

Edgar Hellum (00:01):

To be a city boy. I was, I was a farmer boy and I decided I didn't want to be a city slicker, and then my granddad said, but that's the hardest way to make a living. Oh there's so many that I used to go down to the shoe factory. Wouldn't you like to have a grocery store or a hardware store or cozy shop? I'll help you to get started. He wanted it to be, he quit when he was 40 because they had such poor farms and he finally got a good farm with the help of a brother and they were very successful. In seven years. My granddad decided to retire and go to town and at 40 he did that. And my grandmother never, never let him get that out of his mind. Just when we were making money, he came to town because he wanted to be a business man and so he thought, well that's what I would like to be.

Edgar Hellum (00:41):

I should be a businessman. Well, his uncle, or his son, was in the shoe factory and had a successful business and had no male heir, so I was supposed to inherit the shoe factory, so I had to live that down. That's why I struggled. So, and then when I finally bought, when I finally came home from Chicago, my granddad said, well, now what? And I said, well, I think I'm going to buy a house. He said, well, your grandson wants to buy a house. I guess. She said, have you got any money in? I said, no, not very much. Well, what are you going to do? And I said, well, I'm going to go down to the shoe factory. If I give up my uncle will always take me in. So I finally found a house in Cooksville and the county was going to sell it for \$200. A house built, again about '46 or '47 and I came up, finally got the house bought from the county and paid cash for it.

Edgar Hellum (01:32):

I came home practically out of my mind at first, told my granddad, I said, well, you got to come out, I bought a house. I bought a house. Well what did you buy? And I said, well, come on and get in the car. We went to see and he looked at me, said, well you didn't buy much. And I said, no. I said, it looks pretty bad. But I've looked it all over and I said, it can be put back again. Well how much did you pay? And I said, I paid \$200. So he kind of laughed and he said, well I guess you didn't pay too much. He said, how much are the taxes? And I said, they're a dollar 80 cents a year.

Edgar Hellum (02:05):

I figured it couldn't be taken away from me as long as I can pay the dollar 80 cents. Well that was a start. That's almost the start of Pendarvis, you see. Because then I came over here looking for old building materials to restore the house and met. And then we got together and Bob wanted to restore a house. I just, I wasn't a carpenter either. Y.

Jack Holzhueter (02:27):

You weren't a carpenter?

Edgar Hellum (02:28):

I liked to, that's the funny thing. My granddad, I don't know why they didn't say, why don't you be a carpenter? Because they were, we had, we had a pile of boards and the nail and the hammer and the saw and my granddad, I would say, well, can I build, can I build a little house? Well what are you going to build? And I said, well, I'm going to build a hut. So I made one on the side of the house? [inaudible] I had to take that down pretty quick. That was pretty much of an eyesore. Then he let me build one on the side of the barn. But then after it stood so long, then I had to take it down. I had to take it all apart, pull

all the nails and put the boards back again. I would have been a carpenter. I think I would have made a good carpenter.

Jack Holzhueter (03:02):

Obviously you are a good carpenter, you, everybody says so.

Edgar Hellum (03:06):

Then I wanted to do rock work, and there wasn't much rock work done in Stoughton. And I had quite a time to find a quarry out near Cooksville for the Cooksville house. Finally bought some rock from the quarry. But then I came over here of course and when I got together with old Charlie Curtis, I apprenticed to him and he was a good teacher. He'd been up at Frank Lloyd Wright's, you see. He sent me, he let me do a whole row of rock. Now stand back, my son, and take a look. And I said, Oh my, it looks fine. Well it's not right, he said. So then he'd go and change a stone or two. And so I said, How do you know that? And he said, Well after you've laid rock for 40 years, he said, it just sort of comes natural. And I said but, there must be certain rules and regulations. Well then he told me definitely about breaking the joints. There again, your own pattern of how you wanted it. He liked to have jumpers and I kind of liked to lay it more like random ashler. If I'd get a all six inch or all eight inch or all 10 inch and he would sort of like to break the, break the pattern.

Jack Holzhueter (04:17):

Have it rougher looking. Oh, back to agriculture and Mineral Point. Mr Penberthy, you say you never had to work on a farm but your grandfather had a.

Roy Penberthy (04:27):

My grandfather had a farm.

Jack Holzhueter (04:27):

Was that his living?

Roy Penberthy (04:29):

Yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (04:31):

Is that your mother's father,

Roy Penberthy (04:33):

Yes. Uh huh.

Jack Holzhueter (04:33):

But they never made you go out there?

Roy Penberthy (04:34):

No, I was, I was the youngest, next to the youngest of the family, I guess.

