ERNEST AND LENA KOHLMEIER BOTTINEAU BOTTINEAU COUNTY

STANDARD RECORDER 321-509
SUPERSCOPE 371-

BOB: Can you remember the sod house?

LENA: Yes.

ERNEST: I can remember it too.

BOB: Oh, you can?

LENA,ERNEST: Oh, yes!

BOB: He must o' built a good sod house then because they usually didn't last more than a few years did they?

ERNEST: Oh, some of 'em would last quite awhile.

LENA: Oh, this old sod house stood up.... Well, after we had moved, didn't it?

ERNEST: Y-yes.

LENA: Wasn't it 1910 when we had moved to the place where we used to live.

ERNEST: Oh, no. It was before 1901.

LENA: Was it?

ERNEST: Yes.

LENA: And the sod house was still good. And I don't know what they had on the walls....

ERNEST: Course, the roof started leakin', see?

LENA: Ya, I 'spose.

ERNEST: You had t' watch the roof.

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: Ya had to keep a lot o' sod on it and grass growin' up there. Then it wouldn't leak.

LENA: And I don't know what they had on the walls because,I know, mother used to whitewash it. You know what whitewash is?

BOB: Ya.

LENA: Instead o' paint. Oh, she had her walls all so white.

ERNEST: It was just the eart'. That sod.

LENA: That sod must o' been solid.

ERNEST: But under the roof she had cheesecloth. You know what cheese-

cloth is?

BOB: Yes.

ERNEST: Well, she had that.

LENA: And a board floor.

BOB: Ya.

LENA: We had three big rooms in that sod house.

ERNEST: Three rooms and a little entrance.

LENA: Oh, is that it?

ERNEST: Ya.

BOB: Was that a sod house just made out of strips of prairie sod or was it made out of mud bricks?

LENA: I think it was prairie.

ERNEST: No, no, it was just [redacted] sod. That tough sod.

LENA: Cut in squares.

ERNEST: They used to plow it about four inches deep and then they'd cut it off and carry it and lay it and then they'd put a.... They'd have some good clay, you know. Went down to the slough where there was clay, you know, and dug down with this yellow clay and they made a mortar like cement out of it and put about an half an inch of that clay on that sod, see. Then you put another strip of that sod and then some more [redacted] clay, you know, just like they lay these cement blocks now with cement inbetween.

BOB: Ya.

LENA: It was solid. I always remember that.

ERNEST: And then it was wide, you know. Oh, them windows were stickin' in quite a ways. They were level with the outside.

LENA: And nice and warm too.

BOB: Ya, I'll bet, and probably cool in the hot days too, huh?

LENA: Ya, I 'spose.

ERNEST: Ya, I 'spose, it was cool in the summer.

LENA: Ya, they are. [redacted] They were kind o' crowded. We were four little kids. We had the two little beds in the kitchen and another bed in the

living room. See, that's all the room we had, see. Otherwise, the rooms were pretty good sized. And then that shed what they built on there.

BOB: Did your dad farm just 160 acres to start out with?

ERNEST: He had three quarters. Ya. He lived on the preemption, you know, to start with. That's where the buildings were and then he had the tree claim. He had to plant trees on it. Now, he didn't want to take the homestead. He was goin' to take that in the Turtle Mountains. There was some awful nice oak wood, but that wasn't open for filing yet.

BOB: It was still reservation, huh?

ERNEST: Well, no, it just wasn't surveyed yet.

BOB: Oh, ya.

