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The date is January 4, 1978. This is an interview with Joseph Bueche. Dad, as a start you can just tell us a little about your parents and where you were born.

My dad was born in Germany in 1856, moved to Ohio at the age of seven, moved to Michigan at the age of twenty. Mother was born in New York State, moved to Michigan at about the age of nineteen.

Now what did they both do, when they moved to Michigan where did they....

Well they moved on the farm. My folks, my father lived a half a mile West of Layton Corners, my mother lived a mile East of Layton Corners.

Who was she?

Catherine Schneider. My father's name was Adolph Bueche, you got that?

And what year did they get married?

1886.

And then you were the oldest?

I was the oldest. I was born in November, ~~of~~ 1887.

How many more are there in the family?

There was five of us, <sup>altogether</sup> five children, I was the oldest.

What did you do ~~there~~ on the farm, was there any....

<sup>well,</sup> We didn't do nothing on the farm much. We didn't farm when we was kids. My father worked in <sup>a mile</sup> the Implement store, sold implements and hardware, and we rented the farm <sup>out</sup> at that time.

But ~~he~~ did own the farm?

We owned <sup>a mile</sup> the farm, owned forty acres. I went to school, the Catholic School <sup>1/2</sup> South of Layton Corners, at age....

At age....how old were you when you went to school?

Age seven.

Seven?

And I went to school till I was fifteen.

What was school like in those days?

Well, there was just, we had arithmetic, <sup>We had</sup> the old-fashioned arithmetic, reading writing and arithmetic. We had two grades of arithmetic.

You had one teacher for the whole school?

No, we had two teachers. We had one upstairs, that's the younger ones up to about, Oh I don't know, third ~~reader~~ or something like that. And then when they'd get that far along they went downstairs and from then on up to the fifth reader. That's as high we got, that's the tops.

Then you were through school. How old were you usually when you were through school?

I was fifteen. Of course they had a restriction then that <sup>were</sup> were supposed to go till sixteen, but my birthday was close so I didn't have to go, longer before I quit then. And I worked out by the day.

Did you have <sup>to</sup> to go to school every day, because you lived quite a few miles, didn't you?

Oh yes, we walked in the real nasty weather sometimes. Once in a while in a real storm we didn't have to go, but that was very seldom. In those days we had snow from sometime the latter part of November till spring. We didn't have a thaw; sleighs, no automobiles, horse and sleigh.

No lights?

Not lighted candles, but oil lamps. No electricity anywhere.

How did they heat their homes?

Wood, wood stoves.

Everything, schools too?

The school was heated with wood stoves, yes we had a great big tall stove in the center of the building, and kept firing it with chunk wood, a lot of big stuff in there.

Oh, that would be cold. Then what did you do nights when you got home from school? What time did you get home?

Well in those days we had to go to school till four o'clock. We got home, see we had two miles and a half, that's a good hour - it was always about five or later before we got home.

Then what did you do?

Well, we went out and milked the cows and fed the pigs and went into the house. There wasn't any entertainment of any kind, it was all what you made yourself, playing cards <sup>no dice</sup> or something, the kids would.

So <sup>then</sup> at age sixteen when you were out of school, what did you do, help your dad at the implements, or then what did you do?

No, I worked around the neighbors a little once in a while. I didn't do much of anything. I didn't do much until after I was about well, nineteen, twenty, then's when I started to work and I worked....<sup>we moved</sup> from there, we sold that place and moved a mile east of Layton Corners, Grandpa Schneider's farm. We bought that, then we had to go to work. There was three of us. I worked out by the day quite a lot from then on, different ones that would need some help.....

Oh farming.....

Farming or different things. Then in 1908 I went into the creamery, got a job in the creamery and worked there for three years.

Where was the creamery?

At Layton Corners.

Oh. Was that a big concern?

Well it was just a one-horse affair. I was the only one there, just one person worked. I made butter, butter-maker ~~there~~

Just for the people around there?

Well it's Maple Grove, around, yes.

I mean did you just make the butter for them? Or did you sell it?