Jack Holzhueter (04:37):

Spoiled rotten. I'd never heard of a grandson of a farmer who didn't somehow have to, you managed to avoid that all those years. You were lucky. Um, when, what kinds of processing plants for agricultural products are there in Mineral Point? Any?

Bob Neal (04:58):

Well, there was an old grist mill, originally. It was for grinding grain, flour. And uh,

Jack Holzhueter (05:10):

When you were boys, was there a flour mill in town that you would

Bob Neal (05:13):

Yeah. Grabers had one, didn't they? Grabers?

Roy Penberthy (05:17):

Well, are you thinking, uh, in town. I was thinking about the one down there in Schimming's barn, wasn't that a, didn't they have a mill in there? In Doc Schimming's barn?

Bob Neal (05:36):

Right next to it. Between there and the Foundry,

Roy Penberthy (05:39):

The foundry'd be right up the hill a little bit. That'd be Graber's.

Edgar Hellum (05:42):

Huh? [inaudible] I never knew [inaudible] What street was this? Approximately

Roy Penberthy (05:48):

Commerce. Commerce Street.

Jack Holzhueter (05:52):

And did you go there to buy flour?

Roy Penberthy (05:59):

No I didn't.

Jack Holzhueter (05:59):

Did they, was it a local brand?

Roy Penberthy (06:01):

Yeah. I think so.

Bob Neal (06:02):

I don't know much about it. Do you?

Roy Penberthy (06:03):

No, I

Jack Holzhueter (06:06):

You bought your food at Jeuck's I suppose. [Inaudible]

Edgar Hellum (06:11):

Oh gosh. We had an old flour mill over in Stoughton. Man, I can still remember they were on the river and then they moved up from the river when they didn't use water power and they had, I don't know that I can remember the sack, but you bought flour in a cloth sack.

Jack Holzhueter (06:31):

Hundred pound sacks

Edgar Hellum (06:31):

that had a definite label on it. I'm not sure.

Jack Holzhueter (06:34):

Ubiquitous in Wisconsin. I was wondering whether it occurred here in Mineral Point. It did to some degree, but it wasn't a terribly popular thing. Uh, characterize the farms around here. Were are they mostly dairy farms, diversified dairy farming, not so much grain growing.

Bob Neal (06:54):

Enough for their own use perhaps,

Jack Holzhueter (06:57):

But not as a cash item. Was a lot of rye or buckwheat grown around here?

Bob Neal (07:03):

No.

Jack Holzhueter (07:08):

Was there a prominent local market for currants and the kinds of foods that, uh, the Cornish are said to like, I know your tea cakes require currants.

Bob Neal (07:21):

No,

Jack Holzhueter (07:22):

They don't require currants?

Bob Neal (07:24):

They do require currants.

Edgar Hellum (07:24):

There are many, there are many black current bushes on the old properties and the Cornish That's a favorite of the Cornish.

Bob Neal (07:33):

They're red currants, Edgar.

Edgar Hellum (07:36):

Pardon?

Bob Neal (07:36):

They're red currants.

Edgar Hellum (07:36):

No, the black current and the black current was blotted out because it carried the host fruit pine [inaudible]

Jack Holzhueter (07:41):

Same as the same as gooseberry.

Edgar Hellum (07:44):

You were supposed to destroy the black currant. And then the gooseberry, but the gooseberry of course grew wild.

Jack Holzhueter (07:50):

And that's where every time we got a pasture we got gooseberry.

Edgar Hellum (07:52):

And then everybody had a plum tree, a miner plum tree. Every backyard had to have a miner plum tree for plum preserves.

Jack Holzhueter (08:01):

But they did. But these were not cash crops. These were basically household.

Edgar Hellum (08:06):

Yes.

Jack Holzhueter (08:07):

Items. Um was there a dairy plant in town that did anything special with cheese? Butter? Why you say there was a creamery right where you you were born. You had nothing, whatever to do with that. Harry Nohr just painted people, black people with white stripes. Did Harry Nohr work at that creamery?

Roy Penberthy (08:29):

Yes.

Jack Holzhueter (08:30):

What did he do for [inaudible]?

Roy Penberthy (08:34):

He was a butter maker.

Edgar Hellum (08:35):

He learned butter making when he was very young. 14 or 15, he had to go out to work and got to be quite a butter maker.

Jack Holzhueter (08:40):

Yes. He always used to tell me yes. And churning those huge vats. He says that the easiest thing he ever did was fight in World War II. Regular hours, quite healthy. One of his favorite yarns, as you probably know. Um, was that the only dairy plant in town or were there competing ones?

Bob Neal (09:04):

Um, I don't know. Oh, do you remember that creamery up there?

Roy Penberthy (09:11):

By Jail Alley? Yeah.

