

This interview with J. Wade Tennis took place at his residence on August 31, 1978. The interviewer was John Brennan.

JB: Mr. Wade, what year were you born in?

JT: 1892.

JB: And where were you born?

JT: A mile and a quarter west of here.

JB: In Mill Creek?

JT: In Mill Creek...Mill Creek route.

JB: Were you born at home?

JT: Yes.

JB: Was there a doctor there? A midwife?

JB: A doctor and. . . I don't know. Yeah we had a doctor, but about a midwife... I don't know.

JB: Did your parents come from Mill Creek?

JT: Yes. Well around Mill Creek.

JB: What did your father do?

JT: Mail man. Twenty-seven years.

JB: Was he Mill Creek's first mail man?

JT: He was Mill Creek's first mail man. Drove a horse and buggy twenty-seven years. Not the same horse and baggy though. I don't know how many, buggies he wore out.

JB: How many horses did he wear out?

JT: He had fourteen head. And they could drive them all on the route.

JB: Did you have a story about one horse of his?

JT: Yeah. Old Jack. Dad figured up one time how far he'd driven him, and what he figured ...anyway, twenty-five thousand miles. He said that's once around the world. And one summer dad says, I'm gonna give Jack, Old Jack, he called him, a months vacation, and he died that, Oh, inside of a month. Inactivity...of course he was used to taking that old mail route every day. Dad

would start out in the morning, and Old Jack would pull up to a mail box, and stop, and as soon as he heard dad shut the lid down, he took off. box, and stop, and as soon as he heard dad shut the lid down, he took off. He'd walk away, and then trot. Thirty some miles around the route. And they had about a hundred patrons. I think ...maybe more. Of course there wasn't as many people living along the route as there is now. All these new houses going up and families moving in.

JB: What year did he retire from mail carrying?

JT: 1930.

JB: Was it a farm you grew up on?

JT: Oh yeah. Why we lived in Valparaiso, and Galien, Michigan first, then Valparaiso. Then we moved tofrom Valparaiso back on the farm. We had a Polish couple living on the farm, and they bought a bigger farm, so we had to come back and take the farm over. And dad he stayed in school there for, till the term was out. Then he came back on the farm. We farmed until dad got the mail route. I think it was in nineteen-four when dad first was on the mail route.

JB: Do you remember the turn of the century?

JT: Yes.

JB: What was it like? Were there celebrations?

JT: Well, we'd go to Fourth of July celebrations.

JB: What were they like?

JT: Fire-works. Then we'd go to baseball games on Sunday, here in Mill Creek.

JB: How was the town different then?

JT: There wasn't as many houses.

JB: Did your mother do the shopping in town here?

JT: Well, we had two stores: one down here, and then Collum brothers across the street. There was two taverns in town ...saloons in then days. And a dance hall.

JB: Do you remember anything about the tavern?

JT: Well, I was too young to go in then. A lot of the fellas seemed to enjoy it.

JB: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

JT: I had three brothers and four sisters, three sisters.

JB: What did you do with your free time?

JT: Well, when we wasn't working on the farm-Sundays, why we'd play croquet, play ball, or pitch horseshoes, go fishing, go to the neighbors and play hide and go seek. Like kids games you know.

JB: Did you go to school in Mill Creek?

JT: Right. I went to the Woodburn school, a mile and a quarter West of Mill Creek, for four years. After the four years was over, they'd go to high school here in Mill Creek, down here where the church stands. They had eleven grades there. I started in Mill Creek school in the fifth grade. I went there until I was in the eleventh. I was the oldest one at home, so I had to miss quite a bit of school. Had to do the farming, the chores. Brothers and sisters, they went to school.

JB: What were some of your farm chores?

JT: Just general farm work: plowed dragged, milked, planted corn, oats, and wheat.

JB: What was involved in planting?

JT: Well, we'd plow.

JB: Behind a horse?

JT: Yes...two of them. Sometimes we had three head on a walking plow.

JB: What is a walking plow?

JT: One that you have to walk behind, plow one furrow.

JB: Could you describe that?

JT: Them handles....I was so short I had to hold my hands up like this, to hang onto the handles.

