

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM
Dorset United Methodist Church

Youth, Trends, Problems and Social Changes
Affecting Dorset United Methodist Church

O.H. 83

HASKELL KEEP
Interviewed
by
Patricia Beckwith
on
November 22, 1977

HASKELL KEEP

Haskell Harold Keep was born in Cherry Valley, Ohio on May 18, 1904. He was the son of Hiram A. and Rose Edna Keep. The family moved to Ravenna and from there to Dorset in 1914. Here he finished high school and later married Gladys Kelley. They became the parents of three children, Mrs. Edgar Allen, James D. Keep, and Ralph Keep.

Mr. Keep entered Ohio State University in 1923, where he stayed until 1925. He continued his higher education at Akron University, where he was elected to Kappa Delta Pi, and earned his Bachelor of Education degree. Mr. Keep also attended Kent State University and Goodyear University in Akron.

Haskell was employed by the Richfield Board of Education from 1930 until 1931. He continued teaching for the Ashtabula County Schools from 1932 until 1965, except for the years 1945 to 1948 when he was employed by the Boy Scouts of America. He retired in 1965 from Jefferson High School.

Haskell Keep belongs to the Dorset United Methodist Church. His hobbies include handicrafts and gardening.

This interview was conducted at his home, 4669 Stanhope-Kelloggsville Road, where he lives with his wife, Clare.

PATRICIA BECKWITH
November 22, 1977

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INTERVIEWER: Patricia Beckwith
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BECKWITH: This is an interview being conducted with Mr. Haskell Keep for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program. The name of the project is the Dorset United Methodist Church Project by Patricia Beckwith. This interview is taking place at 4669 Stanhope-Kellogsville Road, Andover, Ohio. The date is November 22, 1977 at approximately 6:25 p.m.

Mr. Keep, where were you born and what are some of your earliest memories?

KEEP: I was born in Cherry Valley, Ohio and when I was a year old we moved down to the center beside the Methodist Church in Cherry Valley. Some of my earliest recollections are of going to church and then tearing back home after Sunday School was over to get my shoes off and run up the dusty road; there was no pavement. We had a pony, and we drove around on a little cart. There was also a baseball diamond out in front of our house, in what they call "the commons." We used to play out there quite a bit.

One of the things that sticks in my mind is the night that I jumped into the cistern. They were digging a new cistern right in the back door and they were tearing

away the old porch. I forgot about that, made a quick dash out the back door after dark and landed in a ten foot cistern on my chin.

B: And you still remember that?

K: I still have the scars from it.

B: When did your family first come to Dorset?

K: We came to Dorset during our Christmas vacation in 1914.

B: And you were in school at this time?

K: I was in the sixth grade.

B: What was your impression of the school?

K: Well, I wasn't too much impressed with it because I had forgotten to bring my report card from Ravenna. They were going to demote me back to the fifth grade! Professor Bruhlman was the principal and he said, "Well, we will let you go on and try it for a while in the sixth grade." But I was a year younger than any of the kids because when we moved from Cherry Valley to Ravenna I had skipped a grade. I really had tough sledding from then on.

B: Why did your family move to Dorset?

K: Well, first we moved to Ravenna. Dr. Satterly and my father were going to open an office together down there. Then he backed out, but we went anyway in April of 1914. People kept writing and calling my dad from up here telling him to come back. It takes a while in order to build up a practice, that is for a doctor. So finally my oldest brother bought a farm in Dorset that did it, I guess. Dad said that we were going to go back to Dorset.

B: Do you remember feeling quite proud that your dad was a doctor?

K: Well, yes, I do feel proud that he was a doctor. I thought my dad knew everything really. He used to go for hikes with us in the woods. And he let me go for rides with him when he would go in and see patients. We were quite close. He was my good buddy.

B: I think that to have one of my parents to be a doctor would really inspire me.