Bob Neal (09:11):

Yeah. [inaudible] Ooh, Spooner. Spooner. When did James Spooner [inaudible] [inaudible]

Jack Holzhueter (09:28):

Where was your family house, Mr. Neal.

Bob Neal (09:31):

Maiden street. Yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (09:40):

Up on the Hill and on a main street. Not too far from here. We went on Maiden street to look at it. I know where it is,

Edgar Hellum (09:47):

How long did you live on Front street? You were born on Maiden Street?

Bob Neal (09:54):

Yeah.

Edgar Hellum (09:56):

How long did you live there until you were how old?

Bob Neal (09:58):

I don't know, we moved down across from Aunt Claire's house,

Roy Penberthy (10:04):

Who's Aunt Clara.

Bob Neal (10:09):

Vivian. Right across from her. Mrs. Stansmore Vivian.

Roy Penberthy (10:10):

Oh, yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (10:16):

Tell us about the Vivian's. It's a prominent name and they're associated with so many things here.

Roy Penberthy (10:22):

Vivian?

Bob Neal (10:22):

Typical Cornish.

Jack Holzhueter (10:24):

Well, doctors, were not typical Cornish, according to your characterization.

Bob Neal (10:28):

The spelling was, Oh, it was V I. V. I. A. N. but the Cornish spelled it V. Y. V. Y. E. N.

Roy Penberthy (10:38):

Oh, I didn't know that.

Jack Holzhueter (10:42):

How did they become doctors. I know John Vivian, one of the early Cornish here, was a doctor. Was this the same family?

Bob Neal (10:50):

Yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (10:51):

And you're, of that tribe.?

Bob Neal (10:56):

Well, offshoot, offshoot of that they married into the Neals. And Clara Neal married Stansmore Vivian [inaudible].

Roy Penberthy (11:11):

And they had a son, Stansmore, who was a doctor, didn't they?

Bob Neal (11:11):

Yeah. Uh huh. Neal Vivian is still living.

Roy Penberthy (11:16):

Is he, really? Where's he live?

Bob Neal (11:19):

Out in California. He's way up in his nineties.

Jack Holzhueter (11:25):

So how many boys is that ? Two or three?

Bob Neal (11:27):

Three . Stansmore, John. John Vivian was John Tucker's age.

Roy Penberthy (11:36):

John and Neal and Stansmore. John was the one I had forgotten. Was he the oldest one?

Bob Neal (11:42):

No, Neal.

Roy Penberthy (11:42):

Neal was the oldest.

Edgar Hellum (11:45):

Was there a Vivian drug store?

Roy Penberthy (11:46):

Yeah,

Bob Neal (11:47):

He founded the drug store.

Roy Penberthy (11:48):

Where Ivey's is today.

Bob Neal (11:51):

Pulford had the other one. Yeah.

Roy Penberthy (11:56):

We used to have three drug stores.

Jack Holzhueter (11:58):

So the Vivian's were sort of the medical family for the Cornish, or did they treat everybody under the sun?

Bob Neal (12:03):

Well, I suppose they treated everybody. Uh, Vivian drugstore, was, well, Ivey, Charlie Ivey bought it.

Edgar Hellum (12:17):

When you went to the barber that you tell about when you were real small, did they have, um, did they do bloodletting?

Bob Neal (12:27):

No!

Edgar Hellum (12:29):

Gotten away from that by that time?

Bob Neal (12:32):

I don't know they ever,

Edgar Hellum (12:33):

They had leeches or should the barber did that?

Bob Neal (12:36):

Well, yes, but that's back in the dark ages.

Jack Holzhueter (12:44):

Well, yes, I know. You, you, when did the first automobile come to Mineral Point? Do you remember?

Roy Penberthy (12:48):

Oh, 1912?

Bob Neal (12:52):

Dad had a white Buick.

Roy Penberthy (12:55):

Did he?

Bob Neal (12:56):

With the two bucket seats, gears and everything strapped to the side of it and the acetylene tank on the side.

Roy Penberthy (13:06):

Yeah, that's true. For the line. Do you know what, when we got our first car, if you wanted to go for a ride, we'd go out to the brewery and get a drink out of the spring and come back home, one mile. That was a ride. And if you wanted to go for a long ride, we'd go out to the Oak Park cheese factory, out there, three miles. That was a long ride.

Jack Holzhueter (13:28):

And, and you made your living from renting cars.

Roy Penberthy (13:35):

Yes, hearses and ambulances.

Jack Holzhueter (13:35):

What kind of car was your first car?

Roy Penberthy (13:38):

Maxwell.

Jack Holzhueter (13:40):

Oh, Jack Benny's car. I still [inaudible]. Then when did you go from, uh, in, in your hearse business from the horses to vehicles.