JB: What were some of your other jobs on the farm?

JT: Oh, odd Jobs. Cut wood.

JB: Was your mother kept busy.

JT: I think she was.

JB: What were some of her jobs?

JT: Her housework.

JB: Did she can the crops?

JT: Well, us kids planted most of it. After we got big enough to drive a team.

JB: When you were a boy, you say there were two stores in town?

JT: There was the Collum Brothers and Melvin Miller. Remember?

JB: Were they grocery stores?

JT: Grocery and ...General stores. Collum brothers sold everything: farm machinery, clothing groceries. Everything that was sellable. It was the same way with Melvin Miller: farm machinery...

JB: When you were a boy, were there social gatherings?

JT: They had what they called the old horseshoe gang. They'd meet every Sunday. Oh, there'd be twenty-five, thirty, thirty-five, forty, fifty people there see. You'd have a carry-in dinner. Then the men would get out in the afternoon and pitch horseshoes.

JB: What did the children do while they were playing horseshoes?

JT : Oh, running around, getting into mischief. (laughter) Like kids do. The old horse and buggy days...in them days.

JB: Would you and your friends and brothers run around the countryside?

JT: Yes, well, we had cattle out in the pasture in the day time. Some of them at night, cause we didn't have room for all of them in the barn. Then the cows had a path, and the old cows would take that path. We had one.... You see a herd of cows has got a leader, and they'd call her the 'old bell cow', cause they got a bell on them. Did you ever see a cow bell?

JB: Yes.

JT: Well then, the lead cow always had a cow bell on. We'd go out to the woods, and the cattle would be out there, and we could tell by the sound where they were at with that cow bell ringing. We'd call then, and they'd come. They'd get in that path one behind the other. We'd have a string from here to the post office.

JB: Did you get down to the lakes and down to the Kankakee at all?

JT: Yeah, we'd do a lot of fishing.

JB: Could you describe what that was like in the early nineteen hundreds?

JT: Well, it's just a lake.

JB: Was it different then than it is now?

JT: Oh yes. There wasn't but very few houses around the lake. Now it looks like a city. It was mostly all farmland around the lake. Smith and Company owned the lakes, and the land around it. They put up ice there in wintertime. And then they shipped it to Chicago in box cars in the summer- time...by rail. That was the Swift and Company.

JB: Could you describe what your home life was like?

JT: Well, we got up at daybreak, and worked til dark.

JB: How were the meals?

JT: Wonderful meals. All home cooked. Regular farm meals. We'd eat as much at breakfast as dinner. There was no difference cause we all worked, see, and we had to eat.

JB: Could you describe your farm house?

JT: That I lived in?

JB: Yes.

JT: I was born in: there was a kitchen, and we used the kitchen as a dining room until we had company, then we had the dining room. Let's see there was one two three, three bedrooms upstairs, two bedrooms down. And we had a cellar and that's where we stored our winter supply of food. We had a big parlor...piano in it.

JB: How did you heat the house in the winter time?

JT: Coal and wood. Wood stoves.

JB: Were there wood stoves in every room?

JT: Well we had three wood stoves down on the main floor, one in the kitchen, one in the dining room, and one in the parlor. Then we had a stove upstairs, sheet metal, to heat the upstairs in the winter time. The three bedrooms.

JB: When you cut the wood, how would you cut it?

JT: Cross cut saw, axe.

JB: That must have involved a lot of cutting in the autumn.

JT: Oh boy, we used a lot of wood. We'd go up and cut the trees down, and of what we could use as fence posts ...had to build our fence with barb wire, a woven wire. Then the tops of the trees

we put into firewood. Then we finally got a coal stove, a base burner, and that would burn hard coal. Then we used that for the parlor.

JB: What kind of wood would you cut?

JT: Oak, hickory ...just what grows around here.

JB: Was there cedar and pine in the area?

JT: Very little pine. Only what the farmers planted along the orchard, or someplace ...but none grew in the woods.

JB: When you were a boy, would you take trips into LaPorte and Michigan City?

JT: Well, we didn't get to Michigan City too much. It was too far to drive. It'd take us an hour to get from the farm to town. Ten miles. We'd do our shopping ...what we didn't do here in Mill Creek.

