YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

East Palestine, Ohio

Personal Experience

O.H. 998

CHARLES SUTHERIN

Interviewed

by

Stephan Casi

on

May 18, 1979

C: This is an interview with Charles Sutherin for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on East Palestine, by Stephan Casi, on May 18, 1979, at 705 East Main Street, at 6:00 p.m.

What do you remember about your parents and family when they came to the East Palestine area?

S: Well, they come long before I did. My mother was from New Castle and my father was from West Virginia. We lived on Carbon Hill Road. Then, as far as I know, they had 12 children, and there are only four of us living.

C: Was your dad born in the East Palestine area?

S: No, no he was born in England.

C: When did he come over, do you remember?

S: He does not know. He came over when he was too young to remember, right across the ocean.

C: And the first place he settled was New Castle you said?

S: No, in West Virginia.

C: West Virginia, okay. What brought him to the East Palestine area?

S: The coal mines. He had a couple uncles here.

C: Your mom was from where?

S: New Castle.

C: Where did they meet?

S: They met here in Palestine. She was doing housework for some people when they met. That is where they met.

C: So you were born in East Palestine?

S: Oh, yes. I moved to Carbon Hill when I was six years old.

C: Where was your first home in East Palestine?

S: Do you know where that Dairy Queen is on South Market Street?

C: Yes.

S: Well, just on this side of that is a short road there and that there house right straight in front of the road, see that was far as that road goes up to that house. That is where I was born.

C: What could you tell me about your childhood in East Palestine? Some of the things you did for fun, entertainment? What did you do for work?

S: There was no automobiles here. Nothing like that. [Laughter] That is almost 90 years ago. It will be 90 years on the first day of July since I was born. We had nothing much to do, only run around the country and hunt nuts and things like that. We had a few friends that allowed us to go into their orchard and get some apples or peaches if we wanted them. That was up on the Carbon Hill, though. A lawyer, he owned a farm out there, and it had a big orchard in front and he allowed us to go into his orchard. The only thing he said, "Mom wants a few apples to bake or something, why, you go in and get them." He was talking to my dad. He was in a rig, talking to my dad. He saw us going out to the road and asked us where we were going. We said we were going out to the orchard. He said, "Boys, eat all the apples you want. Mom wants some to take home and bake a pie, you take them." We got to the orchard, the people that lived on the farm, his wife was there with a shotgun. [Laughter]

C: Where were some of the places you went in town to have some fun? Where did you do your swimming?

S: Ha. If we wanted to go swimming, we had to walk to Negley.

C: To Negley?

S: Yes. And that is a long walk down there. By the time you got done swimming, you were not hardly able to walk home. [Laughter] If we wanted to go swimming, that was where we had to go.

C: When you were a kid, what were some of the stores that you can remember that were downtown? There were not too many, were there? Not like there are today.

S: No. Well, right there on the corner, the northwest corner of Market Street. That was a wooden building. The jewelry store and barber shop were in there. Right back of that, the building there that that there television man is in, that used to be

a livery barn. Then, I never seen this place, but my daddy told me, right up on the corner of Clark and Main, the northwest corner, he told me that there was a skating rink there. And right on the opposite corner of that, where the Ford Garage is, that used to be a rooming house. And across the street, where that parking lot is, Morris' Grocery Store was in there for a long time, and before that it was a bowling alley. I think that wooden building standing there by the railroad track, down this way, I think there is a Dry cleaner establishment in there now, ain't there? Well, that has been there all my life. Then you go on down the street where the bank is, that was a hotel.

C: Which bank is that?

S: Union Commercial. And then you go on down the street further from that, I think a lawyer was upstairs in there. I forget what his name is. Right back of that, there was another liver stable. Then you go on down -- I forget just exactly what was on the corner there where the Loan Building is. I think it was just one wooden building there. I do not know what was in it anymore. I do not remember. Across the street, where the five and dime is, that was another place. There was a building there, down this way next to where the bank is. It was a three story brick building. We called it the Failor Building. They tore it down. It had a lot of different business places in it and things in its lifetime.

I do not remember what was in there where the Skerball was. It was Skerball's at one time and it was there, that building had been there a long time.

