

[interviewer] There we go. This is Damian Macey at Marshall Public Library Oral History Project and Friends of the Library and we're here today on May the 15th of 2018 with Mr. Don Guinnip from Marshall. He's been a long-term farmer in this area and his family have been also, and with that, I'm going to ask Don a couple questions, and we'll get going here. Don, I remember as a youngster back in the mid-19, early 1940s, we drove down a gravel, or sometimes even an ungravel country road. There were a lot of things along the road that I noticed was a big barn, with nearly every farm. There was usually a silo or two. There was livestock. There were some telephone lines along the road, but no power lines, so let's just go back many, many years, back in history and your family, tell us how they did things and bring us up to date.

[Guinnip] Well, my family came here, uh, they came from Steuben County, New York, in the early 1830s. Crossed on the Erie Canal to Sandusky, Ohio, and then they came down the Wabash River to Lafayette, Indiana and stopped. Then, I think in the winter of 1836, they came to Terra Haute, and they were looking for better land than was in New York, and, uh, [clears throat], in 1837, they crossed the river down in Sullivan County, Indiana to Clark County, Illinois, and, uh, Joseph Guinnip, the first Guinnip, picked out some land, which was up this way about 10 miles, where we live now, and, uh, in 1837, he built a log cabin on the farm that we live on.

[interviewer] Don, do you know, did they travel by wagon and horses, or did they have only horses, or how did they get here?

[Guinnip] Well, most of what we know is hearsay. My grandfather had two sisters, who were teachers and educators and they were the educated part of the family, in my time, and they wrote letters, and they wrote down things, so kind of some of the things we know, was either oral history or, uh, things they put in their letters, but, uh, my great-aunts were big on talking about how the Guinnips that came, and there were three or four brothers that came together. There was 12 kids, I think, in the family in Steuben County, New York, and they went on the Erie Canal, that was the big thing. They always told that, that was consistent story, and then, they, the stories varied how they got to Sandusky, Ohio. They either floated on the Lake Erie, or they walked along the shore, but they were there two or three years, to get enough money to come, and then I think there was a canal on the Maumee River, that hooked up with the, uh, Wabash, and they came as far south as Lafayette. And part of them stayed there. And one of the interesting things in our family is that the Guinnips, the Guinnip spelling has changed a lot over the years, G-u-i-n-n-i-p is what it is now, but in Indiana our cousins spell it with a -up on the end, so the a bunch that stayed in Lafayette, somehow, uh, it ended up being -up. [interviewer chuckles] Then, our group came down to Terra Haute in 1836 and they came over here and homesteaded the land. The item I brought there is a copy of the deed, uh, to one of the farms that we have. The land office for this area, uh, was in Palestine, Illinois, and, uh, all the land with all the land was public land, so if you wanted to buy a farm or land, you had to go to Palestine, so they went to Palestine, which is in Crawford County,

and that deed is for one of the 40s that's south of my house and it's signed by President Polk, or at least his name is on it, written by somebody in 1840 [interviewer chuckles], and they've got three or four other 40s that they bought that we have that the land grants and the President's signature. One of them's Buchanan and I'm not sure if it's Andrew Jackson, but anyhow, that's kind of how they got there. The name is all over the board, uh, my dad always said that, uh, Steuben County, New York was full of Dutch and Germans and the Guinnip name got Germanized, [interviewer chuckles] and then when they got to Terra Haute, it got written by the French, and probably none of them could speak, so whoever wrote it, it got written different ways and there's different spellings, and, but, uh, anyhow, it's interesting how it evolved. So, the land we live, that most of the farm, the center part of the farm, dates from the 1830s and '40s, and then it expanded over the years, uh, Joseph Guinnip, my original ancestor, he bought quite a bit of land, uh, they didn't really farm in the 1830s, they were subsistence farmers. They just raised enough to, uh, to live on. They came here, the farm, the center part of our farm, by today's standards, is a terrible farm. It's just not good farm at all, it's only half tillable, it's hills, it's creek bottoms, but they were looking for, uh, first of all, good drainage, they wanted free-flowing water. They bought the place, because it had a creek with springs that ran year-round, and they were scared to death of water-borne diseases. Some of them must have died up in Lafayette from them. It's kind of flat up there, so they wanted good timber, free-flowing water, a lot of game, and good drainage, and where they built the log cabin was on top of a sand rock ridge, and it's 60 feet down to the creek and there's two springs there, but it was heavy white oak and ash and hickory and poplar trees, so they could build their log cabin, so they came there, and, uh, settled and prospered and they bought a lot of timberland, uh, Marshall was just being founded about the time they got here, and, uh, Joseph bought a lot of land, and then logged it off and sold the timber. They had a sawmill for the early buildings here in town. And then they farmed and he set up a mercantile and, uh, had a family, had five kids, and, uh, his wife died first and all, lost all of his children, four of the kids had TB and consumption and smallpox. His oldest son, Jay, enlisted in the Union Army, and, uh, Lyman Guinnip, Joseph's brother, was a colonel, or he formed a unit, and, uh, anyhow, he entrusted his son to his brother, and his son was killed at, uh, Murphysboro, Tennessee, and there's a grave marker down there. We've been to see it, where Jay was killed, so Joseph lost all of his first family, and he went back to Sandusky and got another wife, came back, and had another family. So, uh, Edward, one of his sons, was my Great-Grandfather, and he stayed out there, where I live, on the farm, where I live, built a different house, and, uh, he was more of the kind of a person that just lived. He drank a lot and enjoyed life and, uh, he, he, you know, survived, but, uh, family history is what it is, and, uh, he had four kids and, Arthur was my Grandfather, one of Edward's kids, so that's kind of where the commercial farm starts.

[interviewer] We talked about farming. Was it your Grandfather then that really started the concept of farming that we see today?

[Guinnip] Yeah. Joseph was a subsistence farmer. I mean, he farmed, and he had a store here in town, and he had an orchard out there, and they, you know, raised things to live on, and Ed farmed, to a

degree, but he was kind of a politician, he was just a jack-of-all trades, and he lived on the land that he inherited, and had a family, but my Grandfather, Arthur, who was born in 1887, was really the one that began what I would say is a commercial farm. Uh, there wasn't a lot of really farming until the late 1800s in this area, uh, it was just subsistence and raising enough to support your family and have something to sell, so you can pay your taxes, you know.

[interviewer] When you embarked on farming, then, what was his primary crop? And, uh, how did he handle that?