- K: He was the doctor who delivered me when I was born. When I was six years old I had typhoid fever, and he just cancelled all of his appointments in his office and stayed right with me. I would have died if he hadn't done this.
- He used to tell me stories. One was of Robinson Carusoe, and he would call me his man Friday. That name stuck with me all the rest of my life. Everybody called me Friday.
- B: Leta was telling me about your dad. One of the things that she remembers was how tall he was standing up in the church choir, and what a good singer he was.
- K: He had a very good voice.
- B: Do you remember the quartet that he used to sing in?
- K: Yes.
- B: Who were the other people that were in it? No one was quite sure.
- K: Oh, there was Billy Roberts who sang tenor and Ralph Bentley and Charlie Falkenburg.
- B: Albert gave me those names but he wasn't positive of those people. What was your first encounter with the church in Dorset?
- K: At Cherry Valley when we left Reverend Mayhew was the pastor. By the time we came back to Dorset he had moved to Dorset also. So, until we found a house or a place to go, we stayed with Reverend Mayhew for a couple of weeks. It was just like we were all one family.
- B: So it wasn't too much of a shock then?
- K: No.
- B: Do you remember the Sunday School class that you were in or the youth group that you attended as a teenager?
- K: Yes, I remember we had what was called LTL.
- B: What was that?
- K: Loyal Temperance Legion. We called it the "little ten liars." We had a youth meeting every Sunday afternoon.

B: What did you do at the youth meetings?

K: Well, mostly we just sang and talked about the gospel. We had youth group picnics and things like that, too.

B: You had social things then?

K: Yes.

B: Do you remember some of the parties that you had? What were some of the things that you did there?

K: At parties?

B: Yes.

K: I wasn't too much of a party goer. The only parties that I went to were like birthday parties and things of that sort. We had picnics and roasts up at the lake. This was at Lake Erie. We would have picnics there.

B: Do you remember at the time the minister having to serve four churches?

K: Yes.

B: How did the minister do that?

K: It wasn't easy. He had his first service about nine o'clock and then he had one at eleven. Then he went right from the eleven o'clock service to the next one which was at about one o'clock and then he had one in the evening. The service when I was going to Cherry Valley was also included with the Dorset and Richmond area.

B: Today one minister having two churches seems almost impossible. I can never see how a minister could take care of three or four churches.

K: Well, it was almost the case that he had to do this in order to get enough money to make a living. They didn't pay very high wages in those days. I mean, the quarter or fifty cents that people throw in on Sundays doesn't count up very fast.

B: What did you do after high school then, once you graduated?

K: Well, I took the first job available, which was as a farmer. I milked cows, cut firewood for the furnace and husked corn.

I would go out in the field and haul in the shocks of corn and husk them. I also worked for a fur dealer sorting furs and bagging them up. I would also skin skunks and shake out hides. But, first every morning I had to have the milk out on the stand at seven o'clock. I had eleven cows to milk by hand. I was kept pretty busy.

B: And then you went on for more education?

K: No, I went to Sanduska then. I went in with the Woolworth Company training for manager. I was there for about six months and then I decided it would be best to go back home and go to college.

B: What caused you to make that decision?

K: I am not a very commercial person. When I saw some of the practices that were going on and how the manager just had to live his job seven days a week; he could think of nothing else or talk about anything but his job. That is not for me. So I came home with \$350.00 that I had saved to start college. Then I worked as I went on.

B: Where did you attend college?

K: Ohio State. I was there two years and then decided to get married. So, that sort of put a cramp into college. Then one day I met a man who was the dean of the college at Akron University who was also a fraternity brother of mine. He told me to get back into school. I told him that I was working and couldn't go back to school because I had a family to support. This man said that it was possible for me to work part time. So, I worked second shift in the rubber plant at the Goodyear Flying Squadron, went to school and took ten hours. I finished my remaining two years in three years and also graduated belonging to the National Honor Society.

B: What subject or level did you prepare to teach in?

K: Well, my major is science.

B: That was at high school?

K: Yes.

B: How long did you teach?

K: 32 years.

B: Wow, you must have enjoyed it?

K: Well, most of the time.

B: There were always a few that spoiled it, right?

K: There were times when I didn't enjoy it too much because the kids start to get under your skin.

B: What are your memories about going through World War One? Do you remember having to sacrifice things at home?

K: Oh yes. We had quotas. If you wanted to buy flour for example, there was a quota. You would get only a pound of wheat flour, a pound of buckwheat, a pound of potatoe flour and a pound of corn flour. They had it all measured down in little packages. You had to take a pound of each kind to get a pound of white flour. It was terrific. I had some chickens here and the price of eggs went to ninety cents a dozen, which was unheard of. When I was a kid they were selling for fifteen cents before they went to ninety cents a dozen. I had a flock of Rhode Island Red chickens and I was really in business. This was World War One, not World War Two.

