

SIMPSON/GROVES INTERVIEW APRIL 4, 1999, VERBATIM

"Growing Up on Simpson Street, Crawfordsville, Indiana"

(James) Stanley Simpson [August 3, 1906] and Aquilla (Bud) Groves [February 26, 1910].

Recorded April 5, 1999, at the Ben Hur Home, 1375 South Grant Avenue, Crawfordsville, Indiana (Stanley's residence since May, 1988) by Richard Strawn on the two sides of a 30-minute tape, now deposited in the Local History Room of the Crawfordsville District Public Library.

Stanley [S. on the transcript], known as "Poke" to his chums, was born and raised at 107 Simpson Street, a one-block north-south street between West Main Street (at the end of the 700 block) on the south and West Market Street on the north, platted in 1869 (Caleb Mills Addition) and named, probably, for Stanley's great-grandfather, John Simpson (1801-1881), who had arrived in 1839 and who owned land in the vicinity. Stanley was graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1926. For most of his working life he was an insurance agent, in collaboration with the McClamroch/Groves Insurance Agency, one of whose partners was Charles Groves, younger brother of Aquilla (Bud). Stanley's mother (Edna Harris), a home-maker, and father (William), a painter and paper-hanger, had four children: Katherine (Kate), Sue, Doris and Stanley. Sue worked in the paint-and-wallpaper department of Freedman's and at a coffee wholesaler's on Lafayette Pike [Avenue]; she ran twice for the office of city clerk. Kate began music studies at Oberlin College but died early of pneumonia complicated by tuberculosis. Doris remained at home. All four children remained single.

Aquilla (Bud) [B. on the transcript], born in Wingate, Indiana, was raised at 103 Simpson Street. His mother, Mame (known for her lively recitations), and his father, David (a banker at the First National Bank), had three children: Martha, Aquilla and Charles. Martha died as an adolescent; Charles is now retired from the McClamroch/Groves Insurance Agency. Aquilla was graduated from Crawfordsville High School in 1927, from Wabash College in 1931 and trained at the Harvard University and Indiana University Law Schools. After a four-year stint in the Air Corps during World War II, he served as a deputy attorney general on Governor Gates's staff as coordinator of fuel supplies. He practiced law in Chicago and in Crawfordsville, was county attorney 1959-61, and was later in partnership with Kurt Homann, until his retirement. In 1960 he married Rebecca Jones, director of the Crawfordsville Public Library; they have a son, Charles, a physician.

Richard (Dick) [D. on the transcript], "Doc" to Stanley, is a retired professor of French, Wabash College, a friend of Stanley and Bud.

[Preliminary recording to set the volume level]

[Stanley and Bud have been talking about Stanley's Aunt Mate Jennison and her house, which originally sat south of the present-day (1999) Lambda Chi Alpha house (formerly a Crawford house).

- B. And that house was moved up on Jennison--
 S. Yeah.
 B. --to the northeast corner of what's now the soccer field, and that's where--uh--uh--
 D. What's-her-name Hepburn lived.
 B. No, not Hepburn.
 D. No.
 B. --it was uh--uh--George--George uh--worked at the--
 D. At the Post Office.
 B. No, he worked at the old Citizens Bank.
 S. George Washburn.
 B. George Washburn.
 D. Washburn is what I mean to say, isn't it?--Wasn't--he--he was not in the Post Office?
 B. I don't think so.
 D. I have that wrong, then, in my head.
 B. You remember that house?
 D. Yes, and I remember Mrs. Washburn, because Doris and Betty Dean--
 S. Well, this is--this is 'way back on there, Bud. This--this wasn't where Washburns lived.
 B. Oh, no, it was 'way back on the creek--
 S. Yeah.

Start of interview proper:

- D. --who lived here in town?
 S. Yeah--you--you sound--you two sound like you do on the--on the recording there.
 D. Yeah.
 S. Well, I guess I can't figure that out, then; I don't--uh--how they were still alive. I knew them-- If he fought in the Civil War--and I'm sure their names was uh one was, as I said, Aunt Mate Jennison; she had the Jennison Abstract and Title Company up there--
 B. Unhunh.
 S. --and then Aunt Laura Cash was--was Ed Cash's mother, and of course he's gone--
 B. Was he related to Mrs. Jennison through your mother or your father?
 S. No, my father--this is all my father's side; I know a little more about my mother's side of the family, but this is all my father's side of the family, and I'm a little bit vague--and there's another one out in California, and she was back here to visit us one time, and I took her out--and--[stammer]--that was--my sister was still alive--'n I took her out to the Lew Wallace Study because E. Stanley Simpson, the fellow--that I--who--which I think would have been my great uncle, he was uh friends to--to General Lew Wallace, and they had what they called the Kingfishers Club up on the Kankakee River--
 B. Umhm.
 S. --and so they'd go up there--'n I think I took a picture down

there--I think it's down at the Library there--that--it shows my uncle there, 'n--and Lew Wallace, but uh--

- B. As you know, I have the picture would hang in your parlor of the boat--of the river boat that belonged to Lew Wallace--
- S. --yeah.
- D. [chuckle]
- B. --yeah, it was hanging in the house over here--and he left it, so I took it home and told Stanley I had it...[?]
- D. Why--why was it in the Simpson house?
- B. Well, because his uncle was a good friend of Lew Wallace.
- D. [echo] --a friend of Lew Wallace's?
- B. --he went up there fishing with Lew Wallace--
- D. Oh--yeah--on the Kankakee River?
- B. Unhunh.
- D. I declare.
- B. Well, that was a popular place to go fishing.
- D. Was it?
- B. Umhm.
- S. Of course, I don't remember him, but--uh--but I do remember Aunt--Aunt Mate and Aunt Laura, and how I--how they could have been there, and Captain--and he--if he fought in the Civil War, and how they--how they would still be alive; somebody then's gonna be pretty old! [Laughter]
- D. Some people were!
- B. [to Dick] Did you cross the Kankakee River as you go up there?
- S. Yeah, it's still up there.
- B. I mean [Dick]--
- D. I don't--
- B. You don't remember that.
- D. No, I don't.
- B. Well, you go across it every time you go to Chicago.
- D. Oh, I take it back, I do, too, know where it is.
- S. I used to go across it up there right as I was going up there to see Herbert Risley.
- B. Umhm--[to Dick] hand him this [photograph].
- D. [handing over the photo] [laugh] Stanley--
- B. You used to--
- S. I can't--
- B. You can't see it at all?
- D. Can you make it out of the corner of your eye?
- B. That's the Mills--the old Mills School.
- S. Oh, yeah--yeah, right, yeah, I--
- B. Can you see that?
- S. --that's up--I was thinking--we all went to--well--uh--all the kids down there went to Mills School, which was right across to--right to where--there's a big school right there on--Bud, you uh--if you go ahead and tell this if you want to, right on Main Street there--
- B. Umhm.
- S. --and I think uh it--over there, I remember that--you remember there was some kids named Touts, German kids lived on the corner--the northeast corner, southeast corner of Simpson and--
- B. How could I forget them? [Stanley: laugh] they were tough nuts. ...[?]
- S. Oh, you'd--that's what I--what I was leading you up to, was when Mrs. Winters was the principal--
- B. Umhm.

