

March 2007

Interview with Frances Bosserman Lackey

By Isabelle Chewning

Chewning: Today is March 7, 2007. My name is Isabelle Chewning, and I'm doing an interview with Frances Lackey, otherwise known as "Funny" Lackey who spent a lot of years in Brownsburg at school. So could you tell me your full name.

Lackey: Frances Lackey. [laugh]

Chewning: What was your maiden name?

Lackey: Frances Moore Bosserman.

Chewning: And when were you born?

Lackey: February 15, 1918.

Chewning: And you said you were born at home?

Lackey: I suppose so! [Laugh]

Chewning: And where was home?

Lackey: On Route 39. Halfway between Brownsburg and Fairfield – no Lexington and Brownsburg. [get approximate address]

Chewning: And what were your parents' names?

Lackey: Bruce Hansford Bosserman and Sarah Day Bosserman.

Chewning: How long had they lived here? Had generations lived here before them, or were they some of the first ones to come down to the Brownsburg area?

Lackey: You have me there. My mother lived on Smokey Row. She was a Day. And my daddy lived at the place we still lived.

Chewning: Where you grew up?

Lackey: Where I grew up.

Chewning: So that was his home place?

Lackey: I suppose so. His daddy's.

Chewning: And were they farmers? Was your dad a farmer?

Lackey: He was a farmer and a mail carrier.

Chewning: Oh, a mail carrier?

Lackey: A rural mail carrier. He started out in a horse and buggy.

Chewning: And where was the post office that he carried mail from?

Lackey: Lexington.

Chewning: Oh, and so his route was in Lexington, or more out where you lived?

Lackey: We lived on Rt. 39, which was about six miles out. He'd get up – now this is hearsay from me – I was a baby! He'd get up, come into town, get the mail, come back, went to where the Wades lived -- where the store was, what's that?

Chewning: Rockbridge Baths?

Lackey: No, on up.

Chewning: Raphine?

Lackey: No, no, no! [Laugh]

Chewning: Bustleburg? [Laugh]

Lackey: You'd better cut that thing off!!

[Tape stops momentarily]

Lackey: Bustleburg. On up through Smokey Row. Then backtracked and went down across Poorhouse Hill, and hit Rt. 11 and came back into Lexington.

Chewning: Gosh, that must have taken all day with a horse and buggy. That's a pretty long route.

Lackey: As I remember, he left home about four o'clock in the morning, and he'd get back about nine or ten at night.

Chewning: Wow, that was a long day. Gosh. And so he didn't have time to farm then?

Lackey: Well, I've heard my mother say that he could always – we had what he called the three bottom fields. And she said Bruce could always go down and see whether the man who

plowed before got it – well, he knew if he'd done a full day's work, because he'd plowed that field! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So the bottom fields were the ones along the river?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: And how about your brothers and sisters? How many of you were there in the family?

Lackey: Two brothers and five sisters and me.

Chewning: And what was everybody's name, starting from the oldest, going to the youngest.

Lackey: Lula Kate Bosserman. Do you want to know who they married?

Chewning: Sure! Yeah.

Lackey: [Lula Kate] married a Jones. Ruby Stuart Bosserman, married Shirley Totten. Fairy Bruce Bosserman. She'd come up out of her grave; she hated that name. [Laugh]

Chewning: Fairy? F – A – I – R – Y?

Lackey: Yeah. She was named after my Aunt Fairy Day.

Chewning: And Bruce? She was named Bruce after your father?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: And did you call her Fairy?

Lackey: We called her Sis. [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh, okay. [Laugh] Yeah. I've got to remember you all have some good nicknames!

Lackey: [Laugh] Well, she later, as she got older, she changed her name – she was Fairy – no Faye. When she got married and went to West Virginia, she became Faye! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh]

Lackey: She married Russell Mohler. Who's next?? I had a brother, Bruce. You know, I can't remember their whole names. "Bus" was his nickname. William? I don't know. William Hansford? I don't know if he was a Junior or not.

Chewning: But your dad's name was Bruce, right?

Lackey: Yeah. Okay, he was William Hansford. Now where'd the Hansford come from? [Laugh]

Chewning: And you called him Bus?

Lackey: B – U – S. He died when he was 21 years old with blood poisoning.

Chewning: Oh, no. Like tetanus?

Lackey: Had a boil on his lip, doctor lanced it, and two days later he was dead. I guess it was blood poisoning in those days. Whatever you'd call it. A strep infection of some sort.

Chewning: Um hm.

Lackey: He wasn't I don't think he was but 21 when he died.

Chewning: Um hmm. And who was after him?

Lackey: I think I put Sis – I think he's before Sis. How many have I got? [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Let me see. I should have been taking notes! Lula Kate, Fairy --

Lackey: Lula Kate, Fairy. Did I leave out Ruby?

Chewning: No, you said Ruby. Yeah.

Lackey: And Bus. And I guess Brother – George Mann Bosserman.

Chewning: And his nickname was Brother?

Lackey: Everybody called him Brother Bosserman.

Chewning: Brother.

Lackey: And Mildred Grey Bosserman. And I never – to this day, I don't know how you spell Grey: G – R – E – Y or G – R – A – Y. [Laugh] Which is the color and which is the name?

Chewning: I don't know! [Laugh]

Lackey: Do you know?

Chewning: No, I don't know. And was that Mutt?

Lackey: Yeah, that was Mutt.

Chewning: Two T's or one T?

Lackey: M – U – double T. Mutt and Jeff. That's what they called us.

Chewning: You were Jeff? You weren't Funny, you were Jeff?

Lackey: Anyone would say that's Mutt, and I was actually Jeff; that's Jeff, yeah. And I was Jeff. How many have I got?

Chewning: I think that's eight. Is eight the right number?

Lackey: I had a little – it was a sister..... that was, I think was the second one born. One was between Kate and Rube. She drowned [unintelligible]

Chewning: She drowned where?

Lackey: At the house.

Chewning: Oh, like in a bathtub?

Lackey: Didn't have bathtubs.

Chewning: Well, like in a –

Lackey: She was – she drowned in – water, you know where they put them out to catch the rainwater.

Chewning: Like a rain barrel?

Lackey: It wasn't actually as much of a rain barrel. Somewhere I have that obituary.

Chewning: How old was she when that happened?

Lackey: She must have been, I don't know, an infant. Two or three years.

Chewning: Just a toddler then.

Lackey: Toddler. It's a write-up somewhere that said Kate and Momma and her were in the garden. Momma, the mother had picked up some beets or something, and there was a tub there that caught rainwater in, and as she came through, she washed her – swished the beets or whatever she had in her hand. And went on in the house, and the little ones didn't come in. Kate came in, the other one didn't. And my momma told her later to go out and find her, and she came back in and said "can't get her out." She was in there.

Chewning: Oh. Oh how awful.

Lackey: Can't imagine a mother going through that.

Chewning: Gee. That's so sad. Oh.

Lackey: My mother, she never talked about it.

Chewning: And so what, what are your early memories of Brownsburg? You went to school in Brownsburg?

Lackey: I didn't. I didn't go to Brownsburg until I was in the fifth grade.

Chewning: Where did you go before that?

Lackey: Grand View.

Chewning: What kind of a school was Grand View?

Lackey: It was a one-room school. First grade through seventh grade.

