

CLARE KOENIGSKNECHT

Wayne: This is Monday, August 30, 2021. I'm Wayne Summers along with Elmer Upton and we are interviewing Clare Koenigsknecht at his farm near Fowler. So, Clare, why don't you start out by talking a little bit about maybe where you were born and how your family originally came to Clinton County.

Clare: My great-grandfather spent most of his life in Germany. By tradition, they were rope makers. In 1850's there was the Industrial Revolution so the machines made ropes and not people. So they emigrated to the Austria-Hungary area, eastern Europe. The Industrial Revolution hadn't arrived there yet so they could ply their trade. At that time, you had to fight for the czar's and he said at one point, "I don't want my kids fighting the rest of their life." So he says, "I'm going to go to the U.S. of A. That was in 1892. He didn't come through Ellis Island because that cost two hundred and fifty bucks and he only had two dollars and fifty cents so he came over on a steamer that was loaded with cattle. They earned their board across by helping take care of the cattle and the women did the cooking on the steamer. They came through the St. Lawrence Seaway, through Sault Ste. Marie. They didn't have to pay for that. They stopped for a while in Sault Ste. Marie, maybe for a year. The father and his sons worked in the sawmill industry. The native Michigan pine was still being sought at that time. Then they came down to Standish, Michigan, and stayed there for a few years.

Then they decided to migrate to Westphalia. That was around 1898. So they got their cattle transported by railroad to Owosso. Then they had to drive the cattle from Owosso toward Westphalia. It was in the springtime and it was quite muddy and they ran into a rainstorm. So they put the cattle in a barn just east of Fowler, on M-21. The boys and my great grandpa stayed in a Fowler hostel. The owner of the hostel, the guy whose name was **Geller** said, "Where are you guys going?" He said, "We're going to go to Westphalia and buy a farm." He says, "Well, I got a eighty-acre farm for sale." It happened to be across the road here. So that's how come we're from Fowler instead of Westphalia. They did very well. They had a orchard and vegetable crops and they went door to door with a team of horses and sold through the neighborhood. That's how come we're here.

Wayne: Were you born here or was it hospital?

Clare: No, I was just born here on this road. Then I stayed there till I was five. My father was a sharecropper. When they were married for ten years, he bought a farm just over here. You maybe came by that dairy farm. He bought that in 1948 so that's where I was more or less raised. After I got married, I bought this place and so I was born on this road and I'll probably go out on this road.

Wayne: You went to Fowler schools?

Clare: Yes, Fowler High School.

Wayne: Did you go into town then to go to school or did you go to a country School?

Clare: We went into town and we did have school buses. I must have started school in about 1950. We had school buses then. You know the Koenigsknecht story now, don't ya?

Wayne: Yes.

Clare: My grandfather, you know, when they came they came over, they didn't have any formal education. The boys didn't because they probably worked all the time. My grandfather, he signed his name with a X but he was a good businessman.

Wayne: Did they speak English at all?

Clare: They didn't when they come here. Interesting, my dad went the country school for two years when they were little because it's a two and a half mile walk to school, so they figured that the little guys probably should go to the country school for a couple years. When they got big enough, then they could walk two and a half miles to town to go to school. In 1918, my dad says--he was in the second grade--Woodrow Wilson banned German during the First World War so that's when he learned his first English. They took out all the German stuff at the school and they had to go all English. Interestingly, the churches--it was the Catholic Church for us--they went to English missals too at that time, 1918. Yup, so German got banned.

Another interesting story is Fowler in 1918, only a quarter of the businessmen in town was German. The rest were English. One of the **Becker** gals told me that--because her dad had a general store--but she said, "In 1918 somebody painted all the storefronts yellow of all the Germans." They hired a detective and they found out who done it. The English people didn't have children. Like they had one or two or none and the Germans all had eight. By 1960 Fowler was ninety-five percent German. Yeah, so it can change in a hurry. The Methodist Church and the school--but the English just faded out. They died out. They didn't replace themselves so one generation went from 25 percent to 95 percent.

Elmer: We was talking about the barns. Wasn't it true, when they first settled that you built a barn first and then later they added the house?

Clare: Yes. A barn can build a house but a house can't build a barn. That's where your income came from, the barn. The original house was a log cabin and they lived in that and then built a nice barn and then, over a period of time, they were able to build a nice house and tear down the log cabin. I have seen corners of barns that were lathe and plastered at one time. They'd made a part of the barn living space. You'll see granaries sometimes that have lathe and plaster, so they lived in the granary-type structure, maybe the granary, that type of thing.