- S. --and uh so I went down--we was going out to play and this kid jumped on my back--was--I suppose we was going out--and I turned around and hit him in the nose [Bud: laugh] and bloodied his nose, and she sent me up to the office--her--her office was up there--and I could see that paddle, a great big paddle, I think it had holes in it, settin' over there in the corner. [Dick: laugh] I set there for a while, and Mrs. Yount in my home room, she came in and got me and took--took me over there and I didn't get a paddlin', but--but they weren't--they'd fight amongst themselves, their dad--[stammer]--Doc--right there on--on--Simpson street--but they--
- D. What was their name?
- S. "Tout," German.
- D. How was it spelled?
- S. I think T-o-u-t.
- D. Okay.
- B. Yeah. Where did their father work?
- S. --Uh, that I don't know.
- B. I remember, she was kind of a short woman, a red-haired--
- S. Yeah--I can't remember that, but uh--
- B. --combed back--
- S. --I--I was thinking about the people down there--Mister--the first job I had--Doc, you won't know any of these people, of course Bud will, but then--
- D. Right.
- S. --uh--was Mark Smith's, lived on the corner of--the southeast corner--
- B. We--Uncle--Uncle Mark Smith.
- S. Yeah.
- D. Known as. [B: chuckle]
- S. And uh, that was the first job I had; he'd sort of wander off and I think she gave me a dime or sumpm like that to follow him and see where he went and bring him back, ...[?] [Dick: whoop] but--that uh that--
- B. What did you do for Uncle Mark Smith?
- S. What?
- B. What--what were you--what did you do about?--
- S. Well, you remember, he'd sort of wander off. I remember one time he was going around Pike Street over there someplace--
- B. Oh, really? [Dick: chuckle]
- S. --and I'd go around to see--and sort of follow him around and see where he went and then could bring him back there-- She was a great big portly lady--
- B. His wife, you mean? Grandma Smith?
- S. --yeah.
- B. You talking about Grandma Smith?
- S. Yeah--unhunh--yeah.
- B. Oh.
- D. Where did they live?
- S. On the corner of Simpson--the southeast corner of Main and--uh--
- B. Simpson.
- S. --and Simpson there.
- D. Yeah.
- B. Well, Aunt--one time I was out in our front yard and--uh--and I was trying to lift a flower or a pot of some kind, and as I saw Aunt--uh, Grandma Smith walking out very slowly--uh--and she

was coming over to see me. [Dick: chuckle] Well, when she got over there, she says, "Brother, you'll break your back doing that" and-- [Dick: titter] [Bud: laugh] I had it up by that time, and then she went home--and she was a great one.

- S. Yeah--she--
- D. That was all the message?
- B. That was the main message, that I shouldn't be doing that. [D. & S.: chuckle]
- S. She didn't have a phone, and we was--one of the--fortunate to have a phone, and she'd come over and set down on the porch there and have us actually call, to have us call somebody for her.
- B. Hm.
- D. Oh--
- B. --unhunh--in later years, Stanley--um--we had the "Back and Forth"--uh--bus--
- S. Oh, yeah. [Chuckle]
- B. Oh, no, it was--it was--it was a streetcar. She'd get on--no, I guess she got on the bus, and she'd ride to the end of Main Street--uh, uh--I don't know, maybe it was a streetcar.
- S. It was--it was what--we called it--
- D. [to Bud] A streetcar?
- B. [to Dick] Um.
- S. --the "Yellow Peril," or "Back and Forth Empty," we used to call it. [Dick: laugh]
- B. And she'd get in that and ride clear to the east at Wabash Avenue--
- S. Yeah, when I'd be out there at the railroad--
- B. --for a nickel.
- D. Just for the ride?
- B. Yeah--
- D. Right.
- B. --just--for amusement.
- S. [with Bud] Yeah.
- B. Uh, uh-- ...[?]
- S. I had a dog used to get on there and ride it, Doc--he'd get on there, he'd ride back and forth, he wasn't worth much of anything, 's name was Dan. [Dick: laugh] But, uh--it uh--
- B. [clears his throat] Talking about the school here, you remember Elizabeth Winters--
- S. Yeah, right.
- B. And she--she thought she was going to give you a paddling?
- S. Yeah--she was--she was a very nice-looking lady. She was a--sort of a portly, sort of a mannish-dressed woman--
- B. [mutter] --mannish-dressed--
- D. Yeah.
- B. While we're talking about Mrs. Winters--uh, Miss Winters--I believe she's in this picture. You wouldn't be able to see this, except--uh--it's off the front of the Journal-Review--
- D. Oh--
- B. --and that--
- D. --in 1920--
- B. --I--and I delivered papers, and my picture's down there in the front of that--
- D. In the front row?
- B. --and you'll see it-- [to Stanley] I don't believe you were in that picture.

- S. Well, I don't, uh--
- D. Which one are you, Bud?
- B. [pointing to the photo] That one.
- D. Right there?-- You were well-dressed even as a lad. [D. & B.: laugh]
- B. Big shot. [?]
- D. Stanley--[handing him the picture]--
- B. Here--here's a picture of--of the carriers--the Journal carriers--
- D. [to Stanley] That's pretty brown--can you make out part of it?
- B. --the Journal carriers out in front of the Crawfordsville Journal building.
- S. No, I--
- B. [to Dick] I'm the one over there to the left.
- S. I cain't tell which is which--I don't think--was Martha in that picture?
- B. No, she wasn't in that one.
- S. I didn't think--I don't think I was in that.
- B. We have a picture of you and Martha out in front of the Smiths' house on the corner and I couldn't find it.
- D. Oh.
- B. While we're talking about, you remember Ada Fraley? [?]
- S. Yeah.
- B. She was later the principal of the school [Mills]; she was a good--good person.
- S. Bud had a older sister, Doc, that--her name was Martha, and uh I remember she and I were playing out there, and--and Bud's back...[to ?]--back someplace else on the back of the yard someplace, we were playing out there in the street next to the-- between the street and the sidewalk there--
- D. Hm.
- S. --and they brought Charles in, and...[?] from the hospital, and I [chuckle] I uh--I--I--we hopped up and took a look at him, just saw a little--little baby there and went back to playing again--
- B. ... [?]
- S. --we didn't pay much attention to him.
- D. Another baby.
- S. Yeah, right, but-- [B. & D. chuckle]--and uh--[to Bud] your-- Bud's mother was a--a real--a small, uh--a rather small, uh-- smiley-looking lady, and she--she brought--she brought stuff over when my mother was ill, and she brought some food over for us to eat, and Dad was settin' on the corner--on the--of the cabinet there and I was setting over at the table, and she... [?] get... [?] out to him, he--she says, "Here's something for you to eat"--it was some kind of a vegetable, lettuce and stuff like that, "Aw," he says, "I don't want to eat that dang rabbit food," [D. & B. laugh] and she says, "Well, you wouldn't eat it if you knew it was good for you!" [Laughter]
- D. She took no guff, huh?
- S. She was quite a--quite a lady--to--always--it uh--usually in a good humor, and his dad, Davy, was uh--I could--I was--I sat there thinking--we didn't have air conditioning back in those days and--and--uh--he--he'd come out--he smoked a cigar--and -- he'd come out on Groves's back porch there and I the wind--I'd have the windows open and that wind--that cigar smoke'd come wafting in there, it smelled sort of good off their--he--uh--he

was a singer, he'd uh--he--he'd be singing over there--at the--
I never knew why Bud and Charles didn't continue singing--
[Dick: chuckle] but they never did.