Chewning: And was it close to where you lived?

Lackey: Well, like today, kids would have to have a bus to get there.

Chewning: Did you walk? You walked to Grand View?

Lackey: Yeah. Except, it was a Mr. Williams who lived in Rockbridge Baths. And he worked in town. Now don't ask me what he'd do. But you know our house was right on the road. And he'd come by, and if we were ready or standing out, he'd stop and pick us up!

[Laugh]

Chewning: And take you to school?

Lackey: Give us a ride to school. [Laugh] And we just loved that man!

Chewning: I'll bet, yeah.

Lackey: Otherwise, you know, walked. Thought nothing about it. Everybody else walked.

Chewning: Were you close in age to your other brothers and sisters? Were there a lot of you going to school at Grand View at the same time?

Lackey: No, well, three of them. Mutt and Brother and I.

Chewning: Were close in age?

Lackey: Yeah. We were at Grand View.

Chewning: Uh huh. Together?

Lackey: You see, in that time, there wasn't any high school. And you finished grade school, it wasn't any busses or anything.

Chewning: Oh, so there was no Brownsburg High School then?

Lackey: It was Brownsburg High School, but there wasn't any way – when you lived eight miles away from it you didn't go.

Chewning: So did your other brothers and sisters go to high school in Brownsburg?

Lackey: They didn't go to high school.

Chewning: So, did Brother and Mutt and you go to high school in Brownsburg?

Lackey: No, it was Mutt and I.

Chewning: Just the two of you.

Lackey: Now, the rest of them – Rube started at Lexington High School. She must have been smart. But ah, you know country gals going into Lexington High School. You were – if Lexington considered you – if you were from the county, you were just automatically dumb! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So you had to be really smart.

Lackey: Well, they just – That went through until Shirley Ann [Lackey's niece; the daughter of Lackey's sister Rube Bosserman Totten] left Brownsburg. When they moved up here and she went to Waddell, she didn't make the honor roll until the next year.

Chewning: Oh, she didn't?

Lackey: She'd always gotten A's.

Chewning: In Brownsburg?

Lackey: In Brownsburg. But they had, I mean, they kept her down. Next year, she went on back to her honor roll. Which just shows you.

Chewning: That the county schools were a little behind the city schools?

Lackey: Well, in their thoughts they were. They didn't give them the time of day. I remember Mutt ah If you had to go to Lexington High School, you couldn't go from a county school to Lexington High School unless you took the eighth grade. Lexington didn't allow it.[laugh] They wouldn't allow –

Chewning: So they had an eighth grade in Lexington, but they didn't have eighth grade out in the county.

Lackey: Yeah. They had an eighth grade, you could skip the eighth grade if you were smart enough, you know. The smarter ones – but if you weren't right up to par, you had to take eighth grade before you went to high school. And anybody that came in from Lexington – I mean that came in from the county, automatically had to take that eighth grade.

Chewning: Hmm. Who was your teacher at Grand View?

Lackey: Oh gosh! [Laugh] Mrs. Tolley was one of them.

Chewning: Tolley?

Lackey: Charles Tolley's mother. Mrs. Dan Tolley. Ethel. She –

Chewning: She taught all seven grades?

Lackey: Well, everybody, I mean –

Chewning: Everybody. She taught everybody then?

Lackey: It was just everybody. [pause] There was a Miss May Bare.

Chewning: And she was one of the teachers?

Lackey: Uh huh. She was – I've forgotten who she was. She wasn't married. Then back in them days [laugh] you couldn't be married and teach.

Chewning: Teachers were all single?

Lackey: All single. And if you got pregnant, wham! You went out! [Laugh]

Chewning: Well, how was it that you ended up – you went to Grand View until the fifth grade, and then you started going to Brownsburg?

Lackey: They closed up.

Chewning: Oh, they closed Grand View?

Lackey: Yeah. Grand View. It got so -- the kids got so mean, the teacher couldn't –

Chewning: The teacher couldn't handle them?

Lackey: Couldn't handle them then.

Chewning: Was that Miss Bare, or Mrs. Tolley?

Lackey: Oh, well, this wasn't any – no, I don't remember who it was. But anyway, they just – I remember one kid went up with a stick of wood and dared the teacher to come closer.

[Laugh] So I guess they just evidently -- I don't know whether my mother had anything to do with it or not. But, then they brought in a teacher that was so mean! I mean she [laugh] –

Chewning: At Grand View?

Lackey: Yeah. [Laugh]

Chewning: To try to straighten you out?

Lackey: Yeah. To try to straighten us out. And she would – I mean you'd be sitting and you would go like this [moves her shoulder] she'd hit you! [Laugh]. Pow!

Chewning: [Laugh]

Lackey: Anyway, I guess Mr. Herbert, they just, thought he'd said "the hell with it" and he just closed it up.

Chewning: And who was he, Mr. Herbert?

Lackey: He was the superintendent.

Chewning: Oh, superintendent of schools?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: And how many, how many kids were there at Grand View?

Lackey: All six grades. [Laugh] One of the kids, some of the kids had two –

Chewning: Like maybe 20?

Lackey: Yeah, 18 or 20.

Chewning: And so, it was, they closed it in the middle of the year?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: And then –

Lackey: And sent us all to Brownsburg.

Chewning: So then you started in Brownsburg in the fifth grade.

Lackey: And driving in – Mr. [laugh] – I wish somebody would have taken [a picture]. Mr. [William] Buchanan took his cattle truck, and put a bed on it – a cabin. It had a door at the back with steps down this way. And I cannot remember whether he had windows on the side. It had a plank on this side, and this side, and a plank across the top and down the middle. That was the seats! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So you rode to school in a cattle truck.

Lackey: I rode to school in a cattle truck.

Chewning: And was Mr. Buchanan, did he live in Brownsburg and came out to get you, or –

Lackey: Ah, he lived in Brownsburg one time. And he lived in Bustleburg back over in – back of Bustleburg.

Chewning: And so did he drive he drive around and pick up everybody that had gone to Grand View, or did -- ?

Lackey: Well, he went from – on Rt. 11. Let me see. I think he went up, do you know where the – you're too young to know where the Statons lived. It was – he went out there and turned around, and then later they went on out because, they'd come by our house, and then he'd go out and then he'd stop and pick us up on the way back – when he came back. Well, most of the time, a lot of the time, we were still in pajamas when he went out. [Laugh]

Chewning: When he went up the road [Laugh]

Lackey: [Laugh] Went up the road.

Chewning: And you knew you had to get dressed to catch him when he came back.

Lackey: That was it.

Chewning: What was it like when you got to Brownsburg?

Lackey: [Laugh]

Chewning: Everybody was in the middle of the year, and were you behind, or -- ?

Lackey: Oh God, I can still see us walking up that cement walk. And here was Miss [Osie] Trimmer standing there. “What grade are you in? You go over there. What grade are you in? Go over there?” Just – [laugh] and we were so scared! [Laugh]

Chewning: Yeah. How many ah, how many people were in your grade?

Lackey: Oh at Brownsburg?

Chewning: Well, both. How, how, how many fifth graders were there –

Lackey: Well there was, it was a regular, it was regular probably 20 or 25 in Brownsburg.

Chewning: So there you are in a class with a bunch of people you didn't know in the middle of the year.

