

BRAD & PAM WARD

Wayne: Today is April 13th, 2023. I'm Wayne Summers and today I am interviewing Brad and Pam Ward at their house in DeWitt. Why don't you start out, Brad, by telling us a little bit about the history of this house?

Brad: It was purchased in 1919 from my grandparents, Eddie and Ruby Ward. They had three sons and a daughter. Victor was the oldest; Dorward was next; Gaylord, which is my father; and then Ila Ward, which is my aunt. My aunt was born in this house. My grandparents then, along with my dad's brothers, built the house next door and built the house next to that. My grandparents moved from here to the new house next door. My uncle, which is Victor, the oldest, was married and moved into the new house the next door to that. So it was my dad and his brothers built the two houses.

My grandfather was the first constable of DeWitt. I can't tell you exactly. It had to be during the 40's that he served. I don't remember him because I was born in 1950 and he died before that. Ruby was a Wellington, I believe. We're actually from Canada.

Wayne: When did your family first come to DeWitt?

Brad: 1919. My grandfather and grandmother lived out in South Riley. Where? I don't know. Then they purchased this and it was all of this property and all of the field down there too.

Wayne: Behind the school?

Brad: Behind the school. It used to be the football field and the baseball field. They sold it to the school and I don't know when. It was before I was born. They turned it into the football field, baseball field, and track. They ran track up into our yard for many years there.

Wayne: When did they use what's now Riverside Park for a football field?

Brad: It had to be in the 50's because Ron Mull was telling me that he used to play football for DeWitt. He said sometimes the river would flood up and they would be playing in the water down there. I don't know how they did it but that's all I know of it.

Wayne: So the first football field was behind the school?

Brad: I think the first football field was Riverside Park.

Wayne: Then it moved over here.

Brad: Then it moved once they purchased the property.

Wayne: Who originally built this house, do you know?

Pam: We used to think it was David Scott until Ken [Coin] researched and he said differently.

Brad: This is the original deeds of the property. It has all the people that lived here. It gives the abstract of the land.

Wayne: David Scott at the beginning, isn't it? I think he owned all the property.

Brad: Yes.

Wayne: I guess you could say he was the original owner but he didn't really build anything on this property.

Brad: Horace [Marshall], I can't remember his last name, but it's on our centennial plaque out there.

Wayne: Who originally built the house?

Brad: He was a blacksmith. We never knew the history of the barn but we knew it was over a hundred years old because the house was built in 1847. My aunt, she didn't even know the history of the house and she died here. How long ago, Pam?

Pam: Five years [2016].

Wayne: So the old barn, that was demolished a few years ago, that you believe was a blacksmith shop?

Brad: Yes, because it was a walkout basement from the river level. There was a stable in there. Eventually, Ken found out about it being a blacksmith shop here. Horace was the one that ran it.

Wayne: Horace Marshall?

Brad: I think it is.

Wayne: There was a Horace Marshall who was a blacksmith in DeWitt at one time.

Brad: Well, it should be on here. There it is: Horace Marshall.

Wayne: He was a blacksmith.

Brad: 1881.

Wayne: So the barn may have been built about that time then, I'm thinking. When he came in, he might have made it a blacksmith.

Wayne: What can you tell me your memories about the history of DeWitt?

Brad: Just all the stores uptown. The original barbershop still is where it is right now, the little one right there. Next to that was an empty building. They tore the building down. It's now Chrissy [Motz] and the Motz [Fred Motz, Builder] building.

Pam: Before that there was June's Dime Store.

Brad: That was next. There was the barbershop and then this store here. I'm thinking it was a furniture store at one time and then next to that was Ray Coin had a sports shop there, which is now a mortgage place [Cherry Creek Mortgage Co.]. Then next to that was June Lankford's. It was called Lankford's.

Pam: It was a dime store. That was cool for the kids because they had the square candy counter. You could go in and fill your bag with whatever.

Brad: I remember her scooping stuff in, weighing it, and putting it in a little sack for us.

Pam: It was like going into a Ben Franklin. Everything under the sun is in there: dishes, clothes, toys, gardening tools, everything under the sun.

Wayne: Did you need help to find things?

Pam: I think all I wanted was candy corn.

Wayne: It was organized in a way that the owner knew and you could go in and ask and they go and grab it for you. You tried to find it yourself. Good luck!