ERNEST: And then he left it go and left it go and then finally he was told, "You can't live up there in the winter and on the farm in the summer. You can't move all your stuff fort' and back. When you come in the spring, you won't have no machinery. When you go back in the fall, you won't have your utensils to live in the winter." So dad t'ought, too, that wouldn't work so good with oxen. He had oxen then, you know. So it was alright there. In 1868, this branch come through from Willow City through Bottineau nort' here. So they heard about it and dad and two of his neighbors one Sunday they hitched up the oxen and they drove down to see that it was really true that there was a railroad. See, that was 18 miles southwest of us. So, yes, sir, that was staked there. They looked around and then there was some awful nice flat land east of Willow City so dad and this other guy.... They didn't have no homestead, see? They decided they'd file their homestead there so they went back and they built each a sod shack. See, they squatted on it and as soon as that would be open, why, they could file on it. You got six months. If you got any building on it, nobody else can move on. Well, they never went back. Dad rode down to Willow City one time. He had a pony then and he noticed there was some folks livin' in the sod house. He never even stopped to talk to 'em because he decided that he couldn't have a homestead there, you know, and 18 miles farther another 2 quarters. You could do it today, but you

couldn't do it then, you know. So he filed a homestead right there next to the tree claim and joined them and then that's where we lived practically all the years after we left the sod house, you know, on the preemption. And lived there on the homestead 'til we moved into town here.

LENA: But then we had a large house and large buildings and everything.

ERNEST: Ya. Modern home there, you know.

LENA: Yes, we had our own house there.

BOB: Ya. Where did your folks go to get supplies before the railroad came up here in 1886?

ERNEST: Well, at Dunseith. They'd haul it from Devils Lake.

BOB: Oh, there was a Dunseith at that time?

ERNEST: Oh, yes. When dad come up here to look for the land, he headed for Dunseith. There was an old.... Well, I guess, there was a store. He had the hotel. Gilbert's Hotel was there for many years. Dunseith tried to preserve it, you know. I and some other guys of my age tried to keep that buildin', you know, for a recreation buildin' there, but then we didn't know where t' put it. We talked about movin' it out to the highway there, Dale's Corner, but that wouldn't do either. You couldn't get nobody to take care of it there and they talked about movin' it to the Peace Gardens and that didn't work out so good either. It wasn't enough of us interested in it. So finally, we let them tear it down here a couple o' years ago. A log house. Big log house.

BOB: It was a log hotel?

ERNEST: Yes. Oak logs, you know. Must o' stood there for 80 years.

BOB: Gee.

ERNEST: Y-yes. Ya, they finally signed.... Greene here told 'em they might as well tear it down. They can't.... You know, they had t' have a keeper there in that house almost. Somebody would take and.... It's alright in a big town like Rugby, they can change off. Some of 'em take care of it every day for keeps, you know. Some retired people, you know, just donate their time, but you couldn't hardly keep anything otherwise.

BOB: Was Dunseith quite a town then or a bigger town than it is now?

ERNEST: No. Just a little town.

BOB: Oh.

ERNEST: A store. Two stores sometimes. Grocery stores. And then....

LENA: Had a bank.

ERNEST: Well, no, they didn't have a bank 'til later years 'til the railroad come through. They had a bank and they bust it, you know, and they had a little money in it. Go broke and so on. Dad and mother lost $100 in the bank in the early days. Ya.

BOB: Oh? Where did your dad haul his grain then before the railroad.

ERNEST: At Willow City. See, he didn't have hardly any grain t' haul 'til '86 and then he hauled it to Willow City.

BOB: Oh, but before the railroad came, he didn't have any really much to haul?

ERNEST: Not much t' haul. They had an awful big crop in '95. Dad raised 3,000 bushels o' grain that year with the two oxen and then he had to haul that grain t' Willow City. Well, then he decided he had t' buy horses and he could well buy a team then, you know. When he'd sell the grain, he'd have money. So he knewed the lumber man in Willow City and he said, "You can come and build yourself a bin that'll hold about 1,000 bushels right in my lumberyard and then you haul that full. And then we'll talk to the elevator men so that when you load it out of the bin, you can drive by the teams." See, there was a string o' teams then, about 20 of dem waitin' to get unloaded. So then they made arrangements that he could pull in everytime he had it full. Well, he filled that bin full three times he said just about and he paid all his debts and he had lots of 'em because they didn't have really a crop, you know, for many years. He dried out and froze out and hailed out. And then there was this big crop in '95. He hauled the grain, sold it, got $.62 a bushel for it, and he bought that team o' horses and more stuff for in the house too. So they got started. After that it went better and then we kids were gettin' bigger. We could help a little, you know. Anyway, [redacted] the older ones. I was just a kid then; I

was the smallest one. Then things started pickin' up, but they had pretty hard sledin' before that. Cows then and likes of that. We didn't have cows before. Chickens and so on. Course, dad was a good hunter. Had [redacted] all the meat we needed and some of the neighbors too. We'd give them meat.