C: How about the churches in town. How many churches do you remember being here when you were a boy?

S: The Methodist Church, the Presbyterian, and the Catholic is all I can remember.

C: Just those three?

S: That is all I can remember. That was a church up above there. Right across from the Drive-In-Theater, that was a livery barn and this is the funny part of it: there was a guy here in town, his name was Boozy Meyers. He set three buildings on fire in one night. This pottery he had on fire. He burned that there, down there, and he burned the grandstand over where the fairground is. He burned that down. Up where the grocery store is on south Market Street, there used to be a theater there. At that time, they had no theaters. We used to sneak in. [Laughter]

C: If you did pay, how much did it cost to go to the theater?

S: Oh, not too much, 25 or 30 cents, maybe even a little more.

C: What about the early transportation in town when you were a kid. What do you remember about that?

S: Horses.

C: There were horses, wagons?

S: Oh, horses, a mile of them.

C: And the trains.

S: I worked for a farmer and him and I come to town. I had an iron-grey horse and a buggy. We were coming up the street and that horse got scared and that horse run from down where about where Rukenbrod's is, clean up to the corner, on the sidewalk. And I was driving! [Laughter] oh, that was something. I went clean up the corner.

There used to be a building there, where that filling station is, next to the railroad track. They called it the Chamberlain block. There used to be grocery stores and dry goods stores in there, and things like that.

I tore the house down where the post office is, and I tore the one down for the Christian Church up there. And during my lifetime, building is a panic. I wired about eight or ten houses for Ray Taggert: some over on Martin Street, some on Clark Street, some down there on Taggert Street.

C: Tell me about when you went to school here in East Palestine.

S: I did not.

C: You did not go to school?

S: I went to school until I was fourteen years old, but I went to Carbon Hill School.

C: Carbon Hill School? Where was that located?

S: Do you know where you go out here to where that garage is on the corner, George's Garage. Do you know where it is?

C: Yes.

S: Well, you went straight up that road and after you got up there, one road took off to the right and the other one went up onto Carbon Hill. Well, that house that is built right there on that piece of ground, right after you make the turn -- I do not know who owns it now, but that was where the school house was. That is where

I went to school all my life.

C: So, you went until you were fourteen?

S: Yes, and then I went into mining.

C: Tell me about school. What do you remember about school and the teachers and some of the subjects?

S: Lloyd Irvin and Maude Dyke, and then there is another teacher I had before him, I cannot remember her name.

C: Were they pretty strict, the teachers?

S: Oh, yes. They had a big long stick about that long. [Laughter] I used to be janitor. I carried in the coal and swept the school and got two dollars and, I think, 25 cents a month.

C: And then another student would do it, or did you do it the whole year?

S: I done it the whole year. Everybody walked to school. Guys would walk to school with gum boots on and everything.

C: Did you go to school nine months?

S: Yes, nine months. I think the teachers got around 35, 40 dollars a month for teaching.

C: Did you have books?

S: Oh, yes.

C: Did you have a piece of slate to write on?

S: Oh, had a whole blackboard across the front.

C: You had paper?

S: Yes, and pencils.

C: So you feel that you got something out of school? You learned a few things?

S: Oh, yes, yes. There ain't no question to that but in them days, why most of the

fathers, when the kids got to be fourteen years old, they pulled them out of school, would not let them go to school. My teacher, Maude Dyke, she wanted me, at that time, to get to go to high school in town. I would have had to go to Lisbon and take the Boxwell examination, they call it.

C: Did you want to go to school?

S: Oh, yes.

C: If you could have, but you had to help the family, huh?

S: I had to go to work. I had to go to work.

C: Well, going back a little bit, what do you remember about being raised by your mom and dad? The discipline and what did you do as a family?

S: If they told you to do something, you done it.

C: Did you have a lot of chores to do for your mom and dad?

S: Most of the time we had a garden and we would have to weed the garden. And then my father had about 70 hives of bees.

C: He did?

S: Yes, when he was not there, somebody had to watch them. When they swarmed, why, oh I hived many a swarm of bees.

C: So, when you were fourteen years old, you were through with school and it was time to go work in the mine?

