

This is an interview with Norman Dillman and this is September 29, 1977. This is Bob Wernle of the Montgomery County Historical Society and I'm interviewing Norm Dillman who has been a long time resident of Waveland, Indiana. We are going to talk today about things that happened when he was younger living down in Waveland.

RFW: I'll start out by saying the reason I called you in here about this. I have talked to several people about ... who have told me stories about the almost bank robbery they had down in Waveland back in the early Depression or maybe even before that. I talked with Clarhud Moore and another fellow I talked with was Frank Shanks and they both told me that Norm Dillman knew the details about that time they had that scare down in Waveland. Starting with that, why don't you tell me what you know about that.

ND: Well, Bob, it happened on February 6, to the best of my knowledge, in 1932, and you spoke of the Depression. Very definitely ^{were} we was in the bottom of of the Depression at that time and Waveland ~~was~~ had been, before then, a pretty thriving town. We had just lost a railroad, especially the Central-Indiana and times was pretty rough for the little town of Waveland. Then to think that an organized gang could come in and completely wipe out our bank was something else.

RFW: Now wait a minute Norm. Before we start on this, I've got to ask you what was your birthdate? How old are you?

ND: Tomorrow will be my birthday and sorry to say I'll be 63 years old. My birthdate was September 30, 1914.

RFW: And you born in Waveland?

ND: Born in Waveland, yes.

RFW: Let's go ahead so we can kind of get an idea how old you were when that robbery took place.

ND: Fortunately, for the people of Waveland and the bank of Waveland, about a year and a half before this occurred, there had been an organization set up throughout Montgomery County and I think the surrounding counties, some of them, known as the Vigilantes. The three men who were actually on the Vigilantes organization in Waveland ^{were} George Slavens, Theron Banta and Frank Gardner. George Slavens was the mail carrier, Theron Banta was the assistant manager and cashier of the Waveland Bank and Frank Gardner was, at that time, a barber. It was on a Friday night as I recall and I can remember that we had gone to a basketball game there in Waveland and we came home, went to bed at a fairly late hour as I remember right, probably around midnight.

RFW: Now who was we?

ND: The we would be my sister and I, Martha ^{MASSING} ~~Massick~~, and about 1:30 I think practically everyone in town was awakened by a tremendous blast. I think that my father and I both suspicioned the same thing at the same time due to the fact that there had been some bank robberies in this area before that ^{and they} ~~that~~ had used almost the same technique. They just literally took TNT and blew the safe completely apart. Well, of course there has to be alot of fear in that but I was young and immediately. I thought of one thing that was going to get my rifle. Well, my father completely thought of something else and about the time I got the rifle he sent me to the basement. So we went through the first, second the third explosion and by the way, there was nine distinct explosions, and about the third explosion the Vigilantes had organized and got up and assumed positions behind different buildings and started shooting at the bank robber^s.

RFW: How did they see ^{them} him?

ND: In answer to how they saw ^{them} ~~him~~, there were street lights in Waveland and there between the hotel and the bank there was about a ten or twelve foot opening that went full length of the buildings. In other words, the buildings were not joined together. It happened so that there was a street light west of that and that cast a light in between these buildings. Well, also the street lights were lined up and down the main street of Waveland and ^Cross street, making it possible that the fellows could see partially into the bank. ~~From my view,~~ which I had persuaded Dad to let me get back upstairs and look out the window again, minus the rifle.

RFW: Where did you live?

ND: We lived directly across the street in the house now occupied by Fred Whitecotton. It is just about 75 yards across the street from the bank. I could see directly into the bank. I could see the fellows with their flashlights setting off the charges. They was approximately 10 to 12 minutes between charge. It took them that long to set the charge and place it on the safe door. Now, of course, after about the third blast, Mr. Banta, Mr. Gardner and Mr. Slavens started shooting.

RFW: Didn't they have a town marshall down there?

ND: Well, yes. We won't ⁿ mention the town marshall, but he went to bed.

RFW: He ... Who was the town marshall?

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ND: I don't think we ought to say that.

RFW: All right go ahead.

ND: The ...

RFW: You could see into the bank?

ND: I could see into the bank.

RFW: Which direction was the bank from your house? Was it east?

ND: ~~Mo~~ Directly ~~east~~^{west}. George Slavens was firing a shotgun and he was behind what was then the O. K. Galloway garage and filling station and he was within range of the bank window. About the second blast, blew out all of the windows of the bank and cracked most of the windows in the C.W. Spencer Hardware and cracked all of the windows on the east side of the business district of Waveland. That's how stout the blasts were.

RFW: Where was the Spencer Hardware?

ND: The Spencer Hardware was directly north of the bank. It just jarred those windows out. The fellows firing there were making it pretty hot and heavy for the fellows on the inside of the bank, the bandits setting off the charges and it kept getting farther between charges each time. I think I mentioned the fact that the first charge was somewhere around 1:30. It continued that way with the Vigilantes firing in there and there was, I suppose, as many as 250 rounds of ammunition fired between the bandits and

the Vigilantes

RFW: They were firing back at them?

ND: Oh yes, definitely. There ~~was~~^{WERE} at least five of the bandits firing back at ~~us~~^{them} and there ~~are~~^{ARE} still scars on the side of the old hotel and bank building where Frank Gardner was shooting a 30 caliber Springfield rifle. He hit many many places and there ~~are~~^{THEY} are still visible today in the brick walls where they knocked big chunks out of the brick. ~~At~~ ..