BOB: Were there quite a few deer in this country then?

ERNEST: Not so many then but there was some antelope. He only shot one deer in the mountains.

LENA: Course, they had t' go quite a ways when they went hunting. They weren't close around.

ERNEST: He had a pony then, see, and he go down half ways to Rugby to hunt. He'd go away for a week and hunt. He knew the [redacted] settlers all around between home and Rugby and he'd go stay wit' dem, you know.

LENA: Well, I know we had a lot o' meat always. Good meat.

ERNEST: Big cranes. He'd shoot some big cranes.

BOB: Using that gun that he got from Prince Herman, I 'spose, huh?

ERNEST: Ya. Indians. Sometimes he'd meet a bunch o' Indians he said and they wanted t' look at that gun. And he said he always took the shells out before he'd let 'em look it over.

STANDARD RECORDER 635-765

ERNEST: Well, dad bought a broadcast seeder after that, you know. They had that guy seedin' for the first year by hand and then he seeded with the seeder. See, you'd broadcast it and then you'd harrow it in. Harrow it until it was covered. And the neighbor he said he thought he could sow just as good by hand and he sowed his by hand, but dad said it was too thin. So the next year the neighbor used his seeder, too, see. But then the trouble was, you know, the geese in the spring would come and eat the crop off. The seed. See, they couldn't harrow it so good that the kernals were all underground and then them big flocks o' geese would.... Dad would have t' get up in the daylight in the mornin' and shoot across the field. Scatter them geese away until the grain got started. Mother had so many geese salted down already that she said, "Don't bring any more. Don't bring anymore. We got no place to put it." "Well," he says, "I'll try not to."

So one [redacted] morning he had to get out again and scatter 'em with the rifle and he knocked three big bull geese. Well, he couldn't leave 'em lay. He carried 'em home and then they found somethin' when they salted that meat down. Ya, they had a lot o' meat them years.

BOB: Who owned the threshing machine that they used there?

ERNEST: Well, it was a guy livin' in Corey Township by the name of Catour. He had the threshin' machine and they'd drive it by horse power.

BOB: Oh, it was a horse power rig?

ERNEST: With horse power. Like, you maybe seen those old time feed grinders?

BOB: Ya.

ERNEST: The horse goes around. They used to put four horses on it and their was a seat on it. One person would sit on there and drive the horses, see? Go around and around and around. And then they had a small seperator. There was no blower on it.

BOB: They had to drag the straw away.

ERNEST: See, they had t' drag it away. Ya. And when they want t' stack it, why, they'd have to do it by hand. A couple o' guys would go in there and stack it. That was small. Ya. And there was a big governer on the feeder. See, if the horses would slow down a little, the governer balls would keep that to a certain extent goin' so they'd keep the right motion.

BOB: O-oh.

ERNEST: When they threshed for dad there one time, you know, them governor balls broke off and, you know, they didn't have no drill that they could drill iron wit' in dem days so they couldn't drill that out o' there t' put in another pin. So they sent a man on horseback to Devils Lake. There was another seperator settin' there, an old, just like they had so they sent a man on horseback. He went down on one day and come back the next with a new governer ball. They screwed that in and went threshin' again.

BOB: Oh?

ERNEST: I still got that governer ball.

BOB: Is that right?

ERNEST: It laid around that farm many years. I picked it up and brought it int' town. I knowed the history of it.

BOB: Ya. It must o' been quite a job to cook for all the men on the threshin' crew?