No, we sold it. It was shipped to New York. We put it up in sixty pound tubs, and we had to take it over to Montrose, ship it there and go to New York, New York or New Jersey.

How did it get to Montrose.

We'd haul it with horses and wagon.

How did it get to New York?

Train, there was a refrigerated car came <sup>along</sup> there a certain day of the week. They took that then, it was shipped to New York by freight. Fred Gewirtz run the truck that carried our butter over to Montrose. He worked for

Yaklin's Grocery Store.

Where did you learn how to make butter?

I learned butter-making there by a fellow by the name of Martin that was a butter-maker before I was there. I worked with him for some time there, then he wanted to leave so I took over.

How many years did you work for him?

I worked that summer, then in the fall of the year, or in January rather I went to Lansing to Michigan State College for a course in butter-making, which was a six week course, and I was down there for six weeks, then I came back and took over again.

You kind of ran the place all by yourself?

Oh yes, I was the <sup>(alone)</sup> only one.

The only one that worked in there?

Yes, I had a fellow there, he was the boss of the deal there, he had that job whenever I wanted to get away <sup>summers</sup> or something for a little while, he'd come over and run it. He could make butter too, he was a fellow named Matt Irland. He was my boss there but he didn't make any butter. He was the President of the company.

All these farmers, they just brought in their milk?

They had it hauled in. They had about six different wagons that hauled milk in from the farms, <sup>in</sup> go out and pick it up and haul it in there and then we'd separate it and get the cream and go to work and we had to of course ripen it as they called it -- age it for a day or <sup>so</sup>, see you warmed it up and <sup>then</sup> cooled it off again. Then the next day we made butter out of it, took the cream in one day and made butter the next.

Man what kind of hours did you put in?

Not too much, it wasn't so much. It started out, well I used to always get down there about six o'clock in the morning and get fired up. I had a big boiler there to fire up in order to heat everything, and the wagons started to come in there about nine o'clock, from nine to eleven <sup>the</sup> wagons would come in. We'd unload them and then in the afternoon I had to go down there and warm it all up first so it was a certain temperature and then <sup>when</sup> it was all mixed together go to work and cool it down to a temperature that would keep overnight, put ice in around it, then the next morning it was ready to churn.

That was something.

The butter factory, <sup>was</sup> well I don't know, used to put out maybe between two and three hundred pounds of butter a day, depending on how many was, ... See them sixty pound tubs, they hold sixty pounds, <sup>tubs</sup>, yes, about five tubs of butter they used to make a day, at that time.

And you worked there how many years?

Worked there three years.... worked there pretty near four years. I worked there just off and on before some, <sup>but</sup> then this butter-maker wanted to leave so he got me to make butter then he left. Then I ran it for three years.

So you say you went to college, huh?

Yes, sure. I went to college, didn't get kicked out either.

So then ~~from there~~ where did you go?

After that I came to Chesaning. I had my application in at the Chesaning Hardware Company. I didn't like the butter-making because it was too wet, it was so damp. So I got a chance to come to Chesaning. That was in 1911, April 1, 1911, been here ever since.

You worked at the Hardware Company?

Yes, worked in the Hardware Store, in delivery and everything <sup>there</sup>. We had machinery and all kinds of stuff. I drove a team for the first couple of months, steady pretty near,

What do you mean, you drove a team?

Delivery, spring of the year. This was in April, and that fall they wanted me back in butter-making again. They wanted to have me back for a year or two, so I got a leave from the Hardware and went back there and made butter for just one week. Then I came down with the arthritis so I had to go to bed. ~~for about a week~~

Oh, really?

Then I was in bed for about a week or ten days and went back again; that <sup>time</sup> I really got it, I was in bed for about a month then.

What did they do for arthritis then, just put you in bed?

No, Doc knew what <sup>you</sup> could do, you could go over to Mt. Clemens and take the bath. So I went over there and I was over there for about a month that fall.

What kind of baths, what do you mean?

