1930's. Around 1937 they were pretty rough yet.

C: So there were a lot of killings?

M: Oh, yes. You know they would get . . . For \$25 you could get a guy killed easy. They would call a guy from Alliance to come down and shoot a man. And then they would get a man from Leetonia to go up and shoot men in Alliance that they wanted killed.

C: Then there were a lot of membered people in the community that belonged to this?

M: Oh yes, there were quite a few. But like my dad and them, they didn't want in it. They wanted to get in this outfit but they didn't want to join it.

C: It was like people belonged to you if you owed them something.

M: Yes, that's right.

C: You couldn't get away for nothing. Now you mentioned Tony Tomato. What's his real name?

M: I don't know. I always called him Tony. My mother, dad, and I called him Tony Tomato.

C: He ran the pool hall?

- M: No, Black Johnny ran the pool hall.
- C: Oh, Black Johnny ran the pool hall.
- M: Yes. Tony Tomato worked at the furnace. He belonged to that Sons of Italy down there too. But when they got into an argument--I don't know what the argument was about--three men went up and two men came back.
- C: After this Depression, then where did you go to work?
- M: Mullin's.
- C: Mullin's, where is that?
- M: Down in Salem.
- C: What did you do there?
- M: I ran the high lift.
- C: The high lift?
- M: Yes.
- C: What type of industry was it?
- M: Manufacturing steel, that is what it was, 27¢ an hour, 28¢ an hour.
- C: This is about what year?
- M: That was about 1933, 1934. I got married in 1937. I was still working there. I worked up there for fourteen years.
- C: Where did other people find jobs at around here?
- M: You see the furnace started back up, started picking up. Grafton Furnace picked up too.
- C: Grafton Furnace and . . .
- M: Cherry Valley Furnace. All the streets down there where the Veterans is down there, there is a row of houses there, red row. Up where the sport's men's club is, there used to be the white row. There were all houses along up there, company houses. People rented them out. They were the same thing, exact furniture. See all along that main road down there where the Hi Ho is on the other side, all the way up there used to be a red row down there too, company houses. McKeefrey owned that though.
- C: That was another thing I wanted to ask you. You hear McKeefrey's and they are still around today. What kind of importance did

they play in the town back in the 1930's?

M: Old man McKeefrey, he ran the furnace. You see this place right up here, this farm? You know they had a sheep barn, hog barn, horse barn, cow barn. They employed forty people up there. You see where the Hi Ho is. You know the Hi Ho down there, that used to be the Grafton's supply. That used to be his store.

C: I have seen pictures of it.

M: That was his company store. He ran the furnace and had mines down in West Virginia.

C: They were pretty well-off people?

M: Yes, because anything the poor people owned such as their houses and stuff like that, he would pick them up for practically nothing because he had the money. That is why he got so goddamn much ground. Right now that guy is in there, his son-in-law. He came in there and started raising cattle and stuff like that.

C: Do they still own the big Victorian house down by the high school?

M: Do you mean this one down here by the park? No, that was his brother. He owns that big mansion up on the hill.

C: Do you know his name, the brother's name?

M: Do you mean the one that owned the house down here? No, I don't remember his name. I remember he used to go to church all the time with a little turban on his head, like a Jew. He was Catholic

C: He was Catholic? Why did he wear a turban?

M: I don't know. Every time I went to church he wore this turban like a Jew, like a priest.

C: Do you mean a little beanie cap?

M: A little beanie on top of his head.

C: He was a Catholic?

M: He was Catholic. He went to church down in Leetonia. He had two sisters that were nuns.

C: I was asking you about when you went to work, 1933, 1934 . . .

M: After the Depression years started letting up a little bit.

C: Where did other people go to work besides . . . Was there anything else in Leetonia?

M: They were working down at Cherry Valley for \$1 something a day, \$1.50 a day and stuff like that down at the furnace.

C: What was that considered?

M: That was good money. That was a day. It was good--\$1.50, \$1.75, \$2. My dad, he was working for \$1.25. Bruno was working for \$1.25. Pig iron, that was good money then.