Roy Penberthy (13:57):

It was in the twenties I guess it was the, I wasn't in the horse or hearse service. Mine was the car with the car. That would be around the late, very late twenties

Jack Holzhueter (14:10):

But until that time they actually continued to use horse-drawn funeral coaches and what-not?

Roy Penberthy (14:16):

No, no but I wasn't in that. I wasn't in that horse and the first hearse business was by somebody else, Aubrey Dunn, and I bought him out there around 1930 right in there.

Edgar Hellum (14:31):

But you had carriages and horses.

Roy Penberthy (14:33):

Oh yeah. Father had that.

Bob Neal (14:36):

When did he notice a significant decline in his business at Mineral Point. When did you buy the auto

Roy Penberthy (14:41):

Oh, about that time when they were transferring from horses to car.

Jack Holzhueter (14:44):

In the 20s, what did you decide to do then?

Roy Penberthy (14:49):

What,

Jack Holzhueter (14:50):

What became his business after that?

Roy Penberthy (14:53):

Well, I continued. I kept [inaudible] God, I kept getting bigger and bigger. I couldn't stand it anymore. I was doing all the maintenance work on these three Cadillac torches and doing all that, washing, polishing. I was the receptionist, the bookkeeper, the whole ball of wax, you know, and uh, keeping my overhead down. I was able to make pretty good, uh,

Jack Holzhueter (15:16):

but your father, when, when this transformation from horses to, uh, automobiles came, what, did he just retire or, Oh, he didn't go into another line of work. He didn't set up a garage or something of that sort. Were you, was yours the only livery in town?

Roy Penberthy (15:36):

Yes, uh huh. No, not the horse livery. There was about three of them.

Bob Neal (15:39):

Brown's.

Roy Penberthy (15:40):

Browns, two Browns and Harker, four. Mr. Harker.

Jack Holzhueter (15:48):

Now when the livery business, which you must remember from boyhood at least,. What , You rented out things,

Roy Penberthy (15:59):

The undertaker owned the hearse and kept it at our place and we furnished the driver and the team. That's right.

Jack Holzhueter (16:03):

Okay, but that wasn't your whole business?

Roy Penberthy (16:05):

No,

Jack Holzhueter (16:06):

Not enough people die to take care of a whole livery stable.

Roy Penberthy (16:08):

No, that's true.

Jack Holzhueter (16:09):

But who else runs horses? How does this work?

Roy Penberthy (16:14):

Well, uh, father had a lot of horses to rent out.

Jack Holzhueter (16:20):

To hire

Bob Neal (16:21):

Riding and driving horses.

Edgar Hellum (16:24):

Well, if a salesman came to town would the salesman rent a buggy. and a horse from your dad?

Roy Penberthy (16:27):

Yeah, when they first started, some guy, a salesman rented their best horse and buggy and uh, for several days and then he said to him, uh, I might not be back tonight, but uh, don't worry about it. And he stole the horse and buggy. In those days the communications was very poor, you know, and they couldn't find him.

Jack Holzhueter (16:56):

Well, he's long gone by now.

Roy Penberthy (16:57):

Yeah, he had a good start.

Jack Holzhueter (16:59):

Or did what would be, did you own your own horses when you were a boy Mr. Neal or did you rent from Mr Penberthy?

Roy Penberthy (17:07):

Now to get to Dodgeville I'd get a dollar and a half

Jack Holzhueter (17:14):

How did you get around

Bob Neal (17:19):

On the train? I wasn't confined. Well, where? Do you mean in town here?

Bob Neal (17:24):

Well, if you wanted to go out, you walked.

Edgar Hellum (17:28):

You tell about the train trip to Dubuque,

Jack Holzhueter (17:34):

But I mean for a local trip, say we're going to go work on this. How did you get off of that farm when you went off to [inaudible].

Bob Neal (17:45):

Morris Proctor ran a stage from Mineral Point to Dodgeville.

Roy Penberthy (17:52):

I had that too later.

Jack Holzhueter (17:56):

Horse drawn?

Roy Penberthy (17:56):

Both. When the roads were bad, there's no snow removal. There were days when I'd have to turn the team about.

Jack Holzhueter (18:05):

But you drove them yourself.

Roy Penberthy (18:07):

I remember one year there was over a hundred days sleighing and I never missed a trip.

Jack Holzhueter (18:10):

Between here and Dodgeville. How many passengers would you take on a.