S: Yes.

C: So, where was this mine located that you went to work?

S: Right there on the state line.

C: State line?

S: State Line Mine.

C: What was it like working in the mine? Describe what it was like.

S: Oh, after you were in there, you never payed no attention to it.

C: You did not have the modern tools they have today, though, did you?

S: Oh, I should say not. You dug it all with picks. I worked in the clay mine. There was coal and clay both, there. When I started, the State Line Coal Company was operating and then come out on strike and then the company took over the other company that wanted the clay.

C: How much did you get paid? Do you remember, when you started?

S: Oh, I was just working with my dad, see, helping with him, and I did not pay.

C: You got paid by the ton? Is that how you got paid?

S: Yes. When we first started out, why, we were getting eighteen cents for a ton of clay and we were getting 50 cents for a ton of coal.

C: Did you get that much a day? Did you get a ton of coal?

S: Oh, yes, far more than that. See, we shot the clay out from under it and then shoved the coal down and the coal just dropped down.

C: How many hours a day did you work?

S: Eight.

C: When you came home, you were pretty tired, huh?

S: Oh, I do not know. We walked from Carbon Hill out there.

C: That was a long walk, was it not?

S: Do you know where the Parker's live on up that road?

C: Yes.

S: We walked from there. That was our home.

C: So, at fourteen years old, you were still living on Carbon Hill, right?

S: Yes.

C: Okay. So, how many years did you work in this mine?

S: Well, I quit there when I was around about twenty years old.

C: What year was that about?

S: I was born in 1889.

C: 1911? 1910?

S: 1910. Yes, and then I went to the rubber works.

C: McGraw's Rubber Works?

S: Yes. I was driving mule then. I was getting $2.56 a day.

C: At the rubber works?

S: No, driving mule.

C: That was not bad money, was it?

S: That was a man's pay!

C: You could buy a lot of things for two dollars and fifty cents.

S: I left there and I went to McGraw's Rubber works and I worked there. I labored for seventeen and a half cents an hour. Well then, a many by the name of Cecil Adamson, was superintendent. I do not know, he kind of took a liking to me. [Laughter] and he said to me one day, "How would you like to go and help me for a while?" He was the civil engineer. And he raised me twenty cents an hour.

C: Were you married yet?

S: No, not yet. I was married in 1914. Anyhow, then they wanted to put a hydraulic elevator in there and he got me to dig that hole. That hole went down 27 feet, seven inches. And you know something, you would not believe this, but after we got three or four feet off the top, there was sand all the way to the bottom. Had to crib it all the way down. I think, myself, to this day, the bigger part of Palestine is standing on a bed of sand.

C: You were still helping your family. In other words, some of the money you made, did you help your family while you were at McGraw's?

S: No, I got married shortly after I went to McGraw's. I got married. You see where this Taggert house is standing over here? There was an old farmhouse there. I got married in that house.

C: You got married in 1914?

S: Yes.

C: You started hearing about the war in 1914, did you not?

S: No, quite a while after that. I had a couple children when World War I broke out. I went to Salem and took the examination and there was a doctor here from town, he brought both of my children into this world.

C: Is that Dr. Atcheson?

S: No, Dr. Hartford.

C: Dr. Hartford?

S: Yes, and they would not take you if you wore glasses. In World War I, they would not take you. So when he come to it and I could not read what he put up in front of me and he called in Doc Hartford and he said, "Do you know this fellow?" He said, "I sure do. Get him the hell out of here." [Laughter] That is just the words he said. "Get him the hell out of here. He has got a wife and two kids." So then, I got out of that and I worked at McGraw's.

C: So, you never did go to World War I, did you?

S: No.

C: You got out of it.

S: Yes, they would not take me and I went up and took the examination and passed everything by my eyes, and then I worked at McGraw's. First they put me up in cutting band plies. At that time, all tires were built by hand. Then, they shut down for a while. That was their greatest trouble. They shut down for long enough to get in debt. Then they would start up and by the time they got out of debt, they would shut down again.

C: You were married.

S: Oh, yes.

C: Where were you living when you got married?

