

This is Bob Carlson. The following is an interview I recorded with ~~Doctor~~ James Blunt at his home in Bismarck, North Dakota, on April 25, 1975, beginning at ~~one thirty~~ ^{1:30} in the afternoon. The interview occupies both sides of this cassette and about the first two-thirds of the first side of the succeeding cassette.

Dr. Blunt: I've lived here all my life. I even came back here to practice ~~after~~ I went away to school.

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: So, I've seen Bismarck. I remember everything since I was four years old because I remember the Spanish-American War very well ~~and~~ ^{and} ~~President McKinley and his assassination.~~ ^{assassination.} Just at the turn of the century in 1900 we were at St. Louis for the winter and from then on I remember everything.

BOB: ~~Oh~~ Oh, remarkable memory you have!

DR. BLUNT: Well, I'd never been in a large city before and, of ~~course~~ ^{quite} course, you're all eyes and ears you know. St. Louis was a ~~big~~ ^{big} city in those days compared to these towns out here, you know, pioneering.

BOB: Well, when did your family come here to North Dakota?

DR. BLUNT: My mother and her family came to Bismarck in 1872 before the railroad ~~got~~ ^{got} here.

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: They came in covered wagons. There was a whole party of 'em. Probably about ~~ten~~ ¹⁰ of those covered wagons and they all came from down in Goodhue County, Minnesota. Previous to that my maternal grandparents had lived in Wisconsin and Michigan. My grandmother ~~had~~ came from Wales when she was five years old and she and all of her family settled in Utica, New York. Her uncles and her father—the whole party of 'em that came from Wales—~~established~~ ^{they} established a carriage ~~factory~~ ^{factory}. They built carriages. They even made the wheels!

BOB: In New York?

DR. BLUNT: In Utica, New York, yes! She went to girls school there.

BOB: Oh.

You see they kept pushing ^{Further} West all the time. I don't know why. I 'spose the pioneer spirit. They left beautiful places ~~down~~ in Wisconsin and down in Goodhue County. ⁱⁿ ~~That's~~ southeastern corner of Minnesota. They left civilization and came out ~~there~~. There was nothing but a row of log cabins where Main Street is now and it was only I think maybe a block and a half long. Just a row of log cabins. That's all there was!

BOB: What was their names here?

DR. BLUNT: My grandmother's name was Winifred Winston and she was married to a man named John Nichols. Course, she had sisters and ~~brothers~~ brothers. Her brother graduated from the University of Michigan in the Medical School. He practiced in the same ~~county~~ county with the first ^{Dr. Mayo.} ~~Doctor~~ ~~Mail~~. ~~(?) Mayo.~~

BOB: Oh really!

~~DR.~~ DR. BLUNT: Ya, down near Rochester. I saw him before he died. I was just a young kid out of high school then. He was quite a ~~character~~ character. Ya, early horse and buggy doctor you know. He was quite something. My father was born in St. Louis and his father, my grand-^{father,} ~~father,~~ Charles Blunt, through the years ~~he~~ had a fleet of riverboats starting with the Mississippi riverboats and Ohio River. He came up here in 1858 his ^{first} ~~first~~ trip. I think it was sort of a matter of ~~exploration~~ exploration because after the ~~Lewis and Clark Expedition~~ Louisiana Purchase, of course, Jefferson wanted some of this country settled ~~of course~~, after they bought it from France. After the Lewis and Clark Expedition, then transportation and communication were vital you see. There were no railroads and there were no highways and the river offered the most convenient and practical means of transportation ~~because~~ because the rivers were everywhere. All the large freight and most of the passenger service depended on riverboats. ~~You see~~ The big fur companies ^{were} ~~there was~~ The American Fur ~~Company~~ Company and The Hudson Bay Company ~~and~~ they operated in Canada and in these northern states. St.

3
Louis ^{was} ~~being~~ the fur market of the world. When these boats would come up here during the season and work and get back to St. Louis before the freezeup in the fall, they always took a load of furs, you see, back to St. Louis. The federal government was establishing these military posts all along the rivers you see to protect the ~~the~~ pioneers, hunters, trappers, miners, prospectors, and all that sort of thing. They transported the ~~personal~~ ^{personnel}, animals, all the ~~equipment~~ equipment, supplies, food, clothing, and everything to all those forts. It was the only means of transportation.

BOB: Well, let's see how good my memory ¹⁸⁵⁸ ~~is~~ is! In ~~8158~~ there weren't any forts up here this far yet, were there?

DR. BLUNT: No, not to amount to ~~anything~~ anything. The French Jesuits traveled from New Orleans up the Mississippi and a few of the tributaries from the Mississippi. These Jesuit priests accompanied the explorers. You see there was Hennipin, Cadillac, Nicholet. Well, alot of those names, of course, have been used by cities.

BOB: Ya, sure.

DR. BLUNT: When I had just finished school and I was waiting to start practice I had a contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs. I spent about three months on the Fort Berthold Reservation in 1920 and '21 in the fall ~~and~~ and I took care of about a ¹⁶⁰ ~~hundred~~ ~~and sixty~~ kids and then all of the adults that I could work in. Usually it was mainly a program for the children. The man who ran the day school, which was ²⁰ ~~twenty~~ miles north of the agency up at Independence, ~~he~~ was the son of a Frenchman who had married an Indian woman in Eastern Canada. His name was Charley Hoffman. Now the Historical Society has alot of information on him. I lived at their home for about a month and took care of all the kids at the school. ¹ ~~They~~ They ran the day school. He had a set of volumes. They were big books! I don't know they were about as big as the center of that picture up there you see. They were all steel engra-

vings that had been ^{done} ~~down~~ by these priests. They accompanied these explorers all the way up the Mississippi and partway up the Missouri and their tributaries. Those steel engravings were pictorial history of the various Indian tribes. All the various Indian tribes that bordered on the rivers! Now I don't know where those volumes are, but they should have been donated to the Historical Society because their priceless. There were only ~~twenty five~~ ²⁵ sets of them published in Paris. His father, of course, being a French nobleman procured a set of 'em, see?

BOB: Sure.

DR. B LUNT: I spent alot of time looking ~~at~~ ^{at} them, ~~and reading the descriptions~~ going over them, and reading the descriptions, but, of course, Charley and his wife both died and I don't know what ever happened to them.

BOB: Ya, I don't know if they have a set up here or not?

DR. BLUNT: I don't think so because I've never heard of 'em. ~~I~~ ~~inquired~~ I inquired at the library, but I don't think they had any record of it.

BOB: Well, did your grandfather, Charles Blunt, make regular, annual trips after 1858 then?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, you see when my father was ~~twenty~~ ²⁰ years old my father quit and ~~stayed~~ stayed here. He didn't go back to St. Louis.

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: He ~~stayed~~ stayed here. Course, he was pretty young to ~~be~~ be a licensed pilot at ~~twenty~~ ²⁰ years of age.

BOB: Oh, he was a licensed pilot already then, too?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! He had to be in order to operate.

BOB: Well, what was your dad's first name?

DR. BLUNT: Charles Wesley Blunt and my grandfather was Charles Wesley Blunt.

BOB: Oh, I see.

DR. BLUNT: My grandfather lost all of his boats during the Civil War. They were all confiscated by the Confederates and when they

were through~~ly~~ with 'em they burned 'em in Southern waters right north of New Orleans. They didn't want them to get into the hands of the Union forces. Those boats cost ¹⁰⁰ around a ~~hundred~~ or a ~~hundred and~~ ^{110,000} ~~thousand~~ dollars a piece. It wiped him out! See, he had a pretty big layout.

BOB: How many boats did he have?

DR. BLUNT: Well, he lost 'em ^{from} ~~form~~ time to time too! You know they'd blow up or burn or be snagged ~~and~~ then they'd sink. I don't know ~~but~~ I know of several that were named in claims presented to the federal government, but he never got a dollar out of it. He lost everything! Those claims are still in Washington. Nothings ever ~~had~~ been done about it.

BOB: Maybe you could start a suit!

DR. BLUNT: Well, it would take an act of Congress, you see, and then they'd have to have contracts. Where are the contracts? Who ~~was~~ were the officers that assigned those contracts~~?~~, commissioned them, and all?

BOB: Ya!

DR. BLUNT: The steamboats helped to ~~build~~ build the railroads and then the railroads in turn put 'em out of business! ~~So~~, he lost two fortunes ~~in~~ in the steamboat business ~~and~~ and died a poor man you might say.

BOB: Well, did he start again in the river traffic business after the Civil War then?

DR. BLUNT: No, he didn't!

BOB: Did you know your grandfather?

DR. Blunt: I never met him. He died in St. Louis when I was an infant, but I knew my grandfather Nichols. He died when I was only about four years old, but I remember him very well.

BOB: Now, you ^{Did} Grandfather Blunt. ~~I was wondering~~ if you ~~had~~ ever heard ~~I guess it would have to be through your father any stories he might have told~~ about coming up the Missouri in those early years ~~after 1850 of Indian relationships or whatever?~~ ?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, yes! The boats that they used up here had to have boiler iron on the ~~pilothouse~~ pilot house walls and the cabin walls to protect them from the Indians.

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: Frequently, the boats were fired upon. Oh, yes! I remember my dad telling one time that he was sitting out on a sack of ~~grain~~ grain and I 'spose his ~~cub~~ pilot was piloting the boat—I don't know what he was doing—and the bullet lodged right in the sack of grain that he was sitting on!

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: He said frequently that down in South Dakota Indians would line up on the shore and if the boats stopped they would come ashore and wanna buy stuff or buy things. They were friendly Indians and then there were alot of them that weren't. They'd steal, you know, if they got a chance and if they wanted somethin' they might kill you for it.

BOB: Did the steamboats carry any kind of a cannon? ~~or anything on them to return fire?~~

DR. BLUNT: No, they had men on board that had rifles. They had firearms, but no cannon. There was always a pretty good marksman aboard because he would shoot wild game for them you see. They depended on wild game for their meat. It was a long ways between towns. There weren't many towns and they were primitive at that.

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: In the beginning, the boats burned wood, you know, cause it was available and there was alot of trappers, adventureres, and frontiersman that lived along the rivers. They would chop wood, you see, and pile it up along the steamboat lines.

BOB: Oh. I was going to ask if your grandfather had to stop the boat and ~~send~~ send the crew out to cut wood?

DR. BLUNT: No, these woodcutters had ~~wood~~ woodyards along the river and ~~they~~ they were men who came out here alone. They might live with a

7
squaw or live alone in a cabin along the river and in the wintertime they'd cut wood, pile it up ~~along the bank~~ along the bank, and ~~sell~~ sell it in the spring when the boats started operating.

BOB: Did they generally have a few furs to sell ~~too~~ too then?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, trappers! There was a man by the name of Job Taylor. In his later life, he published ~~The Washburn Leader~~ THE WASHBURN LEADER which was a little weekly newspaper. He had a cabin up along the river up near Painted Woods and he ran a wood-yard and he trapped. I had his volumes. His grandson gave me a set of 'em. They've got 'em at the Historical Society too! ~~Twenty~~ Twenty Years On The Trapping Line, ~~Kaleidoscopic~~ Kaleidoscopic Lives, and Frontier And Indian Lines are the names that they printed, bound, and sold. He did it all! I went to school with his grandson. We went to school together. Joe Taylor came here from Pennsylvania they did.

BOB: Now how did your dad get into the steamboat business. Had he learned under your grandfather?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, they called 'em cutpilots. Mark Twain did the same thing.

BOB: Sort of a understudy? ~~intern, or something, huh?~~

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, he followed it! It was quite a glamour profession in those days. Salaries were high! A good pilot commanded ~~top~~ top salary because they had to learn it from the water up. They ~~learn~~ learn to read the water too. You could tell pretty well ~~where~~ where it was shallow and where it was deep by the action of the water. After it became a thriving business, the government maintained boats that patrolled the ~~channels~~ ^{Channels} and kept the ~~channels~~ ^{Channels} open from snags and sandbars. ~~You~~ You know they can wash the sandbar. There was government boat and it was the only boat up in this part of the country with a steel hull. It was called the Mandan. I knew the captain of it. It operated during my time. Captain Gould was his name. The ~~engineer~~ ^E engineer on that boat was a man by the name of Frank Titas. ~~When~~ ^W when he retired from the steamboat business, he became the

engineer up at the capitol powerhouse up there. It furnished the heat, electricity, ~~the~~ the power for the streetcar, and all those things. There was a powerhouse there right north of where the highway building ~~is there~~. It was right up there in that corner.

BOB: Ya. The Mandan made its last run in 1917, I believe.

DR. BLUNT: Pardon?

BOB: The Mandan made its last run ~~1917~~ about 1917. ~~I think~~.

DR. BLUNT: Well, I don't recall cause, you see, I wasn't ~~at home then~~ home then that time!

BOB: Well, I talked to Paul Haller in this morning and he was a cannonboy on the Mandan.

DR. BLUNT: Ya, well, he worked on this boat! Yes, he was a cannonboy for awhile. Gould was a very fine man and he was quite a gentleman.

BOB: Someone else mentioned one time that there was another snagboat called the Josephine ~~is that right?~~, is that right?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I've got pictures of the Josephine.

BOB: Was that a snagboat though?

DR. BLUNT: No, that was a freighter.

BOB: Oh, it was a freighter!

DR. BLUNT: You see all these larger boats had cabins on the second deck. They had individual staterooms, dining room, and all. Course, the big ones were quite palatial down in the lower Mississippi between New Orleans and up into Iowa and up the Ohio. They were three deck steamers and the largest riverboat ^{designed} that, I think, was ever built. Course, the Mississippi being wider and bigger river down there they could operate with a bigger boat. ~~Channels~~ Channels were also much deeper. They had very elaborate ~~dining room service, bars, and cardrooms~~ and beautiful dining room service, bars, ~~and cardrooms~~ and cardrooms. Course, one of the things that developed those days was the riverboat gambler.