JB: Would you take trips into LaPorte with your parents and brothers?

JT: Well, sometimes we'd all go, and then sometimes about half of them. The others stayed home and worked. Mother and dad usually went to town to buy the groceries, and us kids would say, "Bring us home some candy...or gum or something." Like kids want, you know? They always brought us home a treat. And they'd say, "When we get home we want this work done, and that work done, or you don't get anything." And they'd buy our clothes.

JB: What kind of clothes would you wear?

JT: Oh, dungarees, overalls, shorts and shoes, socks.

JB: How about Sunday clothes?

JT: What?

JB: When you went to church on Sunday, would you wear different clothes?

JT: We went to Sunday school as kids, yeah. We had Sunday clothes. If we went anywhere on Sunday, we'd dress up. Soon as we'd got home, "Well kids, change clothes, and go to work." Chores.

JB: Did you ever hear of any stories told about the Kankakee?

JT: Well, we used to fish in it.

JB: Did the old-timers tell any stories about it?

JT: Yes. There are some old-timers around here but ...I forgot most of them.

Here's a picture we had taken in Valparaiso: my two brothers and I. I'm over here. That's my brother Alan, and that's my brother Joe. We was the champion hoop rollers of Valparaiso.

JB: How was hoop rolling played?

JT: Just take a band off of a cracker barrel, or sugar barrel; get a stick about that long. (indicates length)

JB: About two feet.

JT: Yea ...about that. Get out on the sidewalk and keep on hitting it and a rolling it.

JB: And as long as you could keep it rolling, that was the object of it?

JT: Yes. Alan, my brother in the middle there, he's holding a dog. His name was Dewey. Someone poisoned him and killed him.

JB: Is there a story about your grandfather, and a strong man that came through in a vaudeville show?

JT: My grandfather was killed by the Indians, on my father's side. He was a fur trader. He traded and bought furs for the Indians. The Indians, they think, killed him, cause he had a pal...Let's see, what was his name? Oh, Pattee. His last name was Pattee. They traded with the Indians. They'd buy the furs, and then in the spring they'd bring them down river.

JB: What river was it?

JT: Sioux River in Iowa. The day he was killed, my grandfather, he met a pal of his on the riverbank. And Pattee was my grandfather's trapping mate. He said, "I'll just get out and walk across..." There was a big bend in the river. He said, "I'll just get out and walk across and you can pick me up on the other side of the bend." Well Pattee, he started to walk away, and he got over there on the other bank and waited. Pretty soon he heard two shots. Well he thought they shot at some ducks or something. So he waited and waited and waited, and the boat never come down. He was in canoe. They had a boat load of furs, and he come back, he saw the canoe on the other side of the river, upside down. He swam across the river, the Sioux, and he went over, and the boat was empty, upside down. He seen where the Indians had camped on the river bank the night before. When they shot my granddad, they must have both fell out of the boat, because that was in April. I don't know, we got the date around here someplace. And then by golly a surveyor found him in a bunch of driftwood on the river bank. And the only way they identified my grandfather--they never found his friend- the only way they identified my grandfather was by, why, he had a peg leg, and that was still on him. He had a 44 barrel and cap pistol in his belt. That was in the holster yet. And the surveyors kept that...well they buried my grandfather on the bank of the Sioux River. I forget between what towns. But he was pretty badly de-composed, you know. In the river April til November. And the surveyors took his pistol, one of them. The

surveyors were out surveying a tract of land. The surveyors said it come noontime. Now the boss of the outfit said, "Now us got some land to survey over here." He says, "I'll run over, trot over and I'll meet you in camp for dinner." So, he did that. And he was going along and he heard something go by him. And the horse heard it. Pretty soon he heard another one. It was an Indian crouched down in the underbrush, shooting at the surveyor with a bow and arrow. Well this surveyor looked around and he seen him crouched down in the bushes, see, he was ready to put in another arrow. But he just pulled that 44 colt and emptied it right into that Indian. He said that was a poor thing to do, after he got back into camp, cause he said there mighta been more than one of them. That Indian had six bullets in his chest, while he was crouched down. It was an old .44 Colt, ball and cap. That was a big one. I wish we'd have brought it home so we'd have seen it.

