

ALLRIGHT

Transcript for interview with Mr. Carrol Kannamacher at Burnside's Nursing Home on March 3, 1998 at 3:15 p.m. Interviewer: Becky Bumpus, Jessica Todd, Donna Sanders, and Caleb Hollingsworth.

Caleb: How did you learn your information about Allright?

Carrol: How did I find out about it? I asked a lot of people and my dad told me a lot about it. I lived there for fifteen years, and I just asked.

Caleb: When was it settled?

Carrol: We got it in 1915, but I think the first store was built in 1909. You wanna know when they established the name and all that?

All: Yeah!

Carrol: I have enclosed a list of postmasters, and their appointment dates for the post office which operated 1892-1908. The first postmaster was Henry Kile. Date appointed 3-10-1892. Second post master, David Nickel 2-27-1894. Third postmaster, Elmore N. Schloser 12-13-1904. Discontinued July 15, 1908 mail sent to Marshall Mark C.

Caleb: Tell us how it got its name?

Carrol: Some official. I don't know exactly who they decided they had to piling up Post Offices in the country because the farmers wasn't going into town. Mail was piling up, up, up, up. So they decided they had to little post offices out there some officials. I don't know if it was out of the post offices or that had over Washington picked this spot it

was 8 or 9 miles from Marshall and they picked that spot they told these people we've got to have name so a group of people and he got a notice to come up to the courthouse and register their name. So this farmer who got all nervous went to the courthouse and shakily said alright alright, and the court said okay its Allright. They told me every time we change presidents they change postmasters. They would change every four years. Oh, the people the farmers here would come in and pick up mail or send mail.

Caleb: What type of entertainment was in Allright?

Carrol: In our store we had the first radio. Before that the entertainment was just a group of young boys that would come and everybody walked the young kids. They would come there and play checkers and they played 38 boards. What did they call it? Well I forgot. They just had a bunch of things out there and they would shoot in the pocket and keep score like playing pool and had a checkerboard to play checkers. They also had a little table to so they could play cards.

Mark: What about eggs?

Carrol: I haven't got to that yet. Huh, lets see, Contest. They had an egg contest. One boy sucked out all he could suck. He sucked 38 eggs and he went home making custard pie. I don't know other than what they had was a phonograph records.

Caleb: Okay. You said you lived in Allright. How old were you? Were you born in Allright?

Carrol: No I wasn't born there. I went there when I was about a year old. August 28, 1914 3:00 in the afternoon in the northwest corner of the bedroom at Grandmas house.

Mark: Now was that down where grandpa and grandma used to live which is probably 1/2 mile from Allright or 2/3 mile?

Carrol: 1 1/2 Miles

Caleb : What business were in Allright? Was there just that one store?

Carrol: There was two stores but now these stores were general stores they weren't grocery stores you could buy anything. I say that it was a mini Wal-Mart. You bought dry goods, Women bought all their things and they sewed their own clothes.

Mark: Did you have car parts?

Carrol: Dad was a jack of all trades, sold insurance, hunting licenses, he learned to be a mechanic and worked on cars.

Carrol: There was three post offices there.

Mark: Oh postmasters, yes.

Carrol: I understand Dave Nickel he had the post office in his front bedroom. The house had two doors in a two story building they used the room over on the side for the post office. There was cubby holes in there where they put the mail and when Dave Nickel got it he had a grocery store. Then Elmer built that store down south here and put two stores on it, but I seen them cubby holes but I didn't have enough sense to look at the names on it.

Caleb: Are these building still standing?

Carrol: The old buildings is there the top story was taken off. It is the only old bottom

story it is going this was with weeds and grass.

Caleb: Can we still get pictures though?

Mark: You could still get pictures of the store.

Caleb: What was transportation like in the winter?

Carrol: Well you either went on foot, in buggy, or you rode a horse, or wagon.

Caleb: How did people get around when it snowed?

Mark: What was the roads like?

Carrol: They were all mud roads. Well you know we only had rough roads. There was gravel roads from Marshall to Martinsville that's the way we traveled when they went to renew route 40 they shut that off. They detoured around Clarksville and they put a gravel road down there and the Grayhound bus would make such dust terrible.

Donna: They had busses?

Mark: Oh!

Carrol: They would of been 30's. 1925 or something.

Mark: During the Depression?

Carrol: In the beginning.

Donna: Can you remember how the Depression affected Allright?

Carrol: Well the Depression hurt everything. It started 1925. It slowed up everything another thing that hurt these stores is roads having better roads and cars. I got coffee break and someone was complaining how Grandkids were going to be the ones paying for it. I said yeah but my dad voted to raise taxes to get a good road and I said taxes had to pay for upkeep. You know I voted to higher taxes. To get a black top roads well he said yes we gotta have black top road and taxes helped everything at that time and I tell you another thing I thought about the other day Oakley does anyone remember the Oakley stores?