[Guinnip] Well, Joseph, or Arthur Guinnip, my Grandfather, his story is really unique. Um, he, uh was raised there and he married Mattie Shower, and he married her in 1910. She had come from the Dawson Prairie to teach school. Uh, we lived in the Rabbit Ridge School District and that whole area out there is known as Rabbit Ridge and Joseph Guinnip, the log cabin he built became the first Rabbit Ridge School and he gave that acre to the school district, and, uh, in those days a country school teacher stayed with some family in the neighborhood and taught and worked. And, uh, Mattie, my Grandmother, met Grandpa, uh, she stayed there in the summertime and the women worked in the fields, just like the men did, and they were loading, in those days, they, uh, raised a lot of wheat and oats, and, they would shock them with a binder and would load the shocks in a wagon and take them to a thrashing machine and Grandma was assigned the same wagon as Grandpa was in the neighborhood threshing and that's how they met. Anyhow, they got married in 1910 and they bought Uncle Jim Guinnip's part of the Joseph Guinnip's estate, and moved exactly where I live and the front of the house I live in, they bought, Jim Guinnip built in the 1880s and that's where Grandpa and Grandma moved in, but what determined their path in life was in 1911, a year after they were married, uh, they used to have get-togethers in the wintertime, their neighbors, and they would buzz wood, they would cut trees, and then cut it up for firewood, and put it in cords and ricks, and everybody got their share. Well, they had a little steam engine, the neighborhood did, south of Rabbit Ridge, in the hills down there, and they had a big buzz saw, and my Grandfather had on a waist, which is a floppy jacket, if you know what that is, over all the waist, and he got caught in the belt, and it pulled him into the belt pulley and he lost, he got his arm mangled. This was in 1910, January 1910, so the story goes that they, you know, tourniquetted his arm, because it was decapitated, because it was still hanging on, and they tied some poles on a horse, and they, like the Indians used to do, and they put him on there, and took him over to, there was a hard road, that went from Paris to Marshall, and they took him, which was four miles on this, this, uh horse to Route 1, and after a couple of hours, a car came along, there weren't many cars in those days, and they took him to Paris hospital, and long story short, he lost his arm, and in 1910 to be a farmer with one arm was pretty tough, you know. Nowadays, you'd be disabled, and they'd put you on the program, but in those days, you had to figure out how to make it on your own. So, uh, they had to figure out how a one-armed farmer could make a living in 1910, so what they did: Grandma went back to teaching and made a little money, and they got enough to buy a dozen Jersey cows. Jersey cows are milk cows, and they're small cows; Holsteins are big black and whites and the Jerseys are about half that

size. And they decided they'd go into the dairy business, because Grandpa could handle small cows, handle milk, you know, [mmhmm] that was something he could do, uh, and Grandma could do part of the work that, uh, that needed two arms, and they hired someone. And so, they got into the dairy business in the early 19 teens, and uh, got 20 or 30 Jersey cows, which was a lot, but that was their primary living, and, uh, they farmed enough. They needed hay and corn for silage and some of the other things, but they had about a 160 acres at that time, and farmed most of it, and, uh, they had a milk route here in town [throat clearing], and, uh, they, in those days the milk came directly from farms, and farmers brought it in, and some of them had milk routes, so they started bottling milk, and that's why I brought this. We had a, there were some pictures she has of the dairy that were taken, but, um, they weren't the typical farmer of the time, because they had, they couldn't compete, just raising crops and livestock, they had to get into something Grandpa could do, so they started bottling milk, and, uh, uh, the economy was always up and down, but they did alright with the dairy, and, uh, Jersey cows give a high butter fat milk and butterfat was in high demand back in those days, uh, Jersey milk's five percent butterfat, Holstein milk is only three, so, um, there was a demand for butter, high butterfat milk, so, people could make cream and cheese and all the things that go with it that people use in the 1920s, so they got the dairy business. They bought a milk, uh, they had a lot of trouble like the rest of them, uh, Grandma lost, because she worked in the fields and in the barn, she had a hard time having children, but they, the first son, uh, died in 1915 or '16, and he just kind of starved to death. I don't know what was wrong with him. They had another son, uh, Ben Eugene, he was two years old, and he died in the 'flu epidemic in 1918. During the world, at the end of World War II, I, they had a 'flu epidemic, it was world-wide, and, uh, so anyhow, they had this little baby boy, and he died, and, uh, they'd about given up on having children, but my Dad eventually did come along, so they did have one, but, uh, they were in the dairy business a long time, they bottled milk. Um, from the farm standpoint, farm economics, even when it was subsistence farming, was always a rollercoaster. It was up and down, and sharp, sharply higher or sharply lower, uh....

[interviewer] Don, you mentioned the threshing or having oats and hay for your livestock.

[Guinnip] Yeah.

[interviewer] I've heard of the threshing machines, which I think were great big steam powered. Can you tell us a little bit about that?

[Guinnip] Well, before the days of combines, um, the small grains, which was wheat and oats, were primarily, back when everything was horse-powered, we raised a lot of oats, and then wheat was raised for market crop, but they would raise the small grain, which was wheat or oats or rye and barley, then

they would take a binder, which was a sickled machine with a reel on it and a mechanism to tie a string around so much of it and then they would kick it out, and then they would shock the bot-, shock the box in the field and let the grain dry, and then six weeks, eight weeks later, they would bring threshing machines in. Most farmers didn't have threshing machines or steam engines. One person in the neighborhood, or one professional would have a steam engine, and, uh, a threshing machine. And most of this was before the days of the internal combustion engine, so there were no tractors. [interviewer chuckles] And, uh, uh, so, a steam engine and a threshing machine would come into the neighborhood sometime in June, July, or August, and they would set up, and then they would har-, they would thrash the oats and wheat from all the neighbors, so it was a community effort. All the people worked together and, uh, you picked up the bundle of whatever it was, loaded it on a wagon, and took it to the threshing machine, threw it in, and then the grain would come out, and you either took it to your grainery, or you took it to an elevator, so....

[interviewer] You mentioned the cows having hay, and we usually think of these large barns of having a hay mound.