RFW: Where was the hotel?

ND: The hotel? It was approximately 10 feet south of the bank building. There was, of course, comical things in those happenings. There was an elderly gentlemen and a very precise gentlemen by the name of Jimmy ~~Robison~~^{Robinson} who owned the telephone company whose switch office was directly above the bank. When they questioned him as to what he did because he slept in the hotel just almost directly ~~to the~~ above where the bank was being robbed / not quite and he being a very precise old gentlemen he said that he arose immediately and made way to the rear of the hall ^{was} *(which was the Bathroom)* At that time Ruth Morgan who is a retired schoolteacher now and lives here in Crawfordsville, ~~was~~ the telephone operator and there was one of the bandits came up and just pointed

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ND: a gun at her and told her to remain quiet and not to call any alarms out, or try to call any alarms out and in the meantime they had shot the street lights out. They stood in one place and I was very impressed over one of the robbers marksmanship, because he stood in one place and shot all the street lights out there in cross street in Waveland and he didn't spend too long shooting them out. I think he missed two or three times but most of the time a light went out when he shot. It continued ...

RFW: What about that light you said was shining down?

ND: That remained on because that was backed by C. W. Spencer's lumber yard on the next street west. That light remained on all of the time. It was never shot out. The robbers stayed in the bank approximately until 3:00 in the morning. In other words, they were there about two hours. In the meantime, a Mr. Woorel, I can't remember his first name, he was the telephone manager at that time of the Waveland Telephone System. He managed to slip out of his home and go down a back alley and climb a telephone pole at the south edge of town and with a field telephone or a repair telephone, he managed to get the word out that the town of Waveland was underseized by robbers. He got out, to my knowledge, about 2:00 in the morning. Of course the Sheriff was called and other law enforcement agencies were called at different places and alerted. Well, it has always been pretty much of a joke due to the fact that Sheriff had a flat tire on the way to Waveland and didn't arrive until about quarter after three. Probably a very good thing for everyone concerned.

RFW: Who was the Sheriff?

ND: I'm sorry but I cannot quote who the Sheriff was at that time. It's always been quite a joke at that time that he supposedly had a flat tire. Now at that time the Vigilantes were ^{also} all formed in the town of Russellville just about 4½ miles south of here and the explosions were so loud that I think it was four of the fellows in Russellville heard this, and Burt Murray who was game warden at that time, he picked up two other men and I can't remember their names, and they started toward Waveland. They were well armed and ^{were} was coming over to give assistance. They passed, ^{where} apparently, the robbers as they headed south and east out of Waveland, but they were unaware that they were passing ^{them.} Then about the time they arrived in Waveland, they realized that they had passed them, and they gave chase to them and apparently did see them go through Browns Valley and ^{where} at that time they lost them, and that as far as I know as far as any identification of the robbers. They were never caught. They were never identified or anything was ever

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ND: brought up and proved about it. They did not get any money. However, they were close enough that when the bank agent came, they just took a carpenter's crowbar and proceeded to pry the bank open. That's how close they did finally get to getting to the money.

RFW: Was it one of those big old safes they used to have in the banks?

ND: ~~It was a built in safe,~~ ^{No} it was a built in vault type safe with two doors. ^{THERE} It was a very interesting story of this Mr. Woorel, the telephone manager. While he was up this pole, spreading the alarm, he had a big police dog I remember, and this police dog was laying at the bottom of the pole for some reason, One of the bank bandits came back to their automobile which was parked on the south side of town and he went directly under the pole and the dog got after him and chased him away but he never did think to look up and see Woorel up the pole.

RFW: Nobody got hurt?

ND: Yes, apparently we, who were witnesses, did think that one of the bandits was hit by the shotgun blast that George Slavens fired. There was a little blood in the bank. There was alot of profane language came out of there. ~~One time there was quite a bit of firing done and~~ Mr. Woorel, who saw the bandits leave, and ~~of course~~ the three vigilantes and myself, and two or three others thought that they were assisting one of the fellas when they left. There was no definite proof that any of them were hurt.

RFW: How many of them were there?

ND: ^{To} ~~The best of our combined knowledge when we tried to,~~ as all the people who were witnesses, we decided that there was eight or nine involved.

RFW: What kind of a vehicle were they in?

ND: They were in....

RFW: They had more than one vehicle didn't they?

ND: No apparently they only had one vehicle according to Mr. Woorel and according to Burt Murray the game warden that saw them ... that passed them. They were all, apparently, in a big car of some kind. I don't think it ever was identified as to what kind of a car it was.

RFW: Was the car going east?

ND: Going east from Waveland on the Russellville-Waveland Road. Then they cut back through Russellville. In other words, when they hit the Russellville-Browns Valley Road they cut back to the left and came back and went through Browns Valley. In other words, they were observed. ^{going thru Browns Valley}

RFW: They would have gone east on what we call now the Turkey Run Road.

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ND: No you're mistaken.

RFW: How would they go?

ND: There is a blacktop road that goes out to Russellville ^{from} out to the south end of Waveland and then turns to the east and goes east about three miles then turns back to the right to go into Russellville. To go to the left, you go through Browns Valley on that same road. That's the way the robbers took out of there.