Mineral Baths over to Mt. Clemens, that's a deep mineral water bath. I came back here, back home, then came back to Chesaning again, oh sometime about the first of September.

Was there quite a change living in Chesaning from the farm.

Oh no, I kind of liked it anyway, I wanted to get off the farm.

Chesaning was that more advanced, or what? Did we have lights and stuff in Chesaning?

Yes, we had lights. You had street lights, some, not very light, you couldn't see much with them, but there was street lights, bulbs hanging, <sup>in</sup> you know, they had them hanging in the streets down the line like they used to have one hanging out on the corner here. (Line St. & Peet Rd.)

Is that where you met mother?

I met her in Maple Grove when I was making butter. She came out there and she worked for John Yaklin one summer, met her there, and <sup>when</sup> I came to Chesaning she came to Albee down there to the Prairie Farm to Jacobs's and worked for him for a year.

You mean at his house?

At his house, yes. Then that fall Gus Sutter hired her, Emma Sutter, Edith Sutter and Emma Wenzlick for help in the Hotel. They all came out here then.

Oh, what kind of work did she do in the hotel?

Well, mother, she was a dining room girl, she worked in the dining room, her and Emma. Eda worked in the kitchen and Emma Wenzlick was the chamber maid, she worked upstairs.

Were you dating her when she worked for the Jacobs's in Albee?

Yes.

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How did you get out there, horse and buggy?

Yes, we used to hire a horse and buggy.

How often did you date?

About oh, sometimes once a week, sometimes once in two weeks, depends upon if we had to hire a horse. Guy Miller and I we hired a horse and went down there, he went with this one girl that worked down there at the McDonagh store, so we went down there and then that fall hired her then and she was in town ever since then.

So then when did you get married, what was the date?

In 1912, the next year. I went out that spring of 1911, and in the spring of 1912 I went back to the butter factory then but I only stayed out there, about three months. I went to taking the baths there in the hospital, not hospital, but getting cured of this arthritis.

And that cured you, those mineral baths?

Pretty good.

So then you got married, did she continue working?

Oh no.

Where did you live before you got married?

Up here on Front Street, where...oh I can't think of his name now, works for Peet Packing company in the office there, the big tall fellow (Guy Barrett, 424 S. Front, ed. note).

What, you just moved in with a family?

Oh no, the house was empty there, we rented the house.

Who's we?

Mother and I.

Oh this was after you were married. No, I meant before you got married and you came into town as a young man, who did you live with?

I stayed with Joe Tithof.

A family?

Yes, up here beside Bergetta <sup>there</sup> (302 S. Clark, ed. note) Johnsons lived there then, and then Joe Tithof moved there and I stayed with him for about four or five months. Then he quit there and went out into the country and bought a house out in the country and so I had to move then and I went down and stayed with Gus Sutter. Then that next winter Gus wanted to get a hired girl so I went over to Joe and stayed with him from then on.

You kind of rented a room, huh?

Yes, oh yes, room and board.

OK so <sup>then</sup> you and mother got married, then where did you live.

On Front Street there.

What did you do, rent a house or an apartment?

Yes, rented the house.

The whole house...

Yes. I can't think of the fellow's name that <sup>lived in there then</sup> worked for Peets before that, moved in after that. The house belonged to

How many years did you live there?

Just til the first of April, then he sold the house. Then we moved from over there by the school house where Harry Brown lives (corner Line & Saginaw, ed. note), we lived there for a year.

On Line Street there?

On Line Street, then the next spring, she got married, the girl we rented it from, Nora, can't think of her last name. Anyway, she got married and she wanted the house so we went over there where Bergetta is now.

On Clark St....

Yes.

What did you do, buy the house, or did you rent it at first?

We rented it for three years, and in 1917 we bought it.

By that time, you'd had how many kids?

Louise, she's the only one.

When You bought the house?

Yes.'

Did it have modern conveniences when you bought it?

No, it had a pitcher pump in the kitchen for water out of the cistern, cistern was underneath the house, bathroom was out in the back yard, and lights, we had just one bulb hanging down from the ceiling, one in each room, just hanging from the ceiling. That's the only lights there was, didn't have any plug-ins, didn't need any then, nothing to plug in anyway.