C: So most everyone that could, would go down there?

M: There or Grafton. Some went to Columbiana to work in the little shops over there. But mostly they all worked on the two furnaces here in Leetonia. People came from out of town to work here too.

C: I read something about a Kelly's Park. Do you remember that?

M: Hell yes, I played ball in Kelly's Park.

C: Where is Kelly's Park?

M: Do you know where those houses are right now out Route 11?

C: Route 11?

M: Route 11 out there where you go to Columbiana? You know those houses they built down along the side, off the road?

C: Yes.

M: That used to be Kelly's Park. Down over the hill there where they have the road now, used to be a dance hall.

C: Is that right?

M: Yes, then they had a roller skating rink after the dance hall in Kelly's Park. I used to go there. I was just a kid then. I used to go there. Kelly used to own the picture show down there.

C: The movie theater?

M: The movie theater.

C: The movie theater which is on . . .

M: Right here about town.

C: Which street is that?

M: It's on Chestnut isn't it?

C: Yes, Chestnut Street.

M: It was just 10¢ to get in and see a movie.

C: What kind of movies did they show?

M: All cowboy pictures.

C: Westerns?

M: Western pictures. Then after a while they would get some other pictures too.

C: How long was that in existence, the movie theater? Do you know when that went out?

M: Oh, that went out after 1938, 1939.

C: Going to Kelly's Park, what was that like? What did you do there?

M: Dance. We used to dance and everything. Bootleg, a guy used to go and bring a half a pint or something to sell over there to the guys.

C: That was pretty common around here.

M: Yes, that was bootlegging. Everybody had a little still. If they didn't have a still they had a pot about that big to put on the stove to make whiskey. This guy down here, Mr. Sposato, he had a big still. He used to sell. He had good whiskey. You had good whiskey and you had bad whiskey.

C: Now that wasn't legal, right?

M: It wasn't legal. Did you know they raided his place? He had a double silo. You never could find anything in his goddamn cellar. He had a double silo. He had a wall built and he worked in the other cellar with his still stuff. They raided his place two or three times, until this guy squealed on him and told them he had a double silo. That is when they caught him or they wouldn't have caught him. And then he got a beating. They beat him up. I heard Black Cat beat him up and laid him on the porch the next day.

C: The Black Cat?

M: Black Hand. I don't know.

C: The Black Hand?

M: Yes.

C: So do you think people were hurt? They walked around in fear

of this organization. They didn't know who to trust. They didn't know who was who or what.

- M: You had to see these people standing around, these Dagos standing around these corners. You walked around downtown. When I was a kid I mingled with all of them. Hell, I used to go to Grafton. Hell, I was full of shit anyhow. I would get into fights and everything like that. I would hang around with the Grafton crowd. Then you had the Grafton gang, the south side gang, the Hill's gang and this gang and these goddamn Dagos would be playing cards, then they would get into a fight and they would be shooting one another, Jesus Christ, over nothing.
- C: The Grafton gang, that's going towards Columbiana, Columbia Street?
- M: That's right down here, right down over the hill.
- C: Going towards Salem?
- M: No, going towards Franklin Square.
- C: At one time I read that there was separately an area known as Grafton and Leetonia. Then they combined and became an incorporate village in 1866. That's when those areas were combined in what was known as section 12 and it became a town.
- M: Yes.
- C: An incorporated village.
- M: Well, that's the trouble. They have Grafton Furnace Town there too, and then you call it the Grafton Furnace . . .
- C: What was Stump Town?
- M: Do you know where Stump Town is?
- C: Not Washingtonville?
- M: No, Stump Town is right over here.
- C: Describe that for me because I don't know exactly where you mean.
- M: You don't know of anybody? Do you know where Wilbur Sr. lives? Do you know that road that goes in Washingtonville, that bottom road?
- C: That is Washingtonville Road.
- M: Washingtonville Road, on the bottom, the first row of houses you see there is Stump Town.
- C: Why did they call it Stump Town?

M: I don't know why they ever called it Stump Town. You see Rudy Frank and them, he was the owner of the schoolhouse; he came from Stump Town. Why they called it Stump Town, I don't know.