Brad: Being in there so many times, I remember being little, being able to walk uptown and go into there. At least once a day you'd go in there for something, even to look at the candy. Next to that was the Dairy Bar, which was Red and Wanda Curtis. They ended up selling it to my cousins, Richard and Margie Lotre. Margie was a Ward, which is Victor's daughter. Margie worked for the City of DeWitt as a clerk.

Pam: For many years. Then across the street, what is now the Bridge Street Hair Company was the Shingle Shack. That was a little later than the Dairy bar.

Brad: Bill Farhat had that. It was a restaurant and my ex brother-in-law used to be the cook there. He took it over, Tom Bailey, and right next to that was the post office, the original, just a little thing.

Pam: Well no, first there was Jan's Apparel Store.

Brad: No, that's on the other side of the street.

Pam: That was next to the Shingle Shack.

Brad: The Shingle Shack was the post office. I don't remember Jan's [Janet (Lankford) Schulz] store.

Pam: Jan's Apparel Store. She was related to June Lankford.

Brad: Yeah. Albert Schultz married her.

Wayne: This is all on North Bridge?

Brad: Yes. It'll be North Bridge.

Pam: On the north side of the light.

Wayne: When you talk about the old post office, you're talking about what is Sweetie-licious today?

Brad: Is the post office and next is Woodruff's Bank. Then the Old Grange, which they tore down, was next to that but it used to set way back. Next to that was the DeWitt Community Church, the white church. Behind the bank, which is beyond Main Street, there was a little restaurant there. I remember going in there and eating when I was little, but I can't remember the name of it. The body shop from Bill Buck's Chevrolet was across the street but next to the Body Shop was the big, huge tavern. That was almost like a three-story building. My Aunt Judy Korte, which Judy Bradfield--that's my mom's maiden name--the guy that she married is Arnold Korte. His mom and dad owned the tavern there and that burnt down in late 50's, early 60's.

I remember, he used to be the fire chief here in DeWitt. He [Glenn "Dutch" Halderman] had a little barbershop right over here, which is now the barber shop. You would hear a buzzing sound through town and it was the fire phone. I'd hear it during the summer and I'd walk out in the yard and I'd watch --"Dutch" was his name--come out of the barbershop, go up into his house, which is that big, huge [house] where Newman's used to live, which is their grandson, and I knew right away it was a fire, because he'd go in there and hit the fire siren from there.

Pam: He'd have to manually go and do that. His barbershop is what's the jewelry store now.

Brad: Then across the street from that was Reed's [grocery store], but before Reed's was the Ford dealership. The Ford dealership moved across the street, which is on the corner of Washington and Bridge Street. Then behind that was their body shop. The dealership went out. They put a laundrymat into it and the body shop continued up until they built the new pharmacy up there.

Pam: That was there long time.

Brad: Then we'll go from Reed's to the parking lot was the old fire station, which I remember that. The old truck sat in there and then they built a new fire station right across the street there. That was in the early 60's. I think it was '61, right around in there. From the parking lot, which was the fire station, the next one was the drugstore. Percy Carris was the pharmacist there. That was another neat store to go into because he had all sorts of stuff in there. He had a huge, big, oak, all-glass candy counter that you could see all the candy and everything. Of course, it was all the bottles of everything behind it.

Pam: Apothecary fixings.

Brad: Next to that it was an empty building for what I remember. Then next to that was the hardware. They had a little building there too, which is now the Bridge Street Social Club, the restaurant.

Pam: and it went all the way to the corner. The hardware store was huge.

Brad: Yeah, so Dalman Hardware was all the way to the corner. Behind Dalman Hardware on Main Street is another empty building. Nothing was really ever in there but next to that was Bill Buck Chevrolet. Then Keck's Appliance was next to that. The other side of the street on Bridge Street and Main Street behind the Dairy Bar, was the Methodist Church, which is now the bar there. Next to that

they had built another little, small store. I remember it was a record place, sold records. Then somebody else bought it and put men's clothing in there. Then there was something else in there.

Pam: And then it became Scoopy's [Scoopy Doo].

Brad: Oh, Relli's, that was a theatre.

Wayne: Do you remember going to movies there?

Brad: Yeah. I think it was Virg[il] Zeeb and John Hiatt that owned the theater and Zebs lived right here on the corner. I grew up with a son, Brian Zeeb. The theater went out and then the next thing I remember that was in there was an archery. You could go in there and shoot your bows. I remember going in there and it was real long. Where that screen was, they had targets set up and upstairs they turned it into a rental place. It still is a rental place. From there, they made it the DeWitt Bar and, of course, from the DeWitt Bar to Relli's [Relli's Sports Bar].