Roy Penberthy (18:15):

Nine. All the three seats, covered wagon and I was on a dash board out in front. I could touch you, the horse and the foot, loaded both ways all the time. There used to be a traveling man come down from Madison, Toby DeVias, his name was always crazy about the girls, you know. And he said, Roy, you got any girls going over this morning? I said Yeah I have to pick one up on the way out. So he said put me in the back seat, put her back here with me. I said okay. And he straightened up himself. How do I look? You look swell, Toby. This lady came out and she had one crutch. I introduced them, you know and if looks could kill I'd have been a dead duck.

Jack Holzhueter (18:59):

You used the bobsled even after automobiles came here because the roads, road conditions would require, this continued until when, what was the last year you'd say you used the sled?

Roy Penberthy (19:21):

Uh, around 25, I think 1925, right in there.

Edgar Hellum (19:27):

Oh my. As a kid, I can remember the horse drawn conveyance from the Depot uptown.

Jack Holzhueter (19:33):

In Stoughton?

Edgar Hellum (19:33):

In Stoughton. And then I can remember Ole somebody or other and he got a bus. Oh, my was that something because you didn't ride in the horse drawn one anymore. Ole, Ole, can't remember his name. Oh, what a privilege to ride in that gas, gas machine. No, but somebody must've had the transportation from the Depot here uptown.

Roy Penberthy (20:04):

We did. We did.

Edgar Hellum (20:04):

Oh, you did.

Jack Holzhueter (20:04):

You met every train?

Roy Penberthy (20:07):

Yes, uh huh. Late train night. And then you had to collect their bags.

Jack Holzhueter (20:09):

And you deposited people at the door. It wasn't just a central place where you drop them all off and they fended for themselves.

Roy Penberthy (20:17):

No, no. We had telephone number one for years. And then when they went to dial, I called up the chief operator Helen Kinsmen, you know, Helen, I'm sick. She said What's the matter. I said we could lose our telephone number one. And she said, well, I'm losing my telephone number and I'm losing my job too, she said. Well, you're in worse shape than I am. I can't complain.

Edgar Hellum (20:43):

[inaudible] who was the man that did all the street lights with the horse and buggy and he got dirty, how much did he get a year? \$8 a year or something.

Bob Neal (20:53):

Did Kid Day have anything to do with lighting the street lights. Kid Day.

Roy Penberthy (21:01):

No, that's not the name that I was trying to think of. You mean lighting the arc lights don't you? Let me, let me,

Bob Neal (21:07):

No, the old lights.

Roy Penberthy (21:09):

I don't know.

Edgar Hellum (21:14):

We have a record of that somewhere. This man that had the,

Roy Penberthy (21:17):

What did you say was the name?

Bob Neal (21:20):

He doesn't know.

Edgar Hellum (21:21):

Oh, I don't know. Bob says he doesn't know. I don't remember that either. But we've got the story somewhere. The man had the team and a horse and a wagon and buggy, or little cart, and went around and did the street lights, all the street lights in town, cleaned the chimneys and filled them and got like \$8 a year or something. Just such a ridiculous price. But I suppose that was, it could have been a part time job.

Jack Holzhueter (21:51):

I hope that it was! Now if the Neals, wanted to take the train. Did they just take their bag in hand and walk down there or did they call Mr Penberthy

Roy Penberthy (22:01):

They called and I'd come up to the house and take them to the depot and put them on the train. One time I took a girl to Dodgeville to get a job and she didn't get her job so I didn't get no money for the trip. And then couple of years later she called up, she wanted to go to the Depot and she had a baby and she had something to eat in the bag and she gave me \$5 to go and buy her ticket. And it wasn't enough. I had to put up my own money with it and I didn't charge her anything for the trip to the Depot or didn't get my trip she owed to Dodgeville, you know. The poor thing was so alone, you know, with this baby and I couldn't do do anything.

Jack Holzhueter (22:44):

But you said you did all right, anyway. What, did you charge other people too much?

Roy Penberthy (22:51):

That was pretty good. With the tools I had to work with, I did, I'm pretty good.

Jack Holzhueter (22:59):

And then you bought Cadillac hearses. When did the, the drayage to and from the Depot finally die out. When did you stop meeting trains and.

Roy Penberthy (23:08):

Oh, gosh. When was that? I don't, I don't remember. Do you?

Edgar Hllum (23:22):

Well when we met you you used to be baggage man, didn't you? '37, '38?

Roy Penberthy (23:23):

Was it that late?

Edgar Hllum (23:23):

After we came here you were still.

Roy Penberthy (23:31):

Was I?

Edgar Hllum (23:31):

Trains were still. We took the train once from Janesville up here.

Roy Penberthy (23:35):

Oh,

Edgar Hllum (23:36):

Daisy picker. Took hours.

Roy Penberthy (23:39):

Used to call the operator, then they'd lay on some steam. Then they'd slow it down, and chug chug along and then work up the steam again and then You could actually get out and pick flowers.