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: Sure! They'd just travel up and down the river. They weren't going anyplace; they were just playing cards. Of course, they had a big bar, music, and entertainment. Alot of the boats had ~~the calliope~~ a calliope.

~~When they were approaching a town that they intended to tie up in, they would start their music~~ ~~about a mile or two from their landing~~ to attract people.

BOB: Sure. Did any of those ~~big~~ big boats ever attempt to come up the Missouri?

DR. BLUNT: Not the largest ones! Not the largest ones because the channels were too shallow, ~~too~~ too dangerous, and weren't maintained as well. No, the boats that operated here remained pretty much in this territory. There were some of the medium-sized ones that made trips from southern waters, ~~I think~~, mainly for filling government contracts ~~and~~ transporting military supplies to posts, and with the fur trade. Many of them were lost, too! Alot of 'em sunk and alot of 'em burned. ~~You see~~ You see each boat was custom built and even the boilers and alot of the engines were custom built. Course, it was all steam. There was always the chance that there would be defective construction of maybe the boiler units. They couldn't stand the pressure and they'd blow up. My grandfather bought a brand new boat in Pittsburg. That's where it was built and in transporting it from Pittsburg to St. Louis it blew up before it got to St. Louis.

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: It was a brand new boat!

BOB: Did that ~~end~~ ^{SINK} the boat usually? ~~Sink the boat right there?~~

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! They never salvaged them, ~~you know~~. They couldn't raise 'em anyway. Just let 'em rot in the river. ^M Most of 'em did.

BOB: Ya. Now what year was it that your dad jumped off and stayed

BOB: First Soo Line train?

~~DR.~~ DR. BLUNT: Ya, there was no depot. It was right at the north-east corner of the intersection of Main Street and ~~Ninth~~ ^{9th} ~~Ninth~~ ^{9th} and Main Street there where that PV Elevators are in there.

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: That's where the Soo came. That's before there was a ~~de~~pot you see. So, the boat headquarters was moved from Bismarck to Washburn. The Packet Company owned elevators along the river way up ~~down~~ around Deapolis, ~~Manhaven~~ ^{Mannhaven}, and north. They would transport the grain down to Washburn by that ~~Manhaven/Vadla~~ big Marine Lake. They put it in the hold of either the barge or the boat, ~~it~~ ^{it} elevated it ~~with~~ with this belt; ~~it~~ ^{it} went up into the elevator, and down into the ~~freight~~ freight cars. Course, the Soo was the end of the line for the railroad then. So, they transported old lumber, hard coal, and all ~~kind~~ kinds of merchandise from Washburn up the river and then brought grain down you see. Then it went on to the markets to Duluth or the Twin Cities. So, my father was in headquarters up there for a number of years and then finally the steamboat business just petered out.

BOB: What year did it? The steamboats?

DR. BLUNT: Quit?

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: Well, there were three or four little ones that did some local bu~~s~~iness here, oh, I would say about 1910.

BOB: Oh! The big ones had all quit buying though, huh?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! The railroads ran them out of business, see?

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: Forced them ~~out~~ out of business, see? Then I noticed here your topic about "Pioneer Methods of Farming." My mother's family, you see, all came here early. They had a farm about three miles north of Bismarck and then they had a ~~hundred and sixty~~ ¹⁶⁰ acres along the river, ~~and~~ of timberland. I think they ~~had~~ had two of the first threshing

machines in this part of the country. I remember when they were operating with horsepower and that's even before the steam engine.

BOB: Ya!

DR. BLUNT: One was called the "Buffalo Pits" and they had a big buffalo head painted on the side of it. They was manufactured in Buffalo.

BOB: They were!

DR. BLUNT: Then there was one called the "Taylor-Altman" or the "Altman-Taylor." I don't know which one it was. They did all the threshing for everyone in the territory!

BOB: With those two horsepower machines?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, horsepower machines. Ya, they had a tumbling bar like a big shaft, you know/. All that old equipment was lieing out there on the farm the last time I ever saw it. It was many many years ago! You know just lieing there. Then the steam engine came and, I think, they had one steam engine before they quit farming. Course, they lived in Bismarck most of the time. They had a farm home out there and one in the timber. When I was a little kid in grade school, my grandmother sold cordwood to the city schools. She'd have a couple of woodchoppers work up there all winter cutting down trees and making cordwood. She sold it to the city schools.

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: She was quite a businesswoman! Much more so than the man she married!

BOB: Oh? Now the maternal side of your family they had

~~DR. BLUNT~~ come out here in ten covered wagons?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! There must have been about ¹⁰ in the group!

BOB: What prompted them all to leave?

DR. BLUNT: Well, it's the same old thing. Why did they ~~leave~~ leave New York and come West? They even got mixed up in the Indian uprising down in New Orleans, you know!

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: They ~~lived~~ lived right there! My grandfather and all the men around there weren't home ~~because~~ because the Civil War was on! Course, ~~they'd~~ they'd lived among the Indians down there; but Little Crow and ~~this~~ his outfit started that uprising, you know?

BOB: Yes.

DR. BLUNT: My grandfather was gone and she was alone with her children on the farm! She could see the sky where it was red and where the Indians were burning the farms. So, she took her children and lived in the corn ~~field~~ field where the corn was high, she could hide in there, and they couldn't find her until that campaign was over. She went through some times!

BOB: Ya, 1862 ~~that~~ I think it was.

DR. BLUNT: Ya!

BOB: Well, it wasn't economic circumstances that forced 'em to move West ~~then~~ then, but just the adventure? ~~or something or~~

~~DR. BLUNT: other!~~

DR. BLUNT: No! My grandfather freighted ~~to~~ to the Black Hills with a group here and, I think, the Historical Society has ~~this~~ his old ⁵⁰⁻ ~~50-~~ caliber Sharps. That's the "Old Reliable" and they say that's the Gun That Won The West?

BOB: Ya!

DR. BLUNT: I was ^{talkin'} ~~talkin'~~ with a fella by the name of Tom O'Leary that lived here many years ago. He knew all the family! They all came out here. ~~His~~ His parents came and his father was a soldier over at old Fort Lincoln. He said that he used to go hunting with my grandfather. He had this ~~big~~ ⁵⁰⁻ ~~50-~~ caliber Sharps and he'd shoot the heads off of prairie chickens with it. Lord, it's ~~got~~ got a cartridge that ~~big~~ big and bigger around than any of my fingers! ⁵⁰⁻ ~~50-~~ caliber,

you know, and it's as big as a shotgun shell!

BOB: ~~Ya, right! Good grief. Let's see.~~ Your roots go back here so far that there's ~~an awful lot of~~ ^{many} different things to ask you about. Let me go back to the river again a little bit.

DR. BLUNT: Ya?

BOB: Now how ~~far~~ far did your father go on the runs that he had on the Packet Company? Where did he turn around on the river to the north and to the south?

DR. BLUNT: Well, he would go up north of Washburn. I think ~~Manhaven~~ ^{Mann-} was about the extent of there, but he had several summers that he spent in the Yellowstone. He was gone all season in the Yellowstone doing trading up there!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Well, now ~~lots~~ ^{many} of the boats went way up to Fort Benton, didn't they?

DR. BLUNT: That's right, ~~yes!~~ yes! Oh, yes, he'd been ~~to~~ to Fort Benton many times!

BOB: Well, was Bismarck then about as far south as they would ~~go~~ usually go? ~~when they got to the NP towns?~~

DR. BLUNT: No, they went as far as Fort Yates, 'cause there was a

~~BOB: Oh! military post there!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh! BOB: Oh, ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I rode on the boats on my vacations and I remember the first trip I ever took was from here to Fort Yates. I was pretty young then and in grade school. That was on the ~~old~~ ^{old} Bismarck boat and it was powered by one of the first gasoline engines!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ It was a single cylinder engine!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

DR. BLUNT: The cylinder was much bigger around than a barrel. ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: Ya/ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: And the flywheels on the thing were oh, Lord, they must of been probably eight feet in diameter!~~

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: It was the weight and momentum of the thing, you know?

BOB: Ya, once you got it going it would keep ~~going!~~

DR. BLUNT: Ya, and the ~~whole~~ whole boat just vibrated like that all the time that engine was running!

BOB: I ~~'~~spose the old steamboats must have been pretty smooth machines?

DR. BLUNT: They were smooth operating! Yes, they were smooth. Course, down in Southern waters they had ~~side-wheelers~~ ^{side-wheelers} too!

BOB: Ya, I wanted to ask you if they ever tried to use ~~sidewheelers~~ ^{side-wheelers} up here?

DR. BLUNT: No, they didn't! There were never any ~~side-wheelers~~ ^{side-wheelers} came this far ~~North~~ North I don't think.

BOB: Why not?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I suppose it was because of the river, full of sandbars and shallow. These boats didn't draw hardly any water ~~you~~ you know! They just floated on the surface! Even when they were loaded they didn't take any more than a....

BOB: Couple of feet/?

DR. BLUNT: Well, ya!

BOB: Not even that much, huh?

DR. BLUNT: Ya.

BOB: Well, what was the advantage of a ~~sidewheeler~~ ^{side-wheeler}? Could you get more power ~~out~~ out of a sidewheeler? ~~(Cryphon)~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, maneuverability!

BOB: Oh! Ya, I 'spose.

DR. BLUNT: You know you could turn around in the space that the boat occupied!

~~BOB: Ya, I imagine.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: One in one direction and one in the other!~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

DR. BLUNT: It just made a pinwheel out of it!

~~BOB: Ya, I didn't think of that.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Were the Powers Brothers the only outfit that owned steamboats here on the river at that time?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, no! No, there was a Pittsburg outfit named the Colsons. They were from Pittsburg.

BOB: Who managed their line?

DR. BLUNT: I've got a picture of the man that managed it!

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: Who's Frank up at the Historical Society in charge of that?

BOB: Vyzralich?

DR. BLUNT: No, his name is Frank somebody! He has a peculiar name and the beard.

BOB: Vyzralich!

DR. BLUNT: Is that it?

BOB: Vyzralich, ya!

DR. BLUNT: Vyzralich! I know him and I've known him for several years, but I cannot remember that name and I don't know how to spell it!

BOB: Well, I'll show you how to spell it!

DR. BLUNT: I think he gave me a card once, but I lost it!

~~BOB: I've seen some pictures of Grant Marsh!~~

DR. BLUNT: That's the picture that he used for his book THE CONQUEST OF THE MISSOURI!

BOB: Yes.

DR. BLUNT: 'Cause my sister did most of the correspondence for him and he gave us that picture and then gave us an autographed copy of the book!

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: That's the photograph that they used in the book! This is my Grandfather Blunt showing him as pilot on the Spread Eagle.

BOB: The Spread Eagle was his boat?

DR. BLUNT: ~~1858/1858/1858/1858~~, 1858 on the Missouri River!

This is my father's writing!

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: Ya.

BOB: Now was it Grand ~~Mar~~ Marsh who ran the Pittsburg line?

DR. BLUNT: ~~No~~ No, the man that ran the Pittsburg line is this man right ~~there~~ ^{(?) (spelling)} Merrietta of the Colson ~~Boat~~ Boat Line was his name. The Colsons were the Pittsburg corporation. Captain Dan ^{(?) (spelling)} Merrietta taken in 1877.

BOB: Well, what did they have then? Just the one boat then?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, no, they had a line of boats!

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: ~~Most~~ Most of 'em in the Southern waters. This is my father. Now, you see, this is as far as the railroad came ~~west~~ west and a passenger ~~train~~ train has just unloaded all these people and they put 'em on the boats here to go further north, you see?

BOB: Oh, ya!

DR. BLUNT: That's the steamer Helena ~~Helena~~. The steamer Helena ~~Helena~~ held an excursion party ~~just~~ just above the railroad brige in 1887.

BOB: Now that's a triple-decker, isn't it?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, ya!

BOB: It doesn't look like there are any cabins on this though, really?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, they're are!

1/18

BOB: Oh, there are on the second deck!

DR. BLUNT: Yes, there are! That's the "Texas Deck" and then the top one is called the "Hurricane Deck."

BOB: Oh, ya!

DR. BLUNT: But that's as big a boat as they ever used up here!

BOB: Ya, there are the piles of cordwood there! Is that where they always tied up right almost below the railroad bridge?

DR. BLUNT: ~~Oh, no!~~ No, the ^{tie-up} ~~tie-up~~ here was on the other side of this! ~~//////~~

BOB: ~~//////side//////~~ Oh, south side, ~~uh?~~

DR. BLUNT: There was a big warehouse! This bridge was built in 1881 and it's been replaced, you know?

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: This is Yellowstone Kelly. "To Captain Grant Marsh compliments of Yellowstone Kelly taken 1890 as a government scout" Captain Marsh gave me this picture. He used it in his book. Here's the Expansion on a sandbar. That's what happens to a boat when the water drops.

BOB: Boy, it sure is on a sandbar!

DR. BLUNT: Well, yes, it's high and dry! Well, that's why the big boats didn't navigate up here very much, you know?

BOB: Now whose boat was the Expansion?

DR. BLUNT: That belonged to the Benton Packet Company. See, I had some ~~enlargements~~ ~~made~~ of 'em.

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: But I've got ~~pictures of boats~~, pictures of boats! I've got alot of em. Ya, that's the ~~old~~ old Expansion! It was a medium sized boat. It wasn't ~~one~~ of the large ones!

BOB: Ya. They all carried some passengers though if there were passengers to carry?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, they did just a few!

This one ~~was~~ got ground to pieces down ~~at the levy~~ here at the levy in the ice on a breakup when I was in high school.

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, the ice would break up before they were out. They'd get caught, you know, and frozen in. They didn't get 'em up on the ways. Course, the water rises and it used to flood everything here! It was ground to pieces by the ice.

BOB: Have they converted that to a gas power then?