(Mrs. Tennis): Our daughter has it now.

JT: We went out to Washington D.C. I had an uncle, that was up in Alaska, White Horse, and he died up there. He was a photographer. He ran a little store. He didn't do too much mining. I don't know why.

JB: Did you ever hear any ghost stories as a boy?

JT: Well there's a place in Iowa, my dad said, that there was an object come every night that go up and down that road. And one fella said, "I don't believe it." He says, "I'm just going to wait in town til about that time, and then I'm gonna go out, go home." Well, he did. It was after dark. Then all at once his horse started to shy side of the road. He looked and here was an object floating right along the air with him. He trotted the horse up, and that thing stayed right there. He put that horse on a dead run...and that object stayed with him. Finally he slowed the horse down. He said, "Hello there." He said, that quick, somethin passed him. He said he felt the wind of it. Well, he says, "I did put the spurs to my horse then." He said, "I got out of there." And they never knew what it was. He said it pretty near knocked him off the saddle when it went past him. It was a big swish.

JB: Are there any stories like that in the Mill Creek area?

JT: I don't know. I should of told Ernie about it. And then there was a fellow that took a load of grain to town one day, and he didn't get home until...early evening part. And his team commenced to pull just to beat heck on the way home. He said they just broke out in a sweat. He said that was this place where this object was. He said he got out of his wagon, shook the wheels; the wheels was loose. He said his team was sweating just like it was out in harvest field. He said all at once the team pretty near fell down. And that's when that object, or whatever it was, broke loose of it. He said the wheels was loose, he'd greased them that morning when he went to-town; they wasn't sliding.

JB: Were there any places that your parents forbid you to go as a boy?

JT: Oh yeah...several places like that, I guess. But people would go there anyway, just to see what they could see. Out of curiosity. I don't think there was any ghosts around here, that we heard of.

(Mrs. Tennis): Don't you remember you told me that that horse was in the road, when Winters came home. That was around Mill Creek.

JT: Oh. That was a wild place ...from here, across the street. We had neighbors that ran the Swift and Company plant there at Fish Lake. And they stopped out in front one night. There was another on driving the car ...and like neighbors, we'd go out and talk. They started away and we went into the house. Pretty soon Winters come back, he says, called out, he says, "Hey Gabe, you got a white horse?" Dad says, "No. I haven't no white horse." "Well." He said, "There's an object standing right in the middle of the road. That was, oh, maybe from here to across the street, from our barnyard. He says, "We got just about to it..." and he said, "it went just about straight up in the air." They went right up there to the top of the hill, where there was a little wider road, and turned around, come back, and told dad about what happened. He said, "Well, maybe that's a warning. We're not going to go to town tonight." And that was the last warning. We're not going to go to town tonight." And that was the last time I ever heard of anything like that.

JB: Were you free to run anywhere when you then you were a child?

JT: Oh, we could go any place. Over at Fish Lake, we'd get up on top of those ice houses.

JB: Did you ever go into Mill Creek?

JT: Yes. About every other night ...just to be going some place. Bare- footed. Dirt roads. And we'd hear a rattlesnake rattling, so we'd stop and listen what side of the road he was on. Then we'd go by on the other side.

JB: What did you do when you went into town?

JT: What kids would do: play games.

JB: What were your holidays like as a child?

JT: Wonderful. We always had plenty to eat. Got plenty of gifts. They was like what you'd get for kids, you know, them days. Course today a kid's gotta have a new car for Christmas. Young kids.

JB: What would some of the gifts be?

JT: Oh we got clothing: mittens, shoes...candy and oranges, fruit, bananas.

JB: Any toys?

JT: Yes. We'd get toys.

JB: What kind of toys would they be?

JT: Oh, there'd be whistling tops. And then we used to get smaller things: hand sleds, wooden- usually make them.

JB: How would you make a hand sled?

JT: We'd just get a couple of boards, six inches wide, cut them open for runners. And then nail cross pieces on them. Then we'd put a top on them. Drill holes in the ends of the runners, put ropes in there and pull them. Slide down hills. There was a hill right back of our barn. We'd go up there on that and then slide down, and then have to climb back up. Slide again.