- D. Did you sing, Bud, when you were young?
- B. Charles used to--Charles sang in a--in a men's chorus--
- S. Yeah, he sang some, but uh--
- D. [to Bud] Did he?
- B. Unhunh. I sang in school, but--
- D. But not just to be singing-- [B: chuckle]
- B. My mother was a--an elocutionist--
- D. I remember your saying--
- B. --I... [?]--
- D. She went up to Chautauqua at--
- B. Remington.
- D. --Remington.
- B. Yeah, she went up there for a week, and uh--at the same time as William Jennings Bryan was on the program--
- D. Really?
- B. --and the report was--uh--that there were five thousand people there--I can't-- [D: whoop] I can hardly believe it.
- D. Was there room for five thousand?
- B. ... [?] that was a pretty good uh auditorium but uh--
- D. Hunh--
- S. She recited--recited a poem: "And the goblins will get you if you don't watch out!"--
- B. ... [?] Riley.
- S. --I remember her reciting that poem--she was a--what'd you call it?--elocutionist--
- B. Yeah--
- S. --or something--
- D. Umhm.
- B. --and she--she--uh had what they used to call "That Old Sweetheart of Mine" and she had Bill Simpson play--play the violin--his father--
- D. Oh-h--
- B. --where the--have the musical accompaniment.
- D. [laugh] Be--be in the background?
- B. " _ _ _ big pink sunbonnet / And the little checkered dress / She wore when I first kissed her / And answered the caress." [Laughter]
- D. As he played the music in the background?
- B. And he played in the background.
- D. Yeah--lovely.
- B. Do you remember that, Stanley?
- S. No, I don't remember her--remember her playing--I don't remember that incident, but uh I can remember that uh uh playing the guitar at uh--
- D. Stanley, how did your dad learn to play the violin?
- S. Uh, I have no idea, Doc. That's just like my younger sister learned to play the piano--she ... [?] I think she only took one or two lessons--
- B. You mean Doris?
- S. Yeah.
- B. I didn't know she played the piano.
- S. Yeah, she could play the piano--sat in there in the front room there--uh--
- D. I declare.

- S. --uh, how they--how they learned--I suppose they just learned it by--trying--it uh--of course my oldest sister--uh Kate, she was the most intelligent, she went to Oberlin College over there and then got ill and had to come home, but uh, she uh she was a singer.
- D. Had she taken singing lessons? or did she just have a good voice?
- S. Uh--I--I don't remember whether she took any lessons or not, I-- ... [?] we all sang in the Trinity choir, she sang in the Trinity choir and--I didn't--I--think--I--she quit singing--she died, I guess, when I started singing over there--at uh--
- D. Umhm
- S. --but uh--I think I--I belonged to Trinity Church down there if I make it till-- ... [?] it's been 84 years, I joined when I was nine years old--I'd have been nine the next birthday and that was 1915, so--
- D. You didn't begin in the Cradle Roll.
- S. Yeah, I was--
- D. I'm surprised.
- S. Uh--I ... [stammered] I was ... [?] talking about churches on the radio here a while ago, that uh--well--the only reason we went to Trinity Church was 'cause it was handy there [D: chuckle] and Mom said--said, "Go to Trinity Church," that's what we did--
- D. Umhm.
- S. --and then uh--uh--and my youngest sister, Doris--I went there--she went up to the Presbyterian Church 'cause we had a--she had an aunt up there that went there, I guess, that she liked, so she went up there.
- B. Who would that be? Was that Mrs. Jennison?
- S. No--uh--it was uh--oh, I can't think of her name, it was--she's a friend of--she's a friend of--
- B. I don't know why she--
- S. --of somebody, Doris went up there, too--but I can't think--it wasn't--it wasn't--whether it was--whether it was uh--some ... [?] my aunt on my mother's side or who it was, I don't remember, but--
- B. While we're talking about Simpson Street, here's a picture of Aunt Hattie Pursel--
- D. Ah-h--with "Hat!"
- B. --we called her "Aunt Hattie," I don't know what she called it.
- D. Was she a "courtesy aunt"?
- B. Yes. She lived on the corner of Simpson and Main, right next door to us--
- S. [with Bud] Yeah.
- D. Okay.
- B. --and that was--of course, Stanley's family lived on the west side of Simpson, the second house north of us--
- D. Right.
- B. --and so Aunt Hattie's people lived on the corner and--he won't be able to see that--here--here's another one--
- D. [handing the picture to Stanley] Aunt Hattie--[to Bud] "Hattie" was a good name for that hat.
- S. Hattie--had a big hat on there, didn't she? [laugh]
- B. [to Dick] ... hat. That's right. Of course, she was--
- D. [to Stanley] That was "the bird on Aunt Hattie's hat."
- B. Unhunh--she was--her name was Harriet; she always used "Harriet

- L., " Harriet Lee, and this [another photo] was her father--
- D. Oh, it's--
- B. --who was a--[to Stanley] you remember--I was just wondering if you ever remember her father, who had this--had the uh blacksmith's shop--over on Market Street?--right east of the grocery--or west of the grocery--
- D. Oh-h--
- B. --and I have a picture of him here, but he doesn't look like he has on work clothes on it; it looks like he had his dress-up clothes.
- D. Yeah--with a hammer in his hand.
- B. We always referred to him as Grandpa Pursel--
- S. Who is this? [in the photo]
- D. That's Grandpa Pursel--
- S. Oh.
- D. Hattie's father--
- B. Yeah.
- D. [to Bud] Hattie's father-in-law?--
- B. Hm?
- S. Oh--I don't remember him.
- D. [to Bud] Hattie's father-in-law?
- B. No, her father.
- D. Her father--oh, Hattie was not married.
- B. No.
- S. No--he worked up there at the--what?--the Trust Company or one of those financial institutions, didn't he?
- B. Crawfordsville Trust Company--
- D. Um.
- B. --and--uh--they said that I used to go out to meet him coming back from the--from the shop, and he'd pick me up and carry me home like a--almost like a father.
- D. Is that right?
- B. Of course, this was ... [?] a few years--
- D. Yeah.
- B. They had moved in here from--he had a blacksmith's shop out in Yountsville--
- D. Mm.
- B. --and his youngest daughter--no, his youngest daughter--his oldest daughter--we called her Aunt Mamie--[to Stanley] you remember Aunt Mamie, don't you, Stanley?--Mame?--Hurst?--Mame Bratton?--
- S. Yeah.
- B. He had a sister--. They lived in Yountsville and he plied his trade out there, but for some reason they moved to Crawfordsville.
- D. --moved in to town?
- B. Umhm.
- D. Did people who lived in Yountsville feel as if they lived in a real community?
- B. Oh, yes.
- D. It wasn't just a suburb of Crawfordsville?--
- B. No.
- D. It was a town itself.
- B. No, it was four miles away.
- S. It was a town itself--it was a village, I guess you'd call it.
- B. ... [?] It's mostly declined now.
- D. Yeah.

- S. They talk about back there on the west part of town again, there was a--a dump that--Bert Davis'--Thomas and Davis' grocery was down there--went right there on--you know, where Crawford's is now, Doc--
- D. Oh.
- S. --and uh, so we had--uh--all the kids wanted to drive the truck down there to--on that--on the Thomas-Davis delivery truck--and so--
- D. Right.
- S. --[stammer] the yellow--the uh--and then Thomas went up to uh Bert uh--Bert died or quit or something, and went up there on next--next corner east there, and uh on--on the--Vance and why, there's a store there--what it is now--and they--the--the circus would come to town and go down to Brown's pasture, and uh they'd bring the elephants down there, down the--down Market Street, they'd unload 'em off there on the Monon, I guess-- and--
- D. Yeah.
- S. --bring 'em down there, and we were settin' there one day--one night--when they'd--we'd watch 'em and--first we set on Bakers' corner--J. D. Baker's corner--and watched 'em go by--
- D. Yeah.
- S. --and then, when they were coming back of a night, we were settin' down there and--on that--on this grocery store then, and uh a dog ran out, and they had some baby elephants, and that--and--and they--they started trumpeting, you know?--
- D. Oh-h--
- S. --and--and the--the handlers, they tailed 'em up there, but man, we all got up off that front porch and went to the back end of that store-- [D: laugh]
- B. I missed all that.
- S. --they were gonna stampede!
- B. Where'd that happen? up at Vance Street?
- S. Yeah--unhunh--yeah--
- D. [with Stanley] Umhm.
- B. That was another grocery store; you see? that's how close they were.
- D. They were, weren't they?
- B. Umhm.
- D. Where was the closest grocery to you?
- B. On the--on the 600 block of West Market.
- D. --of West Market? yeah.
- B. ... [?]
- D. Stanley, remind me of Daddy Baker.
- S. Well, he was a [laugh]--he was sort of a character, and I was thinking there--what I was thinking about when you were coming out here. She predicted back in those days that--that we'd have trouble with the Communists--
- D. Oh, is that right?
- S. --Henrietta was her name and his name was J. D. Baker and uh I drove a horse--he had a Klondike--what they called a Klondike--
- D. Yeah.
- S. --and it--it had sliding doors on it that--and so I--he--he sold Singer sewing machines, and out there on Mill Street--I was thinking about that the other day, that uh--I'd--I'd watch the horse while he was--while he was in there--he might try to make a sale-- [D: laugh]--and uh--so--so old uh Andy--that was

the horse's--no, that was our horse, Andy--I can't think of what his horse's name was--