RFW: And then they went up to Browns Valley.

ND: That's right. They went through Browns Valley, because Mr. Manford Pitts, ^{SAW} ~~at that time~~, was one of the witnesses of them, going through Browns Valley.

RFW: Was it ever suspected that anybody ever surmize ^{that} who could have been .. who that gang could have been?

ND: To my knowledge there never ^{WERE} was any suspects apprehended. There was, if I remember right, a Lizton Bank was held up in probably the same way. I'm not sure, but I think Coatsville Bank was robbed about the same way and one or two others I remember.

RFW: Did they leave any of their tools behind or any of their equipment?

ND: None other than just some TNT blasting powder or whatever it was and as I remember, ^{right} that was about the only thing.

RFW: How on earth did they ever get out of there without being killed to get out of the situation they were in.

ND: Well you must remember that there was a back door to the bank.

RFW: Nobody was back there?

ND: ~~And nobody was back there.~~ No one was back there ~~at the back door~~ and they went out the back door, then down an alley which was not lighted and really, just more or less slipped out. Nobody knew they were actually ^{gone} when they left. In fact, a very interesting fact is that Miss Mae Spencer was the first one that got nerve enough ^{to} and really look into the bank window.

RFW: I'll be darn. ^{MRS} Miss Mae Spencer still around?

ND: Right. ^{MRS.} Miss Mae Spencer is still here.

RFW: You think that was about 3:00 A.M.?

ND: That was about 3:00 A.M. when they left. In other words, they were in town about two hours.

RFW: Must have made an awful flash when those blasts went off.

ND: Yes it did. Our house shook pretty freely. There were some pretty big explosions.

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RFW: Now, Norm, anything else you think of about that bank robbery? That's a pretty complete story on it. I want to go on to some other things but anything more about the bank robbery that you remember?

ND: No.

RFW: Your dad is ^{GARRIE} Gary Dillman?

ND: That's right.

RFW: He was not a member of the Vigilantes?

ND: No.

RFW: Were there only three members in Waveland?

ND: There were only three members of the Vigilantes in Waveland.

RFW: They weren't very good shots it seems to me if all those rounds were fired.

ND: They were not in exactly a position where they could shoot directly into the bank. They were situated at more or less at an angle, ~~where they ...~~ the robbers were protected by a brick wall pretty well. Although, I think even today, the corner of the old O.K. Galloway garage still shows the accuracy of the bank bandits shooting, ^{BECAUSE} that particular corner is chipped off, ^{FROM} about seven feet high all the way down, ~~where those fellows shot at the boys that were shotting around the corner.~~

RFW: At that time, was the bank privately owned? Who owned the bank?

ND: The bank at that time was not a privately owned bank, completely.

RFW: Was there more than one bank in Waveland?

ND: No. There never was. Mr. Charles Johnson was the manager at that time and it was a stock bank.

RFW: Now what about the telephone company? Who owned that?

ND: The telephone company was owned by Mr. James Robison and it was a private telephone company at that time. I might say that Ruth Morgan, who was the girl that was held by the bandits, ~~who~~ was the night telephone operator, ^{AND WHO} later turned out to be the same girl that was held ^{HOSTAGE} in Michigan City.

RFW: Oh, is that the same Ruth Morgan, the one who was on This Is Your Life?

ND: Right, that is right.

RFW: And she was the ...

ND: She was the night telephone operator and went through a terrifying experience there. She's had her share of terrifying experiences.

RFW: When that happened? Did the bandits stay up there in the office and keep a gun on ^{HER} or ~~what happened?~~

ND: ^{YES} Until he was sure that all the telephone wires were cut out of Waveland.

RFW: Now that's the first that I ever knew that Ruth Joyner was involved in that thing too. ~~She~~ She was there only until they cut the wires?

ND: Yes, ~~which I'm not sure what time.~~ ~~It was probably only~~ I would guess 15 or 20 minutes or a half an hour. ~~All the wires were cut.~~ They were successful in completely cutting the wires that led out of Waveland.

RFW: The telephone system was a private company and probably only had an A... ^{JAYTIME OPERATOR}
The operator was on at night? I am surprised at that.

ND: Yes, all the time. During that period ^{THEN} there was an operator that slept in the telephone office in case of fire or anything. She would actually ring the alarm which was an old fire bell right there by her office.

RFW: Well I'll be darn. I'm going to be interested in that because my wife knows Ruth Joyner and ^{HAS} had known her when she worked in Welfare Department. I want to question you about some of the other things you know about Waveland. Maybe you've done a little thinking about it. You can tell me a little bit about it.

ND: Okay.

RFW: Have there been any other exciting events like that in Waveland in your lifetime?

ND: Well, of course, we went through one of the big fires there ~~which~~ ... Well actually we had two big fires in Waveland.

RFW: What were they?

ND: ^{Well} When ... They both involved my grandfather as far as that goes. That was when ...

RFW: Who was your grandfather?

ND: George T. Dillman.

RFW: George Dillman.

ND: There was one fire in 1929 that burned quarter of a block, Parrish Garage and burned up a filling station. Then in 192 (END OF TAPE)

RFW: Alright you were talking about some fires in Waveland. You say that there was one in 1929 was it?

ND: '29.

RFW: What burned down?