[Guinnip] Yep. The traditional barns that are in the picture down here, and, uh, we had three or four of them on our farm and that you used to see, um, most of those barns were multi-purpose. Um, they had a hay loft in the top to store the hay, and below the livestock. It, it depended on what they had--the horse stalls, or the stanchions for the cows, or whatever, but, uh, a lot of, a lot of Clark County was, uh, in hay, pastures, small grains. Just geographically, we're not in the prime farm country of Illinois. If you go north of Paris, you go 30 miles north of Paris, it's flat and black, and the soil's 10-15 feet deep, and it has a lot of natural, uh, nutrients, natural ability to produce. The Wisconsin glacier, back in history, 3,000 years ago, stopped at the big hill, south of Paris, and everything north of that tends to be flat, prairie, and productive. Everything south of that is timber soils. All this soil south of the glacier, was heavily timbered, so, uh, Clark County, other than maybe northwest of us, was all timber soil, and we had, uh, heavy cover, heavy cover of timber, which was good, but even when it was cleared, the productivity of these soils is not naturally high, and in those days, we didn't have fertilizer and lime and things we know now that we need, so the productivity down here was never what it was up there, and, uh, the farmers here had to adjust and do different things, so there was a lot more livestock, a lot more hay, uh, wheat, oats, rye, and barley did better down here. They could raise corn up there, so, uh, uh, when we had horse power, and a lot of cattle; hay was probably the biggest crop in Clark County, and then corn, and, uh, it was just a different economy, and most people don't, if you're not in the farming business, you don't make those, uh, those connections, you drive across central Illinois where it's flat and black, and you see how it is, and you drive down through here, and you don't see that, but the average person, doesn't, it just doesn't register about how different it is. And it was a lot more different up till now. I mean, the natural fertility in the soil, since there wasn't any here to start with, and they farmed these soils here. By the time and Joseph and Edward Guinnip farmed that ground out there, it was unproductive. There was no productivity left, it could raise grass for pasture, and, uh, so they weren't

really farming much, until the early part of this century, we started to get education, and, uh, try to figure out how to make these soils down here productive. And, uh, my Grandfather learned that you needed rock phosphate, you needed lime; lime and rock phosphate were the two big things that improved the soil, and then a crop rotation, and, uh, the University of Illinois, which was a land-grant college, did a lot of research, and even though they are up there, and tended to favor up there and still do favor up there, they, we are part of Illinois, so they did help out down here, but corn, soybean, wheat, and then clover, which is legume rotation, was the primary farm, uh, rotation; at least down here in these counties, and up there, to a degree. They tend to raise alfalfa. We can't raise alfalfa here, we tend to raise sweet clover, or red clover, as we call it. So....

[interviewer] You mentioned learning about this, but how was that transition from University of Illinois really picked up and learned? Was it word of mouth or something?

[Guinnip] Well, land-grant college system; Abraham Lincoln wrote, and, and people laugh at this, that the greatest accomplishment during his time was to set up the land-grant college system, so he did not consider the Civil War, maybe, his greatest accomplishment, but he, during Lincoln's time, a land-grant college was set up in each state, to do research and to educate in agriculture, home economics, and engineering; that's why you have Purdue, U of I, Kalamazoo, Kentucky, yeah, so, about the turn of the century, about 1900, they were putting out a lot of, doing a lot of ag research at Champaign, and they kind of figured out--they already knew how to produce stuff north of here, and they kind of figured out how to make the environment down here work, and it was with the lime, you have to have neutral soils, these soils need lime to neutralize them, and be acidic, so we put on lime, rock phosphate, because phosphorus is an essential element in, uh, growing crops, and then the rotation: corn, uh, whatever the rotation was, we didn't really start growing soybeans until the '20s and '30s, but corn, and wheat, and a legume were what really brought the land from here south into much better production. And, uh, about the time of 1918-1919, the, uh, uh, Smith-Lever Act established the extension service, and the extension service was the delivery part of the education from the universities, so they put a farm advisor and a home advisor in each county, basically, in the United States. And, uh, then the farm advisor was to disseminate the information from the land-grant college, all the kinds of things that we're talking about, farm production. And, uh, the home advisor would disseminate, uh, living, home living, home, you know, canning and gardening, health, and women's hygiene. I mean, in the rural areas, the women's things have been going on a long time. I mean, we had home advisors in this county who had home extension units, when my Grandmother was in 1918, I mean, once a month they met together in each neighborhood or in the school, and they had, you know 25 or 30 women, had a home bureau unit, and they were, it was all about exchanging education, but....

[interviewer] And people in the city would have no idea of that, that it even existed.

[Guinnip] No. And it was just different worlds. I mean, we didn't have electricity, the roads out there were impassable in the wintertime, uh, it was just, it was just a different lifestyle, and, uh, [interviewer chuckles], even in my time, I, I come from a big, big families, and we used to have big family reunions in the summertime, and there was really a cultural difference between my urban relatives in Terra Haute and Chicago, and the rural relatives that lived around here. I mean, they would come, you know, we lived on a gravel road until, we, we got electricity in 1950, where I live, and we lived on a gravel road until 1975. We'd have reunions and dinners and, of course, you'd open the windows, and the barn was a hundred feet away, and there a thousand flies, [interviewer chuckles] but the folks from the city were just flabbergasted when they would come to the reunions out in the country, and, uh, the house was always dirty, because you couldn't keep it clean. I mean, you had to have the windows open, and here's the gravel road in front and a hundred cows behind, and it, it was just life. And there was a huge, my Great-Aunts in particular, you know, some of them lived in Terra Haute, and they were from well-off families, and they would come over here, and they just hated coming over here, and, uh....

[interviewer] How did the change of electricity coming influence and change family life and farm life?

[Guinnip] Well, we got electricity in '50, uh, electricity in the country was all delivered through the rural electric co-ops, so the private, you know, the big Commonwealth Edison, all those big companies, they didn't want to go into the country, because they couldn't make any money, it was a mile apart. You know, they had to build lines, and it was inefficient to, uh, distribute electricity in the country, so, uh, during the '30s, the rural electric administration was formed, and co-ops, rural co-ops, where everybody owned an equal share, and, uh, the co-ops brought rural electricity in. It kinda started in the '30s and by the mid-'50s, about everybody in Clark County had electricity, and we are, there's three electric co-ops in Clark County; Norse Electric, which is in Newton; uh, Edgar Electric, which is in Paris and it's now Interstar; and Coles-Moultrie does Westfield, I think, they're out there somewhere, I don't know where. But it was a community effort, everybody helped, when you wanted an electric line, everybody got together and fixed it. I mean, uh, they'd bring the poles out, and lay the wire on the ground, and a hundred farmers would get together and dig holes and put the electric lines up and string the wire, I mean, in those days, if you wanted something done, and this was even in the '50s, you did it yourself. You just didn't hire somebody, but electricity came to the country. We had milking machines; there's no pictures here, but we had milking machines as early as the '30s, but we had, uh, gas motors that were running electrical, centrifugal, uh, Delco machines, to create the electricity. We had to run gas motors to create electricity. We had a milk cooler. Um, it's kind of funny, on most farms, and my Mom would always get irritated about this, but they would, they would, uh, put the electricity and some of the conveniences towards the farm. I mean, we had milk coolers to keep the milk coolers and we had milking machines to milk with and to do some other things with when they didn't have any electricity in the house. So, uh, when I was a kid, we had a lot of hogs and it was hot one summer, and we didn't have

an air conditioner, we had fans and open windows. It was really hot, and Dad went to town and bought two or three air conditioners and put them in the barn and the farrowing house [interviewer chortles]. Mom just threw a fit. Dad said the sows and pigs and hogs are paying the bills. When we get enough money, you can have one, but keeping the pigs alive and the sows healthy, giving milk is more important than you guys being comfortable. You can go out and lay in the yard [interviewer laughs]. I remember that discussion, but electricity changed everything, uh....

[interviewer] Well, I remember, uh, two farm families: my uncle in Martinsville and one here. They had a refrigerator, but it was gas, and as a youngster, and even today I can't figure out how a gas flame kept the refrigerator cold.

[Guinnip] Yeah, there were those. We just had the old ice boxes. Uh, Grandpa, since he delivered milk every morning, and after we quit bottling, uh, Kraft had the cheese plant out here [interviewer: mmhmm], for any of you that remember that, building is still there, so my Grandfather came to town, or at least that far, every day, and he'd get a block of ice, so we had the block, the old ice boxes in the house. And they were creative in other ways. There's a, a lot of the wells out there had, were formed up, and they had a lot of stuff down the well. You know, between meals, Grandma would set things in the well. You know, we had a cistern and wells, and they put it down in the cool water and, but electricity in general we got lights and revolutionized a lot of things, uh, the air conditioners and the easy living probably didn't come until the '70s and '80s in those farm homes, but, uh, the transition, the rural transition was slow, but it was steady, and it was deliberate, and, uh, a lot of it was ingenuity and hard work from the people that lived there, but I will say that the government, off and on, facilitated a lot of this. I mean, government has certain places, and we all argue about what their place is, but the government did the research at the land-grant college, and that was public, you know, back in the 1860s, uh, and that was disseminated. Uh, the extension services public money, and that was education. The rural electric, although they didn't pay for it, the organized the co-ops, and, uh, that was a product of the depression, and a lot of the farm products in the depression, government policies, were good and bad, and some of them failed, and some of them are still here. Um, we had huge surpluses in the '30s. Farm prices were low. One of the things I'll say that in my family that just, it seemed like it never went away until the old people died was the depression. My Grandparents were just so tight [interviewer chuckles], I mean, they just lived, they could never get over the depression. They just, my Grandmother would still, and this was in the '60s even, she would take feed sacks and sweet clover sacks, and she'd wash them and sew them together. I mean, she just, and they could afford better than that then, they could never get, they made their own, they just never got over the depression. They just never did. Even when they had money, they lived so frugal that it was amazing to me, and it wasn't just them, it was most of the rural, older people, they just....

[interviewer] It just seemed to be that concept that it may or might happen again.

[Guinnip] I think they had that idea. My, my Grandfather, uh, I said too much here, my Grandfather, the Guinnips were strong democrats [interviewer chuckles] William Jennings Bryan-type folks. When Franklin Roosevelt came along and all the, they had a pig; now, this is a true story: my Grandmother's family were Shaws and Rossmans and Flinters, they were all from Martinsville, and they all farmed, too. Well, there was too much of everything in the '30s, the early '30s, and, uh, so they had the New Deal. Well, one of the things was control, controlling production, and there were way too many pigs, so you could get a price guarantee for your pigs, if you agreed to limit production. Well, the, and there's a, the farm bureau just had a hundredth anniversary in this county, and they had a big newspaper article from the Marshall Herald in 1932. You should read this if you really want to know about Clark County history. Uh, if you signed up for the guaranteed prices, then you had to cut your production. There were massive, massive killings of pigs in this county, tens and tens of thousands, they dug trenches, they killed them and burned them, and the Marshall Herald wrote out across, of course it was the Republican newspaper, and they were against it, you know, is this right, there are people starving in Chicago and east St. Louis, and we're just, you know, we're burning livestock by the hundreds of thousands in southern Illinois, and my Grandfather switched politics over that. He just said, this is so wrong. And Uncle Ed and Uncle Joe Shomp got in trouble. I mean, they wouldn't kill their pigs and it, it was a mess. And, uh, the milk dumping. Too much of everything. You can read history in the south. I think they burnt 50 million bales of cotton, so it was just; it was the way they did. I'm not, you have to make your own judgement of history. It is, but it's kind of the way they corrected the situation. And, uh, around here it caused lots and lots of problems. But I would say 30- or 40% of the farms in Clark County were lost in three or four years.

[Guinnip] Um, I was talking about the cyclical part. My Dad always said success in farming is on when you're born, not as much as what you know. If you were, my Grandfather was born in the '80s, bought his farm in 1910. Things steadily got better from 1910; you had three war years there, '16, '17, and '18, where prices went very high for farm products, and two years after World War II [!], they were higher, then we went off the cliff, so Grandpa got in business, got his farm paid for. The people that were born 10 or 15 years later got in business and then they fell off the cliff in the depression, or they fell off the cliff in the mid-'20s. I mean, it was just cyclical. If you buy in at the bottom and you ride the land up and get it paid for, then when it goes down, if you're smart, you can hang on. The people that bought at the top; if you bought land in 1927 and it was \$400 an acre, and you can go right out here, north of town, and I can show you some of them, and you went, and you got a mortgage from Cole & Cole, or whoever, over here [interviewer chuckles], and three years later that land's worth \$40 an acre, and you got no money, you lost it.

[interviewer] [unintelligible words] got some of those lands, too.

[Guinnip] Rappenhammer's bought mortgages [interviewer chuckles], my Grandparents dealt with Cole; Cole & Cole had a mortgage down at the south side of the courthouse, and, uh, Grandpa went in there one day, he had co-signed a note for his cousin, and he had, his cousin hadn't paid, and he went in there to figure out what to do, and, uh, Cole said, that desktop is full of mortgages that have not been paid, and I have no hope of getting anything, and I don't want any more. He said, your cousin, you'll have to figure out how to pay your cousin's mortgage. And, uh, I heard, I just read, that one of them borrowed \$800 in 1927, and they paid, I hate to say it, like 16-or 18,000 dollars in interest, before they ever got the thing paid off, because they could never make a principal payment. Economy and agriculture, it's just been, and it still is, it's luck and skill and smarts, and working hard. Working hard won't always get you [interviewer laughs], you know, everything's against you, so uh....

[interviewer] Don, you talked about your early family and there was a thing that was horses, everything was horse power, [Guinnip: mmhmm], then we moved to a thing called tractors, and how has that developed and changed farming, with the, uh, tractor, and now even so much sophistication?

[Guinnip] Well, it, it expanded the size of the farms. You know, traditionally after the Civil War, it was 40 acres in, 80 acres. When my Grandparents started, you needed 120 here. Up on the prairie, you needed less, because it was all tillable. My Grandfather farmed with horses, he was one-armed, he liked technology, because he needed it. He bought a tractor in 1927 or '28 [interviewer: Oh my]. They used it mostly for stationary power, to grind feed, to run a silage chopper. Um, he got tractors to go to the field, in '32 and '33. Uh, his, my, Arthur Guinnip, my Grandfather, his cousins, Homer Guinnip and Harry Guinnip had a blacksmith shop down here where the VFW is, and that was the International Harvester dealer, so he started buying, you know, in farming, we got red, colors matter, John Deere and International, Case, but we were red, because his cousins sold International Harvester tractors, but, uh, uh, it made farming a lot easier. It expanded it. Um, my Dad was in, uh, Robert, my Dad, was in World War II, and, uh, he really didn't want to come back to the farm, but Grandpa insisted that he did, and Dad said, Dad was down at Florida, down at Pensacola, at the Naval Air Station, he was a mechanic on an aircraft, aircraft carrier [interviewer chuckles] for planes, but anyhow they went down there, and Dad said, all right, I'll farm, but I'm not farming with the damned horses, he said. If you'll agree to mechanize the farm, I'll come back. So, after the war, they still had a hard time getting steel, to make tractors, but anyhow, Musgrave, at Musgrave International Harvester at Gordon Junction, which is Route 1 and Route 133, they had tractors, so 1948, Grandpa went down there and he bought an H, an M, and a C, and all the machinery to go with it. [interviewer: Wow]. My Mom said it took us three days of driving Dad down there and he drove everything back, you know, probably 25 miles down there. But Dad, Dad would not, we kept the teams of horses, they used [chuckles], Grandpa would harness them and tie them up at the barn there up into the mid-'50s and parade them around. He just wouldn't get rid of them, but they quit farming. I'd say the last year they farmed with horses was '48. And it was all mechanized in Dad's time. And, um, [clears throat], we used to plow, [unintelligible word] harrow, plow, then disk. Now, in this time, we've all kinds of tilling tools: no-till, mechanized till, we've got all kinds of technology. Um, we're

just beyond belief that the generation before would understand at all how we farm in this day and age, but things have got big and technologically progressive and you know, what one man can farm by himself in this day and age, I don't know 2- or 3,000 acres, probably on the prairie; down here where it's chopped up, it's harder to do it, because we have smaller, I, I, planted beans the last three days and I probably planted 20 fields, but the average size is 20 acres; it's the geography here is, you go out north of Paris, there's 640 acres in some of those fields, so you can really be efficient, that we don't have down here. Uh, mechanization has come and it's here and we don't have the diversity; you were talking about the big barns, when I was being raised, everybody had livestock, because the cheese plant was here, because Borden, there were big milk places in Terra Haute [interviewer clears throat]. This was the Terra Haute milk shed [interviewer clears throat]. I'd say half the farmers milked in Clark County in the '50s. Everybody had beef cattle and hogs. There were lots and lots of chickens. There were several poultry houses here in town. There were some big ones in Terra Haute. Um, in the '50s and '60s, livestock was on every farm, and, uh, then we kinda went commercial, and specialized. Now, most of the farms here concentrate on corn and beans; livestock, the hogs are all big confinement buildings, uh, there's a few dairies left in Clark County, but milk prices are so low right now, that Prairie Farms has capped Olly, Prairie Farms and Olly is the milk bottler in this area, and they capped the production for every dairy farm. The ones I know won't last much longer, there's such an overabundance of milk, um, and nothing to do with it, but, uh, the big changes.

[interviewer] Don, when my Dad owned a grain elevator back in the '50s. Corn was picked and it was brought in to the grain elevator in the ear and was shelled there. Now, we combine corn.

[Guinnip] Right. Well, now a transition. For a thousand years, they shucked corn, you know, they physically went out, broke the husk off the thing, and threw it off the stalk, threw it in the wagon, and hauled it in. Um, that became, mechanization started in the corn industry, I would say, in the '30s, the first corn pickers came out a mechanical machine and it would go down the row and take the ear of corn and pull it off the stalk, and elevate it into a wagon. The early corn pickers were contraptions that worked. They were better, but, uh, probably not until after World War II, did we have high-quality corn pickers. We had two International M's, which were tractors and they had mounted corn pickers, like you're talking. You set in the middle, and the picker had two rows here, and there was an elevator out the back end of the wagon, and fill the wagon, haul the ears of corn into the elevator or haul them to a corn crib. We had a big double crib, a wooden crib, and then, in the wintertime, you would take the ear of corn out, and either grind it for hogs and cattle or shell it and haul it to the elevator. There were guys around here, Jack Beerbaum, he lived south of town, he farmed a little, but he hauled coal and shelled corn for a living. He had a commercial corn sheller, and he would just go to farm to farm, and shell out the cribs [interviewer: mmhmm], and they would haul it into the elevator. A hard way to make a living, but, uh, that's how the corn was handled then. And it was just, we transitioned from shucking to picking, and now I have a combine. I only have a six-row head. I farm 900 acres, which is small by today's standards, uh, some of them have; it's not uncommon to have a 10-row head in this county, that's about

as big, you get out west and up in Canada, they'll have 30- and 40-feed heads up there, but, uh, a combine, uh, you can shell, and you can get from it 50 or 60 acres a day, 200 bushel corn, and, uh, in the old days, if you could shuck a wagon load or two wagon loads, you were lucky. So, mechanization and technology has just transformed, and it's like everything else in this society, you know, um, we had a lot of, you know, I went to SIU-Carbondale to school and a lot of my friends were coal miners and southern Illinois had 460 operating coal mines [interviewer: mmhmm], when I was down there. Well, drive down through there now and see what's happened, you know. [interviewer chuckles] There are ten thousand coal miners left, and, uh, technology, you know, nuclear, all the green revolution, I mean, it's just like everything else, and farming has changed, too, so, uh....

[interviewer] Well, what's changed too, what I think has taken place, is the production, and you kind of alluded to that earlier. I don't know what your Grandfather got in his field per acre for his corn or beans, but that has steadily gone up and up and up, and that farm work in, probably Champaign and Urbana, has helped influence some of that, too, with fertilizers and chemicals.

[Guinnip] When Grandpa was starting a farm out there in the teens, most of it, uh, the average corn was 30- or 40-bushel per acre, and some years, when it didn't rain, they didn't get that. My Grandfather, I remember, he raised his first hundred-bushel corn, and this wasn't on the whole farm, but he had one field that he made an effort. In 1948, he had a field that made 100-bushel per acre [interviewer: That was good]. He built a new corn crib that year that held 10,000-bushel, and, uh, they hired a guy; there was a mechanic, well, he still lives here in town, named Jack Zigler. Jack had just come to town, and he, he went to work for my Grandfather for twenty-five cents an hour and they put him at the top of the crib, and he stayed up there during harvest to maul back the corn. That's the way, you know, [interviewer: mmhmm] it was still an ear of corn, but, uh, uh, the technology has really changed and now we've got grain bins and dryers and semis and it's just volume and dollars and a lot fewer people doing it. Um.

[interviewer] With the increase in yields and the ups and downs and fertilizer and all, what has that done to the grain prices? What has the influence been?

[Guinnip] Well, it's like everything else, uh, if you look back, uh, we had, uh, my Grandfather paid off the mortgage on his farm. I was talking about history. Uh, my Mother's Grandfather had a farm out on the barns [?], and, uh, he, he had a mortgage for like 30 years, and wheat went to four dollars a bushel in 1918 [interviewer: Ooh], because the war was over in Europe. They'd had a crop failure over there. Grandpa Curran paid off the mortgage on his farm that he'd had for 30 years with one wheat crop in 1918. Four-dollar wheat was a big [interviewer chuckles] thing. [interviewer: I see]. And we've had

wheat, uh, in 1912, in 1912, in 2012, here, in this part of Illinois, and in the Midwest, we had a drought, and we had the highest prices in history. We had \$15 beans, we had \$7 and \$8 corn, we had \$8 wheat, um, so the cyclical part and then we went back down, and prices are now at the cost of production now. I was in the hog business for all my productive life, and, uh, when I started, hogs were twenty cents a pound and we made money and then they gradually went up, and, uh, in 1999 and 2000, hogs got down to two cents, cheaper than they were during the depression, and, uh [interviewer: hmm] 80 or 90 percent of the hog producers went out of business, and, uh, I told my wife, I said, you know, [interviewer chuckles] everything; things go extreme, they always go overboard, you know. They didn't need to go that low, but they did, momentum just carried them that low, and I said, goes too low and it will go too high, either way we're going to stay in business, we're going to make back what we lost [chuckles]. And I will say, I'm going to get in trouble for this, but that's the only time in my adult life my Mom ever interfered in the farm. She came out there one day, and she said, "Everybody else is quitting but you, and I can't understand why you have to quit." And I said, "We're not going to quit." I said, [interviewer chuckles], and I told her what I just said, "They won't be two cents very long. I said, they'll go the other way too much, and we're not getting out, Mom." She went back to town and never said any more about it. And exactly, and I kind of brag here, exactly what, we had \$60 hogs within a year, and we back all we lost, and we did lose a lot of money, for the six months that they were two cents, because that's zero, and everything that we put into them was lost, but we made it back. And it's just this understanding of economics and of the cash flow, and you know, you, you've got to save money when it's good, because you know it's going to get bad again, and that's the reason, I think, we've survived, is because my ancestors understood that. And, uh, not all of my family survived on the farm. There were failures in my family. Um, some of it was bad judgement, some of it, you know, some things in life happen, and you can't do anything about it. And, uh, some of these people that failed, you know, in my own family, failed farming, it wasn't really their fault, but it happened, so....

[interviewer] Don, years ago, there was fertilizer, potassium, that was about it. You mentioned some lime. Now, there's so much other stuff put on that field. There's the, uh, all the chemicals and stuff. What has that done to help or hinder farming?

[Guinnip] When I started, when I helped my Dad, you know, in the '50s, um, we didn't really have chemicals, most of the weed control was done by cultivation. Um, we saved our own seed. We bought hybrid seed corn. In the early '60s, some of the chemical companies came along and started having herbicides and insecticides that were kind of elementary, but they worked, to some degree, and, uh, so we had some kind of weed control, but most of weed control was still cultivation, and most of the insect control was nonexistent. There were some chemicals like DDT and chlordane and some things they developed during World War II that worked on crops, but and they used them to some degree. Um, as technology increased, uh, we figured out ways to control weeds and Roundup was the big one that came along. Monsanto, which is a company in St. Louis that you've all heard of, developed Roundup, it was kind of the miracle weed killer. It would kill just about anything. Uh, the seeds would be bred so

they were resistant to that, and that's called a GMO, so uh, the GMOs, you probably know, non-GMO stuff ag, what's safe and what's not safe, what's moral and what's not moral. Well, we had genetically modified organisms, is what GMO means, genetically modified organisms, so everything prior to World War II was non-GMO, because we didn't genetically modify, man didn't [interviewer chuckles]. Now, nature has always genetically modified things. Mother Nature is the biggest GMO person in the world, because the survival of the fittest plant, you know, you've got 100 plants in your garden, and something's wrong. Well, one of them survives, and something kills the other 100, so what do you do? Well, you save the seeds from the one that survived, because some mutation in that plant naturally fought off the insect or the disease and it survived, so, Mother Nature, it's kind of silly, Mother Nature is the biggest producer of genetically modified organisms there ever was, but when mankind tinkers with it, we get upset, so, um, I raise both, and there's a market for both. In the Midwest, I don't, Midwestern people tend to be more practical, in my opinion. I have relatives on both coasts and the one in New York can't comprehend anything. I mean, I have a sister in California that buys \$15 milk, you know, non-, you know, she wants, uh, organic milk, so if you've got the money and you want to do that, that's fine, I don't care, but you can't, you can't feed the world economically the way we used to, and so we need this technology, and people have to make choices, do they want lifestyle or do they want principles, eat principles, and my dad said principles were fine, but you can't eat them [interviewer laughs] and you can't pay the mortgage with them, so, um, you can have your principles. The wealthier you are, the more principle you can have. If you've got five kids and a mortgage, an iffy job, you're, you're all right with non-GMO stuff, because they're cheaper. It's just philosophy.

[interviewer] What has chemicals done; we hear so much in the news now, "oh, they're polluting streams, they're polluting water, they're doing this, and they're doing that. The run-off is ruined." Is this hype, is this for actual?

[Guinnip] There's some truth to that, with, uh, uh, good, you know, it's the world we live in. I mean, you know, when you get, when this country was founded, there weren't a million people here [interviewer chuckles] now we've got 300,000,000 and headed for 400,000,000. The more people you get, the more problems you have, and pollution is, for years we had, in this area, before we learned how to control it, because of the topography, we had serious problems with soil conservation. Drive out through the countryside in 1930, there were gullies, but we've learned how to control that, and we've got conservation plans. Um, there is pollution, and, um, uh, the GMO thing is one of the things, you know, do you want to spray everything with three chemicals to kill all the bugs, and most of these are edible food crops: this is lettuce and carrots and potatoes, those are the most susceptible to insects and diseases. Any of you have ever raised a garden, you can lose tomatoes and potatoes overnight from wilt. So, do you spray that three times so that we've got a crop, or do you develop the, do you insert a gene in the potato that will make it resistant to wilt. Do you have a GMO crop that's resistant? But then you don't have to spray it three times. So, what do you want, you know? The public can't make up their mind. No, we don't want sprayed. We want healthy potatoes that are cheap, but we don't want the

GMO that's got this gene in there and we don't have to spray it, so, that's, that's the quandary that we're in, in our society. Agriculture doesn't have much of a quandary about it. Uh, you're not in business, unless you make a profit, so you produce to make a profit, or you're not gonna be there, so you figure out what works on my farm is profitable, and that's what I do. It's the big 10,000-foot discussion, and among the politicians and everybody else that gives the country direction, and so we have a little bit of everything, but, uh, we do have pollution trouble. Um, the Wabash River, you know, and agriculture has to take its share of it, I mean, if we don't farm right, and we don't use correct practices, we do lose some of these fertilizers, and you don't lose much insecticide, because that stuff, most of the herbicides and insecticides, they biodegrade pretty fast, not all of them, but, uh, we do have some problems, we do need to clean it up. Um, it's everybody's problem, and, uh, you can't point a finger at one person, but, but society has gone the way it's gone, and we are part of it, so it's everybody's responsibility. Farmers have the first responsibility of farming correctly, making good decisions, and, and most of them know the right thing and the wrong thing. They don't always do the right thing and the wrong thing, sometimes for economics, and sometimes for other motives, but uh....

[interviewer] You mentioned conservation. You're driving across through the country here last week, when we had so much wind, and you see big clouds of soil behind a tractor, somewhere else or out in the field. Are we losing topsoil from that?

[Guinnip] We are not losing topsoil, the topsoil, the top, we don't lose much, uh, in the Midwest from wind pollution [interviewer: okay]. What you see, behind the tractor, that we're not losing that, that's just dust created by motion. Most of the erosion around here is water. We had a couple, when you had the big, these three- and four-inch rains, when the land, the soil was already saturated, that's when you get most of the erosion, and you get gulley erosion and sheet erosion, and you get it everywhere, you get it up north of Paris on the prairie, it's just, they've got eight foot of topsoil, so, you know, they're still working, they've still got half of it, down here [interviewer chuckles] we only had six inches, we lost it in places, but we had the ability to and the conservation know-how to stop soil erosion, if the will is there to do it. And, and most people have, um, most people are good stewards. We have a soil and water conservation district in this county and we have a USDA office in Martinsville that deals with that, um, not everybody likes the way they do things [interviewer chuckles], uh, but, uh, soil conservation is important and the public needs to support it and farmers, most of them are good stewards, but not all of them. It's like anything in society, you know, 80- or 90 percent are pretty good about it. You've always got a few that aren't. So, how do you do it?

[interviewer] Don, we've gone from horse and buggy to tractors and GPS tractors and all. Just looking ahead, the young person, who did want to start farming today, what's his outlook?

[Guinnip] Well, it's sad. I won't say you can't, because people prove you wrong all the time. You know, I grew up on a farm. There was plenty of land there, none of my family wanted to farm, so I got to farm, and there was no fight about it. There were some big families with lots of boys where there wasn't enough to go around and somebody made a decision--some of them got to farm and part of them didn't, it wasn't fair, and there was hard feelings, but that's the way it is. In this day and age, if somebody doesn't set you up, it's really difficult. You know, I have a land base. I have landlords. I farm for Damien. Uh, I've got kind of a start. Um, just to walk out the door here, as a 25-year-old young person, to say I want to farm, you've really got a chore ahead of you [interviewer, mmhmm], because accumulating the capital, a new combine is \$250,000, a tractor is \$150,000, a grain bin's \$50,000. Land has gone from four- or five-dollars an acre, you know, 1900 to, the highest we got in this county was \$10,000 an acre, so you need, uh, the university will tell you, you need 1200 acres minimum of corn and beans to support just a, that's the minimum economic farm, to start on, and, uh, you figure out renting the land and machinery, no banker, even the farmers' home administration, which has a starting farm program, you just can't cash flow to start it. Somebody has to help you. And that isn't fair, and it's not right, just like a lot of things in the world, it's the way it is, and, uh, uh, there's a lot of people who would like to farm, and would make good farmers, and never get the opportunity. There's a fair number out there who never wanted to farm [interviewer chuckles], but it's like my Grandfather and Dad, you know, it's your responsibility, you want to come back here and farm and take care of us when we get old. We're going to move in with you and that's the way it's been done for generations, and that's the way they expected it, and that's the way it happened, so, so, uh....

[interviewer] We've had difficulty of the young farmer, the young man getting started. Well, I guess, what is the outlook for farming? Is it strictly going to be a family thing? Corporations?

[Guinnip] I think it's going to be families, not completely, but, uh, even corporations. In this area, it's going to be family-based [thumps table], because that's the way our society works and that's the way we're set up for it to work. You get in the fruits and vegetables and some of the poultry things where corporations control it, it's a little different, but family farms, these, the way things are done around here, it's family-operated. They'll just be big. They'll, some of them will have hired help, uh, a lot of employees, but it will still be a family unit, and, uh, it'll just be on a different level, a different scale. You read the farm magazines, the big thing now is women in agriculture. You know, it used to be considered, it was hard work, until we got all this mechanization and technology, uh, society was different, uh, most women didn't want to farm, they really didn't want to have anything to do with it at all, but the ones living on a farm, ended up, my Mom ended up milking, and washing the milkers, and she had a thousand chickens, and I mean, it was, you know, she did her part. And most of them really didn't want to do that. It's different now, and the big thing is women in agriculture. They're not out there with the scoop shovel in their hand, and they're not climbing [interviewer chuckles] up in the silo every morning, and they're managers, really. And, uh, you know, somebody still does the, uh, the tough work, but, uh, it's changing, and it's going to be big and it's going to be management-oriented and technology-oriented, and

probably the more productive, the less productive land in a lot of places like this eventually will not be, not be in production.

[interviewer] We've mostly been talking about the male farmer out in the field, but obviously farming has changed a lot in the farm household. There always used to be a big garden outside [Guinnip: mmhmm], wives canned, and all these things. They had some chickens and could fix their own chicken for fried chicken dinner.

[Guinnip] My Grandmothers were the typical farm women, and, they, they had a farm household, they had a large garden, and raised a lot of their own, they canned. My Mom froze a lot of stuff, and my Grandmothers--you go in any farmhouse in the middle of the summer and there was a pressure cooker sitting on the stove, and they canned all summer [interviewer: mmhmm]: you know, green beans and corn and beef and whatever else it was, and, uh, you don't have that. A lot of the women in farming, you know, in, in this area would have a chicken flock on the side, and that was one of their economic contribution. There were a lot of egg stations around and they could have 500 or 1,000 chickens and with a little help, they could take care of those, particularly once their kids got old enough to go to school. Uh, my Grandmother had 1,000 chickens and she'd gather the eggs and wash them and clean them and candle them, you know, and take care of the kitchens. The men did the heavy work, even out there, but that was kind of her contribution, and it was always the, well, it wasn't a joke, but the women kept the egg money, and that was the grocery money, and that's how a lot of the families [interviewer laughs, That's right!] cash-flowed, and, uh, there's not any chickens left. Just a few people have them, just for their own use. Gardens are more popular here than a lot of places, but a lot of farms don't have gardens. Um, the farm wife, uh, I always borrowed money at the farm credit bank, and there was a woman named Sue Cornwell, some of you may know her from Martinsville. She was a friend for years, and, uh, [interviewer: she just retired] she treated me very well and she was a good business woman, and, uh, one of the things that, you know. When I got in business, it wasn't the farmer, you know, when you were borrowing money and large amounts of money and making business decisions, your wife was always there, at least to sign the papers and to have some occasion, because her name was on it, what was going on. And, uh, Sue told numerous people, including us, she said, "Well, one of the things that's changed in my time here is that, um, farmers are not like everybody else." Most of the people that go to work have some kind of an insurance plan, and insurance became, health insurance, became increasingly important, and in the last 20 years the cost of health insurance, just to go into the store, across here and buy it, has become extremely difficult. Well, most farmers weren't buying health insurance, and if you had five kids and a wife, and you're paying a lot for health insurance. I remember my lender saying one of the things that's changed in my time is that most of these women that have been home with their kids are gonna have to go to work and find a job that's got health insurance, because the farm can't afford to buy the health insurance for the family any more, and instead of mom staying home raising chickens, and a garden, and doing that, mom's going to have to go to work and find a job that has health insurance, because that's what's going to keep the farm going. And that really is a

business change, and an economic change, and a social change that has happened, and in my generation, I'm 65-years-old, and we set around and talk to our friends, and the health insurance thing is; I mean, that grabs people almost more than their mortgages anymore [laughs, interviewer laughs], and you hear these stories about how much people are paying. You all know what it costs to go to the doctor. I mean, I don't need to go into this, but that has changed how things are seen on, you know, Mom; unless you got a big farm and you're pretty well-off, Mom doesn't stay at home on the farm anymore, she's got a job, because you need health insurance. It's not about buying groceries, it's about health insurance.

[interviewer] I was going to talk a little bit about insurance, especially when you talked about the depression. Uh, there wasn't such a thing as crop insurance way back. [Guinnip: No]. And I'm not sure exactly when that began?

[Guinnip] Crop insurance started, uh, [clears throat] in the '50s, primarily started out West in the wheat, in the, you know, those, some of the crops are more; in the Midwest, the corn, soybean area, we tend always to have something. And some of these, some of the areas like Kansas, it's feast or famine, you know, you could lose your whole crop and not have anything. We were pretty diversified, if we'd lose one crop, we'd have two or three others, and we always had some livestock, so, uh, crop insurance didn't catch on here, probably until, oh, I'd say the '50s and '60s. There were government supply programs, and government management programs, and that crop insurance became the prerequisite for participating in those. It wasn't that you had to be in the program. They were voluntary, but if you wanted a guaranteed price, you had to agree to these other things, and one of them was you would take crop insurance and then if you did have a disaster, you could get out of it yourself, instead of wanting a disaster payment. So, crop insurance is kind of a self-funded disaster payment, and, uh, for a long time, particularly with the younger farmers; the banks forced the younger families to have it. You don't have a choice. I don't have to buy it [interviewer chuckles], but I take crop insurance, because I think it's a good business risk. And, uh, to put out an acre of corn in this county right now, it's \$400 an acre. You've got a thousand acres of corn, you can figure out how much you're ponying up for that. Uh, soybeans is about half of that. Wheat is about two-thirds of that, so if you're farming a thousand or twelve hundred acres, you need a lot of cash, and most people don't have that, so they're going to a lender to buy it. The lender, the bank, farm credit's saying, you know, you're going to have crop insurance, and we're going to be the first lien against there, because we're going to get paid first. So, if they loan me \$200,000 to put out my crop, uh, the bank's going to get their name on the crop insurance [interviewer chuckles], and if there's a failure, and there's no crop to take, then they're going to take the insurance money. That's the way it works. And so that's why we have crop insurance. The idea was to get the government out of, the government got involved in farming in the '30s, as I was talking about the pig killing and all that stuff, burning the cotton bales, and they stayed in it since then, and it's been a political discussion for all that time, whether USDA has any business meddling in agriculture. They have, in my opinion, they have some business. I think they really have a legitimate reason to be there, as far as conservation, because the

public good is served by good conservation practices. Now, some of the other programs involved in, they're probably not necessary, but we live in a country where we, you know, we can, we govern by consensus, so, you know, 200,000,000 of us elects somebody and then they run things, and then we elect somebody else, and they go in a different direction, so we're going to continue to have what we've got.

[interviewer chuckles] Well, thank you Don, it's been a pleasure having you here and we certainly appreciate and thank you for taking time out of the field to be with us.

[Guinnip] I'm glad to be here.

[interviewer] And I hope that's given a little scope from the horse and buggy days up through what we're living with today, and I want to say again, we sure appreciate it [Guinnip: thank you]. Thank you so much.

[Guinnip] I hope my opinions didn't offend anybody [laughter], but you can look back and you can see all the well-meaning things we've tried to do over the past 150 years, and a lot of them worked, and a lot of them didn't; sometimes [laughs] you didn't have sense enough to pull the plug, but....