B. His horse was a bay.

D. Was it?

B. Umhm.

S. --uh--he got--the train come along there and he got scared and--and I thought he was gonna run away and I got this Klondike door open and--and he jumped and I fell out and he run over my ankle-- [laughter] and uh--and so then--and...[stutter] Mr. Baker came out and he said, "Why," he said, "he'd just run a little bit and stop," and that's what he did, but I wasn't taking any chances-- [laughter]

D. Who knows? [B: laugh]

S. --but uh--

D. Did the Klondike have a--a glass-enclosed front?

B. Umhm.

S. [with Bud] Yeah--yeah--yeah--

D. Oh.

S. --and then--and these sliding doors on there--and to get back to Mills School down there, where--where the uh--where Aunt Hattie lived there on the corner--and there was a little canopy between the--between her--little--between the house and the shed next door, or back of it there--

D. Oh.

S. --and the kids over on--and at the back of Mills School, they were--they got--they got the teeter-totters up there, and they was under them, we had a rock fight right across Main Street there--we hid between the other--the two houses there--we used to get in a lot of fights but we never--we'd get--it was always--it was fists or rocks--

B. Umhm.

S. --it wasn't like they do now, but uh--it uh--

D. No guns?

S. No guns, no--we didn't uh--uh--

D. What set the fights off? You must have been kind of scrappy.

S. Well, I don't know, I was thinking about that--you know, I was thinking about that the other--I got into fights till I got up into Junior High, in 7th and 8th grade, and then I quit--for some reason, I don't know why--it was--I quit--

B. ... [?] [laugh]

D. Hormones.

S. --I guess I could ... [?] --I guess I had a little more sense then, maybe, or something--but uh--I found out I couldn't whip anybody, maybe that was it. [Dick: laugh]

B. Uh--here's [a photo]--that was Pappy Baker--the only thing I knew was "Pappy Baker"--

D. "Pappy Baker"--

B. What was his first name?

D. ... [?]

S. Doug--

B. What?

S. Doug.

B. Doug Griffith? [Griffin?]

S. Yeah.

B. No, Doug--Doug Baker?

S. Yeah, I think that was uh--

B. ... [?]

- D. You called him "J. D." a while ago.
- S. Yeah.
- B. Well--here's [a photo] a little different--picture--they were four boys--about 10 or 12 years old--it's a photograph--
- S. Oh.
- B. --and uh Mrs. Galey lived two doors [Stanley: laugh] north of Stanley, and she had a son--
- S. Yeah, I ... [?]
- B. --whose name was Doug--his father's name was Will and hers was Nell--
- S. I can't tell [looking at photo]--is that--was that me on the end there?
- B. Yeah, on the right--
- S. Yeah.
- B. --and that's--that's--Stanley's there, and I'm there, and Eston James lived across the street--
- S. Oh, yeah, that's--
- B. --and Jack Galey was just on--and they--they took us over--Mrs. Galey took us over to the campus because there was a WCTU [S.A.T.C.--Student Army[?]/Auxiliary[?] Training Corps ?]--WCTU--uh--installation over there during World War I--
- D. Okay.
- B. --and it was built where the present Chapel is. That was built as a temporary housing--
- D. Housing?
- B. --and this is where this picture was taken. [To Stanley:] Do you remember that?--Stanley?
- S. I didn't hear what you said, Bud.
- B. Mrs. Galey took us over there, this is a picture she took as a--
- S. Well, I know--I--I remember the picture but I don't remember who took it--
- B. [to Dick] It was Mrs. Galey ... [?]
- S. --but that was another sort of funny incident there--at--at--Bob Hunt--Walter Hunt--and--and Georgia lived right across the alley from me there, and the neighbors used to have--have dinners...rr...in the neighborhood there and in different houses, and so [laugh] and so--when the Galeys about--they were a little parsimonious, I guess, and as--as they--
- B. ... [?]
- D. [with Bud] [chuckle] ... [?]
- S. --they had beans for---for dinner, and they--they--they just--didn't have too many--too much to eat, so Walter Hunt, he had a--he had a--[stammer]--when it was Hunts' turn to have the dinner, why, he--they had bean soup and they just put one or two beans in the soup, just--just to make fun of 'em. [Dick: laugh] That Walter, he was something else; he was the one, I told you, that tied the horse that--that Dad--we had a old horse called Andy, and uh he'd go back to the barn there and uh--uh--right--there was a hitching post right there on the Hunt side, and Walter, he slipped out and tied the back wheels of the--the--[stammer] of the buckboard that Dad was driving [Bud: chuckle] and tied wires onto that and Dad got in 'er: "Get up, Andy," and you know Andy was trying to go and he couldn't get [Dick: laugh] anyplace--and he--he--[Dick: laugh] he--he--and then Walter, of course, set there and are laughing, and he--and he was--he was quite a jokester, he uh--uh--

- B. Umhm.
- S. --Bob reminds me a little way, the way he looks--he's ... [?] he'd be--he'd go down the street, he'd go [Stanley makes a face like Walter Hunt: chin up, mouth pursed, nose flared, eyes squinted]--you could tell he had some kind of a story he was going to tell you, he'd go--that way--
- D. Oh--he'd begin to nod his head?
- S. Yeah, he'd--he'd stop ... [?]
- B. [to Dick] That's Bob's father--he's telling about--
- D. Yeah.
- B. --and his wife, you know, died--
- D. Yes, right.
- B. --we went to the funeral at 10:30--
- D. Did you?
- B. --this morning at the Methodist Church.
- D. I had no idea that Cora was 87, I wouldn't have thought she was that old--
- B. Yes--
- D. --and she had been a nurse--
- B. Umhm.
- D. --at Culver--
- B. Oh, yeah. She--she was a nurse at the Presbyterian Hospital and then she--for some reason or other she got down here. Somebody she--she was up there--knew about Crawfordsville, that's how she happened to come to Crawfordsville.
- D. Is that right?
- B. Umhm.
- D. Where was the Presbyterian Hospital?
- B. Where?--well, I guess it's where it is now out uh, uh west--northwest of--the Loop.
- D. Oh-h--in Chicago.
- B. Umhm.
- D. Sure thing--hunh--
- S. Uh--
- B. Now--that was uh--
- D. Did Walter--did uh Walter Hunt smoke cigars?
- S. I don't remember, but--but I do remember one New Year's Eve that uh I went out on the back porch there, and he and--uh--Mrs. Hunt had their bedrooms up in the northwest--southwest corner up--upstairs there, and I took the shotgun out there and I shot my shotgun off [Dick: chuckle]--well, directly that window raised and he ... [?] let loose with a revolver, sounded like Cox's [Coxey's] Army [laughter] out there--bang bang bang bang--out that [laughter]--
- B. I never heard that before.
- S. No-- [Dick: laugh] you woulda--but he was quite--quite a prankster--
- B. He was very quiet, he didn't talk very much.
- S. Yeah--
- D. Is that right?
- S. --he just talked [low voice, slight lip-movement, imitating Walter Hunt]--you're right, he wasn't a very loud talker--
- B. And his wife was much different: Georgia--Hunt--she was--she--remember when I had the croup one time, she--she--Mrs. Hunt came down and--I don't know what she did--something to my throat--
- D. Oh-h--