And you were still heating by wood stove?

Yes.

How long before you got modern conveniences in the house?

Oh, gradually, I forget. We were there like that for maybe about two years and then we dug the basement out, put a basement underneath the house and put a furnace in.

And that was coal?

Yes.

And you ended up having how many kids?

Ten.

Not bad, and then what? Let me see, you came into town and worked at the Hardware, how many years?

I worked at the Chesaning Hardware Company fourteen years. When Sperry wanted to sell out, I got Fred and we went in and bought it. That was in 1925.

And that was located where?

That was located where Fred's is now, where the Gewirtz Hardware is (144 W. Broad, ed. note) We had the one to the east, that was our store then. We were together first, and we divided it then and I took the furniture end of it and Fred took the hardware.

You were together, huh?

Well we were together for twenty years, Fred and I, then we split up and I took the furniture end of it over there, furniture and refrigeration and a

*at that time*

few washing machines. Fred had the hardware then.

Let's see, somewhere along there though, didn't you work for a Ford Company?

That was down to the garage, the Chesaning Hardware Company, that was Ford.

Oh, they sold cars too?

Yes, I didn't get that in there.

Oh, had cars been out very long, how did that go?

No, there were very few then. The first year I was there I guess they sold a few. Tom Princinsky had one,...

Did you have one?

I didn't have any until 1917.

But you knew how to drive?

Oh yes, I learned ~~how~~ to drive in 1911. I drove cars ever since 1911, the first year I was working there. They had an old Reo and we drove around doing repair work.

What did these men do when they came in to buy a car?

We didn't have any sale for them then, that was early.

Who taught them how to drive and stuff? Didn't you teach them how to drive?

Not then yet, not till about '15 we started. That's when we started to move cars, but before then anybody learning ~~how~~ to drive, they'd get one they had to stay with it for three, four days sometimes before they'd get some of those old boys, anyway some of those old fellows had the money so they could buy cars.

What did a new car cost?

Oh, from \$550. ~~collins~~ up, something like that, not very much, five to six hundred dollars, you could get a new Ford. When I bought mine, it was about seven hundred dollars, that was later then.

You sure didn't buy things on time then did you, if you bought a car, you'd have to pay for it?

I bought mine, I just had it charged to me on the books, I was working there and they just took some out every week.

Would they do that for most people, charge it?

No, this was just that I was working there. I bought this car, this one had been drove to Grand Rapids from here. This fellow was a bootlegger and he lost his car, and of course they had a contract on the car. So I went over there and got the car and they let me have it for what was left on it.

But most of the time they had to pay cash for it.

Well some paid cash. At that time you know they wouldn't buy a car unless they had the money, because they didn't need a car for anything only just wondering what in the heck it was about, just to drive home or to town. They didn't get out of the township or anything very much in those days.

Then you had to go where to pick up the cars?

Detroit.

Then you'd have to go to pick them up?

Well, in those days we didn't drive them through yet. They shipped them through, they took them down and put them in a railroad car and shipped them through. It would have to be <sup>right</sup> in the <sup>middle of the</sup> summer when the roads were good and dry because the roads weren't taken care of <sup>yet</sup>. There were places between here and Detroit the sand was so deep you couldn't get through

and all that kind of stuff.

Oh really?

Yeah, we had to push each other ~~out~~ <sup>out</sup> more than once while we were driving through. There was always at least two go down there after cars. They'd get in some of that darn sand down through Pontiac and through there.

That was all just country, huh?

Yeah, no pavement.

Did you have a bank in Chesaning?

Yes, we had the Chesaning State Bank, that was the first bank here in town. A little while later there was one started, the National Bank. That was the one where Clarence Schafer was cashier of, that run awhile. Well Cantwell <sup>started</sup> a bank, (there was two, <sup>started</sup>) then they sold out to the National, and then later on Coryell started a bank across the road. <sup>then</sup> They had all kinds of banks there.