When the war was over, I remember we went up in front of the brick house of McConnel's; there was a pine tree hedge there. We stuffed a pair of pants and shirt and called it "Kaiser Bill" and hung it up and put it under these trees. Everybody had something to make noise with and we had a real good time.

B: Nobody has told me about that. What about the Depression? Do you think that it was much different than going through the wars?

K: Yes, it was a lot different than wartime because I was just out of college and there weren't any jobs. There were lines every day in one door and out the other door in front of every factory in Akron. I did everything that you can think of, from shoveling gravel on the truck, selling Watkins' products and everything that I could do to make a nickel, just to keep my family going.

Finally I came up to Dorset on the 4th of July and Charlie Kennedy was the president of the board. My brother told me to go up and talk to Mr. Kennedy and maybe I could get a job teaching up there. So, I went up to talk to him. Mr. Kennedy said that there weren't any openings at the high school at that time. But, he said that if I wanted to teach the sixth grade for a while until something opened up that he could put me on. That is the way that we came to Dorset.

- B: So that was a lucky break for you. Do you think that the people in the city had it a lot rougher than the people in the rural areas?
- K: Oh yes, because you have to pay for everything in the city, almost the air that you breathe. Rent and food, and clothes and everything, there is nothing that you can raise or furnish yourself like you can out in the country. I had borrowed all the money that I could borrow on my insurance to keep going.
- B: So then you came in 1930 to Dorset?
- K: In 1932.
- B: Do you remember any reaction or notice any differences about the town in the two years that you had been gone?
- K: Yes. It changed quite a lot. When I was a kid, we came to Dorset when I was ten years old. I would ride around with my father and then I would peddle papers. I had a paper route here, and I knew everybody in every house in the whole town. But when I came back, half of them were gone. Businesses were gone out, new businesses had come in, service stations had come in. There was a big difference.
- B: Several people have said that to me now, that they used to know everybody and now they don't know the people.
- K: That is right.
- B: So you had that same feeling on your return?
- K: Yes, I did. I think the only one who was there before I left at that time was Albert Mellinger.
- B: So there had been a family tradition then of attending church and going to services? And moving to Dorset and having the same minister was something that attracted you right back to the Methodist Church?
- K: Oh yes. My father of course had to be out a lot of times on calls. He was the superintendent of the Sunday School for a long time. My mother was the superintendent of the primary department of the Sunday School. We went every Sunday, and never missed a Sunday. Then when I was married and came back I always used to take my boys and Beverly and go down to church. We would walk down, walk half a mile.

- B: As long as you can remember, has there always been a financial hardship within the church?
- K: Yes, I think there is.
- B: Was tithing more important to people when you were young?
- K: Well, only a very few people were tithers, I will say that. People who were really dedicated to the church were tithers. But people didn't have much money; there is no industry in Dorset. No one is making very much. No one is rich, and it was just a matter of people giving all that they could afford, people that were members of the church. The ladies would make quilts and have a bazaar, bake sales and stuff like that to try to piece out. There has always been a financial problem.
- B: When you returned to Dorset and began teaching, I see that you went back and started attending the church again?
- K: Yes.
- B: Do you remember any of the men's Sunday School groups or the men's groups that you might have attended at this time?
- K: I taught the men's class for a while in church. They also had a men's fellowship group that met monthly.
- B: Did they have any special activities or money making activities?
- K: Not really.
- B: Do you remember some of the people that were in your Sunday School class?
- K: Oh yes. Your grandfather, Charlie Kennedy, Charles Falkenburg, George Runyan and Albert Mellinger.
- B: So it was a pretty good sized group?
- K: Yes. And I wouldn't say that they didn't have any money making activities. The men would put on a turkey dinner. Bill Kyle was always in charge of cutting the turkey.
- B: Yes, everybody talks about him being a good cook.
- K: Yes!
- B: What have you seen as the relationship between the church and the community? Do you think that it has always been

cooperative or has it been antagonistic?

K: There are very few people that go to church; it is a small percentage, about fifty percent. Most of the people disregard church. They have other things that they want to do on Sunday and they don't go to church. But I don't think that there is any antagonism between them. It is just that they don't feel that it is worth their while to go to church.