Wayne: How did you first get interested in barns?

Clare: I was born and raised on a dairy farm and we had a couple of barns. When I was a teenager, they needed some repair and we had a neighbor that was a contractor. His name was **Herb Pasch**. When he was a youngster, Herb's brother and his dad, they built barns. So I mentored with him for about seventeen years probably, about construction. So I learned quite a bit of

construction from him. He told us how to restore our own barns at that time when I was a teenager. Later on I got into construction, commercial roofing actually, but then people asked about having their barns repaired. I was capable so I also did barn repair and that was like 40 years ago. It ended up being a big business of repairing barns.

Wayne: I know you were involved with the **Bauer** barn and having it brought here. Could you tell a little bit about that?

Clare: Okay. The neighbor down the road had a barn. It's only a mile away. He said he wanted to get rid of it. He wanted to put up a pole building. We were coming home from a barn project. One of my helpers, I was telling him that that barn was going to get either burned or destroyed. "Wow!", he said. "It's a nice barn." He said, "Why don't you move it to your place?" So that's how began. I told my wife and she thought was kind of silly. So that's what we did. We wanted to save the barn and we ended up moving it here.

Wayne: What was the process of moving a large barn a mile down the road?

Clare: We paid a moving company to move it from that site to our site, moved it all intact and I told them where I wanted it parked. We proceeded to build a wall underneath it and let it down eventually. Then we restored it to our liking, I guess.

Wayne: What's the process that you have to go through to determine whether a barn is worth saving or not worth saving?

Clare: Most barns are savable despite how they might look. Most of them are quite savable. The key in a barn is the roof. If you keep the roof from leaking, it'll probably last indefinitely because the frame doesn't deteriorate. A timber frame barn is really sturdy, can take a lot of wind, more than a typical building. So if it's got good bones, good timbers in it, that's a good indication whether it's salvageable and a good roof.

Wayne: What are some of the different kinds of barns that we have in Clinton County, different styles?

Clare: Styles? I don't know if they call them English style, but typically, an average barn is maybe thirty-four by sixty. That may be the average barn. Some have a gable roof on them and some have a gambrel roof. When I was a teenager, I always called the gambrel barn, a hip-roof barn, but actually the proper term is gambrel. Then there was a builder in Westphalia, also in Clinton County, but he built a curved rafter. So there are quite a few of those around, a curved rafter barn. Then some barns have a basement underneath them. They might have a ramp on them to get up into the upper floor and some just have a first floor and then the hay mow area.

Wayne: When you restore these, do you ever put any-- I know some of them are putting like steel siding on now and things like that. Is that something you're in favor of or do you still like the traditional wood siding?

Clare: I like the old traditional wood siding. Most of them that we repair, we take siding from old barns that have fallen down or farmers want to get rid of. We salvage the siding because the old growth siding, some of that's been on a barn for a hundred and twenty years but it's slow growth and it's got tight grain. It's been on a barn a hundred years but it will last another hundred on different barn. We prefer wood, I guess. A barn can look pretty rough but you can refasten the siding and patch it in and you can make it look good without very many pieces of siding, actually.

Wayne: How many barns have you restored?

Clare: In forty years, we restored to a certain extent--some we don't do a lot on, some we do quite a bit on work on--maybe a hundred.

Wayne: Are they all mostly in Clinton County or how far out from this area do you go?

Clare: We try to range out about forty miles or less. I would say two-thirds of the barns we've worked on probably were in Clinton County.

Wayne: How did you get involved with the Barn Preservation Network?

Clare: I went to a class reunion for my wife and she introduced me to one of her classmates and he said he was starting an organization called The Michigan Barn Preservation Network. He said they were looking for people to be on the contractor's list and they were going to put it on the computer. That was probably twenty, twenty-five years ago, and I said, "Sure." So our business grew from just on the computer. We never had to look for work. Our name was on the computer as a barn contractor and we got all the work we could handle for forty-some years.

Wayne: I imagine there aren't that many in the field, that many contractors who specialize in barns.

Clare: No, there aren't. There's a shortage. One interesting point: When we started doing it, people would ask me what I did and I told them I worked on restoring old barns and they said, "Why? They don't have any value." The comments recently, when I tell them I work on barns, they say, "Oh, that's kind of neat." So it's changed dramatically about how people look at barns.