I remember Dr. Smith lived right across, Schoonover's [Andrew Schoonover, DDS] parking lot. There was a little white house and that's where Dr. Smith's office was. He was my second doctor. My first doctor was Dr. Martin, right here on the corner of Scott and Main Street, the house that's occupied now used to be a state cop, Donovan.

Pam: After Dr. Martin quit, we had Dr. Scott come in.

Brad: Then our veterinarian was right behind this house right here on Washington Street. From the corner house to the next house on Washington was the veterinarian. That was Dr. Hicks. Jake Kirchen married his daughter, Barbara Hicks, and it was Barbara Kirchen then after that. Tom Kirchen, that's his mom and dad. I remember all that.

The lumber company had this right here. There was an old barn down here that they used occasionally, 'cause I remember getting into the scrap pile and grabbing--. I thought pieces of wood was treasure. The lumber yard was Walker's Lumber Yard, which is now the brand, new building down there that's got different--. Walkers owned that and then Ballards. Lloyd Ballard, his dad [Robert Ballard] bought it and turned it into a lumber company. Then it just went out of business. They tore it all down and built the building there. My grandparents lived right next door, which is now where Dan Mattson had his office. That was Bradfield's. That was their house and of course, the original jail next to it. I don't remember that and I don't remember the interurban. That was all gone before I was born.

Wayne: I don't know if you remember this--maybe it was before--when the elevator burned.

Brad: --which was Virg Zeeb's Elevator.

Wayne: When did that take place?

Brad: Late 50's [May 21, 1955]. I remember that night, just like it happened 'cause it was about midnight. It was down by the cemetery. My dad was on the department once before, but he got off of it. I remember him going when the big bar caught on fire too. I remember 'cause my bedroom was where our bedroom is right now, up on the second floor facing north there.

Wayne: You're still in the same bedroom then.

Brad: I'm still in the same bedroom. Yep. I was young but I remember opening up the curtains and it was just a big red ball, glare of fire in the sky. I remember that burning.

Wayne: Do you know how it started?

Brad: No, but I can find out real quick. Brian Zeeb knows the history of it. He's another guy you might want to talk to.

Pam: He would know a lot because his dad had a lot to do with things in DeWitt.

Brad: Brian is two years older than me.

Wayne: How long have you been involved with the fire department?

Brad: I was on it for 37 years. I started in '78. Then I retired in 2017, I think it was. I remember first getting on. They put me on and they gave me a Plectron. They had tones for different departments, which they still do and which still got their original tone. That was in '78 and I still have a Plectron and they still work and it sits out in the garage. I can still listen to the calls and everything, but I remember they put me call. I can't remember who it was that called me. It might have been Art Newman but they delivered the Plectron to me and told me how to use it and everything.

I remember about six o'clock--it was in the fall--they got a call of a car fire on Herbison Road, east of Turner, down in that hill. So I ran up to the station! The truck--they had the old '64, which is a two-man cab. You still ride on the back end of them. I got up there and they gave me a helmet, a long coat and the boots you pull. They pull way up and cover you up here. That's what they gave you. So I ran in there. Of course, the guys were on the truck. The trucks were all starting up. "Come on, come on, hurry up. Just grab your stuff." So I grabbed it and jumped on the back of the truck and I was hanging onto it like this and they told me, "Just put your helmet on, put your coat on," while we're driving and I'm putting my boots and stuff on. I remember getting down there and I jumped off the truck and Lloyd Berkimer was the engineer. He was driving the truck and the guys got off the truck and we could see it was down in the ditch there and it was rolled over and it was fully involved. They handed me the hoses. "Go go down, put it out." I said, "I don't even know how to turn the hose on." They showed me how to do it and it's high-pressure hose. I hit the trigger. My god, it throws you back, but I went down and I got to put the car out. That was my first run.

Pam: 2016 is when you retired.

Brad: All I know is 37 years of being on it and I loved it. It's a lot of work and a lot of time.

Wayne: Sounds like you didn't need a lot of training at the beginning.