S: Right over there, across the street. I lost that house. Then Adamson come to me one day and he said, "Charlie, can you take inventory?" I said, "Yes, I think so." He said, "All right. I will give you a couple men and I want you to take inventory. That guy over there took inventory and you cannot make heads or tails out of it." I think he got mad at me then, because I took inventory, but when they started back up again after they shut down, he would not take me back on.

Then there was a fellow down in the mail room whose name was Major, and he seen me coming down the steps. I went down to get on, and he seen me coming down and he said, "Charlie, did that guy not put you back on?" and I said, "No." His wife and my wife were good friends. He lived down on Elm Street. He said, "Well, tell him to go to hell. I will give you a job." I worked for him up until after he left, and I worked for another boss there for a while and then they built this rubber works down here. That was the Rubber Works area.

C: Where was that located?

S; Right down here where I think they make these here pipes and things for chairs. Down next to the railroad track. Then I went down there. I quit McGraw's. I did not like the boss I was working for. I went down there and there was only three of us. Harry Rhodes and his cousin and me, and Bill Major was the first -- there were four of us. We started that plant and we did everything. We warmed our own stock and run it on the colander and took it upstairs and cut it and built our own tires by hand, and then vulcanized them. Then they got going pretty good. I left there once and they come after me at Youngstown at Republic over there. I could have had no way to get back and forth and my wife did not want to move to Youngstown. I stayed there and I was making around $150, $175 every two weeks. In 1917, that was a lot of money.

C: Yes.

S: So, I was not getting any place. I had to board over there and eat over there and then if I wanted to get there, I had to take a train and go to Columbiana and then walk from there over to the street car station and take the street car. You would have to stand all the way into Youngstown. I was making big money but I was not making nothing, see. I was making big money but I was not making nothing. It was costing me too much to live, so I quit and I come back. They hired me back down at the Rubber Works down here.

C: What year was that?

S: 1917.

C: Was it sort of hard raising a family the first few years and had your family, or did things work out pretty well?

S: Things went pretty good. We went through the Depression and we were better off than a lot of people, but I could not get no relief. They would not give me no relief because I had a truck then. I was trucking then.

C: During the 1920's you had another job?

S: In the 1920's, yes.

C: After you left the Rubber Works, what was your next job after that?

S: After I left the Rubber works? Before I left the Rubber Works, my foreman that used to be down here, sent for me and we were only paying 55 cents an hour down here and they offered me -- guaranteed me -- 85 cents an hour, ten hours a day, and I went out there. I moved my furniture and everything.

C: Where is this now?

S: Racine, Wisconsin.

C: You went to Wisconsin?

S: Yes. I was there for a little more than two years, and everything went haywire about that time and I was gone out of there in time.

C: Did your wife mind going up to Wisconsin?

S: Well, she did not care for it but after she got there, she liked it. She hated coming back worse than going out. Then if I would have stayed out there and went through the Depression out there. I would have been in a hell of a fit.

C: So, what year did you come back from Wisconsin to East Palestine?

S: 1920.

C: 1920. And then you went back to McGraw's again to work?

S: No, no. I come back here and I had a Model T touring car and I could not get no job. Nobody had any jobs, and I traded it off and got a sedan and started on taxi.

C: Was there a taxi service in town, or were you the first one to start a taxi service?

S: No, there was another one.

C: There was another one.

S: Of course, in them days, why, there was bootlegging. [Laughter] So I used to take a lot of guys over to Youngstown and charge them five dollars for going over.

C: How much was gas? Was it expensive in those days?

S: About fifteen cents.

C: Fifteen cents a gallon?

S: I went into Youngstown, the first trip I made in there, why I took a fellow by the name of Tommy Jenkins over. There was whore houses and everything there, all down in that section. So I was sitting there. My brother went with me. My brother Lloyd, the one that works for Niesels Hardware. A couple of guys were just sitting there watching me. So, a policeman come along and I asked him what they was watching me for. He said, "Well, what are you guys doing here?" I said, "I run a taxi out of East Palestine and I brought a man over and he went in one of them buildings there. I am waiting on him." He said, "Have you got a taxi sign in your car?" I had a cardboard. I can remember the number as if it was yesterday. It had "Taxi 290." So, them two guys disappeared.