Jack Holzhueter (23:54):

Did you ever take the train Mr Penberthy or did you always drive the horses?

Roy Penberthy (23:57):

Oh, yes. I took the train to Janesville to the races all the time.

Jack Holzhueter (23:59):

There were races at Janesville?

Roy Penberthy (24:01):

Yes. Uh huh. Yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (24:05):

What kind of races?

Roy Penberthy (24:05):

Harness races. Standard bred horses.

Jack Holzhueter (24:08):

Was that the kind of horse that interested you most of your life?

Roy Penberthy (24:11):

No, American Saddlebreds I had, gaited horses,

Edgar Hellum (24:16):

I had a good riding horse for many years.

New Speaker (24:19):

So, um, another kid and I went to Darlington fair one time. I remember we were coming out the gate we bought a big sack of over-ripe fruit. We pooled our money, you know to buy this big sack of over ripe fruit and we get to the depot and the guy says the train is late so we went uptown to walk around when this lady what he said and we had to run to get the train, you know, and the train pulled out we forgot our fruit hidden under the platform at the Depot. So that was our standing joke all through the years, you know one of these first days, we have to go down and get our fruit. It was over ripe when we put it there.

Jack Holzhueter (24:52):

did you ever go down to the Darlington to see the races or the fair Mr Neal?

Bob Neal (24:56):

No.

Jack Holzhueter (24:56):

What did you do for entertainment when you were a boy? He seems to have been through and under the Depot steps. What were the games you played or things you did?

Roy Penberthy (25:09):

We used to take our horses down to Darlington, show horses, and we'd be down there all week and as soon as we got the horses put away. I'd walk to the post office and write my mother a card that we

arrived safely. We thought we were a long way from home, 15 miles and she looked forward to getting that card.

Jack Holzhueter (25:26):

And how long would it take that card to get here?

Roy Penberthy (25:29):

Well we'd mail it that night and she'd get it the next afternoon.

Jack Holzhueter (25:34):

Now, when you were a lad, Mr Neal, what were your principal interests in studying or games or whatever.

Bob Neal (25:43):

And I just wanted to be busy with school and not every kid did.

Jack Holzhueter (25:51):

Were you a great reader?

Bob Neal (25:52):

I read a lot, yes.

Edgar Hllum (25:57):

You must've gone to the fair every year.

Bob Neal (26:03):

Oh yes but that's not important.

Jack Holzhueter (26:04):

Oh yes it is.

Edgar Hllum (26:04):

We had to go to Madison to the fair and we'd ride on the train then I think the fare was 6 cents and they'd let us off at the fairgrounds. They had special trains.

Sam Holmes (26:15):

How long would it take?

Edgar Hllum (26:21):

20 minutes. From Stoughton. But then I had to sit through it all the harness races and all that with my grandfather.

Jack Holzhueter (26:33):

He enjoyed those.

Edgar Hellum (26:34):

In order to see the rest of the fair, of course it didn't mean anything to me cause I didn't know the drivers. Right. I didn't know the horses.

Jack Holzhueter (26:44):

Did you say, Mr Penberthy, that you used to go swimming in that unmentionable pond down here.

Roy Penberthy (26:52):

Yes. Piggy Sow and uh.

Jack Holzhueter (26:52):

Piggy Sow

Roy Penberthy (26:52):

You know I always wanted to go out and see that crick but I thought I dare not because it's dwindled to nothing, you know, and it was it was a real deep crick. When we'd ride under a bridge on the road going to Darlington our ponies would have to swim, it was that deep. We'd get all wet, you know. We didn't care. Dry out.

Bob Neal (27:08):

Do you remember Butler's dam?

Roy Penberthy (27:11):

Yes.

Bob Neal (27:11):

You do.

Roy Penberthy (27:13):

Yes. Right around the bend, by the depot, there.

Bob Neal (27:15):

Wasn't there a mill out there?

Roy Penberthy (27:19):

I don't know.

Bob Neal (27:20):

What would be the point of having a dam without a millrace?

Roy Penberthy (27:31):

We used to go skating there.

Bob Neal (27:31):

Butler's dam?

Roy Penberthy (27:31):

Uh huh. My dad's mine is right back of our place. Our, our building is on the site where the mansion house was, you know, you've heard of . See Belmont was the Territorial capital of Wisconsin and these legislators all stayed at the mansion house, used to drive back and forth.

Jack Holzhueter (27:51):

Well, we don't have too much tape left. And uh, I do want to make the point that some day we want to get together with particularly with Edgar and find out what was done to the insides of the houses, what they looked like inside when you got there. And uh, what transformations have been worked over the years?