ND: That was the Parrish Garage, which was a large brick building. Also the old livery barn and part of the Bert Upton filling station and also part of the Waveland Independent office. It did not completely burn down but it burned partly.

RFW: What part of town are those buildings in?

ND: That would be on the north side of town.

RFW: Toward the railroad?

ND: Towards the railroad and going east. Those buildings were never replaced.

RFW: Going east?

ND: Going east on the street that the school's on. Those buildings were never replaced.

RFW: Then there was another fire you say?

ND: Where Whitecotton's Hardware is today and ...

RFW: What year was that?

ND: That, I think, was in '25 or '26. I can't say definitely which one but that whole business block burned out at that time.

RFW: But buildings were replaced were they?

ND: Yes. My grandfather built where Whitecotton's Hardware is now, and at that time it consisted of three buildings, a doctor's office, a restaurant and the hardware store originally.

RFW: Did they have a fire department in Waveland itself?

ND: Oh yes. Always there has been a volunteer fire department in Waveland.

RFW: What kind of equipment did they have?

ND: Well, they had one of the first Model T Ford fire engines to my knowledge that I remember in the whole country. It was a one valve pumper. In other words what I mean is, that it just pumped one hose at a time but it was quite an advancement over the hook 'n latter and bucket brigade that they did have before that. As I remember right, the first Model T fire truck that they had, they got around 1925 and from then on they have advanced to where they have some pretty good equipment.

RFW: You've mentioned, of course, the bank robbery. Have there been any ... Have there been any embezzlements at the bank down at Waveland? Were there any crimes of that type in Waveland as you recall.

ND: Nothing to my knowledge in Waveland. They were all in all a pretty peace loving family and I don't know of any big crimes that has ever been committed down in Waveland other than the bank robbery. Of course we've had a few little break-ins and so on and so forth. Nothing of any... *Consequence*

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RFW: You mentioned the O. K. Galloway garage. I take it that O.K. used to have a garage in Waveland before he moved to Crawfordsville.

ND: O.K. Galloway came from Newtown in approximately ¹⁹²⁸ 1930 and built a new building in Waveland and handled Overland Whippets and Willis Knight automobiles, and was a very successful dealer in that area. He was well liked and really accepted into that area as a stranger, and there's been many humorous tales told and most of them completely true of O.K. Galloway's trading ability.

RFW: Do you remember about any of those stories.

ND: I can remember very definitely one that my father told. O. K. Galloway's distribution center was handled out of Indianapolis, and at that time there was pretty much territory lines and one was not suppose to trade beyond that territory. Well O.K. Galloway had a large territory. His self-made territory and ^{he} was very capable of handling it, but the other dealers kind of frowned on that, and he was called many times to Indianapolis to explain why he would sell an automobile ^{just} jsut the other side of his territory. Well my father and he went to Indianapolis one time on a sales trip and O.K. told my father that they had him up on the green carpet in the main office and just really read him out about exceeding his territory too far, and Dad was with him when he came back down, and Dad said, "O.K. was true to form and stopped and sold the telephone operator there in Indianapolis an automobile before he left." She was out of his territory just a little too.

RFW: When did O.K. move out of Waveland? Must have been about the time of World War II wasn't it?

ND: No. O.K. was here. In fact, O.K. moved to Crawfordsville sometime around 1934 or 1935 because he was here when he ^{was} burned out here, during one of the fires in Crawfordsville, when the Catholic church burned and I'm not sure that I can tell you exactly when O.K. moved to Crawfordsville. About '35.

RFW: Were there any other automobile dealers in Waveland?

ND: Yes. Lonnie Tharp had the Ford agency and Ben Canine handled Chevrolets. In fact, we had three very prominent automotive dealers there in Waveland for a good many years.

RFW: When did they first have an automobile dealer down there? Do you remember?

ND: I think Ben Canine was the first.

RFW: And he was the Chevrolet dealer?

ND: Well he handled Ford to start with and later took on Chevrolet but I can't remember just when he started.

RFW: What other business did they have down there? You say they had three good automobile dealers there. What others?

ND: There was, of course, two ^{hardwares} hardwards, C.W. Spencer and Sons Hardware and G. T. Dillman and Sons Hardware and Implement Company. ^{hardware}

RFW: Your dad then was a hardware dealer down there?

ND: That's right.

RFW: Before he came to Crawfordsville?

ND: Yes. My grandfather established his hardware there in 1896 and C. W. Spencer and Sons established their hardware somewhere around 1903. They did not handle implements. They had hardware and lumber yard and building supplies. Then there was Frank Burrin's drug store. There was Bert ^{Kritz} ~~Cripp~~'s clothing store.

RFW: What did they handle? Men's clothes?

ND: Men's clothing. Then there was a millinery store run by ^{Miss} Mrs. Florence Cowan. Then there was a general store owned by Deere & ^{Dink} Dink. Then there was a meat market owned by Mort Young.

RFW: Any relation to the Young Meat Market?

ND: No, none to my knowledge. There was a bakery at that time owned by Fred and Earl McNutt and there was four grocery stores. There was Frank Kritz's grocery store. There was Alfred Evan's grocery store. There was J. E. Harmon grocery store and a Patton Grocery. That consisted of the businesses ^{about 1925} at ... I just picked this time at random and went through my head what each store was occupied in. Of course, they varied and different businesses came and went.