- B. --helped me to get over the coughing--
D. Really?
S. You remember you had the dip'theria there, Bud? and--and uh-- they had you quarantined?
B. Yeah, I remember.
D. Oh.
S. Yeah, I--I stood there on the--one side of--and talked to you, but I didn't get too close [chuckle], but uh--
D. What--how could you tell that the house was quarantined?
B. They put a sign.
S. They put a sign up there--
D. ... [?]
S. --dip'theria had a white sign up there on the--I remember it was on the south side of the--of the door there, I think--
D. Yeah.
S. They had--
B. Another way to tell: we had to move out--
D. [chuckle] Right.
B. --[stammer] my--our--my father moved out--
D. Oh.
B. --so he could continue to go to work--
D. --work?
B. --and he was down at Mrs. Carver's where he had a room--she was about a block east on Main Street--
D. Umhm.
B. --and he'd come back and look in the window and he'd kind of do [gesture: beckoning] that way--to communicate--
D. Umhm.
B. --and--so we were in for about two weeks or more--
D. Umhm.
B. -- ... [?] my sister had it ... [?] --
D. Humh.
B. --and uh--so then we--we had to fumigate when we moved out--
D. Did you?
B. --and we--moved over to--to Merrills' house ... [?] [over there ?] and we ate down at the house west of Mills School--that's where ... [?] our meals--
D. Hm.
B. --and then we went back--[throat clearing] home where they took every--all the clothes had to be pulled out of the drawers and funigated, you know--
D. Right.
B. --and, so then we went back and started living again. One night I looked at my chest and I ran downstairs and I said, [in a whimpering voice] "I've got--I've got the ..."
D. [imitating the whimper]--"diphtheria"?
B. --yeah, "diphtheria"--
D. Wh-h [laugh]
B. --the scarlet fever was what-- [to Stanley] I think it was scarlet fever, wasn't it?--
D. Oh-h--
B. --well, anyway--we had to go back in--
D. Into quarantine?
B. --quarantine.
D. Oh, gee, and do the whole thing over.
B. Umhm.
D. Who were those people who took you in and who gave you meals?

were they just family friends?

- B. Well--I guess that--the people lived over west of the schoolhouse, we probably paid them--
- D. Paid them.
- B. --but we went in--we slept over at Merrills'--that was Basil Merrills' ... [?] Simpson, the second house east of Mills School--
- D. Um.
- B. --and they didn't charge it, that I know.
- D. Yeah.
- B. They were friends--
- D. Yeah.
- S. I think Basil Merrill, he lived right down at the end of Simpson Street there, on--on Main Street, didn't he?--
- B. That's right.
- S. --and then--and he--and Rider Freeman married his daughter.

SIDE B

- D. Carry on.
- B. Here's a picture of my sister--
- D. Oh, is that Martha?
- B. --not a very good one but the only one we had--
- D. Yeah.
- B. --and that was taken--just about the year she died.
- D. Why did she die?
- B. She died from pneumonia.
- D. Of pneumonia? [To Stanley, handing him the picture:] That's Martha, Stanley.
- S. Yuh.
- D. Hirschberg Studios, that was done by.
- B. Umhm.
- S. Down on Wallace--Bud, I think Sandy [Charles Groves's daughter, Bud Groves's niece] looks a little like her.
- B. Oh, you do?
- S. Yeah--I'd forgotten what she looked like--wasn't she purty? wasn't she? She was smart, Doc.
- D. I bet.
- S. Yes, she was a smart girl--huh, my land--
- D. Pneumonia was no joke.
- S. Hmp'm.
- B. No, it was a stupid thing--
- D. Umhm.
- B. --they had her room closed off and the windows open--
- D. Oh, really?
- B. --wasn't that hell?
- D. Yeah--because it was supposed to--
- B. --get rid of--infection.
- D. --get rid of the whatever it was?
- B. Umhm.
- D. Oh, golly.
- S. Yeah, I remember when they told me, I was comin' home from up there by the--uh--by the--where the--where they--they used to--the casket factory was there on the corner...come down Pike Street there, and then on down there was uh--where the Rec Center is now there was a--uh--where they kept their--some of their equipment or some of the things they'd made there, and I was coming home there and then they told me that Martha had

passed away—

B. Umhm.

S. --and uh I remember how it uh--uh--she was in that north--
northeast room up there, I think it was, she died--

D. Umhm.

S. --and this--I think--and Lester Hunt--that's Bob Hunt's
sister—she'd died just a little before or after, and I don't
know which it was now, but--

B. After.

D. Yeah.

S. --that's two girls that uh--right there that-- [Pause]

D. Did they hold funerals at that time in the home, or were they
in church, or at the funeral parlor?

B. They were in the home.

S. In the home--

S. Umhm.

B. Umhm.

S. --yeah, we had our--

D. Yeah.

S. --funerals--

B. Many of them.

S. --in the home, but uh--

D. Umhm.

B [Showing a photograph] Here's the Lester he mentioned; this is
Bob Hunt's sister--

D. Oh.

B. --who was my sister's good friend--about the same age--

D. Umhm--

B. --she--

D. --but named "Lester"?

B. Umhm.

D. I declare.

B. Bob had Lester and then a sister--

S. --and then Esther--man, they--those girls were both purty, that
was--that's--that's Bob's sister, and uh--

B. Then uh the sister next oldest was Esther--

S. Yeah, Esther--

B. --Mary--

S. --and then Ruth.

B. --and now, Edith was next--

S. --Edith--I was going to ask you: Is Edith still alive?

B. No, I don't think so, I--

S. I knew she went up to live with her daughter up in Michigan
someplace.

B. [to Dick] ...[?] She was married to a farmer, they lived out
north of town.

D. Umhm.

B. Well--uh--

D. These pictures are in good shape--

B. That's my picture--

S. That's a good picture.

D. [laugh] In your rompers, or whatever those were--

B. Umhm.

D. --your dress-up suit. [Pause] Can you remember being dressed
like that?

B. Hmpm.

D. You were bright-eyed. [Pause while Bud looks through the

- photos.]
- B. Well, this doesn't have much to do with what we're talking about.
- S. No, I don't remember that [looking at Bud in dress-up clothes]— that--that--you wasn't down there on Simpson Street when you had that one, Bud.
- B. [to Dick] When I came back from the service, I was in the Attorney General's office--
- D. Oh, yes.
- B. --and I just--and what--that was the--this was the governor, and there was--we had an oil shortage and I was named the "fuel coordinator" or something like that; that's the reason I was...[?]
- D. Oh-h-- Who is that? that man looks a little familiar to me.
- B. Oh, no, these are all people...[?]
- D. --all people in Indianapolis?
- B. [chuckle] Yeah.
- D. What was the governor's name?
- B. Gates.
- D. Hm.
- B. [passing a photo] Let Stanley see that--who's this?
- D. Unhuh. [Pause]
- S. [looking at the photo of Bud in Indianapolis] Who's that? Who is this?
- D. On the far left--
- S. Now who is these people?
- B. That's my picture on the left--
- S. Yeah, I know that, but who's these others?
- B. Well--
- S. Well, it don't make any difference, I don't know any of them.
- B. --one there--the governor is in there--...[?]
- S. Oh, well, I don't [laugh]--there's a portly guy [Dick: laugh]-- that's [laugh]--
- B. Well--
- S. You were talking about over there at Bert Davis' [mutter]-- Thomas and Davis' grocery was on West Pike--or West Market Street there--there's a--there's a watering trough right across the street there, and then on down--down there was--a bluff-- and then the--the hollow down there across the--there's a hollow there now it still comes down there from Main or was a little bit right east of--east of Crawford's grocery there, but of course they filled that all in now, but--I've--I trapped down there one time, and I caught a possum in one of the--I caught his toe in there in one of the traps [D: chuckle] and the possum in the other trap, I was thinking the other day I don't know what I did with him, but I didn't keep him, of course, but--[D: laugh]--but uh that was right in--and...[?]
- that was in the--right across there, that--uh--of course, it's filled in now, but then Millers'--that house, it sort of set--I heard 'em talk about it the other day, the sewer went through there, and it went on down there to Bluff Street--uh--down through Bluff field where--where we used to slide down Bluff hill there--
- D. Oh.
- S. --before they cut it down there--
- D. Right.
- S. --and uh I remember one time I climbed up in there, it's a