Brad: Oh no, they had training once a month and you go by what the guys do. You watch 'em. I remember--What's the bar, Alward Lake Road and [old US]27? [Knob Hill Tavern] But anyway, it was showing smoke. So I jumped on the--it's called a mini pumper that we had-- and Carrol Ward drove it out there, and him and I were on the truck. We first got there and he grabbed the hose and he said,

"Follow me." I'm going in and I can't even see my hand in front of my face because it was so smoky. He went right in. I followed him in and I come right back out. I couldn't breathe but he was still in there, just a-fighting. You didn't wear Scott Air-Paks back then. There's many fires that I fought without a Scott Air-Pak until the times changed and they got some air for us.

Pam: Somebody said, "Maybe they should be safer."

Brad: You know, you blow your nose and it's all soot and black. It's changed.

Wayne: Oh, for the good, I would think. It shortened the lives of the firefighters.

Brad: It's an awful lot of training. I mean, It's all certified now, state run, federal run, and our department does the same trainings that full-time and you gotta have it and you gotta have so many hours training with this, training with that, plus, now you're medical. You have to have so many hours of medical and if you didn't have the skill to get your first responder's license--everybody on the department has to have a first responder's license, which is part medical. That consists of every second Tuesday as medical training; every fourth Tuesday on our department is fire training. I was in charge of the fire training for quite a few years being a captain. You just had to run the guys through stuff, record it down, what we did and everything. It'd be all recorded. It's same thing as a full-time fire department but you're not on 24 hours, seven days a week.

Wayne: You got paid just for the runs?

Brad: You got paid for the runs by the hour. I started out, I think we got like \$5 a run and that was it. You could be out eight hours. It was only get \$5. Then it went up through the years, different chiefs, different council members. When I quit, I was getting \$18 an hour there.

Pam: Do you remember when it changed from being the city department to the--

Brad: It changed from the village to the city. I think it was '63 that DeWitt became a city. Then somewhere in the late 80's or early 90's is when it changed to be DeWitt area.

Wayne: They started adding other areas.

Brad: We covered all of DeWitt's area. Then we also covered most of the township for the township. They had their own department but they had a small, rinky dink department at that time so we covered everything north to Cutler Road, which is Olive Township, surrounds the city. Then through the years, we picked up Olive Township and Riley Township. We cover, I believe it's all of Olive and most of Riley. Some of it's covered by Westphalia and Riley.

Wayne: Any Watertown?

Brad: We cover just the downtown here, city and anything north of Cutler Road all the way to Bauer Road west and all the way to Chandler Road east and all the way to Centerline Road north. So south of Centerline is ours; north of Centerline is St. Johns. So it goes like that.

Wayne: So even though Watertown is very close here--

Brad: Watertown covers all the way to Cutler Road, to Airport Road on the west side. On the east side to Cutler, all the way to Grand River is DeWitt Township and all the other side is Watertown Township. We used to cover all of that out there and then we covered for Watertown until they got their station built, which was all the way to--

Wayne: It's down on Grand River.

Pam: It felt like you were in Grand Ledge by the time--

Wayne: You're close to some of these.

Brad: They'd always talked about it, probably will happen sooner or later that it'll be the closest department to the fire. It'll be a county-wide fire department. Pick the closest department to the proximity.

Wayne: That would make sense instead of having someone go 10 miles if someone else is a mile away.

Brad: Well, look at us all the way to Norris Road. Over there, across the street from the station is DeWitt Township in the same way out here.

Wayne: You can almost shoot your hoses to the fire, that's your fire.

Pam: People don't realize that. They think about the cost more than they think about the rational reaction time when they look at stuff like that until they need you. Then it's a whole different story. It's like, "Why did we have to wait for them to come when they were right here?" "Well, 'cause that's the way it's set up right now."

Brad: I just heard a tone go off too.

Pam: Did you?

Brad: Not ours. Mercy Ambulance has a tone and then they tone out the department that the medical run is on.

Wayne: What can you tell me about the Bent Scepters?

Brad: Oh, Bent Scepters! Oh my God! Well, I was 15 and the other three guys, Mike Molitor, Roger Kaminski, and Rick Cole [Alan Ricky Cole] were 14. I was a sophomore and those guys were freshmen and they got together. Rick and Roger and Mike got together one night at Rick's place and Rick was the only one that had taken guitar lessons. They started playing some music and they said, "Wow, all's we need is a drummer."

Well, at the time I was playing the drums in the high school marching band and concert band there. I grew up with Roger Kaminski. So Roger said, "Well, I know Brad plays the drums." I never played a set of drums before though. So they asked me, "Hey, would you want to join us?" I said, "Heck yes, but I don't know how to play a set." We practiced. They didn't have a set of drums at the band room. They just had the big concert bass drum and a stand with a snare drum on it. So one of the guys got keys to the

band room and we used to go in there on Sunday afternoons. We'd sneak into the band room and I'd set up a makeshift set of drums and we'd practice in there. I don't think anybody knew we were doing that.

They had this Hootenanny at DeWitt. I can't remember if it was one of the classes that it was putting it on. It was all sorts of talent. It's a talent show. That's what it was. So, we said, "Yeah, let's try to play for that." We learned three songs and I still didn't have a set of drums and my Aunt Ila lived here with us. She lived with us all of her life over there and then she moved here. She never got married or anything, but she went to Marshall's [Marshall Music in Lansing] and rented me a set of drums for that night. So I sat down and we were just scared. Mike Molitor, he used to go through a whole package of Roloids 'cause he was just sick to his stomach. We went out and played three songs and the kids really liked us, but we didn't win. It was a guitar player, Glenn House. He played guitar and sang a song, and he won it.

My cousins owned the Dairy Bar and down in the basement, he wanted to get a dance a-going, so he approached me and I said, "Heck yes." So our first playing job, and we were gonna get paid \$12.

Pam: split!

Wayne: Split, you got three bucks?

Brad: Yep. Three bucks was a lot of money to us. So we played there and from there it just kind of took off. Then we started playing at the high school, played for the dance. We played for the kids in the gym down here. Then we started playing at dances at different schools. Then we started entering Battle of Bands and all the Battle of Bands we played in, we won every one of them except for one in Durand. We lost it to a group called, The Frightened Trees. 1965 is when we started to 1969, 'cause I graduated in '68 and the other guys graduated in '69. We played up until that point. Then we just broke up, went our way.

Pam: Went their own direction.

Brad: Yeah. Mike went to college and Roger did too. Rick went to work and I went to work and so from 1972 to 1980, I played with Carl Koslowski and the Playboys. There was a bunch of older guys that played all this old country music that I'd never heard of and I'm just sitting there, just easy beats. I remember my neck getting knotted up 'cause it was so slow a process but I played with those and I enjoyed it so much. They were so fun to play with and everything.

Roger, Rick, and Mike got back together again and was sitting at Mike's house. They were talking about they should get the band back together again for one night at the DeWitt Bar. So, lo and behold, Rick had gone down there and booked us and we didn't even have any of our songs. May 9th. That was 1980. So we practiced and practiced and practiced. We started setting up Thursday night and the place was packed just to come to watch us set up and everything. We played a couple songs just to warm up. Friday night came. It's when we played, Friday and Saturday night. Friday night I got ready to go up. I drove up town. I couldn't even find a place to park and I had to come back home, park my car and walk up. They figured there was over 600.

Pam: I'm sure the fire marshal would have been unhappy.

Brad: Yes. You couldn't even turn around in there. Thank God I didn't have a bad bladder where I had to go to the bathroom 'cause I would've never made it in time.

Pam: Well, first off, the stage they had them on was probably about from here to this corner. That's all the bigger it was. They had those four guys and their equipment up there. I've got a picture in here.

Brad: Well, there's pictures. From that point we, oh my God, we were booking years ahead. We played tons of weddings, tons of dances, 60's dances, 50's dances, played at schools again. It just got to the point where it was every weekend, Friday and Saturday and it just...

Pam: You were playing so many weddings, and then as family started coming forth.

Brad: Well, here's 1965. That's down in Mike Molitor's basement is where we used to practice.

Wayne: All those young people there.

Brad: Yep. So that's Rick Cole, Mike Molitor, Roger Kaminski, and me there.

Pam: There's some of your songs.

Brad: I'll be darned. Yep. Got all the words to songs.

Pam: This Is North 27.

Brad: Here's me and Mike Botke. We started training on water rescue. That's our purchased dry suits and a board. That's me and a hose right there.

Pam: And you guys played a lot of fundraisers for the fire department.

Brad: Yes, I have a picture with us handing a check over to Art Newman for playing a dance.

Pam: There's the two different bands.

Brad: Here's us playing at the Ox Roast. We got together, but I was with this band also, North 27 Band.

Wayne; I think I remember that.

Brad: Greg Kashenider and Bill Molitor, which is Mike's brother.