RFW: What about saloons down there? Any taverns at that time?

ND: No.

RFW: Prohibition went out about

ND: Prohibition of course when out in 1918 and ...

RFW: Came in ...

ND: I wasn't old enough to remember any of the taverns but I would imagine that Waveland had a few taverns yes.

RFW: What about after Prohibition was abolished. What happened then?

ND: After Prohibition was abolished then there ^{were} were two taverns established in Waveland. Claude McIntyre established a tavern uptown with beer and a wine license as I remember. Chine Barr established the tavern ...

RFW: How do you spell Chine?

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RFW: C-H-I-N-E?

ND: Chine was nickname. C. D. Barr, Charles D. Barr I think it was. He established the tavern that is still there today and still carries his name as Chine's Tavern.

RFW: You mentioned earlier the loss of the railroads there. Was that railroad a pretty important industry in Waveland?

ND: Waveland was established probably as a railroad town due to the fact that the Central Indiana and the Pennsylvania or Vandalia as we called it in older times; Both came through Waveland and both ^{were} very prosperous railroads at the time, hauling the Indiana Coal from the Brazil and Stanton and Carbon coal areas through there and they junctioned and ran on the same track at Waveland from there down to Jessup Indiana.

RFW: J-E-S-S-U-P?

ND: Right. There was in a way a shannigan pulled I guess. I've been told the Central Indiana Railroad was going to build their own track from Waveland to Brazil to the coal rich area of that area to pick up the coal ^{business} ~~beds~~ and they made an attempt to build a track, in fact just about a mile south of Waveland, there is still the traces of the track that they started to build. They used that all the time ^{as} just a way to lower the rent on the part of the track that they were using that belonged to the Pennsylvania system. The track never was completed just some grating ^d was done.

RFW: Was there quite a bit of employment in Waveland connected with the railroad?

ND: I suspect as many as 300 to 350 people were employed by the Central Indiana railroad due to the fact that their roundhouses were there and at one time there was, I think my father told me, as many as twenty-two trains were made up in a days' time at Waveland and sent out of there. There would be three to four crewmen on each train so with the maintenance and so on you can see the possibility of the number of employees.

RFW: Are there any traces of those roundhouses still there?

ND: Yes. The old turntable, pit and all is there and as one goes out of Waveland towards the south at the bottom of the hill, if you will face right, in other words, west at the bottom of the south hill, you will be looking down what was the old Central Indiana track and at that place the roundhouse and the stations and the bridge crew place, the watering tanks and the coal sheds were all located in that area.

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RFW: Any traces of the buildings?

ND: No they were all torn down. The Central Indiana railroad was completely junked in 1929. The track was pulled up and all of the railroad iron and the telegraph wires and anything of any value at all was sold and the land reverted back to the original owners.

RFW: Did they have passenger trains on the Central Indiana?

ND: Yes. At one time, there was, I think, four scheduled passenger runs between Waveland and Anderson with possibly one run running west a day from Waveland to Jessup.

RFW: Where did that line run east from Waveland?

ND: It passed through south of Browns Valley and the first station was the Penobscot station which is east of Browns Valley approximately 2½ miles. Then the next station would be Lapland which is now on U.S. 231 between here and Parkersburg. At that time, there was quite an elevator, a grain elevator, there and there was also a station operated there. Passengers could be boarded there or unloaded there. Then it continued through Ladoga and from Ladoga through Jamestown and on into Lebanon and then from there through to Anderson.

RFW: Did you ever ride the train, that train?

ND: Yes, two times. My ^{Father}~~grandfather~~ was a fireman on that train. ~~He~~... During World War I, he worked in the hardware in the daytime and fired one of the engines at night. He run a night run I think every other night. They pulled a load of coal, a train load of coal up through there.

RFW: From what you say, the Central of Indiana was south of where the Vandalia tracks are.

ND: Oh yes.

RFW: It was really on the south edge of Waveland.

ND: Right.

RFW: And you would say that the Vandalia was on the north edge.

ND: Yes.

RFW: Where did they junction?

ND: They junctioned a mile west of Waveland at just what we call the junction. It was at that time the farm, it was owned by John Gilliland.

RFW: How do you spell that?

ND: G-I-L-L-I-L-A-N-D.

RFW: Gilliland. That's Martha Gilliland.

ND: That's right. It was her father.

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RFW: On that farm?

ND: Yes. Her father was one of the older conductors on the Central Indiana railroad. Most of the older ~~men~~ ^{farmers} continued to live in and around Waveland, the older ~~engineers~~ ^{AND} and then the old conductors, the old firemen, the old brakemen lived ~~out~~ most of their lives around Waveland. They didn't move away. A few of them did because the Central Indiana, while it was junked ~~from~~ and completely done away with from Lebanon on south and southwest, they still continued to run from Lebanon to Anderson for a few years afterward. I don't remember how long.

RFW: Now, Norm, you ... I assume also that the Vandalia had passenger trains too.

ND: Yes. They ran at one time four passenger trains a day and then they cut down to two passenger trains a day and they ran those up until 1940, I imagine ^{THAT} was about the last passenger service out of Waveland.

RFW: Did they used to come down to the Shades and go out from there?