So I went over there one time. I was by myself and I went over there. This policeman told me, "You own a taxi. If anybody comes out of them places, if they want to go someplace, you take them." I said, "All right, but I do not know a damn thing about Youngstown. The one thing I know is to get in and get out." He said, "If you get one of them guys in there, they know where they are going. So, I was over there one night. Here two guys come out and they said, "Taxi." And I said, "Yes, sir?" I said, "I will take you any place you want to go, but you will have to tell me in Youngstown. I do not know a thing about Youngstown. All I know is get in and get out." You know, I took them two guys up on a street there, right straight through the diamond, and got up along there and, oh, nice big house and driveway and everything. They told me to turn in there. So I did. Now they said, "You just wait here a little bit and we will be back out." Instead of having to back around it, they had a driveway that just made a circle and on the way back -- they both were in the back seat going out, then one got in the front and one got in the back -- this guy said to me, "Do you every see or hear anything over around Youngstown when you are over there?" I said, "Hell man, no. I can neither see nor hear." He just reached out and pat me on the

shoulder. He said, "You will get along." [Laughter] and I can go anyplace in Youngstown, any damn whore house or booze joint. I would go in any of them after that guy told me that. Any of them.

And I went over there one night, I had been on the road about three days and three nights and I had never been out of the car. I was looking for something to eat. I went into this one place and this woman was running it, her and her husband. And I got so I knew her pretty well. I would tell her that I had some boys in the car that wanted to come in. I said, "As soon as I can get out of here, I am going uptown and go to bed. Boy I am sleepy." I said, "When I get there, I will call you and let you know where I am at." She said, "You are going to do no such thing." I said, "Well, why?" I said, "I am dead on my feet." "There ain't any better beds in town than I have got." She took me upstairs and put me to bed. Locked the door. Asked me for my pocket book and my watch. She said, "When your people are ready to go home, I will call you." Well, she called me and took me downstairs and there she had a meal on the table for me. You would not believe this, but it is true. And she told me one day when I was there, "You know, I run this place and these girls that want to sell themselves that way, I might as well hire them as anybody else. I am strictly a one man woman." That is what she told me. Them kind of people, you get mixed up with them and they do not like you. You do not talk.

C: So what you remember about prohibition and bootlegging in East Palestine, you remember taking a lot of people out of East Palestine to Youngstown.

S: Yes, but there was plenty of it going on here.

C: Right in town?

S: Yes. We had Ed Hupmaster and Ward Patrick that was running a taxi here in town. They was bootlegging, too.

C: Did the police know it?

S: Sure they knew it. I worked for Mr. Davis here for a while and he run a dairy here. Well, he was the man that sold out to Harriet. He had the PUCO. I seen Mr. McGraw's son that used to be down here. I seen him come in there to Davis' place with as high as fifteen and twenty gallon of pure grain alcohol. Then Davis would dilute it. But one day he took some down to a restaurant. The Greeks owned a restaurant in there where the drug store is. This here Davis, he could take a jug in each hand and walk right down the street right past the police and everybody, and they never bothered him. Anyhow, he took this pure grain alcohol into this here Greek restaurant down there and he had another Greek working for him and by God, he took a drink of that and they had to take him to

the hospital. It damn near burned his throat out. They had to take him to the hospital and do, you know, he sold out to Harriet, his PUCO to Harriet, and he went to Darlington and he come into town one day and he had a pint of whiskey on him and damned if they did not arrest him. Them same guys that let him do all that bootlegging all that time -- old Chief Warren was his name. I do not see why they done it. That was terrible.

C: So your children in the 1920's were getting a little older. They were growing up. What do you remember doing as a family in town? Did you take them places? Did you go on picnics and things like that? What were some of the things you did?

S: Oh yes, we used to go to the football games and over to the park, well, it was the fairground then. We went to the fair and all that kind of stuff. That was about all you could do.

C: You were lucky to have a car, were you not? A lot of people did not have a car.

S: Do you know how much I paid for that car?

C: In 1920?

S: 1919.

C: 1919?