~~DR. BLUNT: No.~~

~~BOB: If you were in high school when it ground up, I was wondering if they still were....~~

DR. BLUNT: No, they still had steamboats! →

~~BOB: Oh, ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: See, it still has the smokestacks!~~ →

~~BOB: Ya, right.~~

DR. BLUNT: The gasoline engine didn't have smokestacks!.

~~BOB: No!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: I got ~~him~~ these out 'cause he's coming down this afternoon,~~

~~BOB: Oh, he is!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Yes!~~

~~BOB: Oh, I didn't know that!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: At four o'clock he said. You see, they've made copies of all the photographs I've submitted to them. I worked on this North Dakota Centennial and the Bismarck City Centennial. They published a book, you know?~~

~~BOB: Ya, right! I read that George Bird's book.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya. Well, I worked with that crew.~~

~~BOB: Taylor ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Identifying people, places, and things.~~

~~BOB: Sure.~~

DR. BLUNT: 'Cause there aren't many of us as old as I am still around. I'm ~~eighty one~~ ⁸¹ years old!

BOB: I wouldn't of known it if you hadn't ~~me~~ told me when you were born.

DR. BLUNT: No, my doctors don't even believe me! I ~~started~~ started in with Quain and Ramstad right out of high school when they first installed an X-ray machine ^{at} Bismarck Hospital.

~~BOB: Oh~~

DR. BLUNT: And I was right out of high school in 1913.

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: 7/6~~ It was new then! ~~The~~ X-ray was new! There was no place where you could take a course in it or anything 'cause ~~Doctor~~ ^{Dr.} LaRose went to St. Louis to a man named Carmen and then he went to Battle Creek and took those two courses in X-ray. Then he picked me up as a technician. I'd been ^{doing} photographic work in the studio here. I had a pal in high school and ~~he~~ and I had a X-ray tube before the doctors had one.

~~BOB: Oh~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ We bought it through an importing company in New York. We had one KW Transformer, ~~we~~ built a big tester coil, and alot of things so I just stepped right in doing the technical work.

BOB: You were the first X-ray man in Bismarck then?

DR. BLUNT: I guess in the state!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I think ~~so.~~ so. That was 1913, '14, and '15.

BOB: Ya, I wanna talk some about that too. Let's see there's a couple more things I was gonna ask you about the steamboats. ~~Oh, ya!~~
Now the boats that I've heard people talk about are like the Wyoming.

DR. BLUNT: Wyoming? It wasn't a popular boat up here.

BOB: ~~Ya, I'll tell you!~~ If I remember right a fella named John Robinson from Garrison told me that ^{it} was a side-wheeler that tried to make it up here once and didn't.

DR. BLUNT: From Garrison? Ya, I didn't think it ever operated here to amount to any ~~thing~~ thing.

BOB: Ya, and the F.Y. ~~Batchelor~~ Batchelor!

DR. BLUNT: Yes, I've got pictures of the F.Y. ~~Batchelor~~ Batchelor.

BOB: Now whose boat was that?

DR. BLUNT: That belonged to the ~~Packing~~ ^{Packet} Company.

BOB: Maybe I ~~should~~ should just ~~ask~~ ask you the names of the boats that belonged to the ~~Packing~~ ^{Packet} Company!

DR. BLUNT: Ya, well, there was quite a ~~fleet~~ fleet of 'em because they build ~~them~~ them and then some of 'em were destroyed and ~~then~~ they'd build more. They built a number of small ones right here! I remember one

~~BOB:--Ya, time my father went down South and brought a new boat~~

~~DR. BLUNT:--I remember one time my father went down South and brought~~

~~a new boat back and they bought several from other Packet lines. He~~

~~went to Sioux City once and brought back a boat called the Little~~

~~Maud and they renamed it the Deapolis for one of the towns up there.~~

~~BOB: Oh back and then they bought several from other Packet lines.~~

He went to Sioux City once and brought up a boat called the Little

Maud and they renamed it the Deapolis for one of the towns up there.

BOB: Oh. Let's see the F.Y. ~~Batchelor~~ Batchelor and the Josephine?

DR. BLUNT: The Far West....

BOB: The Far West.

DR. BLUNT: That was Captain ~~Marsh~~ Marsh's boat!

BOB: Ya, now did he work for the Packet Company?

DR. BLUNT: ~~Yes~~ Yes, and Captain Belt did and Captain Masey and Captain Leach! There were two Leaches!

BOB: One of the Captain Leaches is still living in California! I just got a letter from him.

DR. BLUNT: Ya, he married Julia Baker, I.P. Baker's daughter, but I knew the other Leaches too real well.

BOB: When did Grant Marsh quit running a boat? He ran a gas power for ~~awhile~~, didn't he?

DR. BLUNT: Yes! Toward the last most of 'em were gas powered. They were small boats and they were short trips, you know?

BOB: Ya. Tell me a little about Grant Marsh. I 'spose he's about as famous as any captain on the river!

DR. BLUNT: Well, he was a slow ~~drawl~~ ^{drawl}. You'd think he was asleep half the time and he talked that way too! He had a little thin wife and she'd come up here in the summertime and stay, but she lived in St. Louis. She never lived here and he had one son that lived in St. Louis. I took trips with him on his boat. I took trips on all the boats 'cause ~~that~~ that's the way I spent my vacations when I was in grade school. Captain ^{Masey} ~~Masey~~ was a ~~Southerner~~. They're all ~~Southerners~~! Prett' ~~near~~ all the pilots came from St. Louis or that area down there! ~~I~~ I remember one day ^{Masey} ~~Masey~~ and Marsh were sitting at a dinner table on one of the boats and they were kinda jealous of each other's ~~exploits~~ exploits and experiences. Marsh picked up a sugarbowl and threw it at ^{Masey} ~~Masey~~ and hit him on the head! There was kinda bad blood there for awhile! I guess I was about ~~twelve~~ ¹² or ~~thirteen~~ ¹³ years of age when Buffalo Bill and Pawnee Bill's big show came to Bismarck. It was a tremendously big show because Pawnee Bill had all the ~~Far~~ ~~East~~. You know, ~~boomerang~~ boomerang throwers, natives of Asia and the Philippines, they had water buffalo, and all sorts of things. ~~Buffalo~~ Buffalo Bill's Wild West Show was really something. He travel~~ed~~ ^{led} all over the world with that one! He went broke, of course, but he ~~travelled~~ travelled abroad with it! When ~~they~~ they came to Bismarck, Grant Marsh knew him from early days you see? Buffalo Bill was never no Indian kind of fighter!

BOB: No.

DR. BLUNT: He used to supply the r~~ail~~ ^railroad crews with fresh meat by

killin' buffalo and deer and game. Grant Marsh knew him when they were young men! So, when the show was here, of course, he took myself and my sister Dorothy to the showgrounds and we spent the whole day there with Buffalo Bill and his staff. We had lunch with him.

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ He gave us a deck of cards with his picture and Pawnee's picture on the back of 'em. We had them for years and I don't know what ever happened to 'em.

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ We kept them and they were in our old desk at home, but somebody got away with 'em. We spent the whole day there and it was quite something for a couple of young kids!

~~BOB: Ya, I'll bet you were speechless!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I was walkin' on clouds ya! Oh, Marsh was in our home alot. ~~His~~ His wife was only here a little while each summer. Well, in fact all the ~~old~~ old captains had dinner in our home ~~frequently~~ frequently. Even the Chinese cook was one of 'em! Old John Henry was his name. We kids whenever we took a trip on the boat the first person we got well acquainted with was the cook.

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: Course, he'd make all kinds of stuff for we kids.

BOB: Grant Marsh I 'spose has got alot of his fame from ~~bringing~~ bringing down the wounded from the....

DR. BLUNT: ~~Yes~~ Yes, and from his book!

BOB: Ya, and the book!

DR. BLUNT: Joseph Mills Hanson was the author ~~in~~ He wrote it and he lived in South Dakota. It's a biography of Marsh's life. He was one of the few steamboat men that ~~never~~ never had any glamorous biography written about him. ~~you know~~

BOB: Yes. Well, he made what supposed to be the ~~fasted~~ ^{fastest} run ever made in a steamboat ~~in~~ in Montana down to the Missouri.

DR. BLUNT: In this territory, ya.

BOB: Was that because he was that superior of a captain or was the river just that high or what?

DR. BLUNT: No! He had a boat load of wounded and some of 'em were Reno's command and some of 'em were others, but he just applied the thing night and day! That's how he made the miraculous trip. It wasn't a boat of superior power. I've got a picture of the Far West here somewhere. It wasn't a big boat, in fact it had very little cabin space on it!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: My sister preserved all these photographs when our parents died and we left our old home.~~

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: A lot of this stuff got stuck up in an attic someplace, you know, and that's what happens to things.~~

BOB: ~~■~~ You mentioned Captain ^{Masey} Massey too and I've heard a story about him. Tell me if you've ever heard this or if it's true or not!

DR. BLUNT: Who? ^{Masey?} Massey?

BOB: Ya, that he was in the saloon playing poker when ~~■~~ Wild Bill Hickock was shot! Is that true ~~■~~ that he had a slug in his arm?

DR. BLUNT: That I never knew!

~~BOB: Oh, well, probably it may be not true then, but I was told that story by somebody.~~

DR. BLUNT: This is the Helena.

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT DR. BLUNT: This is the...~~

BOB: Man, look at all that cord wood!

DR. BLUNT: Ya, well, they'd burn it fast you know.

~~BOB: Ya, I'll bet!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well, this is the steamer Weston and ~~and~~ Endurfee. The Weston carried General Hazen to Fort Buford as recorded in Sanford's diary and~~

the steamer Nellie Peck is in the background". But, you see, they ~~had~~ had little cabins; they ~~were~~ weren't big cabins. Now here's one of the landings. "Colbank's ~~landing~~ Landing On The Upper Missouri". ^{You see} It's ~~there's nothing there, they just unloaded the freight out there,~~ ~~not-perishable, and here's the steamer Benton not perishable.~~ Here's ^{It was} the steamer Benton, but this picture has been doctored up.

BOB: Oh, ya, I see that.

DR. BLUNT: Here's the Josephine.

~~BOB: Well, that was a handsome boat, wasn't it?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ It was a medium sized. Here's the Far West! Now, you see, it only had a small cabin and this lower deck here.

BOB: Yes. How many cords of wood would they load on these?

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Oh, Lord, as much as they could pile on the thing! ~~Then they wouldn't have to stop as often because then they wouldn't have to stop as often,~~ but they carried alot of freight down ~~in~~ there, you know?

BOB: Sure!

DR. BLUNT: Now this is down at the landing here! This is the old warehouse.

~~BOB: Now that warehouse is right next to where the waterworks are now, right?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: That's right!~~

BOB: Right north of ~~where~~ the waterworks?

DR. BLUNT: No, it's right between the waterworks and the bridge!

~~BOB: Y.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ^{It was} It's quite a building when I was a little kid because I know we used to cut holes in the big sacks of peanuts and steal peanuts! Now here's a bunch of the smaller boats that are up on the ways for the winter, you see?

~~BOB: Oh/M-m-m!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ "No photographs are available of the original Benton which snagged near Sioux City in 1869. This is her proud successor,

The

~~The~~ Benton II, which also sank near Sioux City ~~twenty eight~~ years later. The Benton II is shown here tied up at Fort Benton ~~Levy~~ in 1888 near the spot where Thomas F. Mehen is (?) mounds acting one was mysteriously drowned (somebody) in 1867. This steamer belonged to the Black Pea ~~Line~~ of the famed Thomas Powers Company of Helena. ~~It was a pretty substantial boat! That's my dad standing up there.~~

BOB: ~~Oh!~~ How did they drag these boats up on the shore like that?

DR. BLUNT: With big ~~winches!~~ 

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ And horsepower. See, here's a bunch of 'em down below the bridge. 

~~BOB: M m m m.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Here's the Eclipse. Now there's a pretty good-sized boat! You see it had alot of cabin ~~space!~~ ~~These are all copies, you know, of the originals.~~

BOB: ~~■.~~ Did most of these boats winter in Bismarck ~~or~~ dry dock in Bismarck?

DR. BLUNT: They tried to, but once in awhile they'd get ~~blasted~~ caught out. Then they had a place just barely north of Mandan about where the refinery is ~~that~~ that was called Rock Haven. 

~~BOB: Oh, Y/ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~Then~~ ^(?) They had ways there too!

BOB: Ya, I'd like to see ~~blasted~~ one of those old boats come down the Missouri again!

DR. BLUNT: I remember one time in the early spring, it was still almost winter, my dad had to go up north just below Wash ~~burn~~, There was a boat frozen in during the winter and he took a crew up there and he lived on the boat and the breakup came ~~/. Course, they had all their big ~~hauser~~ lines out, you see?, fore and aft tied in tight to the bank and the river rose so high and it was full of ice flowing that~~

DR. BLUNT: Ya. You see ~~this~~ steamer Eclipse? "Benton Transportation Company"^h

BOB: Oh!

DR. BLUNT: ~~1897/1898~~ "Charles W. Todd (?), Pilot of the Rosebud".

These were orders issued I guess. ~~Boy, they sure were exact when they folded this!~~ "Will you please go to Steamer Eclipse with Captain Todd when you meet him. I.P. Baker, 1897"^h

~~BOB: Look at that hand!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Everybody wrote like that in those days.~~

~~BOB: Boy!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, my father wrote the same way.~~

~~BOB: That was an art!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Where did you live in Bismarck?

DR. BLUNT: We lived between ~~1st~~^{1st} and ~~2nd~~^{2nd} Street on Thayer.

BOB: Oh.

DR. BLUNT: That's ~~old~~ Fort Lincoln. "Officer's Homes at Old Fort Lincoln"^h Custer's home at the left there!

BOB: M-m-m! ~~well~~^{Ah}, it's really a tragedy that those buildings, ~~weren't~~ weren't preserved.