ND: Yes. There was quite a lot of people would come in by train and would go from the Shades. In fact, my father drove what he called a hack out to the Shades and took passengers from the ~~rail~~ ^{Railroad and} took them out to the Shades. Especially during Chautauqua weeks which were quite popular back in days before my time.

RFW: I understand some famous people came down there to the Chautauqua.

ND: Yes. This was, of course, before my time but I can remember people telling about the very renowned people that came there and gave talks and gave performances.

RFW: That had gone out of existence by the time you were growing up?

ND: Yes. Mostly at the time that that was going on it was owned by what they call the Garland Dells Mineral Springs Association. Then later J. W. Fritz bought the Shades from the Garland Dells Mineral Springs Association. At one time, there was quite a lot of thought given to bottling mineral water. In other words, the big springs at the Shades where suppose to have health giving ^{qualities.}

RFW: Your dad's name was ^{GARRIE} Gary Dillman and what was your mother's name?

ND: Mabel Lough Dillman.

RFW: L-O-W-E?

ND: L-O-U-G-H.

RFW: Oh Lough.

ND: Yes.

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RFW: Were they old time residents of Waveland? When did they come there?

ND: Yes, they established.... the Loughs established around Waveland in about 1850. The Dillmans, my grandfather George Dillman, came to Waveland in 1896.

RFW: Where did they come from? Where were they from?

ND: He originally came from down around the Bloomington area. He was a tinner and also harness maker. He set up shop there in 1896 in Waveland.

RFWN Norm, you've mentioned earlier that there were street lights in Waveland. Was there an electric light plant there?

ND: No. There was not an electric light plant. In fact, they had a contract with Public Service and the ... it was handled down from a disposition center at Roachdale, Indiana. I cannot remember when we did not have electric lights in Waveland. Apparently the lights must have been put into Waveland somewhere around 1912 or 1913. That was before I was born.

RFW: Now you went to school in Waveland?

ND: I graduated out of Waveland.

RFW: Tell us a little bit about the schools in Waveland. What schools did they have? You lived right in town so you went ...

ND: That's right. Waveland had a very well organized school, a well-built building that was built in 1912 and was very controversial when it was built. A lot of people had a lot of opposition to building that nice of school. It was a brick building. In fact, the building still remains there today and is still used today. It consisted of twelve grades with a very popular athletic ... *Program.* ~~I don't know what I want to call it.~~ It was noted for it's football. During the time that I was very young, I can remember that Waveland scheduled some of the top teams in the state such as Clinton, Brazil, Sheridan, Wiley of Terre Haute, *Reitz* ~~Reats~~ of Evansville and (END OF TAPE)

RFW: Okay go ahead. *at one time,*

ND: *Was* ~~at one time~~ mythical state champion. I think this was in 1912. Fred McNutt, Bert Perkins, Ben Canine to mention a few, were on that team. The school was maintained until the consolidation *as complete* twelve year high school. A new gynasium was built in around 1936 or 1937 and completed about that time. The principals of the school who I can remember are J. W. Records and there was a H. A. Kessler, Professor William White, Cunningham, I guess those are a few I can remember.

RFW: Do you have any fond or unusual recollections of any of the people that taught you down there at Waveland?

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ND: Yes. I have many recollections of the teachers that taught me and Aunt Jenny Burford taught in the Waveland school. She taught long enough that she taught my father and also taught me in the second grade. When I moved up to the fourth grade a ^{MISS} Mrs. Milligan taught me and she was a thirty year teacher. Then at that time there was a Laura Mae Spencer who taught as I remember right, forty-eight years, the sixth grade in Waveland. ~~We had~~ J. D. Blacker, who was a member of the Wingate state championship basketball team, was our coach, and he was coach and also teacher there at Waveland for many years. I cannot say exactly how many.

RFW: Basketball or

ND: Basketball and baseball coach. He did not coach football. Football, at that time, had ceased to be in Waveland due to the fact that during the Depression, the equipment just got to the place where they couldn't use it anymore and there was absolutely not enough money to buy new football equipment so the football team was disbanded and football was never played again in Waveland.

RFW: You've said ... Who was your favorite teacher in all the time that you were at Waveland school.

ND: My favorite teacher would have to have been Mr. ^{Will} Bill White who attempted in about 1930 to explain to seventeen juniors in Waveland High School the theory of nuclear power. He knew what he was speaking of but he certainly didn't get it across to we kids. He always maintained that there was enough power in a pint of water to create a terrific explosion or drive a battle ship considerable ways. He knew a little bit in his own mind of nuclear power, at that time. His brother was a professor of physics in Indiana University and they were very close and they were very very intelligent men. He passed away shortly before World War II. I'm positive he would have been well along in our nuclear. ^{Program} He knew what he was speaking of back that many years before.

RFW: You mentioned a hotel earlier. What sort of a place was that?

ND: The hotel was ^{Ran} ran for many years by a lady, Mrs. Margaret Cuppy. Due to both railroads coming in there, the drummers ~~or~~, as they were called in those days, or the salesmen, traveling salesmen made their stops at Waveland and then worked out of there by livery hack or, of course, passenger train and the hotel was a very thriving business. In fact, reservations had to be maintained quite sometime ahead to get a room there because there just wasn't enough rooms to go around.

RFW: Yes.