Lackey: And didn't know – I remember – did you ever hear of a Greene? A Dr. Greene?

Chewning: No. I don't think so.

Lackey: A Dr. Greene who lived in – I was of course, here I was one of those snotty nosed kids. And they were all in a bunch one day, you know, laughing and joking. So I went over to – to join them. I wanted to [laugh] I was – and he says, “Get away from here, you little snot nose!” [Laugh] I'll never --

Chewning: Who said that?

Lackey: He was a – I remember he was a Greene and he was a doctor's son. [Laugh] I hated him ever since! [Laugh]

Chewning: I guess so, yeah! [Laugh]

Lackey: I don't know whether my nose was snotty or not. “Get away from here, you snot nose!” I reckon that's the reason I always – God, I'd go after a kid that called somebody else that – [laugh]

Chewning: So how long did it take before you sort of fit in with all the kids in Brownsburg.

Lackey: Oh, it took a long time! I mean, it well, I don't know. They, they accepted me after a while.

Chewning: And which school was it then? Was it the stucco building then?

Lackey: It was the stucco building, and – the stucco building was the high school.

Chewning: The one that's still there?

Lackey: Yeah. And, well, it was – and then they – the wood building, the one that had the auditorium upstairs.

Chewning: Was that behind the stucco building or in front of it?

Lackey: No, it was beside it.

Chewning: Oh, beside it.

Lackey: The stucco building was here [indicates a place on the table] and the other one – it was a – it had one – two – I think it had – it must have had five or six grades down, or the first through the sixth. And then I think the seventh one was up in the brick one – upstairs. They used it as – it was a part of the Home Ec department, I think.

Chewning: So, so – was there a brick, and a stucco, and a wood, or – were there three buildings, or two buildings?

Lackey: I don't remember a brick one.

Chewning: Oh, okay, okay. So where was – and the auditorium was in the –

Lackey: It was in the wooden one and they, you –

Chewning: With the elementary?

Lackey: You were in – and you went upstairs in the auditorium. The whole upstairs was the auditorium, except there was a little corner, not as big, probably from here, to here, to here [indicates a space about 12 x 6] that was the library.

Chewning: Oh, a little tiny library then!

Lackey: A little tiny library. And the other was the auditorium and the stage. And downstairs was first and second and third, fourth, fifth, sixth, and then the seventh was over in the stucco.

Chewning: And there was no cafeteria, you took your own lunch?

Lackey: No cafeteria. No indoor facilities at all. A john.

Chewning: Oh yeah? That was all outside?

Lackey: Johns all outside.

Chewning: Yeah? No indoor plumbing there then, huh?

Lackey: Indoor – I guess. We didn't have any indoor plumbing. Now, the Home Ec must have had, we must have had water. I know we had, would have had to have had water.

Chewning: So this is about – if you were born in about 1918, and you were in the fifth grade, then this was about 1930?

Lackey: Something like that.

Chewning: Sometime in there?

Lackey: Sometime in there.

Chewning: And then the high school – the brick building – the big high school was built in the thirties?

Lackey: It was built after I graduated.

Chewning: Oh, okay.

Lackey: Ah, it must have been. I don't know when I graduated. I'll have to think a minute.
[Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Well, what were you, 16 or so when you graduated?

Lackey: Well, I was 18 or 19.

Chewning: Eighteen? Okay, so that would have been – you were born in '18; '28, '38, that would have been like '36 or '37 when you graduated?

Lackey: Something, ah, along there. Because I didn't start – see, then you had to start school by the time you were seven.

Chewning: Oh, instead of six?

Lackey: You could start at five, but you had to start by seven. Well, I told my momma I didn't want to go to school. [Laugh]

Chewning: And she didn't make you go? [Laugh]

Lackey: Well, I can understand. Ah, you see my daddy died when I was five years old. Rockbridge Area Genealogy Society Cemetery Directory of Walkers Creek and South River Districts indicates Bruce H. Bosserman died in 1923.]

Chewning: Oh, so she had – she was there with –

Lackey: With me –

Chewning: She had eight kids, and –

Lackey: Oh, no. Well, she was there with Mutt and Brother and me, and the rest of them were married.

Chewning: Oh, they'd already all –

Lackey: Married – But I can see, looking back now, and see, well, she was lonesome. [Laugh] She didn't make me go to school.

Chewning: How did she support herself, how did she support you?

Lackey: Ah, mostly Rube [Lackey's sister Ruby Bosserman Totten] did it. See Rube –

Chewning: She was married and had moved to Lexington?

Lackey: No, she was married and moved up in the house right at –

Chewning: Oh, the house that's still there, the white house [get address]?

Lackey: Yeah, um hmm. Ah, they lived with us for a long time. Ah –

Chewning: What did she do?

Lackey: She was a mail carrier. My daddy was a mail carrier, rural mail carrier.

Chewning: And did she take over his route?

Lackey: She was his substitute.

Chewning: Oh, she was?

Lackey: And when he died, she took over the route. She wasn't but 17 or 18 years old. She took over his route and the supporting of the

Chewning: Wow. Uh huh, the family. And she was married then?

Lackey: No, she got married soon – soon after. But she always supported.....

Chewning: Wow. That's neat.

Lackey: I really – I look back now, and I wonder how she

Chewning: How she did all that?

Lackey: How she did it all. And ah, Nancy and I were talking about Shirley [Totten] one time, and I said "Shirley put up with an awful lot from his kin people." [Laugh] You know, Mutt – when Mother died, Rube – Mutt and I moved in with Rube and Shirley.

Chewning: How old were you when she died?

Lackey: I was 15. [Rockbridge Area Genealogical Society Cemetery Directory of South River and Walkers Creek districts indicates Sarah E. Day Bosserman died in 1934.]

Otherwise I'd been out –

Chewning: Uh huh.

Lackey: And then Brother, he was in and out all the time. Ah, but he didn't have any home go back to! [Laugh] Rube's and Shirley's.

Chewning: Uh hmm.

Lackey: [Laugh] And Nancy and I were talking about it, and – we both agreed that he never made us feel unwelcome, or that we weren't welcome. [Laugh]

Chewning: And who – whose daughter is Nancy?

Lackey: She's Sis'. [Unintelligible] You know, I can't remember how old – whether Bus or Sis was older. Wasn't – hell's bells, they must have gotten pregnant soon as they – [laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] One right after the other.

Lackey: I mean, they must not have gotten – used any contraceptives.

Chewning: Well, I guess not. No.

Lackey: And I can see, I heard somewhere along the way, and then this hit me not too long ago – that you couldn't get pregnant when you were nursing a baby.

Chewning: Wrong! Because you can, right?

Lackey: Well, I – I remember women used to nurse babies for a year, or year or more or something, and I thought that's the reason they nursed them! [Laugh]

Chewning: Yeah, yeah, that was the birth control then, huh?

Lackey: I don't – I don't think it worked all the time! [Laugh] But anyway, they bussed us to Brownsburg, and I'll never – I never felt so dumb in my life.

Chewning: But soon you were a star in Brownsburg, weren't you?

Lackey: I was a little – the, my teacher in the fifth when we got down there was a Mrs. – Miss White. She was very nice, but she stopped teaching in the middle of the year, and Mrs. Brown took over the class. That's the mother of the tall one and the short – the tall man and one –

Chewning: Oh, that was Mrs. Herbert [Ida] Brown? John and Margaret's mother?