DR. BLUNT: Ya, they were vandalized, you know? ~~People~~ People stole from them!

BOB: Ya, tore 'em apart!

DR. BLUNT: Yes, tore 'em apart and stole the lumber!

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: Ah, these are mostly family ~~photos~~. ~~Here's a~~ ~~Mississippi~~ Mississippi Steamer, see? →

~~BOB: Oh, ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: See how much bigger they are?~~ →

~~BOB: Oh, ya, alot longer.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: And here's the War Eagle. My father is up in the pilot-house and this is his sister and this is his sister. There's no date~~

on it, but that was taken....

BOB: Now that was a Southern boat too?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! Oh, yes! They never came up ~~there~~ here those Southern steamers. Here's the dining room on the Helena! Now, you see, that was quite a boat!

~~BOB: Oh, yes, indeed!~~

DR. BLUNT: This is the summer that my father was ~~up~~ up on one of the Yellowstones, see? That was all local business up there on the Yellowstone. "Steamer Expansion at Walker's Landing, ~~Yellowstone~~ Yellowstone River. Steamer Expansion at ~~Yellowstone~~ Sidney, ~~Montana~~ Montana. Expansion at Monda ~~k~~ ready to leave for the Yellowstone River".

BOB: Those are good pictures.

DR. BLUNT: I remember he was up there for a couple of ~~summers~~ summers. Oh, here's the troops from Fort Lincoln! They've taken off the boats and they're putting them on ~~these~~ these train cars.

BOB: Cars, yes.

DR. BLUNT: Here's ~~the~~ "Headquarters" at ~~Washburn~~ Washburn!

BOB: Oh! Bay, that's quite a picture!

DR. BLUNT: Down here there's a big marine arm that comes down with revolving buckets and from there on up this whole ~~enclosure~~ enclosure here is a tremendously big endless belt. You see, a conveyor belt. Here's ~~the~~ the engine house and the office house is under there. The grain was sometimes kept in the elevator for a few days and then it was loaded into the Soo cars here, you see?

~~BOB: Oh, ya! Ya, now I understand how it works!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Then there ^{was} a big skid here! You see this here?~~

~~BOB: Yes.~~

DR. BLUNT: That was for skidding down sacks of hard coal and lumber ~~out~~ *of the cars and then the cars would slide it down.*

~~BOB: Oh, I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Out of the cars and then ~~the~~ the cars would slide it down.~~

~~BOB:~~

~~BOB: Ya, I 'spose someone would have to run it up the gangplank
from then on?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: No, it went right on to the boats or they....~~

~~BOB: Oh, it came right out ~~lose~~ that it could connect right with the
boat!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Yes, you see ~~th~~they had an extension here, but they
loaded most of that on barges! They didn't carry too much on this
ferry.~~

~~BOB: Ya~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, But they pushed sometimes two barges ^{all} on the way!~~

BOB: That reminds me of one more question on the steamboats! How
big ~~was~~ crew would be on one of the boats ~~that~~ that your dad ~~o~~
piloted?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, I ~~sup~~suppose the roustabouts would have a dozen men!

~~BOB: Oh.~~

DR. BLUNT: This is my father and mother about the time they ~~was~~were
married! ~~Old~~Old fashioned photographs.

BOB: So, you'd probably have a dozen roustabouts and then a cook
and then someone sounding the water too I ~~sup~~'spose, ~~how~~? ~~now/where/~~

~~had this located? The Pacific Hotel or was that located later? Now~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Where was this Pacific Hotel located? Was that where the
GP was later?~~

DR. BLUNT: That's right!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: It was a frame building too, you know? ~~th~~th~~

~~Nearly~~
~~Pro~~Protein... all the buildings in those days were built with a false
front, you know?

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Make 'em look a story higher!~~

~~BOB: Make 'em look grand a little more grand ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

~~BOB: Do you remember that hotel?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: No, I remember the one that was built to replace it!~~

~~BOB: The GP ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: These are just old family kind^{o'} type. I didn't know what was in here! Now let's see I should have another envelope ~~someplace.~~~~

here
↓

~~BOB: Oh, that's alright! We can look for that later; we can talk for awhile.~~ Where did you attend elementary school here? Where did you start school?

DR. BLUNT: Well, it was a little one story wooden building where the Provident Life is now and then there was a ~~old~~ ^{building} small brick building ~~the~~ next to it so I went to the first, second, and third grades down there. There were only two schools in Bismarck at that time ~~or that is,~~ two school units. The other one was the William Moore School. After I finished the third grade, then I went to the William Moore School from the fourth grade through the junior year!

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: All in that one building! We were the first graduating ~~class~~ ^{7th} class in the first high school that was built over on Seventh Street.

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Which they turned down, you know?~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ We thought that was a wonderful school. Well, it was ~~well~~ well-built, but it just outlived its usefulness.

~~BOB: Too small I suppose.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Yes, too small!~~

BOB: First graduating ~~class~~ class that would have been 1913, huh?

DR. BLUNT: 1913. ~~There were~~ ¹⁶ ~~in my class.~~

BOB: Did you have any ~~basketball~~ ^{stuff} teams and ~~things~~ like that?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, ~~yes~~ yes, football! We bought our own uniforms and furnished our own transportation. There was no athletic fund at all for us. We even built our own skating rinks and played our own

hockey.

BOB: You had to make your own entertainment, huh?

DR. BLUNT: Most of we kids that did skiing made our own skis!

BOB: Oh, you skied too?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, sure, up on Artesian Hill and out toward Wards, you know? Those ~~big~~ big hills up along the river!

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: Ya, but we made our own skis! Ya, we played basketball, baseball, and football.

BOB: Were there state championships and stuff like that of any kind?

DR. BLUNT: No, just local. Ya, we just played the little towns around here.

BOB: What else was available for a kid to do for pleasure in his spare time?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, fishing and hunting. ~~We swam in the river, but when I got older I knew better! Ya, we swam in Apple Creek~~ We swam in the river, but when I got old enough to know better I wouldn't do it!

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Ya, we swam in Apple Creek, and in Hay Creek, and in Burnt Creek and in the river!

BOB: Oh? Were there any bad floods on the river here that you ~~remember~~ remember?

DR. BLUNT: Any what?

BOB: Bad floods and what years?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, tremendous!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Oh, yes! Yes, we had ~~many~~ many floods here! This whole bottoms was flooded here. The water came right up to the bottom of Third Street where the laundry is down there.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ It was quite high!

BOB: ~~What~~ What year was that?

DR. BLUNT: Well, let me see? We had so ~~many~~ many floods that I don't remember what year that was. I remember once when it was that bad and it flooded clear out to the airport there, ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: Yes.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Of course, up along those big banks that run along by the~~
~~Priority~~ there. All of this was under water!

Advance

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ We were living in the Rose Apartments. We'd been married May, 1926, and I think that was either '26 or '27 because we were still in there when Lindberg flew the Atlantic. I remember I had a radio I had built myself and I got the reports of the flight. You see you couldn't buy a factory built radio ~~about~~ about 1920, '22, or '24. ~~in there.~~ You could buy parts and build one. Westinghouse built the first laboratory model that you could buy. It was a three tube receiver with two stages of audio, but it looked just like a laboratory model with a bakelike front on it. You could look through it and see all the tubes burning in there. Each tube had its own ~~rheostat.~~ ~~I built about five or six sets.~~

~~BOB: Oh?~~

sket

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~ya, I built about five or six big sets and put 'em in~~
cabinets. I gave them to my relatives, friends and family. Super ~~heterodynes~~
~~heterodynes~~ and ~~neutradyne~~ [?] neutradyne were the sets. They were nice sets, but, of course, you had to have a ~~separate~~ separate loudspeaker. ~~They weren't built into the sets.~~ ~~you see?~~

BOB: ~~What~~ Well, what radio station could you get then? There wasn't one in Bismarck ~~that~~ that early, was there?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, we used to reach way out to the ~~West~~ West Coast and to the ~~East~~ East Coast!

BOB: Oh?

DR. BLUNT: I remember I got the death of President Harding when he

died in San Francisco. I got it on my sets and called up the Tribune and told them about it!

BOB: Oh, really? They hadn't gotten it on the wire yet, ~~had~~?

DR. BLUNT: No, I got it right from San Francisco over ~~the wire~~ *KFI*

~~BOB: Well, now that's something!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: One evening ya!~~

~~BOB: Gee whiz!~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~We~~ We used to go out for a distance and that was one of the pleasures of operating a radio. I remember the first time I ever got Victoria City, British Columbia, and that's a long ways!

~~BOB: Ya, and mountains to go over there too!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, ~~and~~ everything!~~ but ^{was} when the weather ~~is~~ favor-
able you could bring 'em in!

BOB: And you didn't have very much interference because ~~there weren't~~ there weren't so many doggone many stations!

DR. BLUNT: No, that's true! Ya, we did DXing alot! Radio brought entertainment into the home and, I think, much better than movies and other media because everybody could afford a small radio set, you know? When they started to manufacture them you could buy them quite ~~reasonably~~ reasonably and they were economical to operate, ~~you know?~~

BOB: Yes.

DR. BLUNT: I remember the first phonographs was the Edison with the wax cylinders. When we were little kids our parents took us to the old Baker Hall downtown and we listened to ~~the~~ phonograph program. It was when the phonograph first came out!

~~BOB: Ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: A wax cylinder records!~~

BOB: Yes. If you had one of the first radios in town, did you suddenly find that you had alot of friends that were coming over to listen?

DR. BLUNT: Well, this boy in school ^{and my pal,} Jim Doran, and ~~my pal,~~ we had

one KW wireless outfit before that when we were still about sophomores in high school.

BOB: Oh? So, you'd been at it for quite awhile then?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, we had a powerful wireless and when he died we shipped it to the University of North Dakota with all of his stuff. We had a big laboratory and we had Geisler Tubes and X-ray Tubes. ~~we~~ we were a couple a ~~nuts!~~ We were working on a wireless telephone at the time that he died.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ By using plates in the ground but we never completed our experiment!

BOB: You mentioned a Baker Hall on Main Street. Now I don't think I've run across that before.

DR. BLUNT: Oh, that's right over that Elbow ^{Room} thing.

BOB: Oh, on the corner of Third and Main!

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

~~BOB: That was Baker Hall, huh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ That's where all the parties were given when I was a little kid. Then there was the old Anthneum!

~~BOB: On Seventh and Eighth Street somewhere.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, that was on Main and Seventh.~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ That Old Anthneum, ya. That's where the Inaugural Balls were held 'cause, you see, the old capitol didn't have any adequate place. The house up there in the old capitol building was small and it wasn't adequate ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

DR. BLUNT: 'Cause that house was built with a small center building and then two additions.

~~BOB: Ya, I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, just it's just patchwork!~~

~~BOB: BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ↑ I have the only motion picture of the burning of that building.

BOB: Oh, you do?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, I gave it to the Historical Society and they ~~made~~ ~~gotten~~ made a copy of it. I just got it back just not so long ago!

~~BOB:~~ ~~Oh:~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~was~~ I had a 16 millimeter motion picture camera before Eastman put one on the market. It was an amateur camera made by the Derei Corporation in Chicago. ~~was~~ They made ~~professional~~ professional equipment, but this was a small portable one ~~and~~ and it was kinda clumsy compared to the cameras nowadays.

BOB: What year ^{did} ~~was that about that~~ you ^{have} ~~had~~ that? ~~then?~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, I bought it about 1927 and that ~~Capitol~~ Capitol Fire was in '30 just before New Year's in the wintertime. Ya, it shot about ⁵⁰⁰ ~~five hundred~~ feet with five reels. I went back the next week and took a picture of the ruins!

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Ya.

BOB: Did you know ~~that~~ that other photographer in Bismarck who was taking movies as early as about 1916 or so?

DR. BLUNT: I worked for him! His name is ~~Homebow!~~ ^{Holmboe.}

~~BOB:~~ Yes, right!

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ And when I quit the X-ray, his technician ~~in there that~~ ~~did all the work~~ Ammot, took my place in the X-ray Department.

~~BOB:~~ Oh. Homebow ~~must have been quite a guy?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Well, ~~it was~~ During the ~~1930s~~ Non-Partisan League ~~and~~ he sold them on the idea of alot of movies of "North Dakota Beauty And ^{Resources} ~~Resources~~" and all that sort of stuff.

BOB: Oh, now I didn't know this!

DR. BLUNT: Oh, ~~ya~~ ya, it was done for ~~what~~ what money he could make out of it, you know?

~~BOB:~~ Well, I figured that, but I didn't know that he did it under the state! He got state money to do that?

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Oh, ~~ya~~/yes, sure!

~~BOB:~~ Oh, now, see, that's what I didn't know!

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Yes, because I used to work in the background with Annot and we used to develop all of his ~~pictures~~/film!

~~BOB:~~ Oh! Ya, they're redoing some of his film now.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Are they?

~~BOB:~~ ~~Preserving it~~/You know preserving it?

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Yes, sure!

~~BOB:~~ What else was available here for entertainment? I mean not ~~just~~ ~~just for children but~~ the social life there in Bismarck in the early years? Were there show/s, plays, and dances? ~~That kind of thing?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ DR. BLUNT: Yes, there were road ~~shows~~ shows, of course, in the Old Anth~~neum~~, but they were not **B**roadway productions by any way! ↗

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ And the first motion pictures were in the Old Anthneum! It was just an old shell ~~with a big barn~~ and a big barn ^{place}, you know? They had four big potbellied stoves one in each corner to heat the place, you know?

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ And no heat backstage and ~~everytime~~ everytime that curtain would go up, geegee, you could see that the people in the place and the shows were freezing to death! ~~Yes, because of no heat back there, you know?~~

BOB: I've often heard it said that an actor's life is a hard life! I guess it must ~~of~~ been, huh?

DR. BLUNT: Well, you can imagine back there ~~with~~ with cold water making up, washing/up, dressing, and everything! ↗

~~BOB:~~ Oh, man!