ND: There was also a couple of three boarding houses in Waveland for more or less the overflow but Mrs. Cuppy served meals and was known far and wide for her steaks and at that time we didn't have the type of steak that we're used to today. Steak was round steak with brown gravy and mashed potatoes. The hotel is at the present sight now a restaurant, Vance's restaurant. At that time and for many many years ^{it} was maintained as a hotel.

RFW: How large a place was it?

ND: I think it consisted of ten rooms and of course the dining room and the lobby.

RFW: Dining room on the first floor?

ND: The dining room was on the first floor and all the rooms were upstairs.

RFW: Did they have bathrooms up there or just one?

ND: I think it was a community bath, one bath.

RFW: Norm, tell us something about some of the characters. There must have been some characters down there in Waveland.

ND: Certainly there was.

RFW: Got any recollection?

ND: Yes. Like all old towns and there was of course Hubert Loudermill's barber shop and in this shop there was an old shoe shine chair. It had ceased to serve its purpose as a shoe shine chair but known as the liar's bench. It was occupied by different renowned prevaricators of the truth most of the time and I can remember as a young boy that I got quite a kick going to get a haircut because you never knew who was gonna be occupying that seat. There was quite a few wild tales told in there. Waveland was truly also quite a logging center due to the fact that its closeness to Sugar Creek and it was in the area of where there was very much virgin timber and it was quite an honor in those days to have the best logging team of horses and there was truly very, very good horsemen, handlers that could get those logs out of the woods and there were some tremendous loads of logs hauled into the three saw mills that was in Waveland.

RFW: Was this in your time?

ND: Yes, this was in my time. The white oak and the walnut and yellow popular was very prevalent in that area. In fact, just up into the '30's was the last big stands of yellow popular cut out of that country. Of course that led to many tales of who had the best team but mostly it was pretty well conceded that Jim Welsh, the friendly Irishman, had the best team. Jim always had the habit that whenever nobody was around that he said he talked to his horses and they understood profane language a little better than they understood just straight. He ~~sa~~id he always liked to talk to them in public.

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ND: He never used that but he always wanted ^{them} to remember the talk that he had with them back in the barn. Apparently it must have worked because Jim's horses adored him and he adored them and they certainly did pull for him. He was one of the renowned characters in that area.

RFW: Did you have any gamblers down there?

ND: Oh yes. I was taught to play poker by quite a few professional poker players at the goodly age of seven and I think I continued all the way through. In fact, if you didn't know the art of stud poker and draw poker by the time you was twelve in Waveland, somebody got you up behind the barn and taught you the game and it took your matches and your money and your marbles and chalk while you was learning the game.

RFW: Did they have a game going on down there?

ND: ^{THERE} They was a continuous poker game that ran in Waveland from the time that I can remember up to the time I left Waveland.

RFW: When did you leave Waveland?

ND: I left Waveland in 1940 and no one ever bothered it. It was never raided and it was just a part of the town and accepted as such.

RFW: Who ran the poker game? Was it run by anybody?

ND: I don't know for sure whether we ought to say that or not.

RFW: Oh shoot! It's all ... the guy's probably long since dead isn't he?

ND: Yes everybody is dead that ran the poker game then. Sam Scott was quite a renowned gambler in those days and ran the poker game. Probably one of the interesting things of Sam's poker game was a gentlemen by the name of Farrell who played very regularly and he had a big pit bull dog. One of the only pit bull dogs that I know of. This dog and him were bosom friends but I don't think you could say that about anybody else in Waveland. They didn't like that dog. When Farrell came to play poker, he always pulled up two chairs and he had one saying, "Get up pup and sit down and watch Ollie raise it." So the dog would immediately get up in the chair and he took over the chair and a chair in a poker game was an income to Sam Scott and Sam would look at that dog, kind of look at him a little big and maybe curse him under his breath and that dog would just growl right back at him. He didn't get him off of the chair. He stayed there as long as Ollie played poker. There was many characters in Waveland. All of them added to the history of it.

RFW: What about ... Did they have any prominent political figures come out of Waveland at all?

ND: No not too many. I really think most of our political figures down there was also rans. We got about as high as the Trustee and that's about as far as anyone ever got to my knowledge out of Waveland in politics. Mr. Evans who ran the grocery store, one time served I think one or two terms as County Commissioner. That was about the fartherest we went. Judge Tom Rice who lived considerably north of Waveland in the Freedom area was judge here for quite some time.

RFW: Were there any doctors down there?

ND: Yes. Waveland was blessed with doctors from a very early time. There was a Dr. Straughns, a father and son combination. Kent Straughn was the father and I'm not sure when he established his practice in Waveland but it was somewhere in the 1880's. Then he was preceded by his son, a Lee Straughn who took over and continued the medical practice until he moved in and was medical officer for the Ben Hur Life here. Then he was replaced by a Dr. Hall who later moved to Crawfordsville and a Dr. Issaccs who was killed in an automobile accident ~~in and~~ during his practice there. Then they were in turn replaced by Dr. ^{Noblitt} ~~Knoblitt~~ who was a long time doctor there. He in turn was replaced by a young Dr. Hendricks, ~~or Hedricks, I'm not sure because he came there about the time I left. Then there have been one doctor since then. I don't remember his name and~~ then of course people went from there to Russellville for quite a long time to Dr. Richards.

RFW: Did you have any dentists there in town?