Lackey: Yeah. She took over the grade for the last part of the year. And I wouldn't have passed if it hadn't been for her. [Laugh]

Chewning: Was she a fairly young person at that point? Because I had her for a substitute teacher.

Lackey: Well, I thought she was old.

Chewning: Old then?

Lackey: [Laugh] Because she was, you know [extends her hands about a yard apart].

Chewning: Broad?

Lackey: And she was very nice, and very – before we'd get a [test] – I can still see, she'd say: "Now what if I – if I should ask this question, 'When was Jamestown discovered [laugh] or settled?' and 'When was so-and-so?'" And then she'd turn around and give us the test. [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Oh, so she helped you! Did she ever tell you the story of Jump Mountain? I remember her always telling us whenever she was the substitute teacher, she always told us the Jump Mountain story.

Lackey: No. Somebody jumped off of it or something?

Chewning: Well, that's the one thing I remember about her, was the Jump Mountain story all the time.

Lackey: But she was a very -- I mean, I passed! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Then who did you have in the sixth grade?

Lackey: Miss Amole.

Chewning: Amole?

Lackey: A – M – O – L – E.

Chewning: I've never heard that name, I don't think.

Lackey: [Laugh] I often wonder what happened – she dated Frank – or Frank Rees dated her. Do you remember, have you ever heard of Frank Rees? This – do you know where the two Rees houses are coming out of Brownsburg [on the] Turnpike [52 West Airslie Lane and 2315 Brownsburg Turnpike]?

Chewning: I know where one of them is.

Lackey: Well –

Chewning: Are they right across from each other?

Lackey: Then the white house is Frank Rees', and the other one was –

Chewning: Walter's.

Lackey: Walter. She dated him. Frank Rees. And that's – [laugh] and she would [stands and holds fingers in front of her waist and wiggles them].

Chewning: She was fidgety?

Lackey: [laugh] She worked [continues to wiggle fingers]

Chewning: She always wiggled her fingers?

Lackey: Wiggled her fingers like she was scratching herself. [Laugh]

Chewning: Funny what you remember!

Lackey: Yeah. And I had a Miss – a Miss Head in fourth grade. You ever hear of that name? I think Caroline Patterson married a Head. And I don't know if it was – do you ever know anything about Caroline Patterson?

Chewning: No.

Lackey: Now, she graduated with me.

Chewning: Did she?

Lackey: She and Betsy [Patterson] both.

Chewning: There were some Heads that used to come to the Sterrett Reunion, long, long, long time ago. But I – I haven't heard anything about any of them for a long time.

Lackey: Well, she was a little old – she wasn't five foot tall. [Laugh] But she was a good teacher. As Miss Trimmer – she weeded her teachers out! [Laugh]

Chewning: So she was your teacher? Caroline Head? Is it Caroline?

Lackey: No, no she didn't – Miss Head taught the fourth grade. And when I went down there, I was in the fifth.

Chewning: Oh, okay.

Lackey: She was right up – she was just a nice little old teacher. She wasn't as tall as this [stands and holds her hands about five feet off the ground]. But I think she handled the kids very well.

Chewning: Because you had to work for Miss Trimmer?

Lackey: Miss Trimmer. Miss Trimmer, she was power control. I look back now, and she just wanted to control all the teachers, and all the boys, and all the girls.

Chewning: She had a pretty good grip on everything, didn't she?

Lackey: Well yeah. Ed [Patterson] was sitting here one night talking it, and we counted up the things she used to do. She taught Latin; she taught English; of course she was the Principal; she worked in the library; the choir – the Glee Club; the Dramatic Club; she – [laugh] she coached the boys' and girls' softball. And what else did she do?

Chewning: She coached basketball, too, didn't she?

Lackey: Yeah, she coached basketball. If there was anything around, she –

Chewning: Well, she must have been really smart to be able to do all that.

Lackey: Yeah, she was smart, and she was organized.

Chewning: Well how – how did she end up in Brownsburg?

Lackey: I do not know. [Laugh] Because I – when she went there, I was still at Grand View. And it seemed to me like the – you’ll have to get some Brownsburg people to tell you that. Walter Lunsford. [Laugh] Walter Lunsford seems to be the historian –

Chewning: Oh, yeah? He kind of took over from Ed [Patterson]?

Lackey: Of the town. He and Kent [Lackey’s son-in-law, Kent McMichael] work together. I think what one doesn’t know, the other one does! [Laugh]

Chewning: Well, he [Walter Lunsford] is on our list to interview, we just haven’t gotten to him yet.

[Tape stops. Lackey gets up to put wood on the fire. She mentions Lou Stuart’s oral history.]

Chewning: I really enjoyed talking to her. I didn’t realize that her father [Tolerace Wiseman] had been a bus driver. He drove the bus for –

Lackey: Years and years.

Chewning: For a long time. [Laugh] But his was a real bus, not a cattle truck! [Laugh] So how was it that you ended up being the drummer for Miss Trimmer?

Lackey: I don't – I wasn't actually. Rudolph Dunaway. You know, every time the bell rang, every recess and everything, the bell rang. She rang the bell, and we lined up, and then we marched into the school. We had [Lackey stands up and demonstrates marching] LEFT – LEFT – LEFT – RIGHT – LEFT.

Chewning: Wow.

Lackey: LEFT – LEFT – LEFT – RIGHT – LEFT. [Laugh] I can still do it! [Laugh] And Rudolph [Dunaway] was the drummer. And the few times when he wasn't there – one day, I think she said "Funny, do the drums!" [Laugh] Wasn't – wasn't very hard to do a LEFT – LEFT – LEFT – RIGHT – LEFT. [Laugh]

Chewning: And how old were you then?

Lackey: Oh, in high school.

Chewning: So the high school – even the high schoolers had to march in and out?

Lackey: Oh yeah, they had every – seniors on down to the first-graders.

Chewning: Everybody marched?

Lackey: Everybody marched into the school. And I mean, there was a – and then that was when she'd get up on those steps and blessed everybody out that she wanted to bless out.

Chewning: What was that about?

Lackey: Well, if you – well, for instance, my personal – I don't know what I'd done, but she says "Frances Bosserman, you're an awful big girl to whip, but I can do it!" And I thought "The hell you can, I'll run." I went back – I was in the seventh grade. I went back to the

room and in a few minutes somebody knocked on the door and it was Mildred, “Mutt”. “Can I speak to Funny?” “Yeah.” And she was – she was shorter than I was.

Chewning: Uh hm.

Lackey: She said, “Old bitch tries to whip you, you run!” [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] It’s a shame you don’t remember what you did!

Lackey: I – it wasn’t anything terrible, because I never really – I mean, it didn’t have to be anything terrible, just something that crossed her. I remember one time – ah, what was his name? He was a Slusser. Earnest Slusser? He ran away – off from school. I don’t think she was going to whip him or anything. But it was something at school that he ran off from. Well, he ran – you’d have to get up on top – on those school steps, but he ran – way, I could see him in a field, way, way over. [Laugh] And he took his shirt off and waved it! [Laugh] And we all were so proud of him cause we didn’t – we thought – wish we had nerve enough to do that!

Chewning: [Laugh] So did somebody go get him?