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I don't recall that there ever was a stove on the stage.

The reason I remember that is 'cause I was in the K.P. Minstrels. Nine of ~~us~~ ^{we kids} were taught the ~~Buck-and-Wing~~ Routine and I had learned tapdancing in St. Louis.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ That was the first time that I was ever on a stage. We was all ~~blackface~~ ^{black faced,} you know? We ~~was~~ ^{kids were} all made up as ~~PeKinese~~ ^{PeKinese} for the ~~Buck-and-Wing~~ Dance. ~~dddd/ddd/dt/dtd/dtd~~ I remember how cold it was 'cause most of the entertainment down there was in the wintertime you know? There were shows that came through here. ~~I remember~~ The first show that I remember was kind of a production called "The Isle Of Spice". A group of people come down out of a desert island in a balloon basket and proceeded to live on this island. That's about all I remember of it, but it was kind of a colorful thing and I remembered it. There were dancing clubs here and later on there were movies that started about ~~1908, 1909, or '10~~ 1908, 1909, or '10 because I was still in high school. I ushered in one of the places for awhile.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Then there were dancing clubs! I've got alot of my parents old invitations. ~~They~~ They belonged to the Reindeer ~~Club~~ Club and then there was the Oldtimers. They had dancing, dinner, and all that sort of thing. Churches had basket socials and in the summertime lawn socials.

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Then there were carnivals that came through ⁱⁿ ~~the~~ the summertime and circuses, you know? I never missed a circus. I've never missed one! Never! If I was ever ~~anywheres~~ near where I could see one, I was there!

~~BOB: Did you go to the last one here?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Yes!~~

~~BOB: Oh, you did!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~Yes,~~ I've seen Galmer Brothers Circus when I was a

kid ~~and Campbell Brothers~~ ^{and} Campbell Brothers and Sells Floto, which is mostly animals, and L.G. Barnes, which is mostly animals and beautiful horses, and, of course, ^{Ringling} ~~Brothers~~ Brothers and then Barnum and Bailey and then they combined. Then, when I was real small there was Norse and Rhode Dog and Pony Show. I used to watch for the advertising cars! They would come here to put up there great big displays on the billboards and store windows! They would be here probably for a week ~~and~~ and they'd have a crew with these great big ~~billboards~~ things that they put on the billboard, you know, ~~complete di a complete~~ complete display. They'd go ^{out to} ~~in~~ the country and put 'em on the side of a barn near a highway, ~~you know? and give the farmer a couple of tickets~~

~~BOB: Yes.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ They'd give the farmer a couple ^{o'} tickets. So, I ~~had~~ had tickets to the shows 'till I got too big for that thing, ~~you know?~~ But I never missed one on those advertising cars and we'd either go out with 'em or peddle bills around town ~~up~~ ~~one~~ street and down the ~~other~~ or work in the advertising car packing up things for the crew to take out.

~~BOB: I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ So, I earned my way through and always had a couple ^{o'} extra tickets for every circus 'til I got too old!

~~BOB: Ya, and reluctantly had to quit, huh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya!~~

BOB: ~~Not~~ Not all ~~of~~ of those circuses came here, did they?

Dr. Blunt: Oh, no! No, lots of times it would be three or four years before the same one would come back here again!

BOB: Oh, I see! ~~They~~ They made a circuit of the whole region, I 'spose?

DR. BLUNT: ~~Ya,~~ Ya, and they're all pretty much alike in those days, you know, with the big top and the sideshow. Course, the circus now,

end —

There aren't many of 'em left!

BOB: No.

DR. BLUNT: And what few are they perform in big auditoriums. I just saw the night before last on that ~~show~~ Tomorrow ~~Show~~, Tom ~~Schneider~~ ^{Schneider (Snider)} interviewed any number of artists with Barnum and Bailey, ~~Wingley Brothers~~ and ^{Ringling} ~~Wingley~~ Brothers in Madison Square Garden, of course. That's where ~~they held their performances~~ they'd start their season. Barnum and Bailey and ^{Ringling} ~~Wingley~~ Brothers sold out, you see? I think they almost went broke anyway. The president of the company that bought them out interview^{ed} him and he said that they had made up their minds to eliminate the big top. They had to hire too many ~~men~~ and they had to put it up and take it down each day on a night stand and load it up and transport it. He said, "I wanna put the money in the ~~act~~ ^{acts!}" He said, "In order to get this best animal act that we have ~~now~~ ^{here} now-and, gee, they had a whole slew of beautiful Bengal Tigers-I had to buy the circus over in Germany ~~and the man that goes with it~~ ^{the} and the ~~man~~ ^{trainer} that goes with ~~it~~ ^{it."} He just absorbed that smaller circus in Europe in order to get that.

BOB: ~~you~~ You said that you went to this last Shrine Circus ~~DR. BLUNT~~ here? How do they compare to the big tops?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, well, this is just a little matinee thing! There is no comparison!

~~BOB:~~ Oh:

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ [↑] You take a show like Barnum and Bailey and ^{Ringling} ~~Wingley~~ Brothers-I've seen them for years in Minneapolis and any number of places ^{Sells'} ~~Sell's~~ Floto and a German one that toured the country called ~~Four Paws~~ Frpaughs-you'd think it meant Four Paws ~~because~~ that's the way it's pronounced, but it's a German word-and they ~~would~~ would have three rings of beautiful ~~horses, they'd be the white~~ horses! They'd be the white and the ~~black~~ black and the ~~porrell~~ ^{Porrell} horses all performing the same ~~thing~~ thing in three rings. ~~you know?~~

~~BOB:~~ Oh:

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ↑ Trained animals, sea lions, elephants, tigers, bears, monkeys, and various dog acts. Way up at the top they would have tightwire and various flying ~~trapeze~~ flying acts and various spectacular things, you know? These little things ~~now~~ are mostly ~~just for kids.~~ ~~It's a kid show!~~

~~BOB:~~ Ya, well, I was even a little disappointed in this last one here.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~It~~ doesn't ~~amount~~ amount to much of anything.

BOB: I didn't even think that it was the best Shrine Circus that I had ever seen by any means.

DR. BLUNT: Oh, no, I've seen Shrine Circuses years ~~ago~~ ago that played in Minneapolis ~~auditorium~~ auditorium that were marvelous! You know that famous aerial family that two of 'em were killed in Detroit named ~~Wallendas~~ Wallendas The Flying ~~Polandos~~ or something like that?

BOB: Oh, yes!

DR. BLUNT: Well, I've seen them several times and the shooting of men and women out of the big cannon which is just a big spring, you know?

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: A lot of your fine aerial acts and animal acts, of course, are imported from abroad.

go — BOB: ~~Are~~ ^{Were} there any patented medicine salesmen that ~~used to come~~ ^{came} to Bismarck and ~~to~~ ^{to} some kind of ~~act~~ and sell you snake oil? ~~or some~~ thing like that?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, they'd hire a dray and put a gasoline burner light on, ~~you know, just a frame for a light.~~ It would be downtown on one of the ^{downtown} corners. They would sell ~~patent~~ patent medicine, books, music, and popular songs.

BOB: Did they do ~~a little juggling~~ ^{juggling} of balls or sing or something?

DR. BLUNT: Well, they might have a ~~magician act,~~ ~~you see?~~ or a

musical act with somebody playing a guitar and singing. ~~you see?~~

~~BOB: Oh, yes!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Usually that was what it was though!~~ It usually was music and sometimes a little comedy, ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: Yes.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ And then there used to be medicine shows that would operate in our old Anthenum, the old opera house, down there. They would have hypnotists, which is entertaining, and they'd sell all kinds of cold cures and ~~dentrifrice~~ ^{dentifrice} and just ordinary propriety stuff, you know?

~~BOB: Yes.~~

P ~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I remember the first ~~dentrifrice~~ ^{dentifrice} that I ever saw them sell was a ~~square~~ square cake that looked like hard pumice really. It ~~was~~ was ~~flavored~~ ^{flavored} and you just wet your toothbrush and rub it on! That was one of the first ~~dentrifrices~~ ^{dentifrices} I ever saw!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

P ~~DR. BLUNT:~~ The ~~hypnotist~~ hypnotist show always got a big crowd 'cause it lasted all evening and they had a number of local people, you see, as subjects.

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ They'd put 'em through all kinds of foolish things.

~~BOB: Get the crowd laughing at their friends, I 'spose?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ^{all} Ya, they'd have maybe four or five of 'em lined up and they'd says, "Well, now you're right down at the edge of ~~this~~ this beautiful lake and we're gonna go for a swim." "Pull off your clothes and jump in!" Gee, sometimes he'd get them down to their underwear before he'd stop 'em! Course, that would just make a big hit with the crowd!

stop go - ~~BOB: I 'spose!~~ Did you go to the governor's balls that Bismarck had?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! Even when we were just out of high school we

would attend them.

BOB: Was that quite an event and big social affair?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, it was because that house chamber was ~~like~~ beautiful! It was white, ~~you know~~, and that tremendously big balcony of a semi-circle and they'd move everything out and that floor was beautiful. It was ~~mahogany~~ ^{mahogany} glass, you know, and then the big platform for the orchestra was just perfect. The acoustics were excellent in there. Course, then they could have the dinner down on the main floor quarters. That's where the big tables were set up for the dinner. Yes, we used to go to the balls starting with the first one when ~~Samuel~~ ^{Series} was Governor and he was succeeded by John Burke and that was when I was a page in the Senate in 1909. ~~Alex~~ Alex McKenzie and my family ^{and my grand parents} were very good friends and he put me in as a page in 1909 in the Senate. ~~No~~, it was before that! It must of been 1907. ~~that we kids~~ We kids went in the balcony, of course, then, but later on we attended the ~~x~~ ourselves when we were older enough to have dates.

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Tell me ~~me~~ ^{little} about Alex McKenzie. I think you're the first person I've met that probably ~~met~~ ^{knew} him!

DR. BLUNT: Well, he used to meet me and my sister, Dorothy, ~~like~~ who was near my age. I had an older sister who has since passed away and a younger brother. ~~Everytime~~ Everytime we would meet him downtown he'd stop, ~~buy~~ buy us some candy, and tell us what a beautiful woman our mother was!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ She was a pretty woman when she was young and they were very good friends. He became a political boss out here and presumably had a home and a family in St. Paul, but after he died they found out he ~~had~~ had another family in New Jersey!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, and neither~~ [↑] ~~family~~ knew about the others until after he died!

BOB: Then I ^{imagine} ~~suppose~~ there were some problems?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I 'spose there was some squabble about settling his estate. You see the Patterson ^{Hotel} ~~Hotel~~ was first built and named "The ~~McKenzie~~ McKenzie" because he was instrumental in procuring the financing ^{for} ~~for~~ it, you see?

~~BOB: Yes.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Patterson just stacked it as Manager.~~

BOB: ~~Was~~ ^{more} Was McKenzie an extremely wealthy man or was he ~~more~~ ^{more} influential ~~than~~ ^{than wealthy?} ~~the more?~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~Very wealthy~~ Fairly wealthy and very influential!

BOB: Well, what did he have here? He had the waterworks here in Bismarck and he had a major interest in that ^{McKenzie} hotel, didn't he?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, and he owned quite a lot of ~~property~~ property!

~~BOB: Oh, real estate?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, you see~~ [↑] This one big addition called the McKenzie.

He divided his time between here and his family, you see, in St. Paul and the family in New Jersey. The hotel was incorporated in the ~~State~~ ^{State} of New Jersey

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: That was because of tax reasons.~~ ^{for}

~~BOB: Oh, sure, ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ For many many many years they didn't pay any taxes on that building because they kept adding on to it. You can't tax a building under ^{construction} construction!

~~BOB: No.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ They built two ^{stories} ~~stories~~ more on it, you know, over a period of years!

BOB: ~~Yes, well,~~ ~~And~~ ^{just} You said that your dad and McKenzie were pretty good friends, but you talk to other people though and they say that McKenzie was ^{just} an absolute crook and a scoundrel!

DR. BLUNT: ~~Well, I guess he did!~~ They ^{were} ~~were~~ just social friends, you know!

~~BOB: Sure!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well,~~ He got mixed up in that deal up in Alaska, ~~you~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

DR. BLUNT: I think he was tried in San Francisco and one of the attorneys that was also implicated was a native of Bismarck named R.N. Stevens and Mrs. Finney's father. R.N. Stevens was also an attorney here in the earlier days.

~~BOB: And a McKenzie man?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Yes, and the book was written about it, you know, by~~

~~Rex Beach.~~

BOB: ~~Well,~~ He was a pretty likeable man socially though, wasn't he?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, he had the faculty of getting ~~to~~ ^{to} people from a social angle ~~from~~, but from a political angle he had his enemies and his political friends. He was quite a ~~likeable~~ likeable man.

BOB: Who were his friends ~~here in Bismarck, let's say,~~ or his political allies? ~~Like Patterson?~~ **Patterson?**

DR. BLUNT: Yes, and several of the attorneys, ~~you know?~~ Naturally, he'd be friends with them.

BOB: ~~And~~ and Stevens?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, and I'm trying to think of the name of an attorney that came here from New Jersey. Oh, Ed Allan was his name, ~~and an attorney~~ here. He lived at the McKenzie Hotel for ~~many~~ many years!

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, you see,~~ He was always more or ~~less~~ less affiliated here with any political ~~figure~~ figure here that was in office and in power. I guess he also had quite ^{a little} ~~little~~ backing from the NP Railroad.