C: It hit me kind of funny.

M: They called it Stump Town and then they call it Locust Grove. Up there where that church is right now, that's Locust Grove. We call that Locust Grove, then we have Maple Run.

C: What church are you talking about?

M: The one going to Canfield.

C: Route 46, 45?

M: No, going straight out Washingtonville Road. I don't know what road it is.

C: Okay, that is just Washingtonville Road.

M: Washingtonville and Canfield Road. Yes, that church that is in that cross road up there, that is Locust Grove.

They had this high schoolhouse up there; they call it Maple Run. On top of where the Catholic cemetery is, just down there about 100 yards, they call that Maple Run. Over there between Leetonia and Columbiana they call it Bonesville. They had a schoolhouse over there.

C: I didn't know that. Wasn't there a southside school?

M: Yes. The one we are at right now. But they tore that down and they built another one.

C: This was an older building?

M: It was a big, old building.

C: Why did they tear it down?

M: It was pretty well . . .

C: It was shot?

M: It was shot. It was ready to come down, collapse.

C: I was reading somewhere that if you were on the top floor and looked out the window you could see over the majority of part of the counties on a clear day.

M: Yes.

C: You started work and got married in the 1930's.

M: 1937.

C: We'll start getting into the area of World War II. What can you tell me about that? What was life like in Leetonia as the war got started or as people saw that maybe we were going to go to war pretty soon?

M: We were all on edge, same as everybody else. There were guys working here and there.

C: Were there any close relatives that went into the Army?

M: Yes, my cousin Ralph.

C: Ralph Mancuso?

M: Yes, he got shot.

C: He got shot? Where at?

M: In Vietnam.

C: Oh, he was in Vietnam, not World War II.

M: And then my brother-in-law was killed. He got torpedoed that night they started to cross the Atlantic.

C: In World War II?

M: World War II in the Atlantic. He got torpedoed in the Atlantic Ocean, yes. And then my brother-in-law he was in . . .

C: Fiji Islands?

M: Fiji Islands, that was where he was shot.

C: Did people have to ration? Do you remember the rationing?-

M: Oh, yes.

C: That is what I want to deal with. How were people adjusting to the wartime economy and all that?

M: My brother-in-law and I used to go out and buy meat. It was black market then. You had stamps to buy meat. They gave you stamps. They gave you stamps for gasoline too.

C: Do you remember how much you got, how much gas a month?

M: Well, let's see. I was allowed so much. I was driving back and forth to Alliance then. I was allowed about \$50 worth

a month I think. Then the meat ration, you got stamps for meat. My brother-in-law and I used to butcher. We used to go and buy meat and butcher. Some of these people couldn't get any meat.

C: Did you get a pretty good price for it?

M: No, I just charged them. You know the people didn't have any damn money.

C: Yes.

M: We got the beef pretty cheap so we butchered the right place and I would cut it up and bring it to them, sell it to them. I was down there one day and by the big maple tree by the corner we had just butchered a black Angus. I was cutting off a steak of hindquarter. A goddamn car came along and stopped. I told Chris, "Jesus Christ, there's trouble maybe." The guy came over and looked at that hunk; I had a hunk about like a Swiss steak. He said, "I'll give you \$10 for that round." I said to Chris, "What do you think?" Chris said to sell it to him. So I sold it to him. He gave me \$10 for the goddamn hunk of meat.

C: People must have been pretty . . .

M: It was hard, meat was hard to get, just like during the Depression. Hell, we used to go out hunting rabbits. I had thirteen dogs. I used to pick beans to buy feed for the dogs, 10¢ a basket.

C: You didn't have the money to go to the store?

M: You didn't have money to go to the store. Now I was smoking. I would buy Bull Durham. Then Buffalo came out with a bigger pack for a nickle. So I started smoking Buffalo instead of Bull Durham. You had to roll your own. You didn't buy tailor-made. You didn't have money to buy the tailor-made.

C: That's something. Look at today, how we live today.