S: I was the first touring car that come into the city of Racine, Wisconsin with a starter battery on it. First one. And I cost me 690 dollars.

C: 690 dollars?

S: And I drove that all the way home. Then, I do not know, after the kids got growing up and going to school and everything, got into high school and we used to go to the football games.

C: How many children did you have?

S: Ten.

C: Ten children, boy.

S: One dead. My wife and one child and one great-grandaughter died with leukemia in Boston.

C: Where are your children today?

S: Well, Cleata, she married a man by the name of Roy Wanner -- not Warner, Wanner -- and she lives in Petersburgh. He runs a milk route and she caters parties for weddings and things. Then my son, Dale, he works for Niesel's Hardware. He is a mechanic. He fixes any damn thing you take to him. [Laughter] He is a good mechanic. Then I have one daughter -- well, I can show you them. (Tape turns off)

C: So, I guess it was not easy raising ten children, was it?

S: Oh, no. During the Depression, I had three gardens going. Yes, this next door here, when there was no house there, I had a garden there. I had one in Petersburgh and we had a couple up there -- we called them Aunt and Uncle -- and I had a big garden up there and then I had a big garden up here on top of the hill, off to the right where that road turns off there. It belonged to my cousin.

C: Did you operate your taxi through the 1920's?

S: Yes.

C: And when the Depression hit, did you still have your taxi service?

S: No.

C: Did you have to stop?

S: I had a truck then. I used to work for the township trustees. I worked off and on with my truck whenever they needed me, about 20 years.

C: From about what year did you start with your truck?

S: Oh, about 1930.

C: About 1930?

S: Yes.

C: Did the Depression slow you down or did you still have work?

S: Oh, you believe it. Well, that was what I was telling you. I was better off than most people. We had a coal furnace and we had a combination gas and coal furnace, could cook on it. And I could go to the strip mine and they would finish

up a cup out there and I could take the kids and go out there and we burned the best coal during the Depression we ever burned in our lives. [Laughter] It was all in chunks. Then after that, why, I went over and I worked for the East Fairfield Coal Company for about three years.

C: That was after the Depression? Before the Depression?

S: That was just before I retired.

C: Before you retired?

S: Yes. I worked for them. I took care of the pumps.

C: Let me see. During the Depression, did you get any odd jobs to make extra money?

S: You could not.

C: You could not? Nothing?

S: The only thing I could get, I would go to Lisbon every two weeks for the township. It only took me about three or four hours, and they would pay me for the day.

C: You did not lose your house during the Depression, did you?

S: No, no. I lost it through a stint with a bus.

I have one son in California and a daughter in California. My son in California, he calls me about once a month. All four of my boys got a discharge from the Army, honorable discharge.

C: so during the 1930's, when we start to get close to World War II, work started to pick up a little, did it not?

S: Oh, yes.

C: And you were driving your truck?

S; Yes. It picked up then, but I do not know. From my way of thinking -- they were always hollering about Wilson, Wilson, Wilson -- if it had not have been for World War I, that panic could have been back around 1913 or 1914. I can remember when the Titanic went back. I can remember when Teddy Roosevelt went up

that hill. I can remember all that, but the funny thing is, something that happens right now, I forget it.

C: So many things happening now, huh?

S: Well, like names and things. I forget them. We went to California -- my daughter and her husband put us on a train and sent us to California in 1958. While we were out there -- we were there three months with my son -- we went down in Death Valley. We were in Las Vegas and we were down in old Mexico and we went around a lot.

C: Did you enjoy your trip?

S: Oh, yes. [End Side One]

C: When they war broke out, did you have any boys that went over to war?

S: My boy, Ray. They call him Rusty. Lives down, the house right back of that Presbyterian Church. He was in that battle in Normandy before he was 18 years old.

C: What did you think about the war when it broke out?

S: Well, I do not know. If I had my way to do it, I rather go through a Depression than a war.

C: Did you feel bad about your boys going to war?

S: Certainly. My oldest boy, the one that is in California, he was in the Air Corps, and he went and registered that day. You know where they had the register? And I was hauling lime for Sam Cluit -- and there is another one I forgot to tell you about -- and he come out to me and he said, "Daddy, what would you do?" Well, I said, "You are going to have to go, that is for sure," but I said, "If you want a certain place to go, you will have to enlist." He went right back over to Youngstown and enlisted in the Air Corps."