LENA: Ya, it was. Actually, it was for years before they had cookcars. Mother was a good cook. She sometimes made meals for an awful lot o' men.

BOB: Ya. Would women get together and help each other cook when threshers would come to the farm?

LENA: Well, sometimes they would. Some would. I don't know whether mother ever had help.

ERNEST: I don't know.

LENA: I don't remember but, I know, mother went out and helped.

ERNEST: Yes, she helped out. Yes.

BOB: She didn't buy much food in those days either, I don't suppose? Most of it was flour?

LENA: Well, they went to town once a week.

BOB: Oh, they did.

LENA: Ya. I know, we had a pony and a cart. My mother and my sister.... She's older than I. They'd go t' Dunseith once a week.... But, you know, they had big portions then. Like prunes and all that stuff you'd get big bags and they'd have enough for a week. And flour. They had to bake their own bread for the threshing crew. Ya, I know, she did all that. She worked hard.

ERNEST: Ya, I know, one time we didn't [redacted] the machine, but somehow or another they got in wrangle with a neighbor and so they pulled by him. The guy come down here and said, "We'll be here this forenoon threshin' for ya." "Well," mother said, "we have to go to Dunseith first and get some groceries." "Oh, ya, well, you got all forenoon," the guy said. So mother and my sister....

LENA: They had quite a few on the rig, didn't they?

EARNEST: [redacted] Oh, yes. See, then they had bundle teams already at that times. For

many years it was stack threshing.

BOB: Oh, they'd stack it first.

ERNEST: Yes, they'd stack the grain in the fall.

LENA: In the fall.

ERNEST: See, the farmers all stacked their grain. Four stacks in a settin' so they could pull through either way where the wind came from. See, and they'd pull that seperator right in there.

BOB: Then just put the feeder right next to the stack, huh?

ERNEST: See, they'd build them so close that the feeder would be right in there and they could pitch from two stacks.

BOB: Oh.

ERNEST: And when them two stacks were gone, they'd pull it up a little, see. Ya, it was stack threshin' for many years.

SIDE II

STANDARD RECORDER 046-270

BOB: Was there a doctor in Omemee or in Willow City or in Dunseith?

ERNEST: Willow City had the doctor.

LENA: Doctor Anderson. Wasn't it?

ERNEST: Ya. And Doctor Thing(?) was an old doctor there. Ya. T'ing was there for many years and then a fella by the name o' Doc Henderson come later. Course, people didn't go very often for a doctor. There were women.... Would be awful good. Them old ladies were good, you know, and they had dem old time remedies. They'd get by.

LENA: Some of dem old ladies were at certain times just as good as a nurse. Practically like the doctors are now.

ERNEST: Ya.

BOB: Do you remember any of the remedies they would have?

LENA: They were homemade.

BOB: Mustard plasters or anything like that?

LENA: Ya. And an old lady she'd take fat meat and put that on with the sore and bandage that up. What else did I? Oh. Bread. Some would take a slice o' bread and soak that in, I beleive, milk and put that on the sore

and bandage that up.

BOB: Oh?

ERNEST: Ya, when I was a kid, I had a big boil back o' my neck. Mother didn't know what it was and what caused it, but she says that Mrs. Austet.... That was the old Norwegian lady livin' north of us a mile. "She'll be down Sunday tommorrow." She come and then she told to look at the back of my neck. I didn't like it. "Oh," she said, "I'll fix that." A Norwegian. So she made kind of a dough about the size of a half o' dollar. I don't know what she made it. She went in the kitchen and made it, put it on the back of my neck and wrapped it up around my neck. She said, "Oh, that might be busted by tommorrow and you make another one and put it on." Told mother how to make it. You bet, the next day [redacted] it was busted, drawn out, and then she put on another one. I guess, another one and pretty soon it was healed up.

BOB: Oh?

ERNEST: All that was to it. Now, here about ten years ago my sister got one of those carbuncles, I think, they call it and she was here in the hospital in Bottineau and spent $700 gettin' that carbuncle taken care of.