You mean you had three at one time?

Yes.

Holy Moses! How many stores were in town for three banks? If you had three banks in ~~town~~ <sup>Chesaning</sup>, how many other stores were there?

Well there was Hotaling Shoe Store, Cantwell Grocery Store, Sperry & Jackson Grocery & Dry Goods, a combination store, general store; then there was the Chesaning Hardware Company, that's where I worked. Then on the other side there was a shoe store, I can't tell you his name now, anyhow there was a fellow run <sup>a</sup> store there, he used to be a shoemaker, then Charley Schonmuller clothing store, and on the other corner was Johnson with a grocery and dry goods, then Babions shoe store.

Two shoe stores even? How many taverns?

*I don't know,* Well the hotel had one, <sup>then there was</sup> Frank Martin had one, and down the line there was Haley and.....

Approximately what year was this?

Oh this was when I came to town about, along about 1912, late '12.

There was that much in Chesaning?

Oh yeah.

Was that about when they had the three banks too?

Yeah, shortly after I came in.

What kept three banks in business, and how could they just start up a bank?

Those days I guess it didn't take much for a bank, I don't know. Coryell started a bank there and he went broke shortly, he didn't last for long. Then there was the National Bank and the Chesaning State Bank, then finally Chesaning State Bank took over the National Bank, so there was just one then.

What would it be, just some man would start a bank that wanted to make some quick money, or what?

I don't know, just somebody thought they were a banker, I guess. Cantwell started one, he was about the wealthiest man in Chesaning I guess at the time.

OK, then for entertainment, what did you do?

Well, we had a moving picture show, 5 and 10 cents show we used to call it. Those days you could go for 10¢, or 5¢ I guess once in a while, picture

shows, wasn't talking though, just pictures. Then on the other side the<sup>?</sup> street there was folks had a clothing store, Greenfelder had a clothing store, and there was a few little stores, Lawton had a little store where he sold notions like, you know, like a little jewelry. <sup>store</sup> Phil Schlachter had a clothing store in there for a while, not very long though. Entertainment? Well, once in a great while we'd take the train down, excursion Sundays we'd take the train down, went to Bay City a couple times, to the fair-ground there, Wenona Beach.

About how long did it take you to get down there on the train?

Well, we'd take the train to Saginaw and we'd take the electric from there on down to the beach. <sup>them</sup>

Would it take quite a while?

Oh, let's see it would take about maybe an hour.

So when you'd date, what did you do? Just go to a show maybe?

Maybe, that's about, go to a picture once in a while. The first date we had was when I was out to the creamery yet. Mother was working over to John Yaklin's there, and those days we had fairs. We had a fair out there in Maple Grove, they <sup>had</sup> fair in Chesaning, little fairs, horse races, stuff like that, so I asked her to go down there and we went down, John Gasper and her cousin, mother and I, the four of us. Each one had a separate horse and buggy. We just had the top buggy, single seat. Then we spent the afternoon down there and the evening at the dance.

They had a dance there at the fair?

At the fair, yes. It was in the town house.

Did you go dancing very often?

Well, we had dancing right there at the corners, Layton Corners, of course, about every other week we had a dance there. Those days we didn't have any locomotion, no cars or anything like that. We had the horse and buggy, but then I didn't have none of them either.

Well that doesn't sound bad though, if you had a dance every other week.

Well, it was about that. Then we used to get out the old farm horse once in a while, maybe went down to the farm, down to Baumars.

Then you'd just spend the evening there?

Go down there for a big feed.

OK, then you <sup>moved</sup> ~~came~~ to town, and she <sup>moved</sup> came to town....

Yes, in 1911 I came to town, and she came to town that fall, she didn't come to town, she came to the Prairie Farm. She worked for down there, and then that fall she came to town and worked at the hotel, the four girls.

So then you dated quite steadily?

Well, they'd have a party they used to invite me over, she'd send word over there to come over, she's got something saved for me. She used to save a pie or, ... the cook there, the cook at the hotel.

The cook would send word over?