C: And you had one more boy that went?

S: I had three.

C: Three.

S: Bob, they did not keep him very long because at that time, he was pretty well

retired. Then Dale, he enlisted in the Navy. He never got further away than down here, that island just south of Florida. They would not send him away. They would take people in and in and in. They kept him there. He went to Texas first and then they shipped him over there, but I understand why. He was a hell of a good captain and he understood fixing engines and things. That is why they kept him.

C: Living in East Palestine during the war, what was different about it? Did your family have anything differently? What about working? What was the situation?

S: Oh, I do not know.

C: They were rationing here, were they not?

S: Oh, yes. Yes. That did not matter to me. He was a lawyer. He owned a farm out here and he had a little tractor and my boy that is up at Petersburgh, he worked for him. He was driving the tractor. Of course, he did not run it much. He had an orchard. I could get all the gas tickets I wanted. People would give them to me. I was never short of gas.

C: How about food?

S: I never was short of food because we raised practically everything we ate. The only thing is, one time we were really pinched and I traded a load of lime for this coal and then I traded the coal for wheat. Then I took the wheat into Petersburgh Mill and traded it for flour. I had seven bottles of flour coming out of that one load of lime and all he would give me was two sacks at a time. That is the way it went. But when I wanted two more, I could go back and get them. My wife and I and a couple of girls were sitting out on the front porch and my wife was almost bawling. We had flour, we had over a thousand cans of this stuff in the cellar, and we had everything but money. We did not have a nickel. And what was bothering her, we had all this flour and everything, but we did not have a nickle to buy a cake of yeast. So I said to her, "(inaudible) wife owes me a quarter and I have got this trowel up here and I will send that trowel back and maybe she will give you the quarter." Sure enough, she did. That made the breaks. We got the quarter. We got the flour. Mom baked bread.

I was going to tell you about Sam Clint right now. Well, he used to run a, oh, cement and stuff like that right over in the lumber yard. He was in there. This man that started this M & W down here, he started making those things in his place and he went from there to the other place in here, for electric, making electric things. Well, Olga Van Faussen, over here, right across from me, she worked there for years and her brother, the sheriff -- do you know him, Russ Van Faussen? He lives right up here in this last house on this side of the road. I go

visit him at the court. I have to go over there sometimes for something. I always go and see him. [Laughter] I used to know everyone that was in that courthouse and everything, when I worked for the township. A lot of times they would take me with them so I could hear what they were talking about. So that is the way it ended up. Well, as far as that is concerned, you have to have some experience or you could not get no insurance. That is the reason I got that there house up there by the Christian Church.

C: Have you lived in this house all your life after you lost the house across the street?

S: No, I went to Racine [Wisconsin] after that.

C: Yes, and then you came back.

S: And I lived about two or three months down here in the property and then Mr. Taggert, that is Grandpap Taggert, he come to me and he said, "Charlie, that house up there is empty. Why do you not buy it? I will sell it to you." I said, "Mr. Taggert, I ain't got the money." He said, "Well, I will take, like pay so much, you know?" And I did. I have lived here for over 45 years now.

C: During the 1940's, you were still driving the township truck, right?

S: It was not a township truck.

C: It was your truck.

S: Only I was hauling for the township.

C: How long did you do that? When did you retire?

S: I quit that after some of the trustees that were in there got out.

C: What year was that?

S: I cannot tell you that. I do not remember.

C: Was that the last job you had, driving for the township?

S: No.

C: What did you do after that?

S: Oh, I hauled. I even delivered coal into Youngstown. I hauled from the strip mines and things.

C: When did you finally quit working?

S: When I was 65 years old.

C: 65.

S: I did not quit working then.

C: You just did a little bit every once in a while.

S: I still do.

C: You still do.

S: I got two chairs I done over, a high chair I done over down in the cellar right now.

C: You cannot every quit working, can you?

S: No, it is impossible. If you do, you just sit there and you die sitting in your rocking chair.