great big sewer--

- D. Umhm.
- S. --and that--that makes you think that uh--that it was--it was one of those corrugated...[?]-that--I was trying to think it--back to my relation there--and E. Stanley, who I was named after, I think he was my great-uncle--
- D. Umhm.
- S. --and uh and he invented these, he and a fellow named Watson, and I remember that he carried this little corrugated uh sample, where they'd made up, around in his pocket, but they couldn't get anybody to back 'em, so O'Neall uh took uh out--they took it over and then, I guess, evidently--evidently they sold it to Armco or somebody, but then--that was--
- D. Oh-h--where were those manufactured?
- B. Here.
- D. Here? in Crawfordsville?
- S. Yeah.
- D. Yeah.
- S. --right out there on East Wabash, before you get to the--before you get to the railroad there, it used to say "O'Neall" up there, but--
- D. Was that--?
- S. --that was another chance I had to--
- B. [to Dick] You've seen them, haven't you?
- S. --be rich, I guess.
- D. They're oval-shaped, aren't they?
- B. ...[?] and ribbed.
- D. And ribbed--yeah. Was that Walter O'Neall?
- B. Umhm.
- S. Yeah--uh--he was--he was--uh--there's more than one, but--but I think they lived down on West Main Street there someplace, but uh--he was...[?]
- B. "Squealer" O'Neall...[?]-you know Squealer?
- D. No.
- B. Squealer was a brother--uh Stanley--
- S. What?
- B. Squealer O'Neall was a brother, wasn't he?--Squealer--
- D. [firmly, to make Stanley hear] Squealer O'Neall, a brother--
- S. Yeah--
- D. --of Walter?
- S. Yeah, I--
- B. And he--
- S. --I, I--I don't know how many of 'em there was, but uh--as--I think they lived down there on West Main someplace, and uh--but that was--
- B. Squealer was the one that later--who was married to Dorothy uh--
- S. I had two chances--
- D. [responding to Bud] Oh--uh--
- B. --a sister.
- D. --a sister, yeah, she lived across the street from Annie Leavenworth, later--
- B. Umhm.
- D. Stanley, go back to the trapping, when you caught the possum. Did you all have--uh--I don't know how to put it--wild game or anything of that kind?
- S. I'm sorry, Doc, I didn't understand what you said.

- D. Did you have squirrel or rabbit or any--possum--
 B. Yeah.
 D. --to eat?
 S. Oh, yeah! sure. My dad got--he was a hunter and, say, we didn't have very much money, and he was a--he was a paper--a paper hanger, and--and uh--and he also had a little drinking problem, but uh--uh--
 D. Umhm.
 S. --when he'd go out and--and that's before we had any kind of refrigeration, and he'd kill these rabbits and skin them and he'd hang 'em up around our post office--oh, "post office"!--around our--our wood shed out there; he'd hang 'em up and let 'em freeze--
 D. Yeah.
 S. --and they would keep, and then he'd take 'em over to the grocery and sell 'em. [Laugh]
 D. Is that right?!
 B. ...[?]
 S. I'd see those rabbits a-hanging up around there--
 D. Did you raise chickens?
 S. Well, no, I raised some chickens, and uh--[B: chuckle]--I--I--[D: chuckle] back in the back there, but uh--[D: chuckle] I had some banties--there--or they were a little--I guess they were--banties, and they got out one day and they got clear up the street, up there in the--on the front of Simpson Street there--on--[D: chuckle] on the front of the house there.
 B. You had a chicken house back there on the alley, didn't you?...[?]
 S. Yeah--yeah, right on the alley. That's another thing: They had a--a--back--there--there was four barns--there--there was--our barn there on the corner [of the alley] and then Hunts' barn right across the way [on the north side of the east-west alley], and then back there was O. P. Jones's barn, and then this other--other barn here was uh--
 B. Stout.
 S. --uh--
 D. [more loudly] Stout.
 S. Stout, and uh--there was a fire--what's called a fire--arsonist around--a fire bug--
 D. Oh!
 S. --and Dad set out in the barn there one day--one night--to watch it--he'd been--he'd--uh--Hunts' barn caught afire and he got--he got it set afire, but uh--they got the horses out, but uh--
 D. Hm.
 S. --we had his--he had a--a horse-drawn hearse--
 D. Oh, yes.
 S. --that uh--and uh--now I can remember--on the side of our barn though was scorched, I can remember seeing that there on the--acrosst the alley there at the--
 B. They had--I'll always remember they--they said they had to put sacks over the horses' heads to get 'em out.
 S. Yeah.
 D. So they wouldn't be frightened?
 B. Umhm--umhm.
 D. Hunh.

- S. Yeah, they--
- D. What was it--was there a fire brigade? or was there a fire department?
- S. Well, I was thinking about that, Doc--Bud, is this right? now, I remember the--it was a horse--it was--it was across from uh--well, where the Journal-Review is now, was the--was the fire station and the City Hall--
- D. Oh--
- S. --and--and--the--I [stammer] these two horses--they had them in there and--ready to--and the harness would come down and drop on them and then they'd get them on to this--on this--
- D. Umhm.
- B. The doors in front of the horses were on hinges.
- D. Hinges?
- S. --but there wasn't--wasn't there some kind of a steam thing--...[?] in that thing, to get the--get the pressure for the hot--for the hose?
- B. I guess so.
- D. I bet that's right--
- B. ...[?]
- S. I think there was--
- D. --a steam engine.
- S. --and also down uh Market Street that uh--that's what--it was paved, and I can--I can remember the--the ditch--I heard 'em say something about it the other day on the radio about something: The ditch caved--and they was digging a ditch out there to put in a sewer--
- D. Oh.
- S. --out on Market Street, it caved in and caught this guy--it caved in on him and I was thinkin' they got him out, but uh--
- D. Hunh.
- S. --it was uh--and then on uh--and then--of course Simpson Street was paved there then, but of course there wasn't any--any--* and Bud can remember this--
- B. * There was a sewer down on--on uh--the road in front of the uh--pasture down there--what is that street--north of Market Street, east and west?--Lane--Lane Avenue?
- D. Lane--Avenue?--Lane runs parallel with Market, one street north.
- B. Um. Well, I think that--that they were digging--a trench of some kind down that street and there was a man got in there--
- D. Hm--
- B. --killed himself.
- D. --a cave-in?
- B. Umhm.
- D. Oh. Stanley, I think maybe Lane Avenue is the street that your family owned a house on.
- S. Owned two houses. I was * thinking that--
- D. * Did you?
- S. --yeah. I was thinking the other day, that we had six houses--pieces of property, and uh--why, this fellow, we used to think--that I think about when--and there was two of 'em down there on--on Lane Avenue--I think those houses are still down there--
- D. Umhm.
- S. --just like they were, but uh--
- D. Hm.