Wayne: As you know, there was a time where everyone was going to pole barns because they figured, yeah, you don't need to have any hay lofts anymore. You don't need all that space; you don't need to keep painting it every few years, but is that starting to change?

Clare: Timber frame barns were built between 1860 to about 1940. That's when pole type construction started. The changes are that there are fewer barns than there used to be. Even in our neighborhood. I've seen six, eight, or ten barns that were here when I was a kid are or no longer here. People are starting to appreciate them because there's maybe being fewer of them and maybe they're recognizing their value. There are a number of young people in recent years that have told me they bought a site in the country to live because of the barn. The barn was more important to them than the house so that's a change.

Wayne: For a lot of people that symbolizes farm life or being in the country.

Clare: Barns, I see them as cathedrals to our farm heritage. They're pretty special.

Wayne: Are there any particular stories that are of interest that you've come across when you've restored barns that might be of interest?

Clare: Every barn has a story. People restore them for different reasons. One barn we restored, the person that owned it was a retired airline pilot. He just got retired by the airline and he wanted to restore it for his mother's ninetieth birthday. That was his reason for restoring it. We just did another barn in Sparta, Michigan, did some restoration painting work. They were going to have a party for a gal that was raised there for her ninetieth birthday. We have a lift that we use that goes about fifty feet in the air. We've had some ladies that were probably eighty-five years old that rode up in the air and they pointed out to a window up in the barn, forty feet in the air. They said they looked out of that window when they were kids.

Wayne: Yes, I've heard stories of death-defying acts being done in the tops of barns by kids over the years.

Wayne: Did you do any of those, like crawling across beams or things like that to scare your mother?

Clare: I think our folks pretty much let us do what we wanted to do. So we did all those things. I fell once, probably twenty plus feet on loose hay or whatever you call it. What I fell onto was maybe a bedding of hay maybe six inches deep and it took the wind out of me but I didn't get hurt. Yeah, flat on my back.

Wayne: Do you ever have to deal with animals when you're restoring barns?

Clare: One of the common animals, woodchucks, and they're destructive. They're very good at excavating a lot of dirt and they'll tip a wall. When we're working on barns, we'll run into quite a few woodchucks and maybe take a couple traps along over there. We'll trap them as we're there. Raccoons are fairly common. Other than that--

Wayne? Do you run into skunks or anything like that when you're--

Clare: No, not too much skunks, I guess not around barns.

Wayne: I just remember a lot of pigeons in the old barns, everywhere. Going back to when these barns were built, were most of these a construction company that kind of went around building them or were they local neighbors who got together? How were they built?

Clare: They were built by a variety. There were some that were barn builders. Customers will tell us, "Grandpa built this barn." Or "my dad did" or whatever. So the builders were variety of people. Surprisingly, some were church builders. The churches were larger structures and also barns were larger structures. Every barn is totally unique. You very seldom see a barn that's very similar in design because the builder was the designer of the barn. Some of them were

designed very well and over built maybe. But some are also under built. Some were failing. We had one case where the son said his father felt bad that he thought he might have overloaded it when he was pulling hay up into the barn and he died thinking that it was his fault. We worked on it and straightened it out and it was actually under built so his father wasn't guilty at all. It just wasn't designed as well as it could have been. It wasn't quite strong enough.

Wayne: When you go in to renovate these barns, do you have to sometimes change the structure or reinforce certain areas?

Clare: Probably reinforce them. What we do a lot of is we take log chains and pull things together with some high-powered come-alongs, and then we get it to the point where it's straight. Then we hold it with a cable, put in a cable and a turnbuckle. So that's how we do. Occasionally, we replace a beam if it's rotted out or we'll add a piece of wood to a beam to strengthen it or give its original strength back again.

Elmer: What was the most common beam made out of around this area?

Clare: In this area, oak was real common, mostly hardwood. In other areas I've seen softwoods like pine but when you use a mortise and tenon, a pine isn't very strong. They're mostly hardwoods, oak, ash, something like that. I know there have been some were done with walnut. I've never seen them.

Elmer: Was there many sided with chestnut around here? I heard a lot about it.

Clare: The one quite common siding for barns from pre 1900 was made of native Michigan pine. The boards are eleven and a half inches wide and seven-eighths thick. That's the original Michigan pine. I think six percent of the state used to be a native pine and the trees were three feet in diameter and hundred fifty foot tall. Those were all sawed down by 1900 about. We worked on a barn today that had that siding onto it. We'll take it off a barn they don't want to save it or it's coming down. We'll put that on to another barn and the siding will be good for another hundred years. Different kinds of pine is most of what the siding is on barns.