BOB: Well, what about some of the other influential men in Bismarck, ~~like I.P. Baker and Ed Hughes and Charley Cupids,~~ ^{Cupids} I don't know if you'd call him a big man or not, ~~or Yegen?~~ What was the relationship or how were

~~they~~

allied with McKenzie?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I don't really know the inside of it because those men never put out much information about what they were doin' / ~~or~~ what was going on, ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: / No, I 'spose not! I don't suppose they / didn't stop and talk to kids about it anyway!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: No!~~

~~BOB: That's probably not a fair question.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well, all that I remember is what / / / / / I'd hear my folks / discuss, you know?~~

~~BOB: Sure!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: But McKenzie was behind~~ any number of politicians that became quite prominent here through the years naturally! He never posed as a local politician holding an office here, you ~~see~~? He just got things done the way he wanted them done politically. I suppose his henchmen handled most of the ~~arm-twisting~~ ^{arm-twisting} and the slapping of the backs and shelling out a little money from time to time!

BOB: Ya, well, the chief henchman was ^{Patterson} ~~Parison~~, right? ~~Generally, that~~ ~~was he from what I understand anyway.~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, Patterson came to Bismarck as a barber from Cleveland, Ohio, and he did a little prizefighting. He eventually became ~~manager~~ ^{kitty-corner} of the Northwest Hotel which is over ~~kitty-corner~~ from the Patterson.

~~BOB: Where that garage is now?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Where that garage is, / ye!~~ Ya, that was a three story and in the shape of an L on that corner and Patterson became Manager of that. I remember my grandmother wrote Alex McKenzie a ~~letter~~ ^{letter} about something / -I don't know what the contents was- and I took it down to the Northwest Hotel and they ~~sent~~ sent me up to his room. ~~He was still in bed~~ It was in the morning and he was still in bed. He read the letter, wrote a note, ~~enclosed~~ enclosed it in an envelope, and I took it back to my grandmother. I don't know ~~what~~ what it was!

~~BOB: I see.~~

stop

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, that was shortly before I was page in the Senate. ~~Have~~~~
~~we been recording all of this?~~

~~BOB: ~~Ya, all of it!~~~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, have we? ~~I didn't know that!~~ I have a re-
~~corder there that we've never used! I bought it last winter and it's~~
~~a big one, but I've never used it. Well, I haven't said anything that I~~
~~regret, so I guess it's alright!~~~~

~~BOB: No, you've told me an awful lot of things that I find very~~
~~interesting.~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, I can remember that even when I graduated from high school in '13 the population here was just barely five thousand and a few years before that we didn't have any paving, we didn't have any storm sewer, and we had very very little money spent on improvements, you know, or utilities. I remember when our house was wired for electricity,

~~BOB: Oh, you do?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes,~~ and I remember when the first telephones were installed! The first telephone office was over the P.C. Remington's Drugstore right next to the First National Bank! It was just one big backroom up there lookin' down into the alley. I think Ed Hughes established the first local phone system because he had the first powerplant here! ~~It was located~~ on the alley on the back end of what was the Montgomery Ward building ~~there~~ between Third and Fourth on Thayer. ~~You see,~~ There's an alley there where the Finney Drug is now in the front end of it.

~~BOB: Oh, ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well, the back end of it there was about ²⁰~~twenty~~ feet and that was about all the width there was ~~for~~ for that one little building.~~

BOB: That was the power plant?

DR. BLUNT: That was the power plant! There was a steam engine and one dynamo in there!

BOB: Oh, I didn't know that! *I thought the first one was located at another location.*

DR. BLUNT: No, I had to walk past it every day comin' back and forth from school! We used to walk inside and, you know, watch the steam engine ~~whir~~ and the dynamo whiz and all of that!

BOB: ~~Ya, sure. Well, what~~ What year about was it that you got the telephone then or started telephone service here?

DR. BLUNT: ^{oh, well,} ~~we~~ didn't have ~~one~~ one when the service was first started. I imagine it was about 1908 when we had our first telephone.

BOB: Oh, and then the electrical service? When did you get your house wired?

DR. BLUNT: Well, it was about the same time ~~that~~

BOB: ~~Oh, ya. Well, he must of quickly moved from that one engine and one dynamo plant down to where this MDU thing is now?~~ ^{Small}

DR. BLUNT: ~~Oh, yes! Course, that plant has been redone, then they expanded, then they put in turbine steam turbines, and all that.~~ ^{several times}

BOB: Ya.

DR. BLUNT: ~~But they used to have great big steam engines and big dynamos all hooked up.~~

BOB: How was that early electrical service? Was it pretty dependable or did the current fluctuate?

DR. BLUNT: It was quite primitive! It was quite primitive. Course, the town was so small then that everybody, course, didn't have it ^{right away!} It took some years for it to build ~~up~~ up. I remember there was a man by the name of ~~Fonz~~ Fonz here in town ~~that~~ that for a years he had just ~~to~~ ^{kind of a} a little buggy wagon and he delived kerosene ~~to~~ ^{to} people all over town because people used kerosene lamps.

BOB: Ice man going around with ice, I suppose?

DR. BLUNT: That's right! There was an ice man.

BOB: Do you remember any of ^{the names of} those fellas?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, there was a man that had a grocery store down on the corner of Third Street and Broadway, right where that ~~Town~~ ^{Town}crier is now?

BOB: Oh, ^{ya} yes!

DR. BLUNT: And he had a big icehouse in back of there!

BOB: Now who was that? ~~Was that Logan?~~ Logan?

DR. BLUNT: No, Logan was right next to him! This was ~~A.P. Slatery!~~ M.P. Slatery!

Michael P. Slatery and he had an ice man for years by the name of Snow. Snow was the ice man!

BOB: That was appropriate!

DR. BLUNT: ~~He~~ He delivered the ice ~~Before~~ Before my time and before Bismarck had a water system. There was a man that delivered water by the barrel! He trucked it with teams of horses with his waterwagons and sold it around from house to house a barrel. He'd fill up your barrel full a water!

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: His name was Barney Flynn.~~

~~BOB: Oh? ~~Such~~ A good Irishman? Oh, a good Irishman?~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~He~~ He lived on the corner of ^{Mendon} ~~Dan~~ and Rosser Street. That's all been made over into apartment buildings now or makeshift apartment buildings.

BOB: ~~Where did you get your milk? or did you mother when you were kids?~~ ^{milk}

~~Did you have your own cow?~~

DR. BLUNT: Everybody had a cow! ~~Ya~~ Ya, I milked a cow! Oh, ~~yes!~~ We used to take our cow way out north to pasture every morning on my way to school and then pick her up after school was out and take her home.

BOB: What did you do? Did you stake her out up there or just let pasture?

DR. BLUNT: No, there was a pasture out there and a man that took care of the herd. His name was Bull! Such a play on words here!

BOB: Certainly!

DR. BLUNT: He also was a real estate man and I think it was his son-in-law that did most of the managing of that.

BOB: Oh

DR. BLUNT: They had the town herd out there, but we'd all drive 'em home at night and take 'em out in the morning. We had two cows and we had horses. My grandmother raised horses and sold 'em! I guess they went

into the cavalry and the artillery. They used to buy up horses out here, you know? She had a horse wrangler and they had quite ~~lot of~~ ^{alot of} ~~of acreage~~ out there. He sold several of her horses way up ^{near} by Bottineau and the sheriff up there recognized ~~the brands~~ the brands 'cause they was advertised, you see, ~~as~~ being strayed or lost or ~~stolen~~. He brought ^{here and course,} them down, ~~course,~~ that was a state offense and ~~the~~ the state prosecuted this fella that was her horse wrangler. She eventually got him out of the ~~state~~ penitentiary and ~~got~~ ^{hired} him back again!

BOB: Oh? She must ^{o'} trusted him basically. ~~anyway~~ ~~right?~~

DR. BLUNT: Yes, I supposed he needed some money.

BOB: Did your grandfather then on your mother's side die at a fairly early age or....

DR. BLUNT: My grandfather died, let me see, when I was about three years old yes.

BOB: Because it sounds as if your grandmother was more or less a guiding light after he died.

DR. BLUNT: ~~She~~ She lived quite a number of years after he died. She died in 1914, but my grandfather died it must have been, oh, let's see, about 1897, '06, or '07. I could look it up sometime.

~~BOB: Ya, well -~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ In an old family Bible that they had but I haven't referred to it since I was a kid!

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: How were the streets in town when you were a kid and the sidewalks? ~~for that matter?~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~Full~~ Full o' mud!

~~BOB: Full o' mud, huh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ There was some wooden sidewalks and ~~if~~ if you walked from ^{over to the} one corner ~~to the~~ other at an intersection there was just two wide planks, you know?

~~BOB: Going across the street there?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya,~~ ^{Just} two wide planks! Ya, the groceries used to be delivered, you know, by ~~horse~~ horse-drawn delivery wagons. I can remember every time it would rain and the streets were full of mud they'd tie up the horses tails. They'd tie 'em up ~~high~~ high so that they ~~wouldn't~~ wouldn't get mud all over their tails!

BOB: Well, I 'spose that made some sense!

DR. BLUNT: Well, you see, we didn't have telephones at that time either. ~~The~~ The grocery man came around ~~each~~ each morning or each second morning and took your order in the morning and then he delivered it in the afternoon.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Pretty good service!

DR. BLUNT: ~~They~~ ^{Then of} They had lots of runaways. ~~course,~~ ^{course,} they're was a ~~big~~ big livery stable right on Fourth Street between Broadway and ^{on the west side of Fourth Street} Thayer ~~across~~ across from the Grand Pacific Hotel. A man by the name of Johnny White operated it and before him was a man by the name of ~~Shed~~ Shed Lambert. ~~That~~ That was quite a business! They had a ~~hack~~ ^{hack} service, you know?

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Enclosed hacks and taking people around the city ^{and} during session they were real busy, you see?

~~BOB: Ya, I 'spose!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: All the ~~hall~~ members ya.~~

~~BOB: Now that would be about where that shoe store and the Downtowner and those places are?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: That's right!~~ ^{Ya} ~~It's~~ ^{it's} right where the Downtowner is.

~~BOB: Oh, ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, a big livery stable there.~~

BOB: There must of been ~~one~~ one or two others in town too?

DR. BLUNT: Well, there was one on Main Street across from the Bismarck Grocery ^{building} there on the north side of Main Street, but they didn't have too much livery service. They had dray service and you could hire a hayrack for a hayrack party ~~for~~ or a bobsled party in the wintertime. That operated for a number of years. The one big livery stable that had nice carriages and hacks that was on Fourth Street.

BOB: Oh. Where were the grocery stores and who were the main grocers in Bismarck?

DR. BLUNT: Well, down at the west end there was John Sweat and that was right near that old building that's still down there called the Dakota Block? ~~That's~~ That old ~~brick~~ brick building across from Corwin Churchills.

~~BOB: Oh, ya!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well,~~ Just east of ~~it~~ there there was a vacant lot and then there was a saloon and then Sweat's ~~store~~ Store. Well, that was a pretty nice store. There was also a hardware store in there too and it was ~~run by~~ a man by the name ^{of the Hardware Store there} of Bielin. Then up in the next block between Third Street and Fourth Street on the north side of Main Street was ~~the~~ the A.W. Gussner Store. That was a very ~~good~~ good grocery store for many many years!

~~BOB: That's where the bar or tavern is now?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~ Then Cupitz had a very ^{fine store} good store! He stocked alot of ~~imported~~ imported things, ~~you know.~~ Cupitz was a very fine store! That ~~was~~ was on the corner Collins Drugstore ~~is~~ is now. You see all those things burned out during the Big Fire of 1898. I remember that fire very well because we sat all night out in our front yard and watched it and heard the noise.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh.~~ It was a tremendous ~~conflagration~~ conflagration, ~~you know!~~ It went from Second Street to Sixth Steet and burned everything out between ~~the~~ the railroad tracks and the middle of the blocks. It didn't get as far north as Thayer Street, but it got into alot of them

between Thayer and Broadway.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~Ya and/ you see/~~ Our home was only about three blocks from ~~the~~ downtown 'cause we were just about a half a block west of the ~~the~~ Presbyterian Church, the old Presbyterian Church, on the corner there.

~~BOB: M m m~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I remember my parents took ~~what~~ what valuables they could just carry easily and put 'em out on the lawn in case we might have to leave if the fire got out of control. We sat out all night and watched it and the noise was terrific, ~~you see?~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ That was in 1898 and the same year as the Spanish-American War. I remember when McKinley was ~~assassinated~~ ^{assassinated}. There was a boarding-house on the end of our block east across from the church. It was later called The Roanoke and a family hotel. I remember there was a big picture of McKinley up over the entrance with a black drape around it and I asked my father what it was. He said, "Well, our president has been ~~assassinated~~ ^{assassinated} and that's what they call in mourning."

BOB: No, I hadn't heard of this ~~the~~ place here, The Roanoke House?

DR. BLUNT: The Roanoke Hotel!

~~BOB: Oh/ Hotel.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~Well,~~ It was run first by a druggist, E.A. Beardsley, and he had a drugstore where Sharks Store is now.

~~BOB: Ya?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~Then later on Mr. Finney came and joined him.~~ Harry Beardsley and Mrs. Beardsley had adopted two little children. Between our house and this big family hotel was an enclosure and they had deer, ~~in there in the basement of a big stone barn there with and~~ ^{in there.} The deer lived in the basement of a big stone barn there and they had carriages and horses you know. That was a family hotel for many many years! After the Beardsleys gave it up, a family by the name of Woodmanses/

operated it.--End of Tape A

BOB: Did Cupitz run a stageline too? that went down on the ~~west~~ east side of the river?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, that's right! Ya, he ^{had} a stageline and so did Joe Dietrich. Joe Dietrich was Joe ~~Wills~~ Burns' grandfather and he had a stageline. We had some of his tickets and tokens of his stageline at one time) but, of course, they're all destroyed. Cupitz also had a travel agency in his grocery store.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ He'd sell you tickets on oceanliners if you wanted to make a trip to Europe.

~~BOB: Oh, really?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ He had the ~~agency/agencies.~~ It was either the Cunard or one of those lines.