M: You know if we would ever have a Depression now like we had back then, I bet half of these people would starve to death. They would starve to death or they would kill one another. Or they would break into the stores; they wouldn't be able to keep the stuff outside; they would have to lock it up.

C: Going back to the Depression, a lot of these rich families such as the McKeefrey's, do you remember the Floding's?

M: The Floding's, yes. The slaughterhouse. Yes, I remember I used to go up there and buy . . .

C: How did these people react when things went down the tubes?

M: Well, all they did was sell so much and that's all. They couldn't sell too damn much. The slaughterhouse was out on Lisbon Road. You know where I am talking about?

C: Yes, I know.

M: Do you know where the bridge is? Well, the slaughterhouse used to be there. Then he owned that big house up on the hill. Then do you see where Corky Wurster tore that building down downtown next to the bank--the big building they had there--that used to be his butcher shop, Floding's.

C: That is right on Main Street.

M: Yes, that is right on Main Street. Neihisel used to be his butcher. He would cut the meat up. They would just get along with what they made.

C: It sort of picked up afterwards.

M: Yes, it started picking up then; it started getting pretty good.

C: We talked a little bit about entertainment. So you went to Kelly's Park and the movies. That was really about it, even during the war, to World War II?

M: Yes, then they had this park up at Washingtonville too.

C: Oh, there was a park in Washingtonville?

M: Yes, there was a dance hall, Liberty Park.

C: Liberty Park they called it?

M: I had a Model T Ford. I used to go here and there.

C: You had a Model T?

M: I had a Model T.

C: What year was it?

M: 1926 or 1927.

C: How much did you pay for it?

M: I think I only paid \$40 for it.

C: How old was it when you bought it?

M: It was a couple years old. Then I fancied it up. I was driving

since I was fourteen years old, a Model T. We bought a Model T touring car. Then my dad was working pretty good so he went over to Columbiana Koree's. He bought a brand new one out of the showcase, \$600 and some.

C: This was what year?

M: That was back in 1928, 1929, someplace in there. It had a California top. You pull it down.

C: What is that? I don't know what that is.

M: They used to call it a California top. They had the wind gliders. Like the electric curtain, you put them on when it rains.

C: Yes.

M: Well, this one had a slide, just like a sliding window. Everytime it rains you just slide it right down. They call it a California top.

C: When you were growing up did a lot of people have cars? Were there a lot of automobiles?

M: No, there were not too many. I don't know why.

C: Who had all the cars, the big shots?

M: The big shots, yes. Then I got a Model T Ford, then a Model A. Then I had to do all my goddamn work on it. You didn't have the money. You worked at Mullin's for 27¢ an hour; it wasn't worth shit.

C: You had to do all the work?

M: There was nothing to take a brake band and put a band on. All you need is a pair of pliers and some wire for the Model T Fords.

C: How about streetcars? Do you remember streetcars?

M: Yes, I used to ride them.

C: When was that in and when did it go out?

M: My mother was living then. My mother was still living. She used to go to Youngstown all the time to the doctor, Dr. Montana, I remember. She used to bring me. I was just a kid. I was small. I must have been about nine or ten years old. She brought me along because she couldn't get a seat. So I would go in and get a seat for her, get in there and get a seat and then I would go with her, Youngstown and right back.

C: Where did the streetcars go exactly?

M: It went from Leetonia to Youngstown but it stopped in North Lima and places like that. Then it had one going from here to Salem. It had one from Leetonia to Lisbon. Then it would go right down to East Liverpool. The streetcar station used to be You don't know where it's at, do you?

C: No.

M: It's over there where that . . .

C: I've seen a picture of it.

M: Did you?

C: I don't remember what street.

M: Remember that depot down here?

C: Where was the streetcar station?

M: Do you know where that furniture factory is that does a lot of work there on Columbia Street?

C: On Columbia Street?

M: No, it isn't on Columbia, it's on Pearl.

C: Oh, on the south side.

M: On the south side.

C: On Pearl Street.

M: It is one street above the school over there. You go up there about two blocks. I think the building is still sitting there, I'm not sure. But right across from it was a barn they kept the streetcars in. There is a shop in there now. Hell, I rode it from here to Liverpool and . . .