Wayne: Most were oak frame and pine siding. What kind of roofing did they use originally?

Clare: Originally, the roofs were cedar shingles and also metal was fairly common, a standing seam metal that didn't have any exposed fasteners. That was a very good roof. Around late 1930 they came out with asphalt and people started putting asphalt onto barns. It was a blessing and a curse because one layer of asphalt weighs about two hundred pounds per hundred square feet and one layer of wood shingles or metal is about fifty pounds. So they've overloaded it by four times. I think they were designed either for metal or cedar shingles. Then they would proceed to put another layer on and I've seen 'em up to three. What happens is, it starts sagging the rafters. In the round barn, it's real common. Three layers will collapse those roofs over time but they're overloading it by twelve hundred times with asphalt.

Wayne: So when we're seeing these sagging barn roofs, it's probably because they've overloaded them?

Clare: In most cases, yes.

Wayne: Do you have to take the whole roof off if you're renovating them and start back from scratch?

Clare: Right down to the deck. Yes.

Wayne: So you put new plywood deck under something like that?

Clare: Most barns the boards are spaced. They have inch gaps or maybe inch and a half. And the reason for that is with the cedar shingles, they need to dry out after they get wet or they'll rot. So that's why they space the board. When you strip them all the way down, you have a quite large gap. So typically, what we would do is put down seven-sixteenths OSB over the original deck. Then you could nail anywhere you wanted to.

Elmer: Those are mostly put on with asphalt shingles after you put the deck on like that, right?

Clare: If you're going to go with metal. Today, I would recommend metal because asphalt has a very limited life today. The quality of asphalt roof materials deteriorated greatly from 1980 on. They don't last very long, fifteen, twenty years and that's not good.

Wayne: So at what point did they start--I think the oldest barns they didn't use any nails at all, did they?

Clare: They didn't use nails in the framing but they did use nails to nail the siding on and the roof deck had nails. The nails prior to 1900 were cut nails which, I think were hammered out in the forge.

Wayne: You had a blacksmith making all of your nails for you?

Clare: Until close to 1900, that was the only nails available. They were tapered.

Elmer: And they held good?

Clare: They were good nails.

Elmer: Explain how they used to pin them braces and the beams together with the pin and offset so that would tighten it up?

Clare: I talked to my mentor that was the barn builder. He said they were constructing barns in early 1900. By then a lot of the timbers in the barn were done with a sawmill instead of with the adz. They used to take a round tree and square them up but they worked with timbers that were done in the sawmill. He said that they would talk to the farmer about what style of barn he wanted, what size, and everything and he would tell the farmer what timbers to get around, what sizes

and lengths and this type of thing. Then they would come in. It was the father and two sons. The father did the layout. One son did all the sawing and other one did all the drilling. He said, they could have that barn ready for a barn raising in about ten working days, ten eight-hour days, those three, without electricity. My mentor, his job was drilling holes, but they didn't actually just drill the holes. A mortise and tenon is a hole two inches by six inches. You get a two-inch bit and he would drill three holes. That would give him the outline of a two by six hole. Then they would use a corner chisel to chisel out the corner, and then they had a big chisel and they would square the hole up with that so they did a lot of drilling to remove wood too to make holes.

Wayne: I've tried to think back to some of the old barns I've been in and it seems like many of those beams looked like they were hand hewn instead of going to a sawmill. Is that fairly common?

Clare: That's pretty common. Sometimes in barns you'll see a combination, some of each, but the pre 1900 barns were mostly done that way. They were hand hewn instead of being sawed.

Elmer: Our old barn was post and beam except my grandfather added another forty foot onto the end and his was a different style. They used post and beam for the big planks with the rest was studs inside and that way they didn't last as long.

Clare: We call that a plank barn. They take two by ten plank. You put four together and it'll give you about an eight by eight beam. So that's what a plank barn is. That's fairly common. The later barns were done that way from after the twenty's on, maybe. This barn here, that's a 1939 barn, but that's timber frame.

Elmer: Is it timber?

Clare: The timbers are sawed. None of them were done with an adz.

Elmer: Ours was all hand hewn most of them. That was 1860, I believe, or 70.

Clare: When the layout person did all the layout on the barn, he always used an awl instead of a pencil because they always worked outdoors and pencil marks would wash off in the rain but a scribe mark won't.