All: "No."

Carrol: Well Oakley came from Terre Haute and my dad talked to him now in the country stores have shelves on the sides and I stood behind the counter and waited for them to tell me what they wanted. Oakley came out and set out a stand in the middle gave you a cart and come up when you were done and he told Dad you can stack up cans of beans and put a sign that says 3 for a .25. People will buy three cause they think it is cheap

Mark: It is at the corner of the store isn't it?

Carrol: Yes, you'd get gas out of the big pump.

Mark: Now if you have been to Moonshine they're almost identical they have got shelves on the side and its like the same from front.

Caleb: I remember seeing a gas pump like that.

Carrol: Mother had the first Maytag washing machine in the county that was around 1949.

Mark: I imagine that would be better than washing them by hand. What other questions you guys got?

Donna: What was the population of Allright?

Carrol: The population of Allright now our store was a T-road and they called that the center of Allright.

Mark: How many families lived near the post office?

Carrol: I never did know how many people came to get their mail.

Donna: Why did you choose to leave Allright?

Carrol: Dad was a farmer so us boys go up to work because he had cows and hogs to go feed and we had to work a lot of the time. We would have to walk a lot of the time to and father said would you boys like to move to the farm? He got all of us to say yes even if we didn't want to and that's why we moved up to the farm. Dad didn't have to good of health.

Donna: What type of people lived in Allright?

Carrol: Good people.

Becky: Were there a lot of farmers?

Carrol: Yeah a bunch of farmers.

Donna: Were there rich, snobby people?

Mark: Probably no rich people down here was there?

Carrol: Oh Granddad Hill, He was supposed to be the richest man down there he bought the first model T Ford.

Mark: Oh Yeah.

Carrol: Now he didn't live right there in Allright. He lived three or four miles away. The Spittlers we all felt like had money.

Mark: Was there a church?

Carrol: Oh yeah, the Congregational Church and there was always a preacher came down from Marshall and he would preach in Marshall in the morning and come down to Allright in the afternoon.

Mark: Now the school you was telling me about yesterday wasn't it in Allright? .

Carrol: None of the schools was four miles apart. You had to walk four miles to get there of course if you lived 1/4 of mile away the farthest you had to walk was two miles. I walked 1/2 a mile to school.

Jessica: How long did it take you to get through school?

Carrol: You had to go till you was 16 and I graduated at 14, and they made you go the other two years of high school.

Donna: Why did people leave Allright?

Carrol: Trying to find a job more money. At that time there was about a house on about every 40 acres. Today people own farms about 100 to 120 acres.

Becky: Did many people leave Allright for a reason?

Carrol: You wanna know how my grandfather got here? Granddad K. Was born in Germany and over there France and Germany fought over that one little spot and over there when you are 18 you got sent to service. Granddad said you know we had a bugle boy if we got surrounded and the bugle boy got killed. So my granddad picked up the bugle and started blowing. He was then stationed in Marseilles France and he signed a passport with his signature and came to America.

Mark: He just ended up being out this way?

Carrol: I heard he had a duel some place and then he met up with Godfrey Spittler who

was from Germany. They came through Chicago and it was stinky and swampy and they didn't like that it had black dirt. So they came south and found this flat ground. He was a brick mason and helped rebuild after the Chicago fire.

Donna: I never thought that was true.

Becky: Did the cow kick it over or what?

Carrol: Well I don't know. Granddad wasn't there he went up to rebuild. He brought the boys to Marshall to get a beer. They set out the beer and the boys bowed to pray over it. When they looked up the beer was gone so he got some more and told them to bow but keep their eyes open. The reason he left Chicago was he kept getting his tools stolen and when he saw the robber he hit him since he thought he killed him he left and later found out he had only knocked the guy unconscious.

Mark: Do you have any more questions?

Donna: How did the war affect Allright?

Carrol: Which one? In 1918 they had a bad flu epidemic and Fritz K.. had not even got overseas before dying.

Mark: Now I think Granddad was telling me that it was hard to get tires and sometimes food during war.

Carrol: That was rationed out.

Donna: Did you help with weapons and food?

Carrol: We made types of rail for railroads.

Mark: So during that time you all moved up there and the people at home had to work somewhere.

Carrol: If you were a farmer producing a lot of stuff they wouldn't take you if you had too many kids.

Mark: Your dad was dead by then right?

Carrol: Oh yes he was dead.

Caleb: Well that is all of the questions we have. Thanks for letting us interview you.

All: Thank You!