C: Right.

S: Anybody that had worked all their life, they cannot quit. Cannot do it. We went out past where the ranch is, to that first house, that road that turns left, takes you into Waterford. We tore a house down on that road. I got the bathroom outfit right up in my upstairs now. I tore mine out. Was not any of the other boys could put a left hand bathroom in. I got that bathroom out of it and my boy got a lot of lumber out of it. You have to know what you are doing when you are tearing a house down. Well, it is just like you teaching school. If you did not know what you were doing, you would be out. What grade do you teach?

C: Seventh grade. Ohio history and Geography.

S: I used to be good in history and geography. I never was a writer. I could not write and to this day, when I go to write, my daughter Barbara, well, she comes down and takes care of my check book and things. I scribble my name on. I have dealt with Waterford Bank since back in 1930, and I just send my check in there.

C: After you sort of semi-retired at 65, you did not really retire. You had some more free time on your hands. When you think about when you retired, what were some of the big changes that had taken place in East Palestine? After being around here for 65, what has really changed?

S: I have been around here for almost ninety.

C: Right. But after living in town and working for 65 years, and you were thinking about retiring? What were some of the things that really had changed?

S: Well, that there Failor building was tore down and the bank building was built there. That drug store was built there and that corner where the other store [is] that was built there. And that City Loan, that loan building was there. That there house up there where that lawyer lives, that was built there. That bank was built. It was all built. That building up on the corner of Main and Market was built.

C: Did East Palestine always have a pretty good fire department and police department?

S: They always did. The night my wife died, I can tell you about that. She went out. We were taking pretty good care of her. She had been in the hospital. We did not let her do much, but she got supper ready. After she got supper ready, she come in and about 10:00, 10:30, she went upstairs and she went to bed. About half-past one, she hollered, "Daddy!" We slept in separate beds in the same room and she said, "I am having a heart attack." Well, this man, Stewart, he lived down along the street here. He heard that call come in for the ambulance. He never stopped, come right out here, never rung the doorbell or anything. He just went right upstairs and he just kept saying, "They will be here in a minute. They will be here in a minute." And before they got her out, every policeman in this town was here. See, we knew, at that time, we knew -- well, I do not know them all now, the younger ones. I do not know them all now. I think there was five of them all together in this house before they got her out of here. Then when we got her in the ambulance and we were taking her through Washingtonville -- Barbara and I was in there with her -- we seen the attendant pull the sheet up over her face. She died going to Washingtonville.

C: Sorry about that.

S: I have had people dumb enough to ask me, "What do you think about dying or something?" I said, "I do not think nothing about it."

C: Right. Just keep thinking about loving.

S: When your time comes, you are going to go, no matter where you are at.

C: Right, right.

S: Regardless. And a lot of people ask me about religion. It ain't where you go to church that makes the man, it is what the man does himself.

C: Right, right.

S: Ain't that right?

C: That is right.

S: I am friends of everybody's.

C: When you look back on East Palestine, what changes would you have liked to have seen take place in East Palestine that maybe never happened? If there was one thing or two things that you wished had taken place in East Palestine, what might it be?

S: Well, I would not really know, but you know that old building that is standing down here on the corner? I would like to see them do it over. [The one] standing down on the corner on this side, that hotel-like.

C: Where they used to have a craft shop.

S: Across from the Methodist Church. I would like to see that made into something. That has been there long before I was. Yes. That was there long before I was there and that is one thing I would like to see. But I think they made a mistake when they put that there log building out there where they did. I think they made a mistake. Why did they not put it over on the park someplace?

There ain't too many people knows it, but the Carbon Hill mine, there used to be railroad track run up there. You could follow it all the way down. There used to be a tressel across the creek and across the road. Do you see where that dump is over there? Well, that is where that road come out. That is where that road come out. I do not know, but there was a lot of people that I used to know that ain't here no more, a lot of them. The Bible will tell you, and I do not know what religion you are or anything, but regardless of what tells you, as sure as you are born, you must die.

C: Right.

S: So why worry about it? Ain't that what you think? Why worry? Some die young,

some die old.

C: I want to thank you for letting me talk to you.

End of Interview