B: What were some of the problems that our church has gone through?

K: Well, I suppose that you might say getting good ministers, because good ministers had choices of better churches. We had to take the younger starting ministers or else somebody that was ready to retire. Another problem is to hold the interest of the young people because sooner or later the old people will drop out, die or go away. You have to have a lot of young people coming on taking responsibility and taking an active part in the church. It is very hard to get young people interested in church. The way it used to be in the old calvanistic ways of doing things, people aren't interested in that. We lived beside the Baptist minister for two years. My mother was very strict for Sunday anyway, but I know that we were not allowed to do anything except read the Bible on Sunday. We also had a card game about the books of the Bible. You weren't allowed to play catch out on the lawn or anything of that sort. Nobody did any work. Sunday dinner was prepared as much as possible on Saturday night. That doesn't appeal to young people.

B: No.

K: That kind of religion doesn't appeal to young people. So the church had to change to adapt itself to more of the things that the young people wanted to do. They had to change their program. It was hard for them to do that. The old people frowned on those changes. Why dancing, you would go right straight to the hot place if you danced! And violins were the music of the devil! You are too young to realize this, but I was brought up in a very strict family. I remember this boy who lived next door to me, the preacher's son. They were Irish. I remember we sneaked out between the houses and started to play catch one day. His mother opened the window and yelled, "Noel! Noel, what are you doing on the lawn?" I will never forget that.

- B: Albert was telling me about having to stay quiet all day on Sunday. One of the minister's daughters wasn't even allowed to do her homework on Sunday.
- K: Well, we could go for walks. We used to walk anyplace. We would take a penny and flip it to see which direction we would go. We would go for a walk all around if it was a nice day. Just for something to do.
- B: People today do everything on Sunday. So you think that the church became more liberal to try and keep some of the young people in it?
- K: They had to.
- B: What did you think of the Methodist practice of changing their ministers every two or three years?
- K: Well, I don't think that it is necessary for them to shift ministers around, except occasionally. There are places where ministers will fit better in one place than in another. Just because a minister has been in a place three or four years doesn't mean that his work is done or that he is no longer a benefit to the community. I think he might be of more benefit because he knows the people better and he knows their needs.
- B: Yes, I think it would be very hard for a minister to come in, get to know the people, realize the changes and try to institute those changes in even two or three years. It takes a long time to build up a Sunday School or whatever.
- K: Yes.
- B: I am kind of hesitant to approve of that system.
- K: I don't like this change. My father-in-law was a minister and he loved to change. He liked to have new people, and new horizons. He would ask to be changed. He would come back home. He kept a set of packing boxes we called them, wooden boxes stored in the garage or barn all the time, and he was getting to the point where he would come back and pack up his books and he was happy to go someplace else.
- B: I don't think most people are like that though.
- K: No, I don't think so.

B: I have a list of old ministers. You mentioned Reverend Mayhew, do you remember any tidbits or any interesting stories about some of the ministers?

K: Yes, I remember something about Reverend Hulbert.

B: What do you remember?

K: I was down at my brother's doing chores, working down there because he hurt his hand when he got it caught in a pump. So I was quite aware of what the animals were like there and what they would do. My brother told me to turn the cattle out and let them go back to the spring to drink water. He said that the bull was pretty mean and told me to get a sled stake and yell at him and shake the stick at him and he will go out of the barn.

So in the meantime, Reverend Hulbert and his son had been given the privilege of cutting wood back there. They had gone back to cut wood. At about four o'clock they came back up to the house and he said that they had been on top of that wood pile all afternoon. He said they were barking like dogs to keep this bull away.

B: So they had been there for hours?

K: Yes. Guiler was here when we were in Akron. We were in Akron from 1925 to 1932. I was down there working in a plant and going to school, so I missed Guiler. I don't know what you would like me to tell you.

B: Well, their physical characteristics or any interesting conversations that you might have had with them?

K: Reverend Kelley was my father-in-law. He was quite an interesting man to talk to; he read a lot. He would spend most of his time reading. He bought books. Every place he went he bought new books and brought them back. That was during the time before we were married that I was going down to see his daughter. He would always put me on the spot with some trick question that he wanted me to answer like, "Why does warm water get clothes cleaner than cold water?" On things like that he was pretty sharp.

B: But when you were coming down there to see his daughter, you were a little bit hesitant to answer his questions?