Yes, they'd get word over there. I guess mother got a lot of fun out of that (?) That was right there across the road from each other. I was working at the Hardware then.

Did you date much though?

Oh, we maybe had Sunday a lot <sup>pretty near</sup> every Sunday or every other Sunday, something like that, once a month. (?)

What did you do on a Sunday then?

Didn't get very far. I'm just trying to think. We went someplace to visit most every Sunday, spend the evening at a place like that.

When you got out of work evenings, you probably worked kind of late evenings?

In those days we worked every night, the stores were open every night. Worked till eight, nine o'clock, depends upon..... people had to go home before we dared close.

Then you got married, let's see you said you got married in what year? 1912.

Then you had how many kids?

Ten, ten in the family.

Was it pretty hard supporting them there at first?

It was easier then than it is now, I guess, I think so anyway, I don't know. I just got rolling ten, twelve dollars a week. The first year it was eight dollars a week.

The first year you were married?

Yes.

What would groceries run? You had to buy a house <sup>through</sup> and everything <sup>in</sup> there?

No we didn't have a house, we rented a house. We rented the one on Front Street here, then we had to move the next spring and we moved over there where Brown lives there by the schoolhouse. We lived there one year, and we had to move there again because, what's her name, Nora.....

Yes, I remember your saying that.

That's in there.

You made eight dollars though!

The first draw, yes for a while, then I got ten. Then when we got married we got twelve, but it took another year or so before we got to that stage.

So if you made twelve dollars a week, what would groceries run?

Oh gee whiz, for a dollar you could get quite a little groceries in those days, you know, nothing fancy, you could buy a hunk of meat.

You can't by any chance remember like, were you able to save anything out of that twelve?

Well, of course I paid the rent, that was eight dollars a month, that's one week's wages. Of course, that's only the first, oh I got eight dollars <sup>make</sup> for the first three, four months or something like that, then they raised it.

By the time you were married though, you were making twelve?

I got twelve after we were married.

So you were paying eight dollars a month <sup>work</sup> after you were married. What would you do, bank so much every month?

Well, we tried to bank a little if we could. We always had a little, we didn't spend much money.

Well you must have in order to buy a house. <sup>T</sup> Well, the house we only paid a thousand dollars for that, and I had to borrow \$250. to pay that.

But you had the rest saved?!

Yes, that was five years.

Well that was pretty good. You paid a thousand dollars for the house, and it was a two story?

It was a two story house.

Was that considered a pretty good house in those days?

Well, it was average.

Well, what did you do, a dollar a week for groceries!

Oh, a dollar a week, it was more than that, we had to have more than that.

Evidently you baked and canned <sup>and</sup> everything, huh?

Oh yes, we were always canning or baking something. You didn't buy no bread then, you couldn't buy bread. Well, you could get it baked, they had a bakery there that was baking bread some, but that's the only place they sold bread was in the bakery because the stores didn't have any bread. The bakery baked a little there and people could get some. Most everybody baked bread. Everything was done by hand, we washed and everything by hand.

What do you mean, by hand?

With a scrub board, wash board.

Oh wow!

We used to get up about five o'clock in the morning, get the wash going, we had a big wash. Course, by seven o'clock I had to go, so we tried to get pretty near done by then.

You'd have to heat your water and everything?

Oh yes, heat the water on the oil stove.

What then, every summer or fall spent your time canning?

House cleaning?

No, canning.

Oh yes, canning. We had high as, well one year <sup>there</sup> I guess we had close to five hundred quarts. That's when the family was getting bigger then. We used to can a lot.

Did you ever, I remember seeing a method where they used to dry foods.

Dry apples, you mean? We never dried any, but my folks used to. We used to do it at home.

You could dry them and save them all winter long?

Yes, you dry them and put them in a sack and hang them up, then if you'd like apples....

Was that before canning came?

Oh no, we canned too, but that stuff was cheap, you could get all the apples you'd want in those days by just going and getting them. The first few years there we didn't have a basement under the house, we didn't have a place to keep that stuff without <sup>either</sup> canning it or doing something with it.