BOB: Ya.

ERNEST: By this Doctor Nelson.

LENA: Ya, see, I had a infection afterwards in my neck.

BOB: Oh? Ya.

LENA: And I 'spose, that old lady could o' fixed that up.

BOB: And then you wouldn't of had to go to a hospital and get exposed to all those other germs either.

LENA: Ya.

BOB: Were there any midwives in that area?

LENA: Yes. Some of those old ladies were.

BOB: Oh? Do you remember any of the names of those people?

LENA: Well, I think, was named Mrs. Cleveland if I ain't mistaken. I think, she was one.

ERNEST: And Mrs. Louis Jenson.

LENA: She too?

ERNEST: You betcha.

LENA: And then down south here south of Overly there was some Johnsons.

ERNEST: And Mrs. Farmore.

LENA: Oh, Mrs. Farmore too. Ya. Those were some o-old Norwegians. Ya.

BOB: Had they had any kind o' training or had they just gone out and delivered babies from experience?

LENA: I don't know. I wonder if they didn't work with some others in Norway? See, I think, they must o' had a little experience, I think, and that's how they kept on doing it.

ERNEST: Then when they got here, it was a "have to".

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: See? They had t' help their neighbor.

BOB: Ya.

LENA: I know, they didn't have the real education.

ERNEST: So they worked up on it pretty good.

BOB: Ya, but they even kept on delivering babies after there were doctors around?

ERNEST; LENA: Ya, yes, yes.

ERNEST: That's true.

BOB: What would they do? Come to the house and stay for a couple o' days?

LENA: They'd come to the homes where the mothers were.

BOB: Ya. I think, that was kind of a good thing. I wish there'd be some of those today.

LENA: You do?

BOB: Well, I think, it would be alright.

ERNEST: Yes.

LENA: That's true. I remember when Ernest was born. Mother was at home so that's why I know they come to the house. Ya. And my other brother was a little guy. I had to sit by the stove and had him wrapped up. See, there was two years between the two. And I had to rock the baby and

I know what was goin' on in the bedroom. Then,I know, they were comin' to the houses. That's why I know.

BOB: Well, now, you know, I just had a little boy about a month ago. Another one. Took her to the hospital and cost about $700.

LENA: N-no.

BOB: Ya, sure.

LENA: W-well.

BOB: Ya. I 'spose, in those days a midwife would do it for maybe $5 or maybe a chicken, huh?

LENA: No, I don't think they charged. I don't think they charged.

BOB: No?

ERNEST: They helped one another.

LENA: I think, they helped one another. Then, you see, those that couldn't help in those cases they'd do somethin' else for that. When a midwife would need help for some cookin' or somethin', they'd work in the kitchen.

ERNEST: Or else when they were threshin' or when somebody was sick there.

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: Go and sit with 'em, you know. It was just like one family.the early settlers. There was one on every quarter section o' land and then, you know, they were pretty close together. A woman would hear somethin' she'd just take her coat and run across. They wouldn't stop for the ox team to get hitched up. Oh, no.

LENA: Well, they didn't have all the expensive stuff they have today so they were satisfied. That was so. They were thankful.

BOB: Some people say those were "the good old days" and some people say they were "awfully hard times". What do you think of those days?

LENA: Well, I think, it was both.

ERNEST: It was hard times for the women folks. They were t' home with the kids. The men would go visiting and playing Pedro if they didn't hunt. Take their gun and go hunting and then they'd land at someplace where there'd be other one or two dropped in and then they'd have a game o' end up playin' cards and then they'd go home again, but the women were there with the kids. Sick kids, you know?

Had t' doctor themselves and they had a hard life. Awful hard life.

LENA: And the women had to look after their cattle, and....

ERNEST: But the men, I think, they had a better life than they have today.

LENA: Huh?

ERNEST: Some of 'em, you know, would go to town and drink alcohol and like t' drink, you know.