K: Oh, I usually had the answer. And he would tell me that the

answer was right and he would go back into his study. But he also liked to get out and talk to the farmers and work with the farmers. At one time he substituted for the county agent before he came to Dorset. He was interested in farm work.

B: So he fit in pretty well with the community?

K: Yes. Reverend Nuzem was quite a character. He had a son who is dead now. He is a little younger than I am. I remember how we would drive up and down the street and I would blow my horn and advertise the young people's meetings that were being held at church.

B: What was your opinion of having Reverend Won, a Korean man, come into town? Do you remember any opinions that were around at that time?

K: I think he had every right to be the minister there and I think he was sincere and did the job as he thought it should be done. But I don't believe that he was too successful because of his accent or brogue, or whatever you want to call it. It was hard to listen to him or to have the people understand him. He really didn't get into the work. And concerning contact with people, he just didn't fit in as well as if he had been an American. It wasn't his fault, but I just don't believe that he was too successful.

B: I think he was too intelligent. He was more intelligent than is good for a minister. I think that was another thing; it was hard for people to understand his accent, but it was also hard to understand his ideas. What do you think of a woman minister being in our church?

K: I have never heard her, I don't know. But I have heard some very effective women preachers. In a church up in Ashtabula, we went up about two weeks ago, she was from California, she was a really good speaker. I don't see any reason why a woman shouldn't be a minister.

B: What are some of the changes that you have observed in the town of Dorset within your lifetime?

K: Well, it used to be that the community was more or less self supporting. It had it's own stores and own railroad station. About eleven passenger trains went through there everyday.

Dorset had two cheese factories operating there. There was a Cooperage mill and hub factory up there. The milk business was very good. Dorset was a community that didn't look to Ashtabula or Jefferson or Andover for shopping or doing things. I don't think I was in Ashtabula more than once during the time that I was growing up. It was just like going to a foreign country almost. Everybody knew everybody and they trusted each other and supported each other. I think really that they have lost a lot of that. Now the only time, I don't know about your family, but with most of the families the only time they would go to a grocery store in Dorset was if they needed food real quick, otherwise they would go into Jefferson and Ashtabula to buy their clothes and their groceries. That has killed off the stores, the hardware is done because, where do you go? You go to a discount store or a big hardware store in town to buy those things. We had lost the community spirit. The school is gone, it has gone to Jefferson, the high school. There are no activities centered around the high school anymore. I am really sad and disappointed.

B: What was your opinion of the consolidation?

K: I don't believe that they saved anything financially, and I think they have lost the personal contact that you get in a small school.

B: A lot of people that I have talked to in these interviews seem to feel that that was one of the major reasons for the lack of the town support and community spirit that you were talking about. All of a sudden all the kids are interested in Jefferson things and not in Dorset things. And it is hard for the church to compete with the activities of a bigger town.

K: It is hard on the parents. They have to take their kids into all the athletic events and music events. So it is not as convenient as having a local school. I doubt if the quality of education is any better than it was in the local school.

B: I think I will have to agree with you.

K: They have more things and more equipment to work with true, but after all we have had some pretty great men and women that didn't have those conveniences, that had to do things the best way that they could.

B: What do you see as the purpose of the church today as far as Dorset is concerned?

- K: Well, I think the purpose of the church today as far as Dorset is concerned is to keep the unity of the community so that people need each other and talk to each other and work together and they can see the problems; so they will be able to work together to help on whatever has to be done.
- B: So you see it as an instrument to retain some of the community spirit?
- K: Right.
- B: What do you remember about the joining of the Methodist Church and the EUB Church?
- K: I don't remember that.
- B: That was when we changed from Methodist to United Methodist.
- K: As far as religion is concerned we just changed the name.
- B: That seems to be just about what everybody remembers. If you could use one or two words to describe what this church has meant to you, what would those words be?
- K: That is a pretty hard question. I think stability, giving me some goals to strive toward.
- B: You said to represent the community, the feeling of the community.
- K: Yes. It has made a family of the better people in the community; that is what it has done for the community. So they know what other people's problems are and other people know what their problems are and they can work them out together. This is much better that way than to try to be a hermit and do it by yourself.
- B: Do you remember when the new Sunday School rooms were added on to the church? Do you remember who was responsible for initiating this project?
- K: In 1916 they added the Sunday School rooms on. My father was one of the leading men at that time in that project. J.D. Wilderson was another one. I even got a chance to go with Dad and Mr. Wilderson down to Ravenna and we bought the pews from the church that we belonged to in Ravenna and brought them up to the Dorset church. Those are the ones that we still have.

