

Storyteller:	Streff, Laurence	Interviewer:	Tannenbaum, Mary
Date:	June 19, 2006	Original StoryCorps Log Files:	MBX001497_L1 MBX001497_L2

Timecode Notes

0:45	You grew up on a farm, one of 12, vivid memories? No water, party line phone, no electricity, oil lamps were our main source of light. Saturdays and Sunday evenings were for family activity – making fudge and eating it, had popcorn in the evening. Friday dinner was German pancakes – no meat on Friday.
3:45	1934 – severe drought, complete crop failure; one afternoon at 3pm it was dark as night due to dust storms. I was 12 town hired dad and brother to haul gravel so I had to run farm tasks. It was the worst but it was the best experience, I learned responsibility.
6:30	I don't think the 12 year old granddaughter I'm raising could run a farm.
6:45	Grade school – all grades together, lots of free time so I read every book in the library – school lunch in syrup bucket, baked potato in winter, families took time bringing a hot dish to share with everyone.
10:30	When I was 12, I was less than 5 feet tall, doing a man's work. I decided I didn't want to be a farmer. Went to school.
12:00	Growing up with 12 siblings – how was it? We all had assigned tasks. Mom taught me to always push my chair in after I got up.
13:40	Closest siblings – Rose, I was in charge when mother went out.
14:45	We got a radio; Dad decided what we listened to. Dad and Mom made sure we were honest, what Dad said when he got angry – shit and molasses.
16:20	Mother grew up learning to play piano, had floor carpet – didn't have them as an adult.
18:00	Mother was a saint we grew our vegetables – in 1934, drought year, we improvised drip irrigation. Mother canned all kinds of fruits, grew apples, and ate chickens.
20:00	Killing chickens at age 9, feathering chickens takes 10 minutes, hot dogs and bologna were a treat – got sick of chicken, ate ham sausage, pork chops, liver the day after pig slaughtered, occasional beef – froze it outside, weather 35 below zero, I had to climb windmill to help fix the smell.
23:00	Long-lived relatives – late 80s; mid 90s
22:50	You were first in your family to go to college. How'd that happen? I saw electrical engineers in town lived well, I decided I wanted to be one. First one to free Junior college. Enjoyed chemistry more than electrical. Went to Univ. of MN, worked 40 hours and studied. Rushed, did lots of credits to finish in time for draft deferment.
27:15	College jobs – chemical department, hospital janitor –cleaning outdoor windows on 7 th floor outside psychiatric ward and I said, "Who's the crazy one?"
29:00	Worked analyzing samples of linseed oil, worked 'til 1am, never had an alarm clock – I just decided when I'd get up.
31:00	Family the most satisfying thing in my life; career accomplishments – paint making, resins,

	administering enyt-al department; designing factories.
36:15	I've learned from you: determination, honesty, and integrity. Branching out, not stagnating – you packed in backpacks! Thought out of the box, being available to children and patient. You taught me algebra, helped me to be an electrical engineer.