JB: What else did you do in the winter time?

JT: Well, we couldn't do too much. We had more bad storms than they have now. Mostly work.

JB: What work would there be in the winter time?

JT: Chores. We'd cut wood. Take the teams and sled, box on them, and bring home a load of wood ...rack it up.

JB: Was there a doctor here in the early nineteen hundreds?

JT: There wasn't no local doctor here.

(Mrs. Tennis): Walkenshaw.

JT: Walkenshaw in Stillwell. He saved me a few times with pneumonia.

JB: Do you remember going to the dentist?

JT: No. There was no dentist.

JB: Was your father one of the charter members of the farm Bureau?

JT: Yes. The Farm Bureau.

JB: What was that exactly?

JT: That was-(to Mrs. Tennis) You can tell him more about that, of course, you've got an office in it.

(Mrs. Tennis): It's a farmers' organization. They, have it today. His father was a charter member.

JT: A charter member of it.

JB: What are some of their activities?

(Mrs. Tennis): Well, you usually get together and you find out prices of things. Once a year you have a big picnic. Every month they had a meeting, just like we do now. Discuss farming, and prices.

JB: Is it like a co-operative?

Mrs. Tennis: Yes.

JT: A co-operative.

Mrs. Tennis: Why, Wade and I, we're members.

JB: Who were the Cleaners?

JT: They used to have a Cleaner organization here.

Mrs. Tennis: They do yet.

JT: Yes, I guess they have.

JB: Are they like the Kiwanis? Or other similar groups?

JT: It's a farmer organization.

JB: Did you ever go roller skating at Bunton Hall?

JT: Yes. We used to roller skate up here at the dance hall.

JB: What was that like?

JT: Well, you just put on your old roller skates, and tumble around. Fell down. Get up and go on. And they had a dance about once every two weeks, on a Saturday night. Fight every time there was a dance.

JB: Did you ever get into any fights?

JT: No. I never did.

JB: Did your brother?

JT: I was too lazy to fight, and too fat to run. Yeah, my brother had a couple of tangles. But he always come out the victor. My brother younger than me.

JB: What kind of dances were they?

JT: Round and Square.

JB: I've heard of square dances...what are round dances?

JT: Well, That's where they have couples: eight in a set. Eight in a set, then they got a caller. Did you ever hear him?

JB: With a fiddler...

JT: Yes. Violin, dulcimer.

Mrs. Tennis: Round dances were waltzes, fox trots ...those kind.

JB: I see. What kind of punishment was there when you were a boy?

JT: Well, buggy whip, a belt; they'd go out and cut a limb off of a tree; and they knew how to lay it on to.

JB: Was it the same way at school?

JT: Well I got a lickin the first day I went to school.

JB: What was that for?

JT: I got in a fight with a lad. I had his eye blacked by the time the time the teacher got us. We got a spanking a piece and sent in to sit down. That's the only time I got in any trouble.

JB: When you left the farm, what was your first job?

JT: I went to a machine shop in LaPorte.

JB: How long were you there?

JT: I worked at Rumely three years.

JB: How old were you then?

JT: About twenty.

JB: Where did you meet your wife?

JT: I met her at Walkerton, at a dance hall.

JB: What was courtship like in the twenties?

JT: Well, we had a brand new Model T coupe ford. We'd go to town on Wednesday nights. On Saturday nights and Sunday, we'd get together. We'd go to Fish Lake, Harrington's dance hall. I sold the tickets there, and was the bouncer.

JB: Did you do much bouncing?

JT: Not too much. They all were pretty good.

JB: When did you start working for the ice company?

JT: I was a kid yet. About eighteen, I guess.

JB: Could you describe the way the ice was cut?

JT: First of all they had to scrape the snow off with scrapers and a team. They took that and dumped it on the bank. And then they had what they called a marker and a saw ...and they'd saw off blocks of ice. They'd cut it 22 inches square. And then they'd have to break it up when they brought it up to the runs to go up in the ice house. That ice went up in an elevator ...about two to four cakes apart. They'd store that in the ice house. Have fellas up there, put it in the rooms.