- B: This was about the same time that they were building on the Sunday School?
- K: Yes.
- B: Do you remember about the more recent Sunday School rooms being added on?
- K: Well, those weren't added on until 1964 I believe. The cost was \$37,000, which is more than the whole original church cost.
- B: Yes, I can imagine. Can you tell me anything about Mrs. Moses? I think that is one of the special things in the church, her paintings. Do you remember her?
- K: We had one of her paintings which we just sold Saturday. Yes, we were very good friends. As a matter of fact, we used to go over there and visit with them, and she had two girls. She was a very nice person.
- B: Was this painting a hobby of hers?
- K: I think it was a hobby.
- B: What prompted her to paint all the disciples and everything?
- K: Well, I think it sort of had been in her family. She had painted some during all of her life. I believe that her father was a commercial artist. I am not certain but I think he was.
- B: Do you know who she dedicated the paintings to? Some people have told me that she dedicated them to her husband's parents.
- K: I don't know.
- B: Well, I have had two different answers. Anyway, next year is the one hundredth birthday of our church. What are some of the brilliant suggestions that you can give me for a big birthday party? What are some of your ideas that we could have to celebrate?
- K: Well, most anything that would bring the people together in a project that they could work on. It seems to me that that has done more to build a church than anything else; people working together. To me that is what it is. Whether it is cleaning or repairing the church, or building something or making something or doing things together. That doesn't necessarily mean eating all the time. Most people want supper.

But in the olden times when they used to help each other with their houses and their cabins, or their huskings or things of that sort, a lot of work went on along with a lot of eating. And a lot of good fellowship along with it. I think that people are more comfortable and enjoy things better if they have something to work on, a project of some kind.

- B: Do you think that this might help the unity of the church?
- K: Yes, it might be a community project or whatever they can find to do to improve the appearance of the church or the community in general or helping somebody that has really had a lot of bad luck.
- B: You talked about the problems that the church had, the difficulty in getting a good experienced minister and keeping the youth within the church. What are some of the ideas that you might have on how we can go about changing this problem for the next hundred years?
- K: Well, it says in the Bible that you don't have to worry about money, that people's hearts are important. I think that is what you have to work on first. Having people really get into the thing and have a part of it and feel that they are responsible, and that they are really doing something. That is what this Church of Christ is doing over here in Andover. Everybody has got a job to do which they are responsible for and they do it. If you are working at something and you like and enjoy it and if you enjoy the people that you are working with, money is no problem.
- B: You see results for all your efforts?
- K: Yes, but if you just go out and hammer and say, "Come on, you owe us some money," that doesn't go over too well.
- B: Do you remember any of the special town celebrations, fall festivals or whatever that went on in Dorset?
- K: I never got to too many of their festivals because I was away from here at that time. We used to have band concerts; I played in the band. Sometimes we would have them at the old town hall which burned down. Sometimes we would have them up in front of the hardware which also burned down. I started out playing the drums. Ralph Bentley taught me how to play the snare drums. I played the snares and did the bass with my foot. I didn't like that too well because you didn't get enough music out of it. So then I changed out to the coronet and after that went in for the trombone. We always seemed to have a town band and had concerts.

B: Can you remember any dates for these years? Was it before you went to Akron?

K: Oh yes, before I was married, like in my late teens and early twenties. Then we always had a good baseball team, a town baseball team. Each town had their own baseball team and we competed. Not school, it wasn't the school teams, there were men 45 years old playing on the team. That drew quite a crowd and everybody enjoyed that.

Street fairs and festivals sort of came and were there for a few years and they sort of faded out. Now they are trying to get back since the one last year; they are trying to make a comeback. But in the days that I can remember, this was not a commercial thing. Nowadays it is anything for a money grab. Selling things and taking chances on this and that, like a fair, which I don't think is too healthy. Back when I said that we had band concerts and baseball games and parties and things of that sort, they were all for free. Oh, maybe you had to furnish sandwiches or something, but we were out to have a good time, not to make money.