- S. --and then we had two there on West Market Street--[B: chuckle] and uh--one of 'em--Bud remembers--the lady that lived there-- it was--it wasn't much of a house, it was just, there--of course, they're fixed over now--
- D. Yeah.
- S. --and uh--a lady there named Pink White-- [B. & D: chuckle & laugh] and uh--
- B. She was a rough one.
- S. --Pink was quite a character--
- B. She had a loud voice and she had a limp--
- D. Oh.
- B. --and I can see her going--walkin' up Market Street up to the grocery...[?] a loud mouth.
- D. [laugh]
- B. Pink White.
- D. Why can both of you remember all those people so clearly?
- B. They were so unique [chuckle].
- D. Yeah.
- S. Well, of course--
- D. [to Bud] Yes, that is part of it.
- S. --of course, why do I? 'cause I'm older than Bud is. [Laughter]
- B. ...[?]
- over lap | D. Well, but they--the--neighborhood must have been pretty close.
- S. Uh, I don't know why--they--they could--they could say that uh--I've heard when you get a little older that you can remember things back in those days better'n you can--back farther than you can right at the present things--
- B. I think so.
- S. --it's like people's names: I have trouble remembering people's names, but uh--uh--
- D. Did your neighborhood "gang" have fallings-out when you were playing? You all were fairly close to one another.
- S. Well, but--
- B. I don't remember that we had.
- S. --we had two--two good musicians come out of there, Doc, that--one was this Jack Galey; he was the one that lived down at--the second house next to me--he was a trumpet player and he was back here in--I don't know whether he was back here to see us one time and uh--
- D. Hm.
- S. --he came out here to the--he was--they--they went out to the West coast and uh--he was still playing out there--I was thinking about it the other day--I--he and Eston--Eston James-- that uh--whether they were still alive or not, that uh--Eston was a reed man, and they were pretty good.
- D. Did you play with them?
- S. Yeah, we played some together, not--not in the same bands all the time, but we played with--it it--I think we played the Strand Theater together up there, when they played vaudeville-- at uh--but they were good musicians--
- D. Was that the vaudeville turn where you had trouble about rehearsal?--[pause]--one of the--
- S. Aw, no, that uh--uh I think it--no, I had what they called a song list, and I heard a--a guy playin' it like an ocarina today, Doc, I told you about that...[?]
- D. Yeah, it sure does.
- S. --and--but uh--this--this guy was--I was the second drummer

there, and this fellow--was--[stammer] and I just played on--on the--on the--on [stammer]--on Fridays and Saturdays when uh-- there--usually they had--this guy--I missed a cue, I had to have a cue sheet [chuckles]--and it's all from the other drummer might be coming from, say, someplace in Illinois, they'd have these cue sheets marked off, and this act was going on out there--there was a dance--a dance act--I can remember-- and I missed a cue, like if he'd, if he'd reach over, he'd have a ratchet or something, so r-r-rhah [laughter], you know, like he'd split his pants, or a saw, a whistle was blowin', [laughter] something--

D. Yeah.

S. --and they--he said, "Why aren't you--why aren't you--" and I--and he said, "Why aren't you--weren't you at rehearsal?" And we got in an argument when the show was going on, I was at the south end of the--of the pit, the orchestra pit, and I said, "I wasn't supposed to be here!" [laughter]

D. How did you get to the south end of the orchestra pit when the stage entrance * was on the alley?

S. * Okay. I thought about that, Doc. You--we went in--went in to the sides, back there, and we had to go--I think we went down and then went down there on the south end--went down acrossst and come up in the orchestra pit from the north end up around like that--

D. Oh-h--okay.

S. --and I was clear at the last one--the drummer's still on the--[D: chuckle] on the south side, and if they didn't like this--like the act that's going on, here'd come a nail or a penny or something, WHANG, it'd hit that cymbal sometimes! [laughter]

B. Who else was in that orchestra?--

S. [Pause] It was--

B. --was Gordon Trout?

S. What?

B. Was Gordon Trout in it?

S. Yeah, Gordon played there, it uh--uh--and I can't uh--I can't think who else played there, but Gordon was a good saxophonist.

B. He died...[?]

D. Did he?

B. Umhm.

S. He lived there on East what? on East--

B. He was in my class.

D. Ah.

S. East College, didn't he?--or East Jefferson, wasn't it?

B. First, he didn't then, and then they--later they moved from South Washington to--

D. What was your high-school class, Bud?

over lap | B. '27.
S. 19...

D. '27? [Pause] Stanley, how often would the vaudeville troupe come to town? once a year?

S. Oh man, that--that's another funny thing--that I can--when I'd go down there to--to play at the--in the afternoon [stammer]-- and I could tell those women, because you'd see 'em on the street, and women didn't wear make-up like they do now--

D. Right.

S. --and they--I could see and I'd say, well now, there's a

vaudeville act in--in there [laughter], and uh--it uh--sure enough, it uh--

D. Did they smoke?

S. Yeah, that's the first time I ever saw a woman smoke, was down in the basement there where we'd wait before we'd go up into the--into the--into--into the orchestra pit there, at uh--but they had--[chuckle]--there was one guy, I think he was, Dragoo was his name, I forget, he played--I think he was a reed man, or something, and he had one of these--uh, I forget how that was--somebody--in--in one of the rooms there had the door locked and--and had a peephole there and this guy--it was his--his--his--some kid and him and he could look in there and see him, and--

D. Oh-h--

S. But uh it was a--it was a hard--that's the hardest thing I ever tried to play, Doc, my!

D. That kind of music--

S. Yeah--that kind of music--

D. --or that kind of gig? What was hard about it?

S. Well, because uh, as I said, the music'd be all marked--marked up, and--and--you had to--it had to be--uh, I don't want to say this: It was sort of precise. When they was dancing--

D. Oh.

S. --you couldn't make a mistake and--

D. Yeah.

S. --and--they--they would--they'd spoil the act on the stage. I remember they had another time they had a [chuckle]--I was doing some dancing--they had to go offstage, swing out over the audience--

D. Oh, gollee--hm.

S. --and I was supposed to make a drumroll, I had him going the wrong way. [Laughter]

B. Who played the organ at the Strand for such a long time? white-haired woman. [Pause] [To Dick] They had a pipe--pipe organ.

D. Yeah.

B. [to Stanley] You remember her?

S. What's that, Doc--Bud?

B. Who played the organ?

S. Betty Mains.

B. Yeah.

S. Yeah, she wa a big--

B. She was pretty good.

D. Mange? M-a-n-g-e?

B. M-a-i-n.

D. ...[?]

S. M-a-i--M-a-i-n-s, and he took tickets--

D. Oh.

S. --Clyde; they lived right there on--on South Green Street--uh--uh--

B. Where'd they live?

S. South Green Street, there, before you get to--before you get to Wabash Avenue, there on the--there's a house right there on the south side--

B. Hm.

S. --or east side, excuse me, at uh--on the east side of the street there. She was a great big portly kind of woman, that uh--