BOB: ~~And~~ And you had Logan's Store and ^{Slattery's} ~~Slattery's~~ Store and they were side by side on Third ~~and~~ and Broadway?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, and Logan also sold feed! He had a feed store next to it too.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

DR. BLUNT: All those stores maintained ~~delivered~~ ^(two words) ~~delivered~~ horsedrawn ~~delivered~~ delivery wagons, you know?

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Say, was there a hotel in Bismarck called The Bannerhouse?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, it's right down on Main Street next to that filling station on the corner of First and Main.

~~BOB: First and Main....~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well, you know where Corwin Churchill is?~~

~~BOB: Oh, ya! Oh, ya, I know where you mean now!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well,~~ ~~it's~~ it's just right on the west end of that, but not quite on the corner. The filling station is on the corner and next to

that is that old white building there and that's The Bannerhouse.

BOB: Boy, that must be one of the oldest buildings in Bismarck!

DR. BLUNT: Oh, it is! ~~Then~~ Then there was one called the Dewey House and that ~~was~~ was on Second ~~Street~~ Street on the alley north of the Corwin Churchill building where that Coffee Cup Restaurant was when they went out of ~~business~~ business, but there was one called the Dewey House and it was operated by a man by the name of Long Jim McDonald. It was mostly a place ~~where~~ for gambling and cards. It was never a hotel really! There were quite a number of "blind pigs" in Bismarck, you see, in those earlier days. They called 'em "blind pigs" and they all operated along the alleys, you know? That's ~~what~~ what that was and then there was Kuntz's Saloon right near the Dakota Block. Then any number of the drugstores sold liquor ~~with~~ with "back door" ~~business~~ business of course.

~~BOB: Yes.~~

DR. BLUNT: There were also several restaurants that had ~~slot~~ slot machines in the backroom and they also sold liquor such as beer and whiskey, ~~you know?~~

BOB: ~~Oh, how could they get buy with that? that easily?~~ Did the sheriff just sort o' wink at 'em or what?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, they had ~~protection!~~ protection! They had protection, you ~~know?~~

~~BOB: Payoff or something?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Everybody knew about it!~~

~~BOB: Ya.~~

DR. BLUNT: Everybody knew people were drinking and where did they get it? They had to get it from certain sources. There was a big ~~pool~~ poolhall on the corner where the Patterson is now and in the back of that on the north end of ~~it~~ it there was a flight of stairs and it went up into a saloon. The man's name that ran it was Aaron ~~Christopher~~ Christopher. Then there was another place in the back of the GP ~~and~~

In the block between Fourth and Fifth street ^{and} that alley had several
back door saloons. Course, they called 'em "blind pigs".

~~BOB: Ya.~~

P ~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, occasionally~~ occasionally the sheriff would crack down
on them and then all the rest of 'em would be tipped off and they'd
close up for a few days. Then they'd be back in business again when
it cooled off!

BOB: ~~I see. Well,~~ What was the best hotel in Bismarck if you wanted
to come and stay in Bismarck in a place that would impress your ^{business} ~~buis-~~
~~ness associates. or something? Where would you stay then? in those years?~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, of course, when the Patterson was new it was a nice
place to stay. The GP was also a good hotel but ~~of course~~ it
wasn't elaborate. ~~It was only a few years ago that~~ It was only a few years ago that
the Pederson Brothers got a loan and they did over the rooms on the
north wing, but the Patterson was the best hotel when it was new!
Of course, the Lewis and Clark in Mandan was very nice when it was
new, but the others were all old, you see? The Prince Hotel was built
and called the Vanhorn. ~~It was named for an architect that lived in~~
~~here in town named Vanhorn.~~ The Vanhorn Hotel was named for an archi-
tect that was here in town; ~~but~~ but it was small, you know?

BOB: Oh, I thought Ed Hughes built the Prince Hotel and called it
the Prince right away?

DR. BLUNT: No, no, it was called the Vanhorn ^X first!

BOB: Oh, and then he ~~was~~ bought it later, huh?

DR. BLUNT: No, he built it! →

~~BOB: Oh, he built it! I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ But it was called the Vanhorn! It just had kind ~~of~~ a
counter restaurant to start with, ~~you see?~~

~~BOB: Oh.~~

DR. BLUNT: Then it was added on to later, you know? They built a
north wing onto it and part of it went up over, I think, the building

next to it.

~~BOB: Oh, ya, it must Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: ~~Ya, it must~~ Well, ~~Who~~ who ran the GP Hotel ~~when~~ when it was in its hay ~~days~~ days?

DR. BLUNT: Lewis Pederson started it and I think he died and his wife ^{married} named a man by the name of Tattley.

BOB: Henry Tattley?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, and then Henry Tattley operated it for quite a number of years.

BOB: Now why do I know a name ~~that~~ Henry Tattley? Just because he ran ^{the} a hotel I guess, huh?

DR. BLUNT: Ya, that was it and, ~~of course~~ he had a farm down here that was, I guess, part of what is now the Yegan Farm. →

~~BOB: Oh, maybe that's why I remembered ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Tattley married the widow of the former proprietor and ~~she~~ operated it. She had children and then they had children.

BOB: Now, when did you go away to medical school?

DR. BLUNT: I went to Dell College at the University of Minnesota in the fall of 1916. →

~~BOB: 1916.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I graduated in the spring of 1920.

go — BOB: M-m-m. You were out ~~of~~ ^{at the time of} of the state ~~then when some of the~~ ~~not action~~ of the Non-Partisan League and the IVA?

DR. BLUNT: ~~That's~~ That's right yes! 'Cause I used to meet 'em on the train sometime, they'd corner me, and wanna know what the young people were thinkin' about politics out here. I'd ~~say~~ ^{know} say, "I don't know much about it."

~~BOB: Ya, course, you were still here when things were just heating up?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, yes!~~

BOB: What did you think of the Non-Partisan League or what did the people in Bismarck that you associated with think of the movement

when it started?

DR. BLUNT: Well, the trouble with the Non-~~Partisan~~ League was that it got into the hands of unscrupulous operators. Course, I'm saying these things, but that's my opinion!

~~BOB: Sure!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ^{Loan} Yes, they started the Homeowners Association and built residences, then the State Mill and Elevator, and then the Bank of North Dakota. Well, those state enterprises were created, I think, so that they could handle the state's money! You can't go up to the state treasurer here and steal it, ~~why~~ you know?

~~BOB: Right~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ But there are other ways and means of operating!

BOB: Did you ever see Townley or Lemke or those fellows give addresses ~~at Bismarck~~ and speeches in Bismarck?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, I've heard 'em talk! Oh, yes!

BOB: Were they pretty well recieved? ~~or did they get alot of sympathetic reactions?~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, there was just a certain element ~~that~~ that went for 'em and those were the people that profited by their ~~being~~ being in ~~the~~ power! The Non-Partisan League was not popular with the ~~better~~ better class of people in this state!

BOB: People have often told me that it was strong among farmers.

DR. BLUNT: Well, it would be because they pitted the farmer against the big businessman. ~~They preached that! Against the railroads and big business.~~ They preached that! Against the railroads and the ~~utility companies and any body that made any money and was prosperous!~~ utility companies and any ~~body~~ body that made any money and was prosperous! They created that class distinction and that's how they got their ~~following.~~ following. "We're the champion of the down ~~trodden~~ trodden working man and the farmer and the fella that's being exploited!"

BOB: Course, with the difficulties they ran into in about 1920 ~~it~~ it didn't go along too far.

DR. BLUNT: No.

BOB: Who ~~were~~ were some of the people ~~in~~ in Bismarck ^{who} ~~who~~ belonged to the Independent Voters Association and who more or less orchestrated the movements against ^I the League?

DR. BLUNT: Well, my father-in-law, Tom Hall, was one of 'em!

~~BOB: Ya, and he is one of the people I can remember ^I reading about in the old League newspapers where they just said all kinds of inflammatory remarks about Tom Hall.~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~Ya~~ You see the the Motor Vehicle Department and the registration of automobiles was in his office at that time and ~~the~~ ^{the} audits showed the man that operated that department ~~the audits showed that he had embezzled some funds. Well, instead of bringing charges against him he brought~~ ^{'em} ~~it~~ against Tom Hall who was Secretary of State and it was under his office, but it was proven that this man had ~~it~~ just taken the money and Tom was absolutely innocent! He had no part in it at all! In fact, he didn't know it ~~'till~~ till the audit was made, ~~you see?~~

~~BOB: Oh?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Well, they tried to pin ~~it~~ it on him because he was an Independent and he didn't go along with it.

~~BOB: McKenzie, of course, was against the League, but he wasn't in Bismarck much at all by those years!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: No, no! No, no, not in those years!~~

BOB: ~~I~~ ~~was~~ You were a page in the Senate in 1909, was it?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, in 1909. I still remember the fir^Ist part of the ~~the~~ roll call very well!

BOB: Oh? What was it?

DR. BLUNT: It started Albright, Anderson, Baker, Bessison, Davis, Dewis, ~~and~~ Cashell, and Crane! There was a whole string of 'em!

~~BOB: Ya, that's remarkable!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: I used to listen to 'em ya!~~

~~BOB: Was it quite an exciting job to have for a person....~~

00
~~DR. BLUNT: Well, for a young person it was!~~

BOB: You were about sixteen? ~~No, fourteen?~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~No, ~~let me see, ya~~, I was between ~~fourteen~~ and ~~15~~~~
~~fifteen!~~ I had just entered high school. ~~Jimmy Foley~~ ¹⁴ ¹⁵ ~~for many~~
years known ~~as~~ The Poet Laureate of North Dakota, was Chief Clerk and
Secretary of the Senate that year. Oh, there were a lot of distinguish-
ed men in there! They were ^{and businessmen} mostly attorneys ~~and~~ and very
smart sharp men, you know? ~~It~~ It was quite an education for a young
^{Kid} ~~to spend~~ two months with a group like that.

~~BOB: Sure, and it still is.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Well,~~ I know one thing they fought about was capital puni-
shment and I think that was about the time that ~~that~~ was ~~abolished~~
in this state!

~~BOB: Ya.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I remember the arguments in the oratorium. You see the
state flower, state bird, and the state flag were all created during
that session. I still have a Bluebook of it!

BOB: Oh, that was the session that gave us the meadowlark and the
prairie rose!

DR. BLUNT: Yes, the prairie rose and the state flag 'cause they had
artists submit them, ~~you know~~, and they put them on ~~display~~
in the capitol.

BOB: Oh! I 'spose you rode the streetcar up to the capitol in the
morning!

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, ya!~~

~~BOB: Mickey O'Conner?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, old Mickey ya.~~

~~BOB:~~ When did they quit running the streetcar, do you remember?

DR. BLUNT: ~~Well, they tore up the tracks here, or ya,~~ Well, they tore
up the tracks here.... It was running after I graduated from high
school I know! In fact, it was still operating when I came back to
practice in '20!

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I know because I parked my car ^{up} on upper Fourth Street visiting someplace and evidently the brake didn't hold and it backed down the street quite a ways onto the car track and they had to push it off the track to continue with the street ~~cars~~ cars.

BOB: Oh, ya! How far north did the ~~town~~ town extend ~~then in, well,~~ ~~DR./BLUNT: Let's see~~ in 1906, '07, '08, '09?

DR. BLUNT: What is now Boulev^eard! You see from Boulev^eard north it was just prairie and the capitol was right out there on the prairie.

BOB: No trees around there either, I suppose?

DR. BLUNT: ~~Well, there was some prairie.~~ There was some trees. It used to have just an open board fence around it, but it was kind of a ~~bleak~~ bleak lookin' affair. Yes, because we used to practice football right north of Boulev^eard. We had our football field there.

BOB: ~~How far did the streetcars~~ How far did the streetcars tracks go on the other end?

DR. BLUNT: They went down Main Street east to just about Seventh Street.

~~BOB: Oh!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya, that's as far as it went.~~

~~BOB: Ya, about to where that Pennys store is.~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

BOB: Someone told me that it used to run out to the ^{penitentiary} penitentiary, is that right?

DR. BLUNT: No, they planned it, but there were never any tracks there!

~~BOB: Oh, Oh, I see!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Because that street has always been just a street and there were never ~~any~~ any tracks in there. You could operate that steetcar from either end. He'd take the controls off one end and put 'em on ~~the~~ the other because you couldn't ^{it} turn around, you know?

~~BOB: Oh?~~

DR. BLUNT: There was no place to turn it. I think the first ^{streetcar} ~~car~~ we got here was a ~~second-hand~~ one that was shipped here. I think it came from Philadelphia. It wasn't a brand new one. It was a big clumsy lookin' thing, ~~you know?~~

~~BOB: Oh.~~

DR. BLUNT: Mickey O'Conner operated a sleigh drawn by horses for the legislative sessions before the streetcar was in.

~~BOB: Oh?~~

DR. BLUNT: Ya, he had a big sleigh with side curtains on it and he operated that. He'd pick 'em up at the hotel, ~~you see?~~

BOB: Well, I 'spose the steetcar ~~wasn't put in 'til~~ wasn't put in 'til they had electricity for it!

DR. BLUNT: ~~They had their own plant up there!~~

~~BOB: Oh, yes, I knew that!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Sure, they had their own power plant ya.~~

BOB: Did they run the ~~streetcar~~ streetcar in the winter too?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, but if we had a bad blizzard or a snowstorm or ~~inclement~~ ^{inclement} weather--and we kids had to go all the way from ~~the~~ the corner ~~of~~ of Thayer where we'd get the car ~~up to~~ up to the William Moore ^(?) School--it wasn't running then and when we needed it the most!