Lackey: No, he just -- I don’t – he was a Slusser, so he probably got a bawling out the next morning or something. [Laugh] But if it had been me, they would have – Miss Trimmer – I never have forgiven her for this. It was Francis Bare, and Ruby Mast, and – it was four of us. I had Brother’s car. It was right at the end of school, and Brother had loaned me his car, and I was driving it to school that day. [Laugh] So when the bus come up, I got Ruby Mast and ah.....shoot, her name will come to me later. Went on down, Francis Bare was standing out waiting on the bus, and we stopped and he got in. And we got in Brownsburg, and it was the little sister of the girl I can’t think of. [Laugh] Got into Brownsburg, and somebody said “Let’s skip school.” [Laugh] Hadn’t been any planning or anything, and I said “Okay.” So we let this little girl out to go on to school. And of course, she went back, and she went “Where’s [the girl]? How’d you get here?” “They skipped school.”

Chewning: So she ratted you out?

Lackey: She ratted. Well, we went to Staunton and then we went to Waynesboro. And we went – I remember Stuart [Lackey] – we didn't have any money. [Laugh] Maybe Francis had fifty cents or something. We went down to Stuart's [laugh]. [Stuart Lackey worked at a grocery store in Waynesboro; Lackey later married his younger brother, Frank Lackey.] And I think he gave us bananas or something.

Chewning: And how did you know him [then]?

Lackey: Stuart Lackey!

Chewning: And how did you know him when you were in school?

Lackey: He was a – he was working then at Pender's or somewhere.

Chewning: But how did you know him?

Lackey: Oh God, well they just lived across the hill [316 Mt. Atlas Road], I'd known the Lackeys ever since –

Chewning: Oh, so you knew him all that time?

Lackey: I just knew the Lackeys. [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So he bailed you out?

Lackey: He gave us something to eat.

Chewning: And did you get in trouble the next day?

Lackey: Did we get in trouble! [Laugh] She ah – she called us in one by one.

Chewning: Miss Trimmer did?

Lackey: Yeah. And she knew that Ruby and ah – the three of us had gone, the three girls. But she didn't have Francis. She suspected him cause he wasn't at school. But –

[End Tape 1, Side A]

Chewning: Who else taught you in high school?

Lackey: She taught history.

Chewning: Miss Montgomery.

Lackey: And Miss Dunlap taught Home Ec. Said I was her worst pupil. Eleanor Whipple and I were the worst pupils she ever had! [Laugh]

Chewning: Who was Eleanor Whipple?

Lackey: Fred's [Whipple] sister.

Chewning: Why were you bad pupils?

Lackey: [Laugh] Cause we didn't – we didn't know sewing, we didn't know we were going to cook! [Laugh] And we just disrupted the class. [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] And she didn't send you to the Principal's office?

Lackey: Well, the thing of it is that – I believe it was Caroline Patterson and I. We had a split Home Ec class. And they used to – the Home Ec class used to serve sandwiches for lunch. And we had the – me and somebody else. [laugh] We’d go in in our second period and clean up – all the lunch stuff. We didn’t care. We’d just as soon clean up as – as have class. So she said “Frances Bosserman, you’re the worst pupil I ever had!” [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Did you have to take Home Ec?

Lackey: Yeah, we had to take it.

Chewning: Did boys have to take Shop or Agriculture?

Lackey: It wasn’t any Shop, and it wasn’t any Agriculture. I don’t know what the boys did.

Chewning: How many years did you have to take Home Ec?

Lackey: Two.

Chewning: And were the – like your Junior and Senior you had to –

Lackey: No, Freshman and Sophomore. And we had to make – first thing we had to make was a pair of cotton panties – underwear. And now, usually, that’s the worst thing. And then we had to make a – I call it a satin petticoat. Anyway, I took that thing home one night. I had finished it all but the hem. And I thought “I’m going to finish this up and do it right.” And I did it right. Took it back the next morning and handed it to her, and she says “Frances, you DID NOT do that yourself!” [Laugh] “It’s done too well!” [Laugh] And I said, “I did so!” She had to accept it. I don’t think she ever believed it!

Chewning: Where did all the teachers live? Did they all mostly live in Brownsburg?

Lackey: Yeah, Miss Trimmer kind of insisted. The house, the yellow house there as you go to your house. I don't know, I think there's a college professor who lives in it now, or something.

Chewning: Down Sterrett Road? The Sears house where the Carwells lived, that house?

Lackey: No, as you come off of the Sterrett Road, the house on the right where you hit Brownsburg Turnpike.

Chewning: Where Gwyn Campbell lives [2766 Brownsburg Turnpike]. It was – Dr. [Richard G.] Hutcheson lived there for a while?

Lackey: Yeah. Well, it was a group of teachers lived there. A lot of them lived at – roomed and boarded at Mr. and Mrs. Bosworth's.

Chewning: Where did they live? Oh, I think I know. Does Catharine Gilliam live there now? [2703 Brownsburg Turnpike]

Lackey: Post Office? Is it the house close to the Post Office?

Chewning: Is it further up the street next to Jo Heath's house? [2693 Brownsburg Turnpike]

Lackey: I don't know. I have eaten dinner there. [Laugh]

Chewning: But it was – they roomed with the Bosworths?

Lackey: And one time, for some reason, I was always – you know I lived eight miles from school.

Chewning: Um hm.

Lackey: And I spent the nights a lot with Miss Trimmer. [Laugh] When they had the teachers down there, we'd have games, or be practicing for a play or something.

Chewning: Oh, you'd just stay.

Lackey: Go home with her. Yeah.

Chewning: Did a lot of the kids who lived far away do that?

Lackey: No. No, they were scared of her [laugh]! Well, I don't know how – I mean you'd go – it was a bunch of teachers, and they treated me just like a teacher. Now, they didn't smoke, they didn't drink, they didn't curse or anything, and of course, I was Little Miss Goody Shoes!

Chewning: So you put on your best behavior for them? [Laugh]

Lackey: I spent many a night down there.

Chewning: Huh. Were you a lot of the plays?

Lackey: No, I wasn't in any.

Chewning: Were you – were you in the, the games? Were you in the basketball games?

Lackey: I can't sing, I can't carry a tune!

Chewning: So you were just a spectator.

Lackey: I played basketball, and I played softball. One of the – when we went to Brownsburg, I'd never had a basketball in my hand in my life. I'd never seen a basketball court. And, of course, I was a fifth grader and got out there and everybody was shooting

balls and I wanted to shoot balls too! And this girl – I won't call her name – took the ball away from me and told me I couldn't play. And she had a real flat nose. And I went over to Mutt standing on the line beside this girl, and I went over there and said "That girl won't let me play!" Mutt says, "She won't let you play, I'll smack that nose flatter than it is!"

[Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Mutt looked out for you, didn't she!

Lackey: The thing of it was, it was her sister standing beside her [Mutt]. [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Uh oh!

Lackey: Cause we were strangers, we didn't know!

Chewning: Did you all get into a big fight on the playground?

Lackey: No, I mean, she – the girl didn't say a word. Later, we just heard that she – she [Mutt] said, "You know that girl I was talking to was her sister?" [Laugh] No, Mutt and I used to fight like dogs and cats among ourselves, but let somebody else bother the rest of them –

Chewning: Were you two years apart?

Lackey: Three years.

Chewning: Three years apart.