C: When did it go out? Do you remember?

M: They went out before I got married. I'm pretty sure it did.

C: So probably the early 1930's?

M: Probably the 1930's, yes. Then everybody started buying cars, Model T's and stuff like that. The depot down in Leetonia where they sell Christmas trees, that used to be a depot for trains

C: The railroad?

M: The railroad, that is where they used to stop.

C: You could basically catch a train to anywhere back then?

M: Yes. Then they have the tanks out there at the railroad that pick up water and fly. We called them tanks. They had big tops. They would run from here halfway up to Fordes or one-quarter mile. The train would just pick them up on the fly instead of stopping.

C: I would like to ask you, you said you went to school up until the seventh grade. I imagine that was pretty typical back then. A lot of people didn't continue through high school or college.

M: No, they quit and went to work. They went to work more than anything else. They didn't care about college and stuff like that. Only a few went to college. Boy, the teachers were rough. I mean you got a licking. Then if you were too big they would send you up to the superintendent and he would give you a paddling. In the Catholic school it was tough; you couldn't do anything.

C: It was more strict.

M: Oh, it was more strict than the public school.

C: The Catholic school included what grades? Do you remember?

M: Fourth, fifth, sixth, seventh, and eighth.

C: It probably went up to eighth grade.

M: Eighth grade, yes.

C: Do you remember any of your teachers' names?

M: Joan Caruthers was my fourth grade teacher. I remember her name. Amy Shinn was my first grade teacher. Mrs. Roller was my third grade teacher.

C: What was a typical day like when you went to school? You - came in in the morning and did what? What was the first thing you did?

M: You studied. In the Catholic school the first thing you did was say your prayers, Bible history, catechism and all that. Then you went into figures, arithmetic and stuff like that, geography.

C: The teachers really disciplined you?

M: Oh man, you didn't even make a move!

C: How did they discipline you?

M: Every other day I was getting a licking down at that Catholic school. That goddamn girl in front of me, she was ornery and I was ornery and I would play with her a little bit. Then the sisters would catch me. They would say, "Michael, come down here." I knew I was in for a licking. You would put your hand out like that and she had a stick about that big around--five licks across your hand. And if you pulled your hand back, she would give you five extra. You marched into school on the chalk line, just like in the Army--don't jump out of line or you would be in for a licking.

C: So it was a lot different than it is today?

M: Oh man, that is what I told my wife. I said they [children] ought to be back in the days when we went to school. You couldn't tell your dad and mother because they would give you another licking.

C: It's totally different today. Today the parents want to kill the teachers.

Mike, could you tell me about the newspapers of the town? What was it called, The Leetonia . . .

M: The Leetonia Recorder.

C: Who ran that? What was his name?

M: Bill Arnold.

C: Do you know where it was located?

M: Yes, right across from Dr. Beaver's where the train office was. He lived on Columbia Street.

C: A person reading the paper in the 1930's, 1940's, what would you find in there, what kind of things?

M: It would tell you about everything that happened in Leetonia, Lisbon.

C: Was it more like a gossip column?

M: Yes, that is what it was, more like what happened in Leetonia the night before, that week, what they were going to sell, what they were not going to sell, who died and stuff like that, just like the paper right now.

C: How long was that in existence, because I have seen old newspapers but I don't know when that went out, when the Recorder stopped?

M: It was here for a good while. I remember I must have been around

fifteen years old, sixteen, when it went out, back in the 1930's. Bill ran that for a good while.

C: Was there another newspaper before that?

M: Not that I can recall. I can't recall. I'm just trying to think. I don't know of any other ones. His was the only newspaper I could remember in this town.

C: Maybe if there was another one, it was before your time.

M: Could have been. I don't know. Louis Arnold knew stuff like that; maybe he could tell you more about it.

C: Louis Arnold would be what relation to this guy?

M: Nothing. Not any relation at all. Let's see, there was Andy and John and Louis and a girl--the Arnold's. I don't know, they might have been related, but I don't think, not that I know of.

C: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW