

People of the Sturgeon: Wisconsin's Love Affair with an Ancient Fish
Estelle Wagner Oral History
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Interviewer: KSK – Kathleen Schmitt Kline
Transcriber: NCC

Estelle Wagner: Okay. Well, Ambrose, we were still living in Mount Calvary. We had a historical society, and Ambrose was the president of the historical society.

Kathleen Schmitt Kline: In Mount Calvary, you did?

EW: Yes. It was short-lived. Anyway, so, they wanted to have the history of the area, and I said, "Well, I tell you what, I'm going to ask my dad," because my dad had a good mind. I said, "I'm going to ask him to come to my house. Ambrose, how would it be if you come and we both, you and I, will interview dad." "Oh, Ambrose would like that." Now, when you listen to Ambrose, my nephew, who's an attorney in Milwaukee, and I mentioned that he's an attorney in Milwaukee because he can be critical. So, when he listened to that tape, he says, "Oh, I don't like the way that man interviewed your dad." I said, "Paul, you are the only one that has ever said this." Because you've got to know Ambrose (Frishpar?) to appreciate it. So much so, you know Jerry Schneider's Orchestra?

KSK: Yes.

EW: You know Jerry Schneider's Orchestra?

Male Speaker: Certainly.

EW: Well, his sister, Betty (Depas?), lives on the lake. Betty and Al Depas. Okay?

MS: Yes.

EW: So, one time, I decided the people who live on the lake should know about this. So, I had invited them all over, the Kefeinheims and – you know Wayne Miller?

MS: Yes.

EW: Wayne Miller and the Depas and some of the people – Muldoons and so on. We had a couple drinks first. [laughter] That's important too. So, anyway, they listened to this tape, and they just were very interested in it. So, Betty Depas asked her brother Jerry Schneider of the Jerry Schneider Orchestra – he has a recording studio in Chilton, right in his home. So, she said, "Would you mind coming" – we already talked to Jerry. He said, "Sure." "Would you mind coming and bringing this tape? Jerry wants to make a copy. But also, as you go along, maybe you can stop the tape and explain things." You know what I'm saying?

KSK: Yes.

EW: So, that's why I've got these copies, because it was done in Jerry Schneider's recording studio.

KSK: So, you have the original recording. Then you have kind of an additional material to go along with it then?

EW: This is better than the original recording.

KSK: Right. Okay. Wow.

EW: But anyway –

KSK: [laughter] That was a really good idea.

Female Speaker: Yes. I think this is wonderful.

MS: That's why I told her she should be here to hear this.

FS: It's very valuable.

EW: Why is it valuable?

FS: Because it's history.

MS: It's a part of history that we would lose. Sooner and later, we will lose it –

EW: Well, I know.

MS: – and we don't want to lose it when we're trying to record for the museum. We're trying to keep –

EW: I give you people a lot of credit for that. I appreciate – I really give you a lot of credit for that. But I ended up being a reading teacher.

MS: I heard about you last night. Yes, go ahead.

KSK: Oh, yes. Okay. That's great.

EW: But anyway, I really, really wanted to be a social studies – a history teacher because I loved history. Along the way, as I was taking courses at Marian College, I knew some of the teachers because I was already teaching at St. Mary's. I had a teaching certificate because I went to a rural normal. So, some of those nuns at St. Mary's said, "She really should get her certification in reading." Because they knew that I was very interested in teaching reading to the lower grades. You know what I'm saying is?

MS: Yes.

EW: If you have a poor teacher in first and second grade, you have trouble in school all the time as far as reading is concerned. But anyway, now where did I get off on that? What was I talking about? [laughter]

MS: No, that's all right. Why don't you go ahead –

KSK: So, this is your father who is being interviewed?

EW: Yes, and we were living in Mount Calvary.

MS: Okay.

[audio recording starts]

Male Speaker: There, when our sister took over, we had Wayne King. We had [inaudible].

[audio recording stops]

EW: Just a minute. That must be just – that's my dad.

KSK: Now, who is that speaking?

EW: My dad.

KSK: Okay.

FS: When was this interview taken? What year about?

EW: I think it says it in the beginning.

FS: Oh, okay. Good.

EW: I can't remember. When you get ninety years old, your mind isn't so good anymore [laughter].

KSK: There's a lot to remember [laughter].

FS: Yes.

MS: You can set it here if you'd like. Want to just set it down here?

EW: Yes. I want to get it –

MS: Sure.

[audio recording starts]

Female Speaker: Good morning. We have with us today two very inspiring people.

[audio recording stops]

EW: Just a minute. I'm going to stop this, and I'll rewind it again. Okay. As you know, I'm not good with machines [laughter].

[audio recording starts].

FS: Good morning. We have with us today two very inspiring people.

[audio recording stops]

EW: Okay.

MS: Leave it right there now. It'll show up. There's a little dead spot in front. There you go.

KSK: There you go.

MS: It'll be fine now.

[audio recording starts]

FS: Good morning. We have with us today two very inspiring people. Mr. Ambrose [inaudible], who is the president of our newly organized historical society in Mount Calvary, and Mr. Chris Fuhrmann, who is a resident of the area and has been a resident of the area all his eighty-six years. I'm being partial to Mr. Fuhrmann because he happens to be my father. Mr. Fuhrmann was born in 1882 and lived in the Boston area from the day he was born. Today, we're going to have Ambrose interview him about the history of the Wolf Lake area. You'll feel that dad has a lot to offer. He has a lot of information.

[audio recording stops]

MS: Just turn the volume down a little bit. Start it up again, and then –

KSK: I can do that.

MS: The volume is a little high.

[audio recording starts]

FS: Okay. I'm very, very sure that he is a walking encyclopedia. So, Ambrose, I think that you are going to be very, very pleased with all the very interesting things that Dad will tell you about the Wolf Lake area.

[audio recording stops]

EW: That's Ambrose. He's a unique person.

[audio recording starts]

Male Speaker: Could you tell us what the activities consisted of? Was it pretty much as it is today?

Chris Fuhrmann: No, not at all. This Wolf Lake area, in my younger days, they had a big building at Wolf Lake, even two dance halls. In those days, the people, before the cars, they'd come to carry our St. Cloud, the farmers, would take them up and bring them over to Wolf Lake, and they'd stay there for weeks. Some of the same people, they'd come every year for – especially one couple, they'd come there for forty years.

[audio recording stops]

EW: Across the lake. Okay. When dad talks about Wolf Lake, he talks about across the lake, on the east side of the lake, not Hollywood. It is the east side of the lake, where now is the Wolf Lake Park.

[audio recording starts]

CF: It was the only place where they had a picnic on the 4th of July. They had two bands, and in the [inaudible], I'll never forget, they had a steamboat. That steamboat was run by Matt [inaudible]. He was a brother-in-law to [inaudible] brothers that owned the place. They drove with one band, and they drove around Wolf Lake, all [inaudible] on 4th of July. The people would come from far and like, all over with horse and buggy to Wolf Lake.

MS: Okay. What year is this you are referring to now? Could you tell us?

CF: Well, when this happened – well, I'm eighty-six years old now. Then I was maybe about ten years old, I would say.

MS: Okay. Thank you, Chris. I understand, it was very common thing, those years, that bands played there quite regularly, and people really attended very well.

CF: Well, you're talking about Hollywood?

MS: Yes.

CF: Yes. Well, they had all the name bands in there when Harry Fitzgerald took over. They had Wayne King, they had (Louis Pineko?), Dick Jurgens, and all the name bands played at Hollywood. Even they had such a crowd that all the yards were just full of cars.

EW: Parked down by that farm down there.

MS: [inaudible] It has been said that large boats were on the lake, giving boat rides. Have you any idea what charges were there to have arrived?

CF: No, there wasn't a large boat. They had the first motor – well, at that time, with the

steamboat, I don't remember what they charged. But afterwards, they had a motorboat. That was the time when Steve (Adler?) and Pete Rieder operated the boat. That is after the big building burned down that real quick.

FS: I think we better go back again. When they referred to the big bands, that was Hollywood. Hollywood wasn't built until about 1924, [19]25. The dance hall that dad's talking about was probably in existence in the early 1900s. So, we don't want to get ahead of ourselves. When he talks about the big steamboat, that was in the days when they had the dance halls at the park and way before the time of Hollywood.

MS: Dress wise, would the ladies wear plain dresses, or did they wear those long black and dark clothing, which was customary those years?

CF: Well, that changed over the years. Way back, they wore long clothes. But afterwards, they used just what you call calico or [inaudible].

MS: About what year did the cottages surrounding Wolf Lake begin to come in existence?

CF: In 1922 or [19]23, there were three cottages; Arch Schmitz, John [inaudible], Pete [inaudible]. Then in 1924 or [19]25, yes, then Hollywood was built. Then the year after Hollywood was built, they bought land from us, and they built these cottages. It was [19]24 or [19]25. Yes.

FS: The first cottages at Wolf Lake were not on the west side of the lake. They were on the east side of the lake. The very first cottage that was built at Wolf Lake was built by a man by the name of Bauman.

EW: In fact, if you look, it's the yellow one.

FS: That cottage still exists today. I think that somebody by the name of (Dorn?) owns that cottage. When the cottages on the west side of the lake were built, that was at the time when Hollywood was built.

MS: [inaudible] Wolf Lake, later known as the Everett's Farm, did it ever enter your mind that someday, lots would be sold off of that farm?

MS: No. No. Hollywood is –

[audio recording stops]

EW: The Everett's Farm, that is where my mother was born and raised. My grandpa built that house. That's the first place west of the boat landing on the same side. Okay?

MS: Oh, wow. Victor Steffes.

EW: Victor Steffes is on the other side. Victor Steffes is on the east side of the boat landing.

But the Everett's place that my grandpa, Petrie built is on the west side of the boat landing. It's that big brown house now. So, dad tells about how – well, let's play it again. Continue.

[audio recording starts]

CF: My wife's homeland there, and it was sold to Everetts. Then Everetts sold three acres to (Benny Clensing?) where Hollywood is on. Then that same year, three cottages were built.

MS: The price that one lot sells for now, could that be about half of the price that Mr. Petrie, your father-in-law paid for a complete farm?

CF: That is right. That's right.

MS: The beautiful home that still stands on the Everett's Farm, formerly Petrie Farm, which now is falling apart, going to pieces, have you any idea what that home cost when it was built?

EW: That was mother or mother [inaudible].

CF: I think it cost \$3,000 – less than \$3,000. That was built when Mon and I were twelve years old.

FS: Okay. Everett's Farm, the house on that farm, was built by my mother's dad. That was Jacob Petrie. The house wasn't quite completed yet when my mother died. She was only forty-two years old. Then later on, after the children were all married, he sold the farm to Everetts. At one time, it was really falling apart. But the house has really been remodeled, and it's in very good condition. It's the house that's just west of the boat landing. It's that brown house.

EW: Oh, then Schneider bought it, but he renovated it.

FS: The people that own it now have done a good job. But that land, at one time, was all owned by my grandfather where Hollywood stands on.

MS: The final and the last question, what would have people done or said when these picnics were ongoing – were in progress, if young people would've entered the park or the grounds in the scanty, or just about new clothing that they – and would have come and joined the people?

CF: It wouldn't have been accepted. That really would've been a riot, I guess, because we never saw anything like it. In fact, in my day, when I went to dances, the girls were not allowed to come in the tavern. When we went to dance at Wolf Lake, the girl you took there, she sat in the waiting room. When the band started to play, you went and got her and go to the dance hall.

MS: What kind of music was played by the bands those years? Waltzes? Polkas? Foxtrot?

CF: Yes.

MS: Or did they have Country Western?

CF: They had Polka, and I remember the later years, the Foxtrot came along. That would've been in about 1912 or thirteen.

MS: Thank you, Mr. Fuhrmann, for your fine answers.

FS: Thank you, Ambrose. Thank you, Ambrose and Dad, you did a good job. But I think that maybe we should backtrack. We'd like to distinguish Wolf Lake Resort from Hollywood Resort. Wolf Lake Resort was in existence many, many, many years before Hollywood Resort was ever thought about. So, we're going to go back, and we'll ask you questions about the original owners of Wolf Lake and what that was like. Okay. Ambrose?

MS: Mr. Fuhrmann, who were the owners of the original Wolf Lake Resort?

CF: As far back as I can remember, it was the Steffes brothers, Anthony, Joe, and Mike. After the big building burned down, Anthony moved to Chilton, and Mike, he had moved the old boat house up, and he had a little tavern and living quarters in that boathouse. That's many, many years ago.

MS: Tell us about the steamboat in the early 1900s.

CF: Well, [laughter], they had a steamboat there. When they had picnics, I don't remember what the charges – it wasn't much, but they make trips around the lake. I know at one time, on the 4th of July, they had [inaudible] and my mom was on there. The motor stops, they had quite a time getting to shore, I remember that. But they had two bands on the 4th of July. One band was on that steamboat, and they drove around Wolf Lake all [inaudible] playing. The band was playing just one –

MS: I understand that they had bowling alleys in those years.

CF: Yes.

MS: Did they have any other activities as they have now?

CF: Well, the hall on the south side of the big building didn't burn down. Then there was one alley that they pulled out from the tavern – they had the big tavern door open that they'd pull out from the tavern. Many a time, I set pins there. That alley, when they took the seats away on the east side, and then for a dance, they had the seats back up there again.

MS: What happened to the original place? Or was it replaced with another building?

CF: Well, like I said, Mike Steffes. He moved that boathouse up there, and he fixed the little tavern and living quarter. But then Steve Adler and Pete Rieder bought the place, and they raised that building up, but they built underneath it, off the top, I told that too many people already, that's the old book house. Then after they sold to Benny Clensing, he added, I don't know how many bedrooms and stuff on the west side, and he built an addition to it. He had an

enormous business there at that time. The people, they still came with us before. Their cars was known as they came and stayed there. There was even people that everybody knew in the neighborhood. There was one old man, Rick, they called him. He was a salesman for men's clothing. He came there for over forty years, him and his wife and he stayed a couple of months. Then every Saturday night, he had an accordion and some instruments, had his own band, and we'd go over there and dance on Saturday nights [laughter].

MS: At one time, Wolf Lake had a post office. When did this discontinue?

CF: As soon as the Rural Route started. That was when the Elvis had somebody. I believe it was only once a week that he would get the mail at Calvary and bring it to the post office. That was a store and post office at Wolf Lake. The neighbors and farmers would come and get their mail.

MS: Would you know about what year this was before Rural Route had started?

CF: Well, when the building burned down, I was about twelve years old.

FS: So, that would be about 1902, something like that. In the early 1900s? 1902?

CF: I would say in 1908 or ten, I would say. Joe Brown went off the rest of the [inaudible] with the horses in those days.

MS: Thank you, Chris, for your fine information pertaining to Wolf Lake.

CF: Okay.

FS: All right. We have a few corrections to make again. Dad, you said that you thought that the post office was a little earlier than 1910. About what time do you think it was?

CF: I would say six or seven.

FS: 1906 or seven?

CF: Yes.

FS: About that time.

CF: Yes.

FS: Now, do you remember how many years this post office was in existence at Wolf Lake?

CF: In Wolf Lake?

FS: Yes.

CF: That, I don't remember because as long – I went to Wolf Lake because [] Steffes was my age and a friend of mine. That's where I got to be setting pins. We'd get a quarter for a whole afternoon setting pins. Then I remember when I started going to school that the [inaudible] boys were hauling the mail over there. That for where Grandpa Petrie hauled it for a while. I remember they had a two-wheel buggy at Shelby there and then go into town and get the mail.

FS: I see. They picked it up at Shelby Station, and they would bring it up to Wolf Lake.

CF: Yes.

FS: But Wolf Lake did have a post office stand because I can remember seeing cards that you have in your door at home that said Wolf Lake was coming?

CF: Me?

FS: A postal stamp – a stamp that was sent to somebody.

CF: It must have been mom's [inaudible].

FS: Yes. Wolf Lake [inaudible].

CF: Also, that mom and [inaudible], they stayed home 4th of July,] until they were old enough to dance. They'd put the horses in the barn, and they'd get a quarter. That was big money in those days. They filled their barn. Imagine how far those people walked.

MS: She made all her money.

FS: Well, he tells about mother and her sister staying home and not going to the picnic because the people would come and park their horses in their barn that they came to the picnic. When we talk about that, Wolf Lake, of course, was where Wolf Lake Park is now. People would walk. They would park their buggies and their horses at their barn, which is where the boat landing is. It's just a little bit west of the boat landing. You can imagine people walking. That must be – well, not quite a mile, I think.

[audio recording stops]

EW: Not only that, but you have to think, they weren't wearing shorts or pedal pushers or slacks. The women were wearing long dresses and petticoats, and I am sure that they had high – probably shoes that were –

MS: Yes, laced up.

EW: – laced up. But when you think about that, we really have had it easy compared to what people did for even amusement.

MS: Yes.

EW: You want to listen to some more?

FS: Absolutely.

[audio recording starts]

FS: At the end of the day, they'd come back and get their horses.

CF: But the horses were tied to the fence on both sides of the road and Wolf Lake up the [inaudible] and up the other way. Then that [inaudible]. My dad said, "Is that going to [inaudible]?"

[laughter]

FS: Okay.

CF: Where were we now?

FS: [laughter] You were saying that the horses were tied up all along the way.

CF: Yes, and then dad said sometimes we'd have a thunderstorm that killed all the horses [inaudible] old worn fences.

FS: Now, you said that the people used to park their horses at mother's home.

CF: Yes.

FS: Is that about a mile from Wolf Lake?

CF: Let's see, that's little over half a mile.

FS: People would walk?

CF: Of course. Yes.

FS: To Wolf Lake and then they'd come back again.

CF: I remember when I couldn't go along yet, and we had the windmill. I'd climb up the windmill and count the cars coming from Calvary.

FS: Cars or buggy?

CF: The buggy – the horses coming from Calvary with just one string on them, even they started [inaudible]. Like my dad never – he always saw to it that we didn't have no hay drying on 4th of July.

FS: Why?

CF: They could go to the picnic. [laughter] Nobody would want to work on 4th of July.

FS: That was pretty nice, wasn't it?

CF: Yes.

FS: Okay. Now, we have another correction. You said that you want to crack this. You said that that part of the building did not burn down. But upon thinking about it, you say that you realize now that it did burn down.

CF: That was a mistake. That hall burned down too, where I distinctly remember the next one – the second 4th of July, I think Steve Adler and Pete Rieder must have – they laid a rough floor and open air. There was no roof. We danced 4th of July on that rough floor. That, I remember.

FS: But you also said that you watched the fire. You were –

CF: Oh, yes. We watched the fire. Sister let us go home. I go out, and we all went to Wolf Lake to watch the fire. That building was –

[audio recording stops]

EW: St. Joe. You know where St. Joe is?

MS: Yes.

EW: That's where dad went.

FS: Okay. When he talks about sister letting them – they could watch the fire from school, St. Joe – that was St. Joe. Where St. Joe is today, and that's where he went to school. Of course, it wasn't the same building. It was an old wooden building that dad went. So, he talks about the sister allowing them to go to watch the fire, that they would walk from St. Joe to Wolf Lake.

MS: Not that far.

[audio recording starts]

CF: That is on the west side. There was such a strong wind, that building just burned the federal station stood there yet. Oh, then the fire department or station couldn't have saved that building.

FS: There was no fire department.

CF: Oh, no. It just burned.

FS: In other words, where St. Joe is now, you went to school there, right?

CF: Yes.

FS: You went from St. Joe up to Wolf Lake to watch the fire.

CF: Yes. Sister had looked out of the window and said, "Oh, Wolf's Lake building is burning." She said, "You can all go home. Only stay out of the way." Then I remember such a [inaudible].

FS: What grade were you in about then?

CF: What?

FS: But there was no such thing as a grade, right? You were readers, was that right?

CF: But I was in, they call it the fourth reader then, I was in.

FS: Were you smart?

[laughter]

CF: Yes, because I was in the third reader – before I went to Catholic school, I went to public school. So, in the afternoon, I had a boy in the other room because English was what we had.

FS: That's interesting. So, you finally finished going to the public school in your education too, didn't you?

CF: No, then I went to the public school in the eighth grade. That was it. Ninth grade.

FS: I suppose that's like having made college today.

CF: Yes. Yes.

FS: That's why you were –

CF: Now, we had to write a diploma, and it took three days. Then you saw that picture already, that –

FS: Your diploma.

CF: Yes, and I don't want this recorded though.

FS: How did you come out in that? Did you do pretty well in the test?

CF: Yes. [laughter] Probably shouldn't record that.

FS: Oh, I [inaudible]. Well, thanks, dad. I think this has been interesting.

[laughter]

MS: Too late, dad.

FS: Good afternoon. Today we are recording Dad again and Ambrose, and it's two weeks later. Today is December 17th, 1978. Today, Ambrose is going to interview dad about Calvary Station. Okay, Ambrose, take it.

MS: Mr. Fuhrmann, could you give me some history pertaining to Calvary Station? First of all
—

EW: They call it Calvary Station because the railroad [inaudible].

MS: — the name Bull was a very prominent name at Calvary Station.

EW: Remember Bull place?

MS: From where did they originate prior to moving to Calvary Station?

CF: From Sheboygan.

MS: Who was the first resident to move to Calvary of the Bull family?

CF: Well, that, I wouldn't know. But the old Frank Bull, him and his wife, they must have had children already, I don't know. But I understand that the railroad wasn't there yet when the Bulls first came there. Shortly after the railroad, I was told, was built up to Calvary Station, and that was it. What a short time.

EW: Do you know what Calvary is?

CF: Because the reason for that, going to Pine Lake, they couldn't go down the ledge. We had a little ledge. Then afterwards, they made a bridge. I still remember where the train went down the ledge [inaudible]. That's why that held them up for a couple of years.

MS: It has been said that Mrs. Frank Bull, the wife of Frank Bull, was known as the treasurer or the money keeper. Tell us something about her and how she went about handling the money.

CF: I still remember she sat in a rocking chair in the store, and those days, the big skirts. She had a pocket in her right-hand side, and she had one of those big pocketbooks. When any of the Bull family needed money, I remember that's Henry and all the Franks, and she take out and give them so much money. She had the money in that — before the banks.

EW: That's what you call the matriarch.

FS: She was the bank.

CF: Yes.

MS: John L. Bull or other Bull also acted as money handlers. Could you tell us something about these two citizens?

CF: Well, I still remember that when barley got up to fifty cents a bushel, well then the wagons were parked towards the north around where the old cheese factory was and up to Henry Fitz's blacksmith shop.

EW: That's Calvary.

CF: That old gas engine or [inaudible] engine to lower barley where you could hear late in the night. Then J. L. Bull would take the 8:00 train to Fond du Lac and come back at 11:00. He got a big stack of money to pay off these people.

FS: Did he do this every day?

CF: No, no.

MS: Later years, I understand they also had their own bank.

CF: Yes. When they built the new building – I don't exactly remember when it was. It must have been before 1910. You said the bank in Mount Calvary was ten?

MS: 1909.

CF: Yes. Could have been 1912 or thirteen when they built their own banks.

MS: The Bull family were very much musical-minded. Tell us a little about them.

CF: J.L. and Henry and Frank and Otto – Otto was really a musician, and they had their own band. I still remember I was very young yet that [inaudible] took me along to the picnic at Wolf Lake, and the Bull band were played. But afterwards, Henry had a big family, and his family started a band. It was Wally Bulls Blueberry [laughter].

MS: Did Calvary Station provide for overnight lodging for people who travel? What I mean, did they have any furnished bedrooms?

CF: Yes. That's when they built the new building. Some evenings, somebody would come there with six, seven traveling men sitting in the town. They stayed overnight. Then Peter [inaudible] – oh, well, maybe you want to ask.

MS: At one time, Bulls had a grocery store, a drive-in store, hardware. What other line of merchandise was available at their store?

CF: Well, [laughter] anything that the farmers needed. I remember when young couples got married, they'd go by Bulls, they'd buy the stove. They'd buy the furniture. They'd buy everything by Bulls.

MS: Is it also true that they served meals to the public?

CF: What do you mean by that?

FS: I think maybe he means, dad, the people who stayed there.

CF: Oh, yes, and they always bragged about their meals. They had Mary Bull. Then they had Lizzie Holtzman. Do you remember working there for years? You must remember that. Oh, many a times, I ate there. Because afterwards, when I was a director of the bank, the bank used to have their annual meeting the same day that our insurance company had the meeting in Mount Calvary. So, I took my dad along, and we'd go to the insurance meeting. In the evening, we'd eat supper by Bulls, and we stayed for the bank meeting.

MS: Very amazing to me. It has been said that they also had a tailor shop and a barber shop. Do you recall the name of the tailor or the barber's name?

CF: I don't know his first name, but the last name was (Peel?) . He had even cut my hair already. That was at an old building where the Joe Brown place, now where he built the garage. It had been standing there only very –

EW: Eugene's.

MS: – fifteen years ago, it was still there.

MS: It has been said that they also had a shop where they vulcanized tires.

CF: When the new building was put up, what used to be the grocery store, Arnold Petrie from St. Cloud had a tire shop there vulcanizing. He'd come every morning with a handcar up the railroad track from St. Cloud.

MS: Otto Bull also was the music instructor. We hear so much of trading of Bulls in heights and so forth. How did they go about this? Or had it been set that one of the Bulls made a yearly trip to Alaska, and why?

CF: Yes, that's why. He had a store in Alaska. In the spring, John Bull would go to Alaska. I don't remember how many years, but it was quite a long time. Then in the fall, he'd come back, and Phillip Adler stayed over Windsor to run the store.

FS: Now, who was Philip Adler?

CF: Philip Adler got married to Tina (Stonework?) afterwards.

FS: Any relation to Philip Adler who's a brother of Nick Adler?

CF: That was Philip Adler's dad's brother over here.

MS: Bull also had a lumberyard. Who was in charge? Do you recall this?

CF: Frank Bull – the second Frank Bull.

MS: Calvary Station also had their own depot agent. Was this also a part of the Bull family?

CF: Henry Bull had been there for years as the depot agent.

MS: Calvary Station had a dairy or a small cheese factory. Tell me something about this.

CF: Well, [laughter] the Bailey Brothers and their old building had a cheese factory there, and it was known as the Bailey's Beer Cheese. There was a secret to it. They wouldn't let nobody in the cheese factory to see how they made that. Then afterwards, the Bulls, they built a new factory and a dwelling on the corner there, you remember it was.

FS: Is that where the Seniors Center is now?

CF: Yes. Well, no, not in that building. This was right by the road. Then Nick [inaudible] made the first cheese there for many years, and he bought the factory from the Bulls. This building where the Baileys, they had to move out there because the Bulls needed – there was a basement under there, and that's where Bulls – everybody butchered their cow in those years, all the farmers, and he had the hides down in there. He had some kind of a brine solution, and they piled those stacks and stacks. When the Jew came and bought them, the hair and everything was gone. Almost looked like leather already.

MS: Now, we move south of the railroad track. I understand that business places were also established on that side. Soft drink factory, a grain elevator, furniture store. Was this also a part of the Bull family?

CF: No, there was no grain elevator south of the tracks. There were two elevators north of the tracks. But south of the tracks, the (Hensons?) built a store. Joe Henson – and even, I got a suit there. He was selling suits and stuff, and his wife died young. Who took over the store at that time, I don't remember. But later Steve [inaudible] had learned the store business from – had worked at the Bulls. He started a grocery store and a tavern in the Henson building. As far as talking about soft drink, before my time, that was a tavern and then was a guy by the name of Pete Cross. What was it they called him? [laughter] He had that tavern there. He was a grandpa [inaudible]. Then after Peter –

[audio recording stops]

EW: I just wanted to show you this. Dorothy Bliskey, who interviewed me about Wolf Lake,

she came, she interviewed me about – how should I say this? She called and after she had interviewed me about Wolf Lake and – you know that crossroad picture there? But anyway, so, she wanted to know the – she was given. She was a reporter. She was given the job of doing the history of interviewing people about Calvary Station. The reason it's called Calvary Station is because the railroad went through there and this – like dad talked about the station. So, I thought, well, Buch (Olec?), Myrtle Olec was Myrtle Gaelic. It was her dad that ended up buying this place in Calvary Station from the Bulls. Myrtle had a lot of information about the history of Calvary. So, I invited her to come here and have this Dorothy Bliskey interview her. She had this picture of – this used to be this Bull store right here. This is the elevator that dad talks about, the elevator. She had that picture. Then this is Eugene Brown.

MS: Eugene Brown?

EW: Yes, and this is that store that they're talking about. That big store. There was the bank, was in there. Here was the bank. Then they had the groceries. Best of all, there was a tavern too.

[laughter]

KSK: So, the bank was on the left.

EW: Over here, yes.

KSK: The tavern in the middle, and what was on the right?

EW: That's where they sold the groceries and where Dad said people even bought their furniture when they got married. Then this was the station, and this is Buch Olec, who used to work in her dad's – her dad bought this from the Bulls. But so, we did this story and so –

MS: (Puddle Fork?) .

EW: Puddle Fork. You know why it was Puddle Fork? You know why?

KSK: Why?

EW: Because there used to be – now, I didn't live there yet [laughter], but my dad tells me about that. There was a low area, and there was a pond. They did something, the people that once settled there, to fill that in. So, it wasn't a pond anymore. Then after the pond was gone and they filled it up, they called it Puddle Fork. German. Puddle Fork means the pond is gone. The pond is gone. You know what I'm saying?

MS: Yes.

EW: That's why it's Puddle Fork.

MS: I never knew why it was – I knew puddle was pond.

EW: Well, as you can tell, my dad had a good mind.

KSK: Yes.

MS: Oh, wonderful. Like your mind. I can tell.

EW: Well, I don't think my mind is as good as dad's.

KSK: This article is from the Fond du Lac reporter from February 26th, 2006.

EW: In fact, she was interviewed here. Bliskey came here because she interviewed me about Wolf Lake crossroads. That's another story about that. When you get to be a hundred years old [laughter], people want to interview you.

KSK: But this is wonderful. Wonderful.

EW: [laughter]

KSK: So, your dad is talking on the other side of the tape here too?

EW: I think so. Sure. I know it because it's – but see, here, this is –

MS: House over there, there was a line fence there. If you remember in the old days, when they put rails out into the lake so the animals wouldn't swim around the end of the fence?

MS: Sure. Yes.

MS: Somewhere up here, they were making a fence, and they saw two sturgeons swimming out here. They saw them several times. Then Hollywood at the time – no Hollywood at the time. There was no Hollywood anymore. But that was the place to go. That was the resort. Ray Schmitz was the owner. Leonard (Lair?) was the bartender. Leonard Lair also saw these sturgeons, and he decided he was going to get one of them. So, grandpa came by my dad and got my dad's sturgeon spear. So, as things would have it, on a Friday night – Friday night was the night at Hollywood. There was right here, there was free movies in the parking lot at Hollywood on Friday nights. So, grandpa and grandma and I – that time, I would spend the summers out on the farm. Grandpa and grandma and I went to the free movies. We're sitting there, and all of a sudden, you could see there's somebody coming through the crowd looking. Well, he's looking for grandpa. "Chris, come with us."

EW: Chris Fuhrmann.

MS: "You've got to go with us." Okay. So, grandpa left. He didn't come back. Well, when the movies were over – you don't know my grandma. But my grandma was more than a little bit annoyed that grandpa had disappeared and not come back. [laughter] So, we went out looking for grandpa while he was in the bar, and there, it was just crazy excitement going on. We didn't

know why, and they didn't tell me why. Well, finally, we went home. The next morning, 8:00, 9:00 a.m., the yard over there was full of cars. Went up in the greenery, under some feed bags was this sturgeon. Leonard Lair, the night before had seen it, come along the shore, went, and got the spear, threw it, hit it on the head. You know what happens when you hit them on the head. You knock them out. So, he pulled the spear back in, threw it again, by that, the fish came too. The fish darn near pulled him in. Finally, he got it in. They took it out. Well, then they got grandpa. They took it over in the greenery. Grandpa had a platform scale. They weighed it. It weighed 176 pounds.

MS: We wanted to know that. That's what the DNR wanted to know. Yes.

KSK: That's a big sturgeon.

MS: You better believe it, it was. So, then they took it out in the backyard, behind the summer kitchen, hung it up in the tree. That's where he got the picture with grandpa and the guy with the cigarette in his mouth. That's Leonard Lair. That's the guy that got it. Then they proceeded to butcher it. They put a big laundry tub underneath it. [laughter] When the guts and the eggs and the head were in it, the wash tub was three-quarters full. We walked right out in the field, right out in the middle of an alfalfa field, dug up the alfalfa, dumped the whole thing in, and covered it up. I could show you the spear if you wanted to see the spear. The tines were all twisted from this fish fighting so much. Then after that, I know one year, but I think two years, there was a season out here. I think two, but nobody ever saw another fish.

EW: The lake was covered with fishing shacks.

MS: That would've had to have been in 1950, [19]51 then. The picture says 1949.

MS: Well, if that's what it says, that's what it is. So, I figured I was eight to ten. I don't remember how old I was. That's what I remember of it.

EW: Do you remember when you were born?

MS: [19]41.

EW: [19]41. I still think it was [19]45.

MS: No. No. It was not. It was not. It was not.

EW: You were older than four years old.

MS: Yes, I was.

FS: This one says [19]47.

KSK: So, there was a sturgeon season out here?

MS: After that. Nobody said anything, but all of a sudden there was sturgeon season out here.

KSK: Oh, okay. All right. So, suddenly people were wise to the idea.

MS: They knew. The DNI got wise to it.

MS: There was just not really, a legitimate sturgeon season. The guys just went sturgeon –

MS: No, there was a season. There was an open season on Wolf Lake for two years. After that, it was made well known that there was no more sturgeon season on Wolf Lake. It wasn't like it was just the guys came out here. No, no. There was an established season, to my knowledge of it.

KSK: Did you go out with anybody or did you –

MS: With my dad and my uncle, Elmer. Yes.

MS: These are all written [19]49.

MS: Yes.

MS: I can read it right here. 1949.

MS: Well, so, then it was like fifty and fifty when the season was. So, I was eight years old then.

MS: I was in the Korean thing. I didn't get to see that [laughter].

MS: I was too young.

KSK: Jim, is this lake connected to anything else?

MS: Well, there's Giltners Lake over there. There's a slew runs through here. It's not nearly as pronounced anymore as it used to be. Then there's an outlet that actually drains all the way down to Sheboygan River.

KSK: Oh, okay. So, there is a –

MS: West of St. Cloud.

KSK: – a connection then. So, eventually, this is connected to Lake Michigan then.

MS: In theory, yes.

KSK: Wow.

MS: All right. So, I asked Ron Brooks, and he asked me, "How on earth did that fish get here?" He said, "Did somebody transport fish here?" Then thinking way back to when all the immigrants came over here and all the Germans showed up, they had to build a dam on every river, and they built one – but anyway, do you know that we've got the thinking – and this may come from you too. Before the Sheboygan River had a dam built, the sturgeon in flooding times in the spring –

MS: Oh, we never thought of that.

MS: – they would migrate all the way up here. Sturgeon would do that. They think that that's possibly how they got in here.

MS: See, grandpa and Elmer saw two. The two of them would swim along here. They'd stand up here and look down on the lake. They could see two at one time swimming –

KSK: Did they catch both of them?

MS: No, they only got one.

KSK: Only the one.

MS: Only the one.

EW: See, there was a fence – here where we were living, that was farmland. In fact, I was interviewed by Dorothy Bliskey who was a –

MS: I haven't thought of that. That was connected all the way to Lake Michigan.

MS: Sure.

MS: Earlier years, there was a lot of sturgeon in Lake Michigan.

EW: – reporter, and they wanted to do a story on Wolf Lake. So, they came, and they interviewed me and my sister Valita. Anyway, I'm telling them – in fact, I think I still have some copies. Did you see that? Well, anyway, the story about Wolf Lake, the reporter did crossroads. That was nineteen whenever. But anyway, this land here, my dad went through this thing where he had to raise like three, four acres of potatoes. Usually, that potato field was here. Guess who had to hoe the potatoes? [laughter] Guess who had to stay home from school when the potatoes were being dug? All of us.

MS: You didn't turn out too bad because of that.

KSK: [laughter]

EW: Oh, thank you.

[laughter]

Really? You know what I'm saying is?

MS: Yes.

KSK: That's a lot of potatoes to dig out.

EW: Yes.

MS: Now, someone in a conversation just last week told me that there was – I don't know how big a boat this was. But someone had boats on Lake Winnebago, and they had some doings over here at Wolf Lake. Did you tell me that story?

EW: I have a tape here. I have a tape here. When we interviewed my dad two years before he died – because he was born and raised about a mile and a half away from here. Mother's great-grandfather owned most of this land on the lake. In fact, if you look at the map on 1832 or 1838 or whatever, it says, "Petrie," my mother's grandparents. But at one time, Wolf Lake was named de Hass Lake after Dr. de Hass who came here from Germany, and he had a brewery here. You know that too.

MS: Yes.

EW: That brewery, when I talked to my ancestors years ago – they're gone. I'm the ancestor now [laughter]. They think it was on this side of the lake. You know more about it than I think I do [laughter].

FS: Well, I just read the book again the other night, the de Hass book, because he wrote a book about immigrating for the journalists.

EW: Yes. I have a copy of that too.

FS: Yes, yes. Us too, at the museum. So, I kind of just read over it briefly to get an idea of what was going on in this area.

EW: Yes, it's called The Immigrants.

FS: Yes. Fascinating book. But they have the pictures in there, the brewery and the homestead of the de Hass's.

EW: They think that it was here on this side of the lake. But anyway, did you know that, Jim? See, now what you learned?

MS: See, I'm learning things all the time.

EW: You have a lot to offer, but also, we offer – anyway.

MS: That's great.

EW: Yes.

KSK: So, somewhere in that lake, there's one sturgeon.

MS: Well, chances are not.

MS: Well, it may have died, and we know now, through the sturgeon on Lake Winnebago, that when the sturgeon dies, it doesn't necessarily float on the shore like a normal fish that has a float bladder and whatever. These sturgeons will probably sink.

MS: Oh, they do?

MS: Yes. It's a very good chance that you'd never find that fish.

MS: So, that's maybe what happened.

MS: Yes.

MS: I was thinking there was a period of time after that when there was a lot of scuba divers out here. I was wondering if maybe [laughter] that's where the other one went.

KSK: [laughter] Do you know if any fish were taken those two years when people –

MS: I don't think anybody even saw one. Not that I ever heard. But you've got to remember, I was pretty young then.

EW: But I don't recall – see, we were still living in Mount Calvary then. This was still a potato field [laughter].

MS: Oh, that's what I know about it.

MS: At that time, you hadn't even cleared the apple orchard, or did you?

EW: Do you remember what we did?

MS: No, I was gone. But Kathy told me she knew this morning. Because she dug out some old, old pictures of you and your home when you were building your home, and there was an apple orchard right there. She said she remembered you and Ray coming there to cut the trees down, and you built your home right there –

EW: That's right.

MS: – next door to Kathy.

EW: We bought that lot from (Matty Schuster?). He was an old bachelor, and he had this apple orchard. Of course, he never took care of it or anything. So, when we bought that lot, which was next to where Kathy was born and raised. Kathy's mother died – did she die in childbirth?

MS: She died when Kathy was three years old.

EW: I know that she died very –

MS: She had Hodgkin's.

EW: Is that what she did?

MS: Yes, which is like a blood disorder, leukemia type thing.

EW: Yes. So, anyway, then Ray and I, we – well, the pioneer woman has nothing on me.

MS: [laughter] No, not at all.

[laughter]

MS: But going back, this guy with the boats from Lake Winnebago, something was going on over here. I don't know. Now, Gene Brown told me the story or not. But they said that they moved one of his boats here for this occasion. It was a big enough boat that he could sleep on it. So, one night, he evidently stayed on his boat on the lake. I don't know how I –

EW: Listen, I have this tape here that we – do you remember Ambrose Frishpar?

MS: Yes. Oh, gosh. The best memory in the world.

EW: Well, you got that one right. But anyway –

MS: I always said, Grandpa Fuhrmann would tell stories all the time. My mom would always say, "Boy, and nobody ever argues with him." I always said, "Mom, he's older than everybody else, and nobody knows him."

EW: [laughter] But anyway –

MS: Do you need anything else from me?

KSK: I think that's probably –

MS: Because I'll leave then, unless you need some other information that I can give you from what I know.

MS: Basically, yes. I mean, we wanted to know, and your part of this story is what we needed.

Because when grandpa had the fish, so –

MS: Yes. I was there. I was there. I can tell you that. Well, according to the pictures, I was eight because I started driving tractor for pitching bundles when I was six years old. That was the youngest anybody around here had ever done that. [laughter]

KSK: Gosh. That's good to know that it was a female too. They had eggs and –

MS: Yes. The eggs were perfect. They were black. In fact, yes, it's still Schwarz Fish Company. Now, on Friday nights, was fish Fridays in Hollywood, and they asked – after the fact, they asked Schwarz. Schwarz said, "Yes, if you'd have given them to us, we'd have taken care of them for you."

KSK: So, otherwise, what happened to the eggs?

MS: They were buried out here in the alfalfa field.

MS: You know what would be so nice? Knowing what we're doing now, what sturgeon, inside this big old hard head of a sturgeon, there's a little stone. Now, I don't know if you ever were familiar with – and the sheep head has a little stone. We always called it a lucky stone because we lived by Lake Winnebago. We'd find this little white stone that had an L on it, and this was always lucky stones. I must have had a dozen or more. But anyway, now, we found that in the head of a sturgeon, there is a stone that's similar, not quite like it. That they're taking this out of the sturgeon and sawing it. Our Sturgeon for Tomorrow group bought a saw for the DNR that they can cut the stone wafer thin. I mean, just thin. They can look at it in the microscope and that will actually record the age almost like a tree.

MS: Like a tree ring?

KSK: Yes.

MS: They can tell, believe it or not, when the country was testing the first atomic bombs, they put a lot of this into the air. You can probably tell better than I.

KSK: No. You're doing a terrific job.

MS: A lot of that, what would I say is it went into the air, the –

MS: Oh, the dust?

MS: Yes.

MS: The radioactive fallout?

MS: The radioactive fallout. All of us have some of that in our system.