Lackey: Uh huh. But we'd fight for each other like that!

Chewning: And, what do you remember about the Depression?

Lackey: I just remember talking about it. We were so poor, it didn't bother us. I can remember somebody –

Chewning: You were already so poor it didn't make that much difference?

Lackey: No, and we lived on a farm, it didn't make that – we had actually, sugar and coffee. The staples.

Chewning: Uh hm. What kind of animals did you have? Did you have cows and chickens and –

Lackey: Chickens and horses and, didn't have any goats.

Chewning: Did you have chores?

Lackey: Did I have chores? [Laugh] I had to milk them damned cows!

Chewning: Oh, you did? That, that was one of your jobs?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: Morning and night, or –

Lackey: Uh hm. My mother had a heart attack when – I don't know, I was in about seventh – sixth or seventh grade or somewhere along in there. So, Mutt and I really had to take over the management of the household. She took over the cooking, and I took over the other. The other side. Feeding the horses, and milking the cows and feeding, throwing the hay down to them. And getting the chickens and all that.

Chewning: Wow. And, what had your father died of?

Lackey: Heart attack.

Chewning: And so she had this heart attack. Was she an invalid after that, or –

Lackey: No, she died. I, I – the doctor said she had a heart attack, and I don't know whether she had a stroke or what. I was the only one there when she died. Rube had gone – went to town, everybody left and she laid down on the sofa – I mean a little daybed. And I could tell there was something wrong with her. And she was trying to tell me something. She died.

Chewning: And how old were you, fifteen?

Lackey: Fifteen.

Chewning: Gosh. And so, did you have to get the doctor, or –

Lackey: Well, finally he came out and pronounced her. I went out in the road and screamed. I could see the Ayers go in – their car go in, and I hollered. And this – what was that boy's name? And then he went and got Rube and Shirley.

Chewning: When did you ah, get electricity and indoor plumbing and –

Lackey: Roosevelt. When was that?

Chewning: I don't know.

Lackey: The Rural Electrification – Rural – what is that called?

Chewning: R – Rural Electrification Authority – REA, something like that?

Lackey: Now Shirley and Rube, they had – now Frank said he didn't remember this. And I can't imagine him not [remembering]. They had what was – Delco Lights. Did you ever hear of it?

Chewning: No.

Lackey: In the basement, they had a stand that was – probably had thirty [cough] or forty batteries on it. And then they had a little motor over here, and you had to start that motor up, and it recharged the batteries. I don't know, you didn't have to do it every day. And that was the – the batteries came from those – I mean the electricity came from the batteries.

Chewning: Huh. So it wasn't a wire running into the house?

Lackey: No, it was all made inside the house. And I was telling somebody about it, and Frank said "I don't remember that." And I said, "I can't imagine you not [laugh] being down in the basement and seeing that." Cause when they built that house, they were the only ones that –

Chewning: They [Shirley and Rube Totten] built that house [get address]?

Lackey: Yeah. That had Delco Lights. And of course you had one in each ceiling.

Chewning: Wow, they had the latest thing, then, huh?

Lackey: They had the latest thing.

Chewning: Did they have indoor plumbing when they built that house?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: And did you –

Lackey: Running water. [Laugh]

Chewning: Did you have indoor plumbing at your house?

Lackey: No! I was thinking we at one time, we had water – the water was piped from Aunt Dora Lucas' and across the Ayers' down over the hill into our –

Chewning: From a spring?

Lackey: From a spring. And, it ran all the time. And Aunt Dora, bless her, God bless her soul [laugh] every time she'd get mad at us [she'd] go over there [and] pull that pipe up. And Bus or Brother [would] wait a couple of days, and after it got dark, they'd go up there and put the pipe back! [Laugh] But down under the porch, we had a springhouse. A trough, and that's where we kept all the fruits and everything. And the milk. And I was thinking about that trough the other day. They would – I don't know who'd go fishing, but if they'd catch more fish than they wanted, they'd just stop and put them [laugh] in the water trough. The old – they'd swim around until we decided to eat them!

Chewning: So they fished in the river a lot?

Lackey: Yeah. It was right there.

Chewning: Fish in your water trough, huh? Keeps the algae down, huh?

Lackey: No, this was a – this was a water – it was a trough under the house. I mean, it was cement. And the water went through it all the time, and ran out.

Chewning: Unless she [Dora Lucas] had unhooked the pipe, right?

Lackey: [Laugh] Poor Aunt Dora. It was something not – well several months ago in The Advocate that he wrote about – that he had Dora Lucas’ name in there. [Laugh] Do you remember?

Chewning: No. Did you call her Aunt Dora?

Lackey: Aunt Dora.

Chewning: Was she your aunt, or did you just call her that?

Lackey: Well, she [was] an aunt by marriage. She’d married – no the first time, she married Uncle Hank Shaw. I guess my mother was a – that would be my grandmother wouldn’t it? Was a Shaw. She married Uncle Hank Shaw, and he died. And all the old – there’s no oldtimers that are still living – but I used to run up on. “Was Hank Shaw your uncle?” [Laugh]

Chewning: He was a famous person?

Lackey: He was a red hot Democrat. He’d say, his famous saying was “more of something than there was Democrats in Hell.”

Chewning: What was it?

Lackey: No, he was a Republican! It was “more of something than there were Democrats in hell.” [Laugh] This old man said, “You remember your uncle, Hank Shaw? You ought to. You don’t look like any of last year’s chickens!” [Laugh] And one day, I ran across something, [unintelligible] Hank Shaw died in 1917! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So no, you don’t remember!

Lackey: No, I don't remember. I remember there was a lot of stories told about him – Uncle Hank Shaw. He was a whiskey gauger.

Chewning: What does that mean?

Lackey: Well, that was when liquor was legal. He made it in the stills. And I guess he went around and tested it to see how much [laugh]

Chewning: How much alcohol was in it?

Lackey: Alcohol. Now Gertie told me that. Gertie Bosserman. That he was a whiskey gauger.

Chewning: Huh, I never heard of that before.

Lackey: My granddaddy Day ran a still. That was in legal time, that was up on Mt. Atlas Road, I reckon, where he had it.

Chewning: He used corn? Was it corn liquor?

Lackey: I don't know. I wasn't around then! But I mean, I mean, it wasn't any ABC stores or anything then, it was a legal still.

Chewning: You just sold it in quart jars to people?

Lackey: I don't know whether – they made it in barrels. I can only – all I can think about is mash. Where did that come in?

Chewning: I don't know. Corn mash, or – I don't know.

Lackey: I don't know what they did with it. I don't if it was unloaded before or after they made the stuff.

Chewning: Yeah, I don't know either.

Lackey: Shirley used to make beer. They didn't call it beer then, they called it something else. You put it in and let it sit, and then you bottled it.

Chewning: Any good?

Lackey: I don't know, I don't like beer! [Laugh]

Chewning: So, after your mother died, did you and Mutt live there in the house by yourselves? Or did you move up to –

Lackey: We may have moved up to Rube and Shirley's.

Chewning: And you were still in – you were still in school.

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: But, had she [Mutt] graduated, or was she still in school?

Lackey: No, she was a senior in high school. Cause she [Lackey's mother, Sarah Day Bosserman] died when we were in the midst of exams at the end of school and all. And Mutt was at a graduation party, somebody was giving a party for the graduation class. And she was at that party, was going to spend the night with somebody.