- D. You seem to have known a lot of portly women, in your time.
S. Yeah-- [B: chuckle] yeah.
D. Can you remember maybe the first one or two movies you ever went to?
S. First one or two what?
D. Movies.
S. Oh. No.
B. I saw Ben Hur.
D. The original?
B. I think it was the second one.
D. Was it? The second?
B. Umhm.
D. Was it the--what? Francis X. Bushman? That doesn't sound right to me.
B. ...[?] [Ramon Navarro?]
S. It might have been uh when I was playing there, why of course I could get in, but you didn't pay too much attention to 'em.
D. Yeah.
S. I didn't even stay and watch 'em, I'd leave when we got through the vaudeville, and--and uh--and we had to cue--I think we cued the music there for a while, cued the--that's when they had sound on it, we'd--we'd--like to--here'd come--
D. Oh.
S. --a train or something, you know--
D. Yeah.
S. --or maybe a whistle or something.
B. How much were you paid, do you remember?
S. What's--what?
B. How much were you paid for playing?
S. Oh, we was paid terrific! [D: snicker] I think I maybe got all of maybe two or three dollars! [D: laugh]
D. For a night's work?
B. Who was the director of the orchestra?
S. [Pause] Well, as I said, Betty Mains, she was the director--the directress--
B. Oh, she was? I thought she was ...[?]
S. --and then--then--then after that was one of the Hughes boys, and it was--[laugh]--there--there was three brothers, they were good musicians, and he--he took over then--I forget whether they sold out the theater--what changed it--and he was trying to--he was trying to direct the orchestra there and they brought these acts--
D. Yeah.
S. --and man, he was over--huh [laugh]--he was--he was hard work for--for--for Rush Hughes; his name was--
B. There was Hugh, David and Bernard, I think; he was the latest one--
D. Umhm.
S. Bernard--Bernard was the--
B. --and Hugh was, now, he was the oldest one.
S. Rush was the oldest.
B. Rush was the oldest, and--
S. And Bernard, and then--
B. --and then Hugh, and then Bernard.
S. Bernard--that uh--David!--
B. ...[?]
S. --David was the middle one.

- B. --played the violin, didn't he?
- S. David--David--he was--David played the violin, of course, it uh--
- B. Umhm.
- D. Well, I always wonder how you and those people learned their instruments.
- S. Well, [pause] I don't know how they learned, but I learned--that's--that's another thing: I--when I went to playing this vaudeville, I uh--I--I learned that--I took up drumming, just learned myself, and I got--I had--I remember I had a book that I learned the different rudiments, but then I started playing vaudeville, why, I went and had to take a--the guy from Keith's--Keith Albee [?] over at Indianapolis--he came over and gave me a lessons on--on uh the vaudeville--
- D. Was that a--a music store?
- S. No, Keith's is a--
- D. Oh, the Keith Vaudeville circuit!
- S. Yeah, right.
- D. Yeah, sure thing--
- S. Yeah.
- D. --and he came over to give you-- ...[?]
- S. Yeah, he came over here--Mrs. Ream had a--a--a school--
- D. Ye-es.
- S. --that I guess a music school or something--
- D. Martha's mother?
- S. Yeah--no! uh--Martha--Martha Ream herself--
- D. Oh.
- S. --and it's right there on the cor...--right across from the high school there on the corner of Jefferson and uh--and Green Street, there was a big house there and they had a--she had a--I guess you'd call a "music school" or something in there, and that's where--he'd come over there, she had different musicians come over to teach different people--
- D. I see.
- S. --and he would come in there and uh--give the lesson, I don't remember what his--uh--
- D. What did he charge?
- S. I--that I don't remember--didn't charge very much, Doc, 'cause I couldn't've paid it! [D: laugh] ...[?]-but uh--huh--we used to--uh--did I ...[?]-Bud can remember it--you know--on the--on the--on that trolley car that uh comin' down on Main Street here--
- D. Umhm.
- S. --and uh--this uh--there's a--uh-h--Essex! lived down on the corner there, right--Simpson Street right on--Market Street there--
- D. Right.
- S. --and uh--
- B. [to Dick] They lived at the end of Simpson, on Market.
- D. On Market?
- B. Umhm.
- S. And what was it--uh--
- D. [to Bud] On the * south side?
- S. * Barrett!
- B. North.
- S. --Barrett'd get off this trolley car and--that was--that Mrs.--

- uh that was Mrs. Essex' father--uh--I guess it--
- B. Charlie Barrett, you're talking about?
- S. Yeah. Charlie's father-in-law--and he had a load on--
- D. Oh.
- S. --and he'd get off this--and he'd go on down Simpson Street and--and his wife'd say, "Well, Daddy's got one of his sick spells again." [Laughter]
- B. He lived at--Simpson Street runs right into the house, where the Essex--they lived--her folks were named Barrett--
- D. Unh.
- B. --and Mr. Barrett was--traveled around selling something because he knew my grandfather in Wingate--
- D. Really?
- B. --and uh--what was Mr. Barrett?--oh--

GAP

- S. --her dad gave me a--that was about the first date I believe I ever had--he gave us some money and I took her to the show, and we went down to the--caught the streetcar there and went up on the streetcar--
- B. You mean Martha Elizabeth?
- S. Yeah--yeah, the oldest one--
- B. Martha Elizabeth was his [Stanley's] age; Mary Louise was my age.
- S. Yeah.
- D. Oh, okay.
- S. --and uh--so, coming back there, there wasn't any--it was dark along there and uh right acrosst--we was on the east side of the street there, and there was a vacant house--there was a vacant place there, and the Wilkeses lived on down there, and some guy came out and grabbed Martha--
- D. Oh-h--
- S. --out of the dark there, well, I was so brave, I went--I run for home! [Laughter]--and she followed acrosst there, and called her dad and he come out and watched us while we went off--while they took her on down there, and they found--they found, I think, that guy was--he lived up there and--Market Street someplace, he wasn't--Burn, I think--was that his name? but he wasn't quite with it, I guess, but uh--
- D. Oh.
- S. --but boy, I was her protector [B: chuckle]--I--
- D. You did your job.
- S. --I--my first--my first inclination was to get out of there.
- D. Um.
- S. But that uh--every so--uh--
- D. What were the rough sections of town?
- S. North end.
- D. More than the east side?
- S. Yeah, I think so.
- B. And the east side, too.
- S. Yeah, it uh--I always tried to keep in pretty good-- [chuckle]--what was his name? he went--he went to Mills School there--and there--at uh--Russell Wolfe [?].
- B. Umhm.
- S. And uh [stammer]--and uh--and Carl Dickerson--Dickersons lived there on High Street--and I used to--I was always hopin' they'd

get in a fight and I'd follow along behind 'em there--they'd go along just side by side, you know, but they never did, but then--

D. Um.

S. --then Russell Wolfe, then, he got to be a professional wrestler.

B. He did?

D. Oh, really?!

S. Yeah, I remember--

B. ...[?]

S. --I could see him afterwards, and then he had a scar over one side of his face there, uh--and--he was--

B. He lived down in the what we called the "valley."

S. Yeah.

D. What was that?

B. But they all came up to Mills School--what?

D. The "Valley" was down in the flood plain?

B. Yeah, it was down uh ...[?]

S. It was right over the--right over--down Bluff hill along there--over there to--to Forty [-Three]--to the--the--old--old Lafayette Road down in there.

D. Yeah.

B. They came to school--school-- ...[?]

D. There was no school in that section of town at all?

S. Yeah.

B. ...[?]

S. There was--well, no, not right right in that section, but it uh--as Bud remembers, right up there--and I uh--there was a big school right over--on--on Grant Avenue, or on Walnut Street there on the north side of the--on the west side of the street, and it was uh--

D. Oh-h--

S. --it served that section there, but uh--that--

B. That was pretty--that was later, though, wasn't it?

S. Yeah--yeah--but uh--but there wasn't--no, there wasn't any school right where you're talking about--there wasn't any school down there.

B. Orville Newlin and uh who were some of the others? they'd come up-- ... come up Simpson Street to go--to go to work--to go to school.

S. Can't think what they called that school.

D. Hm.

B. Pretty rough gang [smile].

D. Yeah. [Pause]

S. But we--uh--

D. I believe maybe that's enough for one session. What do you think?

B. ...[?]

D. We have a lot already.

END