~~BOB: Ya, ya. Well, you were out of the state during the flu epidemic of 1918?~~

~~DR. BLUNT: That's right! I was in service.~~

BOB: Anyone in your family get ill back here from ^{the flu epidemic of 1918?}

DR. BLUNT: Well, we didn't lose anybody ^{in our family,} ~~from that,~~ but my young brother almost died of the flu. Ya, I was in Medical Corps and we were in ^{The} Organized Reserve because we were in school and because of our age. All the college students in ^{dentistry} dentistry, medicine, engineering, and all those courses were all frozen in school. I signed up to go to war with Doctor ^{Quain} ~~Queen~~ and he put ^{\$50,000.00} ~~fifty thousand dollars~~ of his own money into hospital and medical supplies and we were to be a unit

of Base Hospital ~~Number~~ Number One out of New York.

~~BOB:~~ Oh?

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Well, what happened is that they broke us all up! Doctor Quain went to one camp, Doctor Arndson went to another one, Doctor Knoxway of Dickinson went to another camp, and they sent me back to the university to wait until they needed me. It broke us all up.

BOB: Doctor White had put that much ~~money~~ money into supply and medical?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, of his money! He was a very patriotic man and a marvelous surgeon. During the course of my X-ray work, ~~I had occasion~~ I had occasion to take the radiographs up to the operating room many times and the last year before we went into the war I worked in the operating room. Sometimes I was washed up and had sterile gown, mask, and everything on and worked opposite just retracting and doing things like that around the operating room. He wanted me to have that training ~~because~~ 'cause he ^{expected} wanted me to go with him.

BOB: You started your college training though as a dentist?

DR. BLUNT: ~~As~~ As a dentist 'cause I wanted to get into Oral Surgery, you see?

~~BOB:~~ Oh, I see.

DR. BLUNT: ²⁰ My last ~~twenty~~ years I did alot of Oral Surgery. I went down to ~~Mayo's~~ ^{Mayo's} and worked with the head of their department. Doctor Boyd Gardner was head of the Oral Surgery Department at ~~Mayo~~ ^{Mayo} Clinic and I spent some time down there. We didn't have an Oral Surgery [?] down here and there were many cases that demanded Oral Surgery [?].

BOB: ~~Well~~ Who were some of the ~~early~~ early dentists in Bismarck that were practicing here when you were here?

DR. BLUNT: Well, Doctor ~~Rawlings~~ ^{Rawlings} was the first one that I knew and ~~his~~ his office was up over the First National Bank. ~~He~~ He was a graduate of Michigan ~~Dental~~ Dental College. He gave me some of his early books.

~~and I gave them to the Historical Society.~~

~~BOB: Oh?~~

DR. BLUNT: Then there was a Doctor Hibbs that came on later. Then about the ^{same} time that I was in high school Doctor Towne, ^{and} Doctor Raulings ~~joined them and Doctor Doctor Tony~~ he had joined them and Doctor Tony were here ~~They had a clinic here in Bismarck~~ and they had the first dental ~~clinic~~ clinic here in Bismarck.

~~BOB: Oh, and that was located where?~~

DR. BLUNT: Right across from ~~what~~ what is now the old post office in that building where there used to be a jewelry store on the corner of Third and Broadway on the southeast corner of that intersection.

~~BOB: Oh, yes, I know where!~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ There's a store down there that sells trophies now. Well, Ed Hughes owned that building ~~and~~ and they had the whole ~~upstairs.~~ upstairs.

~~BOB: Oh, I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ My young ^{is} sister, Dorothy, was one of their first ~~assistants.~~ assistants. She was with Doctor Tony and Doctor Rollings. Doctor Towne did all the oral extractions and surgery. Doctor Tony was crown and bridge and Rollings did ~~mostly~~ mostly gold foil operative.

BOB: ~~When~~ When you came back in 1920 did you set up practice ^{then} ~~independ~~ independently?

DR. BLUNT: No, I went in with a Doctor W.E. Coal. He had been with Rollings in town for a number of years. When he came out of the service he opened an office ~~of his own~~ of his own and then I ~~want~~ went in with him.

~~BOB: Oh. Where was your office located?~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Up over the City National Bank building. That's the north-east corner of Main and Fourth section which is up over the downtown Woolworth store. ~~There~~ There was a bank in there at that time.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ ~~The~~ The Quain and Ramstad Clinic was up in that ~~area.~~

building for a number of years 'til they built their clinic building over on Fifth!

BOB: Oh! ^{dentistry} ~~Denistry~~ must have changed considerably since 1920!

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes, it has!~~

~~BOB:~~ I mean did you have the same painkillers and drills and that kind of thing?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! New materials have come out, new equipment, and new techniques! I still attend dental conventions and meetings. I ^{keep up} ~~keep up~~ although I'm not practicing. I retired in March of 1964.

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT: Eleven years! It doesn't seem that long.~~ So, it's been ¹¹ ~~eleven~~ years! It doesn't seem that long. I often thought that I might of had a ^{different} ~~different~~ life if I had stayed at the University of ^(?) ~~Minnesota~~ - I had a chance to stay ^(double) ~~and~~ take over the X-ray Department and the Dental Department because the head of that department, ~~wanted to go over into the medical campus.~~ Doctor Knight, wanted to ⁹⁰ ~~over~~ ^{into} the medical campus. The dean called me and he said, "When you graduate you can take over the X-Ray Department of our school here." But it would ~~have~~ necessitate me opening an office in Minneapolis and, of course, I wasn't very well known down there and it would take several years to even start a ~~practice~~ practice, you know? But Quain and Ramstad wanted me back here in Bismarck, ~~you see?~~

BOB: Ya, well, we're glad you came back! Were ^{you} using X rays in ^{dentistry} ~~dentistry~~ then?

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, my yes! Yes.~~

~~BOB: Oh, I didn't know that!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: Ya.~~

~~BOB: I didn't know that had started that early. Now it's almost routine!~~ ^(?) Every time you go to the dentist they want to take an X ray.

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! Oh, it's routine ^I now! Now, yes, and they have new equipment. They can take both jaws all on one film just like a panorama!

~~BOB: [unclear]~~



~~DR. BLUNT:~~ But when I started in X-ray with Quain and Ramstad Clinic we were using glass plate negatives! We didn't even have X-ray film in those days! You had to develop each one of those big chest X-rays individually, you know, in a developing tray. You had to be careful 'cause you'd cut your hands all the time because that glass was sharp. No, we didn't have X-ray film. There was photographic film for photography but no X-ray film. I don't know why they didn't develop as fast as they should of. I think they should of brought it out right away!

BOB: Was business good right away?

~~DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes!~~

~~BOB: It's almost impossible to get into a dentist in Bisaurek now! Was it that crowded for you in those days?~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, we were busy! I stepped into a full day! I would say a full day was when sometimes we'd start at ^{7:00} ~~seven~~ in the morning and didn't get out until ^{8:00 or 9:00} ~~eight or nine~~ in the evening.

~~BOB: Oh.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Those early appointments were in the hospital, ~~you see?~~ You had to get over there early to get an operating room for your patient.

BOB: Oh, somebody that has got broken ^I teeth? ~~or something~~

DR. BLUNT: Well, the automobile created an awful lot of business for the dentists and the physicians.

~~BOB: Oh, y/~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ The Ford car, you know, you had to crank it! That was before the self-starter and sometimes while you were cranking it it would kick back, ~~you see?~~ It would explode at a differ^Ient time and it created a tremendous impact against your hand and wrist. It would fracture right where the small bones of the hand and the radius and the ulna come together and it caused an impacted fracture. It pushed it back and those were very common in those days. Course, all frac^I-

tures had to be x-rayed and many many other things because they'd inject opaque liquids ~~you know~~ into organs of the body and then x-rayed them and give them the outline. Then there was lung chest X-rays.

BOB: Oh, so then you were over there taking care of the X-rays and then run over and take care of somebody's dental work, too?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I hospitalized quite a few of my patients, you see?

~~BOB: Oh,~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ I did practically all my oral surgery in the two hospitals.

~~BOB: Oh, I see.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Cause I was on the staff. But I didn't do any X-ray for the medical profession after I started my dentistry except for on special cases that they referred to me. ~~and I~~ I took care of ^{all those} in my own office unless my patient was hospitalized.

~~BOB: You got married in~~ BOB: You got married in ~~what was it~~

~~in~~ 1926?

DR. BLUNT: 1926, yes.

BOB: To Tom Hall's daughter?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, their oldest daughter.

BOB: What was her first name again? You told me and ~~that~~ I've forgotten.

DR. BLUNT: Lucille! →

~~BOB: Lucille.~~

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Ya, and then she had a sister. Her next sister's name was Ellen, ^{who} and she married a surgeon, and their name is Hornthall. They live in Washington. Her youngest sister married Doctor Adolph Rumreich and he was Senior Surgeon in the United States Public Health Service. They were the ones that went to Moscow and stayed at the embassy 'til the war broke out and then they came home, but they lived over there for several years.

BOB: Yes. Well, you ^{had} have about four years of married life before the depression got pretty severe?

~~MEMBER COUNTY SCHEDULE~~ DR. BLUNT: Yes, that's true.

BOB: How did that affect you? Did you have a family to raise then?

DR. BLUNT: No, we had no children, ~~you~~?

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Ya, the depression was difficult for everyone and on top of that we had drought here.

~~BOB:~~ Ya.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ Either one of 'em would be a catastrophe but combined they were terrible! People just didn't have any money.

BOB: How did it affect professional people like you? I know that talking to the farmers it was very severe.

DR. BLUNT: Well, we gave service to people that had to have service to relieve them of pain or to rehabilitate their dental situation and just took chances on collecting any money. We were at the mercy of our patients 'cause if they didn't have it, ~~we~~ we didn't get it. We did alot of charity work and fees were low in those days. Very low! Some dental operations now are, oh, four ~~times~~ times what our fees were back in those days. You see right after the first World War the Veterans Bureau made it possible for most veterans to have medical and dental attention. Most of it was service connected and they brought out their fee schedules and we had to abide by them.

~~BOB:~~ Oh.

~~DR. BLUNT:~~ That's how our fee schedule was so low for years!

BOB: Let me ask you just a few questions that call for more or less an opinion. Do you think people are taking better care of their teeth and their bodies nowadays than they were?

DR. BLUNT: Yes, they are! Course, I've been very closely affiliated with the medical profession even though I practice dentistry because I collaborated with ~~the~~ ^{the} medical men all the years I practiced. It's because they have access to unlimited reading material about health and there ^{are} any number of very fine health magazines being publi-

shed today with articles that the layman can read and understand. Of course, research is doing tremendous things that we never heard of or never thought of. Whoever heard of opening up a human being and replacing a heart or kidneys or any vital organs and operations on the brain? There was a time when all those things were fatal? If there was anything wrong with your heart or your spleen or your kidneys that was fatal. Of course, cancer is a terrible scourge. I think that more people in civilized parts of the world live longer and our healthier and enjoy life much much more than even, why, fifty years ago!

BOB: What I wanted to ask you was whether you thought people had changed any in character or outlook or popular attitude? A lot of people say that people now aren't what they used to be. That they are pleasure seeking and that the work ^{ethnic} ~~ethnic~~ has died out.

DR. BLUNT: Oh, yes! We're living at a much faster rate! Now I can remember when I was a boy back in 1900 it was different. Course, in a small community it's different, but even in the large cities there wasn't the pace and people lived more or less a sedative ^{type} ~~kind~~ of life. You know they weren't on the go all the time. They spent most of ~~the~~ their time either at their profession or ~~at~~ their work or in their home! Advancements in various scientific things like the automobile ~~see what it's done~~ have put everybody on the move fast and it's ~~the~~ increasing all the time! Why I can remember as a boy that nearly all adults lived a sedative type of life. When dinner was over in the evening they enjoyed their home with their family. Now you take a family of four or five and their seldom all of 'em home at once for dinner! They have so many outside activities and extra ^f ~~curricular~~ activities. They belong to this and they belong to that! A lot of the parents are on the go too. There isn't the family union get together. "Let's stand around the ~~piano and talk~~ piano and talk and sing a few songs." In fact, people don't go to church like they used to. No, it interferes with the other things they wanna do.

10
BOB: ~~the~~ "Babysitter" was virtually a word that wasn't even used around 1900, was it?

DR. BLUNT: Oh, no, no, that wasn't coined until about ~~twenty~~²⁰ years ago!

~~BOB: You either had a governess for your children or you took 'em with ya!~~

DR. BLUNT: ~~Well, in~~ Back in those days there weren't old people's homes! The old people lived with their children in their homes and the old people were the babysitters if the young people wanted to go out for the evening. The old folks were always there to look out for the children. Most old people lived and died with their children.

BOB: ~~Let me ask~~ Let me ask you one more ~~question~~ thing. Has North Dakota ~~been a good place to live~~ and Bismarck been a good place to live?

DR. BLUNT: Well, I've traveled a great deal all over the United States and Canada and Hawaii. Now there are alot more beautiful places and alot more spots in the world that have much ~~more~~ more to offer in the way of climate, beauty and vegetation. For instance, ~~the~~ Islands are covered with flowers! We have beautiful places in the United States, but they're different ~~and~~ some of it's ~~man-made~~ man-made and some of it's natural. I think that everybody ~~will~~ sacrifices something by living here and not over there in one thing or another, but I'm a native of North Dakota and ~~will~~ always will be even though I've seen alot of the rest of the nation. ~~There are many places I like to go, you know, to visit something new. For instance you go down on the East Coast and its old and its historical like Williamsburg and many places.~~

BOB: Sure, ya!

~~DR. BLUNT: You wouldn't wanna live there!~~

~~BOB: No, that's what I've always thought too!~~

~~DR. BLUNT: No! Then there a No on No!~~ Then there are certain places in the United States where you meet other nationalities than

the ones that ~~you're~~ you're used to, ~~that~~ that ^{you're} ~~you~~ ac-
customed to and it's strange and it's different! I'd never been on a
public ~~conveyor~~ ^{conveyance} bus or a streetcar where certain people had to go to
the back of the bus to sit down because they weren't allowed to sit
up front with the other passengers. If you've never seen that sort
of thing before, you take notice of it and maybe you believe its al-
right and maybe you don't!

THE END