B: What are some of the most astounding changes that you have seen in your lifetime?

K: Well, the thing that I have seen in the past ten years that is so astounding and sort of makes me sick is the way music has gone down, and the way people's personal appearances have gone. We were just mentioning today that one lady who we all know very well, came to a funeral in a pant suit. This is all right because it kept her warm, but it certainly doesn't do anything for her dignity at a funeral. It just seems to me that on television or whatever you see people just dress so sloppy with big long hair and beards and stuff. It is disgusting to me, really it is.

B: What about the change from horse and buggy to going to the moon, isn't that amazing to you?

K: Well that is progress, I guess. But there are a lot of things that can't be done, that haven't been just because of the lack of money, I suppose. Because we are a very affluent country, we can do things like that. But now that is over, at least for a while. I wouldn't advocate going back to the horse and buggy but there are things that can be said for it at least over the gas consuming vehicles we have nowadays.

B: Especially if you are going to Rochester tomorrow, you don't want to go back to the horse and buggy.

- K: I wouldn't be going to Rochester, I would be staying home with my family. There wasn't any energy shortage then, nobody thought of it. And I suppose, well let's face it, they didn't even use gas until a few years ago. They got along just as well and were just as happy. But now, we just guzzle up the energy. It keeps going at such a rate, the spiral keeps on, I don't know where it is going to end.
- B: I think it has to end someplace.
- K: I am afraid that when it does that somebody is going to get hurt.
- B: Yes. What are some of the changes that you have seen in education? You were in it for 32 years, what were some of the changes that you saw then?
- K: Well, I saw a lot of changes in education. We used to buy our own books and we would be very proud of them. I had my dad put my name in my books because he was a good writer. When we got through with a year's work, it was almost like new (the book). Now, the state furnishes the books. They are slammed down the corridor and stuffed into a locker. They don't last half the term, and they are all torn to pieces. I don't think that that is a healthy attitude that has developed from that. The student attitude is very poor now compared to what it used to be. The last year that I taught at Jefferson, you weren't anybody unless you had been in jail or stopped by the cops someplace. I mean, we thought that was a terrible thing, years ago, getting mixed up with the law. Home was the place to get money from dad, and eat and sleep. Nowadays you get out of the house and go someplace.
- B: I suppose cars are responsible for that.
- K: I used to have the gripe session in high school. The people that were failing got their parents in and talked to them. I would ask them sometimes how many places had they been with their son. Do you take them to ball games or take them to the show? "No, he is not around and I worry." There are no family ties anymore and it shows up in school. A good percentage of the kids come to school for the social aspect of it. The only reason that they do any work at all is so they won't get thrown out and have to stay home.
- B: I graduated in 1971 and went to college and came back in 1974 and 1975. In that three and four year difference, I

could not believe the changes that had gone on in just that little amount of time. I was just shocked to see how different the kids acted in just that short period of time.

- K: Well, I retired early. I was only 61 when I retired because I was so disgusted with the attitude of the students to be perfectly frank with you. Sometimes I felt like I had swallowed a big stone. I don't know where the fault lies, but I think a lot of it is in the fact that the home has been broken up and the parents both work and the kids just come home, as I said, to get their meals and to sleep. Our family used to be a unit. You did things together. You never went anyplace where you couldn't take the kids with you. But now the kids go one place and the mother goes another place to bowling or something else. They don't know what each other is doing. Maybe that is one of the things that carries over into school.
- B: One of the things that surprised me is that my brother-in-law just got his own car and he is only sixteen. Ever since he got his own car you don't see him anymore with the family. Before he was always at every family gathering and now you never know if he is going to be there or not. Because he has his own transportation, he goes his own way. He is like a whole other family. You have to make sure that you invite him separately now because he can do what he wants now that he has his own car.
- K: That is what I am saying. We would get up in the morning and after breakfast we would go in the living room and have a prayer and read the Bible and start off the day. At night we would come back for dinner and at night we would discuss with each other what we had done. We would tell each other the things that had happened during the day. We worked as a family, as a team. There isn't any of that anymore.
- B: What are your hobbies?
- K: Well, I like working with wood and leather and handicrafts more than anything else. I make signs and I repair furniture and make little articles out of wood. I have made hundreds of things out of wood, for example, I made that chair over there.
- B: You made that?
- K: Well, when we bought it, it was just a seat and part of the spindles were gone. So I had to replace the spindles and make all the bottom part of it. I like gardening and working outside.