ND: Yes. We were ~~probably~~ blessed with the first dentist that was probably a rural dentist in Dr. Harbison and I think he established his dentistry there in 1880 or somewhere near about. He continued until he ~~passed~~ away at the age of 90. He was still active in the practice of dentistry.

RFW: Did you ever go to him as a dentist.

ND: Yes. He done my first filling and pulled two of my baby teeth. He was odd in the fact that he was quite a manufacturer of false teeth. He went about it the old way. In fact it was very amusing to see Dr. meet a patient in his going up and down the street and if a patient told Dr. that his false teeth hurt, then Dr. immediately reached in his mouth, took his false teeth out and got his pocket knife, scratched a chunk out of his false teeth and put them back in his mouth and says, "How does that feel?" Many times it felt lots better.

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RFW: What kind of equipment did he have? Did he have pedal type things?

ND: You bet ya. All of his power was foot power as far as the drill goes.
The faster you pump the more it hums and the hotter it got.

RFW: Did he pump that himself? Did he have somebody pump it?

ND: He pumped it himself. He pumped it himself and ^{his} wooden chair. I don't remember whatever became of it. I think, if I'm not mistaken, it is still in the antique store, Vivian's antique store, today. It's preserved there. It was more like an old barber chair, an all wooden barber chair. He got results.

RFW: What about ... There was never a lawyer in Waveland was there?

ND: No not to my knowledge. No. There was never a lawyer that practiced there.

RFW: What about a Justice of the Peace? Did you have one of those?

ND: The Justice of the Peace I think started at the time the Justice of the Peace was organized. A J. E. Rosenbaum was appointed Justice of the Peace and that passed down through until I think Kenneth Milligan was the last Justice of the Peace in Waveland.

RFW: When would that have been?

ND: That would have been probably in around 1940 as I remember right. He was the last Justice of the Peace.

RFW: Who were some of the prominent farmers around Waveland?

ND: Of course the Emmerts, Elby Emmert was a very prominent farmer, the Mosers were prominent farmers, the Durhams, many of the Durhams family was all very prominent farmers, the Deeres owned farms but mostly rented their farms out and the Fulwidars were prominent farmers of that time, the Evanses were very prominent farm family. Probably the model farm of that community was belong^{ed} to Claude Lydick. It was situated east of Browns Valley and he purchased the first combine that was ever used in Central Indiana. My father sold it to him in approximately 1925. I remember very well that the whole community and it was a very big gathering, was invited in and it was quite a thing because we thrashed^e wheat in the morning with the combine and then a sack of the wheat was rushed to Waynetown to ^{Boldt} ~~Oak~~ Milling Company, they ground it into ^{flour} flower and it was rushed back and biscuits were baked with that wheat for noon lunch.

RFW: My goodness!!

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ND: And that was quite a deal. I can remember that. I can also remember that day very much when prominent school principal today, and I got tired of seeing the combine run and we went across the road to Sam Tom Patton's father and just for a little amusement, we decided we would saddle up one of Joe Patton's heifer calves and Joe Patton was quite a horseman in that day and had a very high priced saddle and that was the saddle we picked out to put on the heifer calf. After we got the saddle on her, we couldn't figure out who was going to try to ride her and it fell my lot and I can remember at least two jumps I was on her after she left the barn and she headed north toward Crawfordsville and the saddle was underneath her belly and every jump she took, there was a big piece of leather that went out of that new ^{saddle} ~~leather~~. ¹⁰ Consequently when Joe Patton found out he took care of Sam Tom and my dad took care of me and I took my meals standing up for sometime after that. But that was the starting of the combine in Claude Lydick's wheat field and it established a new way of cutting grain and started the downfall of the ^{old steam} ~~helstein~~ seperators which was very prevalent in those days.

RFW: Norm, what did you do for entertainment in Waveland besides poker games? What else did you do?

ND: There was lots of entertainment. In fact, back then you made your own entertainment as ~~a~~ ^{that} young man. I think at the time any young man reached the age of ten he was considered at ~~that time~~ very capable of handling a .22 rifle and of course there was hunting, all kinds of hunting. Practically every boy hunted. In the wintertime he trapped muskrats, skunks, coons and made his spending money and it was without questions that practically every young man had his own trap line and he respected the rights of the others. Of course in the summertime we fished on Sugar Creek and little Raccoon and we had our own bicycles. They were our wheels at that time. We mostly used bicycles. Very few people had new bicycles. We generally always was able to resurect an old one we found someplace and that ~~is~~ served the purpose. All of the young men had farm jobs at that time. The going pay was 10¢ an hour for hoeing corn and you generally worked 10 hours a day and carried your dinner and got \$1.00 and that was considered a pretty good job. If you only worked 5 hours you only got 50¢. Later in the years we went to the river bottom most of the younger men and ran cultivators there during the cultivating season on corn because the large acerage there.

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22-05
ND: Armstrong, fella by the name of Armstrong played the trumpet. There was more but I can't recollect it. However, we later imported bands there. In fact, Johnny "Scat" Davis who ~~was~~ later became quite a big band was ... we had him there and quite a number of name bands started and played at the Old Shades Dance Hall.

RFW: Well I guess Norm I've run out of things to ask you. Can you think of anything that you want to put on this thing before we close it up?

ND: Not that I know of.

RFW: If you do, I'll keep this tape open and we can ... if you think of it we can put it on there later. (END OF TAPE!)