BOB: Ya.

LENA: I never heard mother complain. I can say that but, I know, she worked awful hard.

ERNEST: All the women did.

LENA: Ya. All the women did.

ERNEST: But they didn't complain like they do nowadays.

LENA: No.

ERNEST: They just seemed to me they figured they had to do that.

LENA: You know what they had to do the first years. The washing and water carrying and most women had to chop the wood. The men would haul the wood, but they had t' chop the wood. Well, a lot o' that was women work and that was hard work. I didn't mean it was so awful. But when we were old enough to help, we didn't know any better. We thought it was fun.

BOB: What did you burn for fuel there in the stoves, in the cookstoves, and so forth? You haul wood or....

ERNEST: Wood.

LENA: Wood. Yes.

ERNEST: From the mountains. That's why they made such a rush out here from the valley. They could get three quarters for nothin'. All kinds o' wood for nothin' from the mountains and a lot o' hay in the country. That's what settled their country so quick around Willow City and Dunseith and a-round there. On account of those mountains. They could get their wood. And then after awhile they hauled logs down and built log houses and log barns, you know. Some of 'em that had horses or oxen they'd haul the logs from the mountains and build log houses right away. Dad didn't have no

oxen, you know.

ERNEST: He had the oxen before and then he got the horse.

LENA: Oh, I remember that horse so well.

ERNEST: Ya.

BOB: One horse?

LENA: One horse and not too big o' one. He used it for horseback t' go everywhere.

ERNEST: A chestnut. And he had t' have a pony. And o' course, he belonged to the militia in Dunseith. You know, they had a outpost there on account of the Indians. Calvary.

BOB: Is that right?

ERNEST: Oh, yes. Yes, for many years they had that outpost dere. Bottineau had infantry here and so did St. Johns over there and the infantry put the calvary there. See, if there'd be a uproar from the Indians here on this end o' the mountains, the calvary could get here and the same way the calvary could get to St. Johns if they had to. Ya, the outpost was there.... We call it National Guard now.

BOB: Ya. Did he hitch that horse up with the oxen did you say?

ERNEST: Yes.

BOB: And then he'd plow with one horse and two oxen all put together?

ERNEST: Well, on the binder.

BOB: Oh.

ERNEST: When he bought the binder, you see, there was a three horse binder so he put the two oxen and the horse on the binder, but the oxen was so slow. I heard the fella. I know him. He said, "The oxen was so slow turnin' at the corners that it made the horse mad and she'd kick on the pole." Ya. "But otherwise," he said, "it worked fine." Oh, that was a good good little horse. It was a chestnut. Morgano.

LENA: In fact, I don't think they had a buggy. They had a cart.

ERNEST: Ya, dad had a cart.

LENA: And I know, my mother and sister would drive to Dunseith to get groceries wit' the cart.

ERNEST: Load food in the cart. Ya.

BOB: That must o' been an all purpose horse. You'd use him on the machinery and you'd use on the cart and you'd ride him?

LENA: Oh, yes. I know, that horse was cherished.

ERNEST: Ya. Good horse.

BOB: What did people do for entertainment in the early days when you were kids or when you were young people?

LENA: Well, the women would visit a lot. They'd go to the neighbors. Two or three would meet at the neighbors. They didn't run together like they do in town here, but they had t' go just a little distance. They'd visit and they'd generally knit or crochet while they were talkin' and then the men would be there, too, and play cards.

ERNEST: They'd play cards. They used to play a game o' Pedro.

BOB: Now, what was that?

ERNEST: High, Low, Game, and a Jack.

LENA: Mother could play that too.

~~ERNEST: Oh, yes, the women played Cribbige and they played cards too.~~

~~LENA: Yes.~~

ERNEST: Norwegian ladies played cards too.

LENA: Yes.

ERNEST: Oh, yes. Then you'd bid. You could bid for 14, you know. If you had a Ace and the 7 low, you could bid [redacted] and then you'd figure your partner had a Pedro, see, then you had your 7 [redacted]. Wouldn't get set.