Chewning: Um. Did they go get her?

Lackey: Uh hm.

Chewning: And then what did she do after she graduated?

Lackey: Nothing. Now, well, let me say, she really was the housekeeper. See, we roomed, we moved in with Rube and Shirley. And of course, I went on to – I went to college, I was determined to go to college. I was the dumbest [girl] that ever hit the college! [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh no! And, and do you think – had Miss Trimmer had any influence on you? Do you think she – did she encourage you to go to college, or you just were bound and determined yourself?

Lackey: [Laugh] I was just bound and determined to go. I didn't know how I was going to [pay] – I can't remember. I think I got six hundred dollars out of my part of the farm. And tuition was three hundred dollars.

Chewning: So you sold the farm?

Lackey: No, Shirley and Rube bought it. And I took my six hundred dollars and went to college! [Laugh] Two years.

Chewning: So it was a two year college and –

Lackey: Well it was a two year – if you wanted to do grade school, you did two years. If you wanted to do high school you went four.

Chewning: So you were studying to be a teacher?

Lackey: Well, that's all that was available. I wanted to be – I wanted to be a Phys Ed teacher, but I couldn't, didn't have the money enough to go for four years.

Chewning: You had to go two more years to be high school.

Lackey: At that time, you know, if you taught grade school, you went two years. And you were in high school, you went four.

Chewning: And you went to Madison.

Lackey: James Madison University. [Laugh]

Chewning: Harrisonburg Teachers College then?

Lackey: Harrisonburg State Teachers College with a thousand students there. And I knew every one of them. Everybody knew everybody on campus.

Chewning: What do you remember about your graduation from Brownsburg?

Lackey: We were graduated in New Providence Church.

Chewning: Oh, that's where the ceremony was?

Lackey: Because the, the old other building had to be – had been condemned! [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh, the auditorium?

Lackey: Yeah, the auditorium had been – I remember [laugh] I don't remember, but I remember saying it, that I went up and got my diploma and came back and put it – put it on the chair and sat on it! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Who was in your class? Anybody I would have heard of ?

Lackey: Betsy Patterson, Caroline Patterson, Francis [Bare].

Chewning: The Francis you got in trouble skipping school?

Lackey: Yeah, the Francis I got in trouble with. Ruby Mast, Faye Plogger, Rudolph Dunaway, Billy Beckner – no, Billy, Brooks. He and Frances Brooks were brother and sisters. And did I name you Bernice Beckner? And one still living, I hear from her; we exchange Christmas cards every year -- Mary McCown. Lives in Roanoke.

Chewning: Was that her name then? Mary McCown?

Lackey: Yeah, Mary McCown. Her husband's dead and she has one girl. We exchange Christmas cards. And do you ever hear anything of Stella – God knows what her name is now. Stella Carroll?

Chewning: Uh uh.

Lackey: She had a sister that was a Swisher, I think.

Chewning: I don't think I know who that is.

Lackey: Ag used to talk about the sister. Ah, but the rest of them – Rudolph is dead; Billy's dead; Marvin Tolley is dead. I'm not sure whether that Melvin Swope graduated or not, but he was in our class. And Betsy and Caroline were in the class.

Chewning: How did they happen to be in the, the same grade? Were they the same age?

Lackey: I reckon Caroline must have – Caroline was older. She must have – people, well, you were flunked back there. If you, you –

Chewning: You really had to make the grade? Nobody –

Lackey: If you failed one subject, you flunked. And in grade school, if you failed a geography course –

Chewning: Wow.

Lackey: I failed them [my students] when I first started teaching. You had to make seventy-five percent. Which I think sometimes they ought to go back to that.

Chewning: I guess you lived close enough to Lexington that you did most of your shopping in Lexington instead of going to the store in Brownsburg.

Lackey: Yeah, as I say, I don't remember ever going to Brownsburg.

Chewning: Do you remember any of the people in Brownsburg?

Lackey: I remember Ruth Patterson.

Chewning: I don't know who that was.

Lackey: That's – that was Ruth Hogshead.

Chewning: Oh, okay. How much older than you was she?

Lackey: That's a good question. I always thought she was a –

Chewning: Twenty years older, or –

Lackey: Ah, I have no idea. I wouldn't venture a guess. But I don't actually – until I started [school] down there, I don't know whether I'd ever been [to Brownsburg].

Chewning: To Brownsburg?

Lackey: To Brownsburg. We didn't have any kin people there.

Chewning: Where did you go to church?

Lackey: Up there! [Lackey points to a painting of the Associate Reformed Presbyterian Church in Timber Ridge.] [Laugh]

Chewning: The ARP church in Timber Ridge?

Lackey: The ARP in Timber Ridge.

Chewning: Did you go pretty much every Sunday?

Lackey: No.

Chewning: That's a long ways from where you lived.

Lackey: Yeah, [laugh] and – Mother – my mother would have gone every Sunday, uh huh. But Rube had to take us. And she – sometimes Rube played the organ.

Chewning: Oh did she?

Lackey: And she hated to go, and she'd say, "Oh, I hope they don't see me!" [Laugh] I keep on saying I want to see where the Marks farm is. Do you have any idea where the Marks farm is?

Chewning: No.

Lackey: Well you go Decatur Road, and it's back in there somewhere, but it's land – it's – what's the word? It doesn't have any right-of-way in to it.

Chewning: Oh, land-locked?

Lackey: Land-locked. But, there was Lyle and Raymond and Bill and Owen. Anyway, Lyle used to go with Rube. Owen used to go with Sis. And Uncle Bill – now who in the Hell Uncle Bill was -- his name was Uncle Bill Marks -- went with Kate. And they lived up – it's back of the Lackey farm. Up in – well, not quite. You know where we lived on – ah, out in the country? Now how in the devil did they walk over there? [Laugh]

Chewning: I don't know! I don't know. That seems pretty far. And they didn't have a car?

Lackey: Oh, no, they – they had horses over there.

Chewning: Do you remember getting your first – when you all first got a car?

Lackey: Ah, my daddy had a car when he –

Chewning: When he delivered mail?

Lackey: When he died. And that was 19 – so he probably had one of the first cars. An old Model T! [Laugh]

Chewning: So that would have been in the early twenties?

Lackey: Oh yeah. I think cars probably came out in 1913, or '14 or something in there. Of course, the thing of it was, the roads were [laugh] were so muddy, and flat tires!

Chewning: Oh yeah. Yeah, yeah.

Lackey: And I mean, you didn't just go out and change them then. They had, you had to do the inner tube, and the whole works.

[Tape stops momentarily while Lackey puts wood on the fire.]

Chewning: I can't think who that –

Lackey: I think she lived in the little, the little log house that they're restoring.

Chewning: Oh, that Lib Ward lived in [2763 Brownsburg Turnpike]?

Lackey: No. Maybe it was some – it was somewhere along there. I remember going – spending the night with Miss Trimmer and the teachers. And on the next morning, one of them sent me over there to get her – to get a garment of some kind that she had fixed for them. And I remember her standing at the iron with the crutch, crutch under one arm.

Chewning: Oh, and ironing with the other?

Lackey: Ironing with the other.

Chewning: Huh. No, I don't know what her name – I don't think I've heard of her before. And she did sewing for people?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: I don't know.