Pam: So you played in two bands that year?

Brad: No, after we broke up with the Bent Scepters, I was off for quite a little while. Then I joined North 27 Band.

Pam: There's some Bent Scepters in their younger days.

Brad: Yeah. That's at Smith Hall though in St. Johns. I've got pictures of us at the DeWitt bar. I know there's some out there.

Pam: I know one of my jobs to get done is sorting pictures.

Brad: I wish that was a better picture right there.

Pam: They played so many weddings that they became friends with different photographers. That's where this one came from. It's one of the photographer's. She did a lot of weddings in St. Johns like the guys did, so it was kind of nice 'cause Linda would take shots of 'em.

Brad: Here's some of our cards that we used to have, Bent Scepter, and that's a different one. Then we had a blue one too. We were the first rock and roll band to come out of DeWitt High School. There was a couple of other bands there. \

Wayne: Did you do any music that wasn't a cover?

Brad: Actually, we wrote a couple songs.

Pam: Roger liked to compose.

Brad: We never really recorded them because it was too expensive. We didn't have money to do it but we played them a lot and everything. I remember one of the Battle of the Bands we played in was WJIM [Lansing radio station]. We had to go down to WJIM and play one song. Then they would play it on the radio and the people would call in and vote. That particular song that we played was *Ninety-six Tears* by [Mark & the Mysterians]. It was a band out of Flint. It was a big hit. That's one we didn't win.

I remember also, we'd sometimes have to leave early outta school to play at playing jobs. Well, alls we do is go in and see Mr. VanSpybrook, our principal, and he'd always give us permission. One of them that we did go to, we played in downtown East Lansing on a stage. I have a picture of it someplace. I don't know what it was for. It wasn't no Battle of Bands. It was just playing and they had different bands but we were the band they put on Channel 6 TV so we got to see ourselves on TV too. It was so much--a lot of memories.

Pam: When they played in high school, his mom was a very good seamstress and she made them matching outfits.

Brad: Another thing, this is the big thing. I was only 15. The guys were 14. Once we started playing, we had no way to get around, get our equipment around. My Uncle Arnold Korte built us a trailer and we painted the stripes. You saw the black and white striped pants. We painted it to match those and then my dad worked for Watkins business, which sold Watkins vitamins and vanilla and farmers for feed and everything. Well, he had a '65 Chevy panel truck. It said, "Watkins Dealer." We put "Bent Scepters" on it. He would take us, haul our equipment around to different places.

I remember the one year we played for the MSU-Notre Dame game, who was a 10-10 tie. It was a national title game. Anyway, that night we played in Portland at a hall and it was all the MSU kids. My dad wasn't there, but Bill Molitor, Mike's dad, and Rick Cole, his dad, Roy, were there to help us. Every

time we'd take a break, they'd come back and they'd be just laughing their heads off because they said, "You should see it outside. The kids were coming out. They were drunk. They were throwing up all over. We'd have to pick 'em up."

Do you remember the Palladium at Crystal Lake? It is nationally known, actually worldwide known, because they'd get top name bands through the forties and 50's. Well, in the 60's they were having dances and everything there. We were the last band to play there and it caught on fire and burned down. It was huge. It was right on the lake. I mean the lake came underneath part of it there. It was at the beach there and it was a three-story building, used to be a roller rink. We played on the top floor up there and I think it was two weeks later it caught fire and burned down. It was this huge fire.

Wayne: Sounds like you had some good times.

Brad: Oh my Gol! And we had some bad times too. I remember Poor Mike.

Wayne: Pam, were you attracted to him because he was in a band?

Brad: Actually, she was going with a guy in another band. I met her at a bar.

Pam: It's kinda funny when we met. I was dating a guy who was in different band.

Brad: A country band.

Pam: When I found out he was in a band, I'm like, "Oh no, I don't wanna do that again," but history shows, it worked out wonderful.

Brad: We're going on our 41st year coming up.

Pam: In October. Couldn't have been too bad.

Brad: I think the best years were the 50's and 60's that it was just so laid back. Sundays--we talked about this recently--all the stores were closed. You sit around. It's like Andy Griffith Show. Sit on the porch. We'd always go for a ride.

Wayne: It was certainly a small town.

Brad: Yes, it was and you knew everybody and most of it you were related to everybody here. I'm related to all the Wilcoxes here and so it was all Wilcoxes, Wards—