BOB: Oh, it was a lot like Whist then?

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: Yes.

LENA: But they had a lot o' fun, I remember, when they played that.

ERNEST: Ya, they used to play that Pedro.

BOB: How about dances? Were there barn dances or house parties.

LENA: Not when we were small, I don't think.

ERNEST: But there were house parties.

LENA: They had birt'day parties sometimes for kids, you know; but, otherwise, they didn't have no house dances. No parties to dance in the houses that I remember.

ERNEST: No, but some of 'em had bigger houses, you know. They'd build log houses, one-room [redacted] houses, and then they'd have parties. Hovelands and Clevelands. They always had parties and Swingens. Peter Swingens.

LENA: They had some at Peter Swingens, didn't they?

ERNEST: Yes, they did. Then they had fiddlers, you know?

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: Some of 'em would play by ear and play mighty good too. Yes, they had house parties.

LENA: Well, your kids weren't attending those parties very much.

ERNEST: Course, we didn't get t' go.

LENA: No.

BOB: But the kids would have to come with their parents, wouldn't they, I suppose, because they wouldn't get a babysitter.

LENA: Ya, ya, that's true.

ERNEST: The whole family would go. Yes. Young folks were dancin' when....

LENA: Oh, yes, I remember when they had it over at Clevelands. I was tellin' you about that fella

ERNEST: Ya. And I remember, when we moved over to the homestead, we had a log house there and two rooms and a little upstairs on it so they had a party. They come over and they had that party and they danced t' beat everything and then in the smaller room, the bedroom, the mens were playin' cards. They were goin' to play Pedro. Course, they didn't have two lamps so they took the lantern and they drove a nail in the joints and they stepped on the table and hung the lantern up there above the table and the men were playing cards. Oh, yes. I was a little kid.

LENA: Oh, they were so happy just like they'd be today.

ERNEST: O-oh, they had a big time. Big time. And then after awhile they had lunch and then they went home. Got their horses hooked up and went home. That was the surprise party when the folks moved in the....

LENA: And then they weren't all families. There were a lot o' bachlors around there.

BOB: I 'spose.

LENA: Oh, ya, there were a lot o' bachlors around there.

ERNEST: Homesteaders.

LENA: And families with grown-up girls, you know, and they could have little parties.

ERNEST: Ya, I remember. Ale was the one that hung the lantern up there. Oh, I can remember quite a ways back.

BOB: Ya, I was goin' to say that you two really have good memories.

ERNEST: Yes, sir. And I always kind o' took interest, you know, in old things. I and some of my friends. They're gone now. Well, they're passed out, but we'd talk about old times.

LENA: We have quite a collection of antiques down in our basement.

BOB: Ya, I saw that in the paper. Well, it sounds like all the nationalities must o' gotten along pretty well together.

ERNEST: Very good.

LENA: Yes.

BOB: Like the Norwegians and your folks.

LENA: There were Swedes and Norwegians and Germans.

ERNEST: Few French.

LENA: And Irish. There were a few Irish.

ERNEST: That didn't matter.

LENA: No, I mean, that was mixed. Hughes were Irish weren't they?

ERNEST: Ya.

LENA: And Fassets.

BOB: They were too busy making a living and keep[redacted] body and soul together to worry about what country they came from, huh?

LENA: Isn't it [redacted] really funny. When they come from an older country, most of 'em all did, and come into the West here where they had to start over again and still be happy over it?

BOB: Ya.

EARNEST: Well, they were ambitious.

LENA: Ya.

ERNEST: Them that weren't ambitious didn't come. I think, that's about the idea.

BOB: Ya. How about World War I did any of the people, oh, make fun of the German people or anything like that when the United States went to war against Germany.

ERNEST: No, not that I know of. No. Some of 'em sympathized with 'em. They understood.

BOB: It sounds like you really had a nice community there? Nice bunch o' people.

ERNEST: Very good community.