Lackey: I remember Ed [Patterson] was good – so good on these people. He remembered everybody, I think.

Chewning: Yeah. He remembered everybody.

Lackey: Everybody ever was.

Chewning: Knew who was kin to who.

Lackey: He should have written all that down.

Chewning: Oh, I wish he had! Yeah.

Lackey: I miss him. [Laugh]

Chewning: Dick Barnes said he [Ed Patterson] was up at his store one time, and on the side of the store a lot of people have carved their initials and stuff. And he said Ed would go along and say, “Now this was so-and-so; this was somebody else.” And he knew who all the initials were.

Lackey: He had a remarkable knowledge of Brownsburg.

Chewning: He sure did.

Lackey: Bill’s not still living, is he? Bill [Patterson]?

Chewning: No, I don’t think so. He was in Florida, but I – I don’t think he’s living still. Any other memories of Brownsburg?

Lackey: As I say, I remember going in there on buses! [Laugh] I remember, it was an Arehart. It was a boy and a girl – two boys, little boys. And they didn’t have a bus – a bus didn’t come by their house. And they drove this great – I thought it was [laugh] huge car to school. Lived out somewhere out on the other side of Brownsburg. But they lived so far from the school bus they couldn’t. And I used to think that was the neatest thing to see if they were ah –

Chewning: Driving the big car?

Lackey: Driving the big car.

Chewning: And when, when did you learn to drive?

Lackey: In the fields of home. [Laugh]

Chewning: Who taught you? Did Brother teach you how to drive his car?

Lackey: No. It was – Brother taught me how to drive Uncle Georgie's! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] Brother didn't want you driving his car to learn!

Lackey: Well, that – this was just that he didn't, he didn't have a car. I wished I had a picture of Uncle George Day's – it must have been, it had to be a homemade one!

Chewning: Homemade car?

Lackey: No. Ah, anyway, after his death, that car – they stored it in a barn out there. And when Rube and Mutt – Rube and Momma would go – come to town in the afternoon, and we knew they were coming to town, well, Brother would siphon a gallon of gasoline out of Rube's car. [Laugh] And as soon as they'd leave, we'd put that gallon of gas in the engine in that truck and get it out in the field. I'd drive a while, Mutt would drive a while, and Brother'd drive a while! [Laugh]

Chewning: [Laugh] So you sort of taught yourselves how to drive?

Lackey: And when we thought the gallon was about over, we'd put it back in the barn. And when we'd take sticks and sweep over the barnyard. So couldn't anybody see –

Chewning: That you'd been out driving around.

Lackey: Where we'd been. Driving. "My turn! My turn!" You'd practice who could make the shortest curve! [Laugh] Talk about kids being mean.

Chewning: Wow.

Lackey: It wasn't mean, it was just reckless, or thoughtless, I guess. Somebody was here the other day talking about a tire rim. A tire – a tire that's taken off the rim and [you'd] get in it and go down the hill.

Chewning: Oh no, I – No, I've never done that. Uh uh. Have you done that?

Lackey: Oh yeah. It was alright on the bottom, but boy when you hit that –

Chewning: Oh, when you're – so you're going like – doing summersaults all the way down the hill?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: Hmmmm. Yeah. That doesn't sound too good.

Lackey: [Laugh] Aah. Well if you had to -- know how to figure out where you were going to land before you started out – [laugh]

Chewning: Yeah, that'd be good. [Laugh] You gotta hit something to stop? Or make it fall over to stop?

Lackey: Well, kids always invent something to play with.

Chewning: Oh yeah. Yeah.

Lackey: I remember a stick horse. Did you ever ride a stick horse?

Chewning: Oh yeah. Yeah. Oh, yeah. I was a horse person.

Lackey: [Laugh] And I used to park my stick horse out across the – well, the house was right on the road and I had a stable over on the other side! [Laugh]

Chewning: Ha! So your stable was across the road! What was the house like?

Lackey: It was a – it started out as a toll station. It was built there – the house itself was built on that [unintelligible] place. That was a – you had to pay a toll to get through there, I'm told. It was – half of it was brick, half of it was log, and the other half was plain lumber. It was just plain old – it had one – two – three – four bedrooms.

Chewning: Was it two stories?

Lackey: Uh huh.

Chewning: And the bedrooms – were the bedrooms upstairs?

Lackey: One downstairs and three upstairs. And it had two stairways. [Laugh] It was a cozy old house. Of course, it was right on the road, but we didn't know any – we thought that was neat.

Chewning: Was your parents' bedroom downstairs, and all the kids slept upstairs?

Lackey: You know, now Mother's bedroom – I don't – you see, my daddy died when I was five years old, and I don't remember where they slept. I just – I guess he and Mother slept downstairs.

Chewning: And it burned right?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: How – when did it burn?

Lackey: Now Ag [Patterson] can tell you that. It burned the night that Bruce [Patterson] had his rehearsal dinner or something. It had been vacant for months and years, and they had newspapers and leaves and everything up on the porch and around it, and you just suppose somebody come along and flipped a –

Chewning: A cigarette out of the car or something.

Lackey: A cigarette out of the car.

Chewning: And who – who lived there –

Lackey: It was empty when it burned.

Chewning: And before that who – who had lived there?

Lackey: The people that lived the longest were the Sweets. Remember Ellen and -- They had five – six children. Two boys – three boys and three girls. Corky – Corky and Jean and who were the others? Every time I'd call – Shirley Ann [Totten] used to stand on the hill over there, "Corky! Corky Sweet, come play with me!" [Laugh] She'd just yell for an hour! She wasn't but about five years old and Corky was seven or eight, and that's the last thing he wanted to do!

Chewning: Play with a little girl?

Lackey: Play with a little girl. “Corky! Corky Sweet!” I think that – it’s one of them – I was going through this thing the other day and [pulls out photograph album] – I had – I ran across a picture – oh, this was --

Chewning: Who’s that?

Lackey: That’s Betty Stuart [Lackey’s daughter Betty Stuart Lackey McMichael].

Chewning: No it’s not! It’s me!

Lackey: [Laugh] Oh, yeah, here’s Betty Stuart – no that’s –

Chewning: That’s Marie [Patterson Coleman].

Lackey: Marie. [Looks through photographs] You know who that is? [Laugh]

Chewning: Oh! Frank Wade and Betty Stuart?

Lackey: Yeah.

Chewning: I didn’t know that. Well, I guess I did know it, but I forgot. Was that – did she invite him her prom, or he invited her to his?

Lackey: She invited him to hers. [Unintelligible]

Chewning: She didn’t change much.

Lackey: He was a nice kid. She got tired of him or something. [Laugh] Here’s my roommate in college. She died.

Chewning: [Reading name on photograph] Aileen?

Lackey: Aileen Gearhart. Aileen. And I saw in the paper sometime in the last couple of months her brother died. Dr. Gearhart. The last time I saw [him] he was a kid when we were in college. And I went home with Aileen one weekend here. You know kids – and I saw him later as he, when he was grown up. And he said, “Funny, you embarrassed the hell out of me!” [Laugh] “When you were over to my house.” And I said, “How did I embarrass you?” He said, “You were in the bathroom in front of the sink, and I opened the door, and you were standing there in your panties and bra!” [Laugh] Now that embarrassed little boy!

[Interview ends]

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