MS: So, they cut through a leg bone, they could do that too?

MS: Well, I don't know if they could with a leg bone, but it's in our system. But they found out that that little line is in this fish also. They can say, well, this was back in 1940, whatever, when that was left in this fish. Through carbon dating, that's how they're finding it.

EW: The fish was in the water, of course.

KSK: Yes.

MS: It still shows up.

EW: The what?

MS: It still shows up in this fish because everything got saturated with this, and they're finding it through carbon dating. So, that, I'm sure Ron will have in her book.

KSK: Yes, yes.

MS: I mean, you were writing about it no better than I do.

KSK: No, no, you're right on. The thing that Ron's really found out is that the fish are older than a lot of scientists thought before.

MS: Yes. That's why when you said this guy's buried out in this field, I keep thinking, "Boy, I wonder if that old hardhead is still out there –"

[laughter]

MS: I bet it is.

MS: "– and has that piece of bone head."

MS: The only thing that would bother me, I would say, I know they go and look for relics and stuff when they're moving roads and stuff. The only thing would be is if we didn't burry it deep enough that it got hit by the plow.

KSK: Oh, right. Yes.

MS: But otherwise, I bet it's there.

MS: I bet it would be there. It'd be kind of interesting if –

MS: I could totally take you very close.

MS: Be nothing but an old bone head. But that stone might be in there, is what I'm driving at

[laughter]. He could tell you then how old the sturgeon was.

KSK: Yes.

EW: So, now, what is your theory about – I think you did say that before, but this ninety-year-old mind is forgetful.

[laughter]

MS: I don't think so. Yes.

EW: But anyway, do you think that somehow, the fingerling got over here from Lake Winnebago with the connection of –

MS: No. We think it came from Lake Michigan through Sheboygan before the dams got built, which were built already in 1849.

KSK: Oh, those are old dams.

MS: Oh, really? That long ago? Well, I didn't know that.

MS: They were built [inaudible].

MS: Yes. When was the lock system between Winnebago and Green Bay – there are seventeen locks. So, they could bring the logs up through the lock system because of that wild river. They couldn't do it otherwise. So, when that lock system got built, all of these areas were building a dam. They'd put in a water wheel or maybe a little turbine, whatever, and they'd get a little, some power. That's why they built all of them. But in the meantime, they were cutting off the spawning of the sturgeon in the Great Lakes. They built one on every river. Sturgeon Bay got its name from the sturgeon that came into that big bay and couldn't go anywhere to spawn because they had built a dam to Lake Winnebago.

EW: Do you know that it never occurred to me that Sturgeon Bay was named after a sturgeon?

MS: Yes. Oh, no. But you're right. It's such a –

EW: Well, that's interesting. Very interesting. Now, I have this tape that we interviewed my dad who had – I always said, rather than giving me his money, I was wishing he'd given me his mind, and I didn't get his money [laughter]. Oh,

MS: I think you have it. [laughter] I think you have it.

KSK: So, your mother was a Petrie?

EW: Yes.

KSK: Okay. Do you know (Frida Seifert?)? She was a Coleman.

EW: My first cousin, I love her. She lives in Green Bay.

KSK: Yes. Yes.

EW: I have been thinking about –

KSK: She's my great aunt. Now, George and Edna Beyer were brother and sister.

EW: I remember now. There was kind of –

KSK: Yes.

EW: Frida's mother was my aunt Clara. They lived in St. Cloud, and we were very close to them. In fact, Bob and Lorraine took my sister Valita and I to visit her in Green Bay. She lives in a very nice condo. We had lunch, and we had a – of course, nobody said a word when we got together.

[laughter]

KSK: See, and when I look at you, you look a lot like Frida.

EW: Well, Frida is a –

KSK: So, your first cousins. Okay.

EW: Oh, yes. Not only were we first cousins, but we are also friends.

KSK: Okay.

EW: [laughter] The cousins aren't always friends.

KSK: Frida is my great aunt.

MS: Oh, is that right?

KSK: Yes. Yes.

EW: Oh, I see the connection. I remember the connection with the Beyers – with George. In fact, I have a picture –

KSK: [laughter]

EW: – of when George was in service.

KSK: Did he really?

MS: Oh, is this him?

EW: No. This is the sturgeon.

MS: Yes. Oh, okay. That's fine.

EW: Remind me before you leave.

KSK: Okay. Yes.

EW: I'll look for that.

KSK: That's fine.

EW: I just ran across the [inaudible].

KSK: The one hang-up is that our computer with the scanner was not working. So, I can't scan your photo right here. But I can take it to Fond du Lac and scan it at Walgreens and then bring it right back to you, if that's okay with you.

EW: Well, I think I can trust you [laughter].

KSK: Well, I think I can find my way back.

MS: Well, instead of coming all the way back, why don't you just bring it to my place?

KSK: Well, I can bring it back if you – I mean, I was keeping track of how we were coming [laughter].

FS: Oh, I know. It's very confusing.

KSK: I was keeping track of how to get here when we were driving from Bill's house. So, I can bring it back, Bill.

MS: Okay.

EW: Well, I have this phobia, and it's not a good phobia. But it's also justified. A lot of times, when I give things to people to return it to me, they don't return it. Has that happened to you guys too?

KSK: Yes. That's why I thought if I just went and did it and brought it right back, and then you know you have it back.

EW: Yes. Well, anyway, but I have this tape that we and Ambrose Frishpar. He's an icon. You

know Ambrose Frishpar?

FS: Yes.

MS: Did you know Ambrose?

FS: He rings the bell. That's quite a name.

EW: If you saw a picture of him, you would think he was – he had kind of distorted face, right?

MS: Yes.

EW: He was brilliant. He knew everybody that he knew, when their birthday was, and when they were married. He even, like –

MS: He knew it all. He had an ingenious mind.

EW: He knew how old they were. In fact, when my daughter's twenty-first birthday was, Ambrose called me, and he says, "Estelle, I just thought I'd have to call you and wish your daughter her twenty-first birthday." That's Ambrose.

MS: Yes. I can't imagine how the man – he met me at church one time, and he said, "Now, Betty, your sister Betty, and she was born in this date." I didn't remember Betty's birthday. There were seven of us kids. He remembered all of that.

[end of transcript]