JB: How much money did you make there?

JT: Five dollars a day.

JB: Was that a good wage back then?

JT: That was perfect. Great. More than they paid anywhere else.

JB: What did you do with your money then?

JT: Give it to the folks until we was twenty one. Give it to dad.

JB: Was there a church here?

JT: There was a church here. My folks belonged.

JB: Were there church activities?

JT: Oh, they'd have church socials ...suppers, didn't they?

Mrs. Tennis: Oh yes.

JT: They had suppers.

JB: Do you remember the first car that you ever saw?

JT: The first gasoline propelled car?

JB: Yes.

JB: We was in town, and here went a car down the street. I was eight or ten.

JB: Were you excited?

JT: I was like all kids, you know.

JB: Did you know what it was?

JT: Oh, I knew, yes. We'd seen pictures of them, in magazines, hoping we could get one someday.

JB: Do you remember the first airplane you saw?

JT: Yes. I forget where I was. I saw plenty of them when I was in the service.

JB: What year were you in the service?

JT: From 1917 in April, til February, I think, in 1919.

JB: Do you remember your first radio?

JT: Yeah.

JB: What were some of the programs you could get on it?

JT: Oh, just music, dance music. Roy Smith had one. Neighbors. They'd bring it over and set it up on the table and they'd play those cylinder records then. Have you seen them?

JB: Yes.

JT: About that long ...that big around. They'd play that. We'd set there and eat popcorn, eat apples, in the wintertime, pass the time.

JB: Before radio and television, what did you do in the evenings?

JT: We'd read: books, paper. Kerosene lamps. Outside pump. Outside out house. Had a kerosene lantern. One is hanging up there on the wall yet, one just like it.

JB: How did the people feel about the arrival of new inventions and conveniences?

JT: I think they all liked it.

JB: Do you think they really were the 'good old days'?

JT: Yeah.

JB: Why?

JT: Well, we didn't have much money, but if you had a dollar you were rich. We could go to town when we were first married, and by golly, get enough groceries, for five dollars, for a week. Now it costs us about three times that pretty near to eat a day.

JB: What year did you get married in?

JT: Twenty eight. In November.

JB: Was it a large wedding?

JT: No. it was just private. Had our wedding supper at my wife's folks.

JB: Where did you go to work then?

JT: I didn't have a job when I got married. I'd been working at Rumely's. So I'd go every day, by golly, to get a job. Finally one day I says, told the employment agent, I says, "You know, I'm a married man." I says, "I need work." He said, "You got married?" I said, "Yep." "Well, wait a minute." He wrote on a piece of paper, and he said, "Go down and see Zeenow Rade, down in sheet metal." Well, I knew where it was, because I'd been there before. So I went to work then the next day.

JB: That was in LaPorte?

JT: In LaPorte. Yes. Rumely. They sold out to Allis-Chalmers, and they brought a lot of their work from Racine to LaPorte, and that put a lot of us fellas out of work.

JB: When did you start work at Modines?

JT: Nineteen thirty-five.

JB: Is that a factory?

JT: Factory ...made radiators. They'd make them for anything. Mostly automobiles, tractors, trucks.

JB: When were your children born?

JT: That's a military secret. Let's see, Sandra was born July the eighth, eight-o'clock in the morning, nineteen thirty. She was born at home. And Marilyn. Ruthie Lane, we put her through high school, and nurse's training. She's an R.N. now up here at LaPorte hospital. And Marilyn, she was born... What year?

Mrs. Tennis: Nineteen thirty-eight.

JT: Thirty eight. Yes. August the 20th. Sandra was born eighteen months later. February 22nd, 1940.

JB: What was the job you had working for the Air Force?

JT: We're lifetime members of the U.S. Air Force. And I was deputy sheriff twelve years. Four years under Rosenbaum. Eight years under Norman Reed.

JB: Did you have many interesting experiences as a deputy sheriff?

JT: Oh, a few, yes. We always come out unscathed. Used to have a little trouble with the fellows parking up at the fairgrounds, but there was no bloodshed.

JB: Was there ever any trouble of any kind?

JT: Oh yeah, like we always do ...but we always got it settled.