Bob Neal (28:13):

Don't make the mistakes the historic building survey made.

Jack Holzhueter (28:18):

Pardon?

Bob Neal (28:19):

Don't make the mistakes. Put windows where there weren't any,

Edgar Helling (28:27):

no, we didn't change things too much.

Jack Holzhueter (28:29):

Well that'll come at a later time because that's a big deal and will require drawings and a whole lot of other things, I think. But we do want to get on tape if we can. Uh, particularly when we have somebody from town other than you two here who can comment on this if you don't mind it. Uh, what do you think the general feelings were in Mineral Point when, uh, Mr Helling and Mr Neal began transforming these, what were then, what was then known principally as an old warehouse in sort of the slum part of town into something that now the community is quite proud of?

Roy Penberthy (29:06):

I think a lot of people thought you were kind of crazy generally.

Bob Neal (29:08):

They still do.

Edgar Helling (29:15):

Yep. That was very definitely, that was unusual for me. Uh, meaning if I, I said time and again, I told him, I said, if it was in Stoughton, I said I would never get laughed at if I went out on the street and time and

again they looked down their nose and laughed and sneered saying, well how are you doing out on the Shake Rag? And I resented it at first. Well of course I wasn't a native you see, but there were certain ones, the old druggist and the old man at the hardware store, Mr. Martin were always, always very friendly. They never asked it that way. They said, well how are you doing or is there something we can do to help you? They really, they were the two outstanding ones. Then the man down at the lumberyard finally went along with us. Uh, cause he thought we were doing a good job, but for the most part we were, we didn't have long hair and whiskers, but we were screwball kids, you know.

Jack Holzhueter (30:02):

Did William Kislingbury what was his attitude? He was in town at the time.

Edgar Hellow (30:07):

He didn't want to ___ time. We hired a carpenter who was such an alcoholic and was so blind that when he sawed the board time and time again, very seldom did he ever saw the board on the line. And then it never, nothing, nothing ever fit and we had him about, well I doubt if he worked a day.

Roy Penberthy (30:22):

Who was that?

Bob Neal (30:22):

Preacher Ellery.

Roy Penberthy (30:27):

Preacher Ellery.

Edgar Hellow (30:27):

So I finally told Bob, I said, well, there must be some carpenter in town we can get.

Sam Holmes (30:58):

Its pretty close to six.

Jack Holzhueter (30:59):

six o'clock. Okay.

Edgar Hellow (31:01):

Well when Bill came out to to, I told him, see, with Pendarvis house, we had left the roof line and put up four by fours. Well, we had done this already, put up the four by fours and simply taken the bad frame out and shoveled out all the filth that was in the back. And so I told Bill, I said, well, now we wanted to, we had to build this back up again. I said, I'm not enough of a carpenter do structurally to know how to do it. Well. He reluctantly said that he would come out and help us. And so he did come up. Well as what he did for us, we bought from the old zinc furnace, we bought things that almost looked like a storm window, great large sash and instead of putting them upright, we put them long ways because the two sash fit exactly on the spot. And so he made the sash or the frames for it and we used to lift those in and out. We never had any other way of opening it up. And then he finally came in and structurally then we took up the floors and got his advice about how to do that.

Edgar Hellum (32:04):

And once we got him started then he was sold on it, We were, see this was a, it was almost like life and death for us. We were going to do this or else and without any know how, he felt sorry for us I think. But then he became interested enough to put it back. And then when we bought his house that his grandfather owned of course then he was particularly interested, that's what set him up and of course he never left us. We had him until he passed away, but he was, we would have never done it without Bill. Bill was very conservative, almost too conservative. But good know-how. And then when the old stone mason came,

Jack Holzhueter (32:42):

Mr Curtis.

Edgar Hellum (32:42):

and wanted to contribute a couple of weeks work and we are, when I approached.

Bob Neal (32:46):

day's work, not weeks work.

Edgar Hellum (32:46):

yes, he wanted to come out and do a couple of weeks work. You said a couple of weeks and we had him for what? A year and a half

Jack Holzhueter (32:56):

He contributed.

Bob Neal (32:58):

A marvelous old man.

Jack Holzhueter (32:58):

who was, who let him know about your undertaking?

Edgar Hellum (33:03):

He had retired from Frank Lloyd Wright and lived down in the old hotel down by the Walker house it is now and he heard about it and he wanted to come out and help. And so then from then on in we had, first we had Italian boys, Bob's father being down at the zinc furnace and being so with so many Italian workers down there. He was very sympathetic with the, with the Italians, they were good citizens. And so Bob would know some of the families, we had quite a number of Italian boys to start and then over the years we had some real good kids. Always had help, but always Bill to rely on for I'd say well, I want to do it thus and so and I'd have 15 to 20 sketches and each one you can't do it that way. And I'd say well, then can you figure out how we can do it? And so then he'd come out and say, well, if we do it this way, it'll look about like what you want to do. We didn't, we made some changes, you see.