And meat, where would you get your meat? From a farmer, or your dad?

No, you couldn't buy it too far ahead, you had no place to keep it. See we had a ice refrigerator, that was pretty good. You could buy it from the

stores, I guess, I just forget. We used to get meat from the home when they butchered, <sup>anything</sup> we'd get some.

Did you can meat?

Some, salt brine on some. You take in the fall of the year we always managed to get a pork of some kind, cut it up and salt brine it, can some of it, fry it and can it, or put it crocks. We used to put that in crocks, pack it in there, then when you wanted some you'd just dig it out of the lard. The lard is hard you know, and it packs right in there.

And it would keep all winter long like that?

Yes.

Didn't it get kind of funny? Or <sup>did</sup> you just wash it off?

No, it would keep pretty good that way. See <sup>cover with part</sup> lard would seal it, and you had to have it covered, of course, maybe <sup>about</sup> an inch or two on top, lard see, that protected it.

Did you have chickens, or did you have your own chickens? Could you have chickens in town then?

Yes, we had a few, three or four chickens, something like that. They'd lay a few eggs, and finally when fall came we maybe'd dress out a rooster.

Beef, you just bought that or canned it?

Didn't buy much beef those days, pork was cheaper, so those days beef was a kind of a treat. To home on the farm in the winter time they'd get a quarter of beef and hang it up in the barn, where it would freeze hard. Then whenever we needed some more we'd bring it down and dad would cut off a hunk of it, saw it off, then when that piece was <sup>used up</sup> gone we'd go out and get some more. Nowadays you couldn't keep the darn stuff, but those days we didn't have any trouble. It didn't ~~that~~ thaw like it does nowa-days. ? ? ?

After you were married did you get to go home on the farm very often to visit?

Oh we used to get down to Albee more than we did home, from our place. Of course mother wanted to go down there <sup>of course</sup> that's where we went. We used to go with one or two, finally we had a load.

Oh, kids you mean, yeah.

How often did you go?

Oh, I don't know, maybe once a month.

There'd always be a big bunch there, huh?

Well, we didn't try to go down there when there was everybody there. We'd try to get in between, go down on a Sunday.

Wasn't mother the oldest of the family too? And you were the oldest?

Yes.

So I imagine there was a lot of kids around all the time.

Grandma used to say, "I like to see you come, but I like to see you go." They had a lot of youngsters around there.

Everybody would come home with their kids. Most everybody had pretty good sized families.

Yeah, anyway the Gewirtzes or the Bueches.

But now, you married and then George married. What year did Aunt Phronie get married?

I think it was '39 or '40.

And your mother, she passed away in what year?

In '29.

And Grandpa?

*He died*  
In '32.

And then Eddie took over the farm, right?

Yeah, he bought the farm then, paid six thousand for it, sold it for thirty thousand.

Really, how many acres was that?

Eighty acres.

Eighty? That's pretty good. Then you went in partnership with Fred Gewirtz.

In '25 we bought out Sperry & 7,7

And then, what were wages like in 1925? That was pretty bad times, wasn't it?

Those days, that was quite a lot late<sup>x</sup>, those days we took fifty dollars a week.

That's not bad.

That would keep the family going.

What years was the Depression, 1930's? Did they hit hard around here?

Those days they didn't hit so hard as it does nowadays. Course, out here in the country we went out and got a lot of stuff canned, to put up like that. We'd go and they had a lot of pea viners <sup>around</sup> out here, we used to go out and get a quite a lot of peas, can them, lima beans, sweet corn, we used to cut sweet corn off the ears and can it. Then after I bought the house and put a basement underneath, then I had a basement down there fixed up so you could keep apples and stuff like that down there pretty good then. At that time we had all that fruit canned too down there.

But you can't remember the Depression years hitting pretty bad, like around 1930?

We didn't notice it too much around here, no. The cities was hit hardest then. A lot of people would come out you know from the city with the farmers. A lot of people in the cities didn't have cars and stuff to come out either, so that made the difference,