B: Do you like to travel too?

K: I live to travel.

B: What are some of the places that you have been?

K: I have been almost every place except the far northwest, to Oregon and Washington. The far northeast, up to Maine, I haven't been there. But I have been in most of the other states.

B: Have you ever been in Europe?

K: No.

B: Would you like to go there?

K: No.

B: Why?

K: Because I enjoy being around people that speak English better. I also think we have more of a beautiful country here than anyplace else.

B: So you want to see this country first?

K: I want to see this country first and if I live long enough to get tired of it I might want to go to England or Ireland. The last seven years I have been over to the west, California, Texas, Florida every winter, and Massachussets, Canada, and just all over.

B: You mentioned that when you were young your family always read the Bible together, is this something that has continued to be important to you, reading the Bible?

K: Oh, I am sorry to say that it has sort of fallen by the boards. We don't regularly do that.

B: Do you have any favorite Bible passages or any favorite sermons or hymns that have been important to you?

K: I don't think I would want to say.

B: Okay. You mentioned that you were a Sunday School teacher for the men's class. What do you see as the purpose of Sunday School?

- K: I think possibly the biggest thing was the interpretation of the Bible and how we can adapt it to our everyday lives.
- B: What are some of the qualifications that you think a Sunday School teacher should have?
- K: Well, I think they ought to be a good student of the Bible and know what the lesson is supposed to be taught at that time. I mean just going there and reading a few verses that are published in the Quarterly, that seems to me that it is not of much value. My mother and father were in Sunday School, we used to have books all over the place, notes on this and notes on that. Extra things to help interpret the Bible and the lessons. I think we have to get the principles and so forth in such a way that we can use them in our own lives and how they are adapted to our own present time. I think that that is the purpose of Sunday School.
- B: So you think that it is important that the teacher is willing to take the time to really prepare her lesson.
- K: Oh, this is a must, because you can figure that 99 percent of the people in that class haven't even thought about it before they came to that class.
- B: Right, so you have a lot of room to influence people.
- K: Just like a scout master, they have a troop committee who is supposed to be your boss and tell you what to do. But you have to run the whole thing yourself and tell them what is going on. Some people take the interpretation of the Bible word for word. You can prove anything by the Bible, some people will say. It is all however you take it. But I think that a Sunday School teacher has to study all angles of it and sort of modernize that so that it can be applied to the problems that we have nowadays. Don't argue about what kind of dress or shoes somebody wore back in Jesus' time. To me that is not needed.
- B: Which church do you attend?
- K: The United Methodist Church.
- B: In Andover?
- K: Yes. Both of us sing in the choir.
- B: What changes or what differences have you noticed between the two churches?

K: Between the Methodist and the Church of Christ?

B: No, between the Methodist and the Dorset Methodist.

K: Well, of course we have a lot more people to take different departments and duties. It doesn't all fall on the shoulders of a few like it does here in Dorset. We have an excellent choir, I will say that we have the best little choir that there is in Ashtabula County. I was counting up there today, and we have six music teachers in the choir. We have two music majors, college majors, and we have two directors, besides the other people who have talent to sing. And we have about twenty in the choir over there.

B: Is that important to you?

K: I think it is. That is one of my chief enjoyments, going to church and music.

B: I think everybody that I have interviewed feels the same way, that one hundred percent of the service is the music. Well, is there anything that you would like to add to this interview, any special memories?

K: Well, I don't think so. I will always appreciate the parents that I had and my mother and father and taking me to church. I think maybe you have to live a lifetime to learn how to live sometimes. But the longer I live the more I appreciate my folks, and the bases they gave me and the religious training they gave me. I think if people would do more for their children, not just depending on the Sunday School or the day school for education of their families, they would be a lot better off. When I was a boy, my father used to take me with him and show me how to do things and tell me what things you would eat, wild things to eat. He would tell me how everything operated and how the trees grew and the plants and so forth. Parents don't take that much time to do that for their children now. They depend on the school or the church for education of their children. I don't think that is right. I think the parents are sort of passing the buck.

B: So this is a change that you would like to see society as a whole make?

K: Yes.

B: Well, thank you for your time.

End of Interview