JB: What in particular do you remember?

JT: Oh, one fellow was going to dress me up one time, and I told him to just jump in. I said, "You'll pull more leather than Uncle Sam ever had in his cavalry. And his wife told him, "C'mon, let's get out of here." Another fellow went by, and he told one of the other officers...oh, about twenty yards from about where I was. He said, "You're buddy's having trouble, you'd better get down there." Well by the time he got down there, I had that fellow in the car, and he was taken off. I said, "I got everything under control."

Mrs. Tennis: We took one man down to Putnamville; that was exciting.

JT: Yeah.

Mrs. Tennis: And you took a man out of Fish Lake that drowned.

JT: I forget what year that was. I was still working at Modines. There was a young fella that was at a picnic over at Fish Lake, on a Sunday. The said, "I guess I'll take the kids and go on over to the lake." I said, "Alright, I guess I'll stay home and watch planes." So. I don't know what time it was Paul come home, said there was a fellow drowned. His name was Schumaker. His father run a saw mill in Michigan City. He was a soldier. He said, "C'mon, they gotta have some more help ...in dragging." Oh, there was a bunch of boats out there dragging with grappling hooks. And we'd go back and forth in a certain area. Til finally, we had to give up at night. It was ten-o'clock and after. Dark. Same of the boats was out there with- out lights. And some boats had lights. The state police was out ...and they said we gotta quit for the night because it was getting rough. And he said there was boats out there without lights; said there'll be more on the bottom of that lake than there is. So we quit. Then when we come to the shore. His dad says, "What's the matter? Ain't you gonna drag any more?" We said, "No. Orders to quit, on account of it getting choppy." It was getting pretty rough. So we decided then we'd start at seven-o'clock the next morning. So I got up and we went over. I got in the boat with this fella's brother-in-law... this Schumaker's

brother-in-law. We started out to drag. Six or eight boats out there. We was dragging along and I says, "Next time get out in the lake a little further." I said, "We're in a weed bed." I could feel it jerk on the grappling hooks. Did you ever see them?

JB: Yes.

JT: You know what they're like then. I said, "Get out in the lake further." So we went out and pretty soon, the first trip down, I felt kind of a tug on the rope, and I said, "I think I got him." So I pulled it in easy, and the first thing that come up was his right arm. Like that, see? And I grabbed a hold of it with my left hand, and I had him hooked right under there. Right under the chin. Never even made a mark on him. Them hooks are a good six to eight inches from hook to shank. We got him in; it sounded just like you take and....Roll him in over the boat, over the seat. Til we got pretty near to shore and I said, "Throw me a blanket." We put a blanket over him, and beached the boat. The ambulance came out and got him. Then his brother-in-law broke down.

JB: Did you mention a story about a flying saucer?

JT: A flying saucer. (to Mrs. Tennis) Well, you saw that.

JB: Mrs. Tennis, could you tell the story about the flying saucer?

Mrs. Tennis: Well, was working at the fair, and he was deputy sheriff then. This was after midnight, when we came home. We had our youngest daughter, Sandra, with us. She was in the back seat. We were about half way home, when all of a sudden--well, we were supposed to be watching out for flying saucers, when we were checking planes--so all of a sudden, this flying object flew right up against the windshield on my side. It was cylinder-like. It was just as tall as the car was. It just kept on going around and around and around. It was the color of a candle, the flame of a candle. That was the color. The fumes came in real thick, into the car, and they were sulfur fumes. Sandra, she saw it first. I said to Wade, I said, "Stop! I want to see it a little better."

JT: I was a running a little better than sixty coming home. I had to watch that road cause it was a narrow road.

JB: And just as he stopped, it just circled three times and away it went. But the fumes stayed in our car a long time, of sulfur. So we came home and we called in to the filter center, and they told us that was the best description they ever had of a flying saucer. Then about, oh, a half hour later, they saw it in Ohio. (listen to tape here.)

JB: Maybe they are out there watching us.

Mrs. Tennis: It was really exciting to see that. They had told us at different times to watch out for flying saucers. One time we watched for thirty six hours without a break.

JB: I'd like to thank you both very much.

Mrs. Tennis: I hope it's good.