Jack Holzhueter (34:00):

We'll ask about the changes later on. But feelings have softened here in town, do you think? Over time it's no longer do people laugh at you in the street or when you've,

Edgar Hellow (34:11):

I don't know. This last incident about Pendarvis street, surprising people came up to me that I still don't know their names. I've been here for 45 years and they came up and they said they can't do this to you boys, the historical society can't close that place down and I wouldn't even know who they were and it was a first, its gratifying for us when we think of all the years that we were sort of ridiculed and finally finding out that that they realized we had done a job.

Bob Neal (34:33):

Did you say 45? What is it they say, 40 or 20 years, before you become a Mineral Pointer?

Edgar Hellow (34:41):

I came in 1935.

Jack Holzhueter (34:44):

How would you feel about all of this Mr Penberthy over the years?

Roy Penberthy (34:47):

Why? I thought it was a good thing, but I didn't think they'd ever make it.

Edgar Hellow (34:51):

No, no, I didn't either.

Bob Neal (34:52):

That sounds like the encouragement we got all along the way, really.

Edgar Hellow (35:01):

Yeah. So if you're talking to ex-banker Peters and he can tell you that when I started the Row, he said, you'll never make anything out of that. And I said, give me time and a little money, I had an awful time getting money from him.

Jack Holzhueter (35:09):

Okay.

New Speaker (35:09):

If I could just interject, I have some names of descendants. Well, Belle and William Curry does that. The Curry family.

Roy Penberthy (35:24):

KAIN?

Speaker 4 (35:24):

C.U.R.R. Y.

Roy Penberthy (35:26):

Oh, Curry. Yes, yes. Cameron Dancy's wife was a Curry.

New Speaker (35:31):

There was a Clyde James and Hazel Curry.

Roy Penberthy (35:36):

Ethyl Curry, her name was.

New Speaker (35:39):

From Mineral Point?

Roy Penberthy (35:39):

Yes. Do you know Random Wearing.

New Speaker (35:43):

No,

Roy Penberthy (35:44):

That was their old home.

Speaker 4 (35:46):

And then there was a Mary Duback and Aldo Carbis.

Roy Penberthy (35:53):

Aldo who?

New Speaker (35:53):

Carbis. These are all descendants of the Carbis family.

Roy Penberthy (35:57):

That doesn't ring a bell.

New Speaker (35:57):

James Carbis. Carbis is, is one of the, uh, lived with Richard Thomas in the Trelawney. So.

Edgar Hllum (36:07):

Supposedly, but then we've been contradicted on that. We, we said that Carbis built Trelawney,

Jack Holzhueter (36:14):

yes. Carbis and Thomas. Andrew Thomas with Richard Thomas.

Edgar Hellum (36:20):

I don't know. How did we get, we were told that that wasn't so several times.

Speaker 4 (36:24):

Oh, no, that's true. Yeah. That's, uh, do you know, uh, Henry or Harry and Alice Richardson?

Roy Penberthy (36:34):

Richardson? No, not here. In Spring Green

Jack Holzhueter (36:37):

Spring Green?

New Speaker (36:37):

Yes.

Roy Penberthy (36:39):

Yeah. He's the, uh, the Bert was the funeral director there. I worked for him.

Jack Holzhueter (36:45):

Now is Bert the, uh, son of that.

Roy Penberthy (36:49):

Yes, uh huh.

Jack Holzhueter (36:49):

and he's still out there?

Roy Penberthy (36:50):

Yeah.

Jack Holzhueter (36:51):

Wow. Well that's, that's good! You got two!

New Speaker (36:53):

Yeah. Uh, and another name, uh, Ferrell.

Roy Penberthy (36:59):

Ferrell. There's a lot of 'em.

New Speaker (36:59):

There are. Abbott or Ray Ferrell. Ferrell. Ferrell.

Roy Penberthy (37:05):

There's Freeman Ferrell.

Edgar Helling (37:08):

Who were his folks?

New Speaker (37:14):

Will Will Ferrell was his father.

Speaker 4 (37:16):

No. Well, but that's it's, it's a lead.

Liz Holmes (37:24):

But you got one.

New Speaker (37:24):

Yeah. That's important.

New Speaker (37:29):

Did you sign these releases?

Jack Holzhueter (37:29):

Well for the Mineral Point Historical Society.

Liz Holmes (37:33):

Let's that's just do this.