Wayne: You can probably walk into any barn and pretty much tell when it was built.

Clare: Yes, I can guess fairly close from looking at the construction and the timbers, whether they're sawn or hand-hewn. Style, if it's a plank barn, you know, I can tell pretty close when it was done. Some plank barns were done with lumber from the lumber yard that's all planed and some are rough sawn.

Wayne: If someone has a barn they want to renovate, how much does it cost to do that? I know it's going to vary considerably.

Clare: Most of the renovations I've done, probably the most expensive renovation was thirty thousand maybe. You can do a lot on a barn for about thirty, forty thousand. If you want comparable storage space with a pole building, you'd be talking, by the time you put in a concrete floor and electricity, you can be one hundred fifty thousand.

Wayne: It actually makes economic sense a lot of times to fix up an older barn rather than to tear it down and put up a more expensive pole barn.

Elmer: I was not aware that you could do it for that little. How many in your crew would be involved to do that?

Clare: How big a crew? Right now, I'm in my golden years. There's basically two of us. This person that drove in here, he's my partner but us two work together, just two of us. He's a master carpenter and he's not in too good a shape physically so we work six-hour days. It works out pretty well. Then I have two of my grandsons help me this summer so, basically, the four of us. Sometimes we'll have the owner help. My wife will help sometimes and we use that lift truck too. We've had that for twenty-some years and that has a work platform on it. Otherwise, we would have been out of business a long time ago.

Elmer: I can imagine that would be very handy.

Clare: That's goes up in the air fifty feet. It'll go up and over this barn. We'll use that for lifting. For painting a barn, we put the paint gun right inside there. If the barn needs patching, the sides, the roofs, you know, we'll do it from that.

Wayne: How many jobs do you typically do in a year?

Clare: Probably twenty a year and three or four major ones.

Wayne: How long does a major one take?

Clare: Oh, you can spend up to a month. There's a list on the board over there. That's what we got ahead of us.

Wayne: About how far ahead do you usually schedule?

Clare: About a year.

Wayne: If somebody called you today, you have a year before you'd probably get to them?

Clare: Yes.

Wayne: Do you have anybody prepared to take over your job for you, any grandsons or anything?

Clare: No, no, no. I have five children, a girl and four boys. They all started going with me on the job when they were eight years old. They all worked with me 'til they were seniors in high school but they've moved on to be engineers and managers of businesses and stuff.

Wayne: I always get concerned, when certain people get to the point, "Well, I'm going to retire," is there's anybody to take over that job and continue doing what they did?

Clare: No, I haven't been successful doing that. You have to know a lot of things to work on barns. You have to be, you know, a stonemason. You have to know concrete, electricity, sheet metal.

Elmer: Other than the roof, is a foundation one of the more critical, hard to fix?

Clare: It's critical to the structure. I don't know that it's hard to fix. Usually, we don't repair a complete foundation. It's usually a corner or something. We'll re lay up the stone or whatever but we usually don't do a whole foundation.

Elmer: We had a bank barn with an upstairs in it and we had to reinforce the underneath the wall behind the bank in order to keep it from caving in. **Tom Parks** did that. Do you remember him?

Clare: Yeah, I know of him. He moved buildings. He did it the old-fashioned way with steam engine, I think, initially. He might have had maybe an oil-pull tractor later on to move stuff with.

Elmer: Did you have to jack up barns too?

Clare: Yeah. We do quite a bit of that. Jacking and straightening, we do a lot of that. I don't know, I had to kind of learn about it myself. You know, I do advise a lot of other people how to do that and to do it safely. You can do a lot with a ten-ton jack. A twenty-ton can move about any part of a barn. So yeah, we do quite a bit of that, jack them straight and repair the foundation or whatever, or the structural part to keep it there.

Wayne: Do people ever come from other parts of the country to get information from you or to learn how to do things? As part of this network, I'm wondering if there's other contractors who are people interested in getting into it.

Clare: You said from out of this state?

Wayne: Or other parts of the state.

Clare: We're doing making a special effort to recruit people to work on barns that we hasn't been in the past because there's a lot of them my age and they're not going to be able to do it anymore.

Wayne: I would hope that some young people would decide—

Clare: Our organization is making a special effort to try to get more people to do that, to do what we do.

Elmer: It should be a great background for engineering. You teach you a lot of it and you don't even realize you're teaching it.

Clare: With this type of work over the years, I've probably had sixty or seventy high school and college kids that I've worked with in the summer. One time I maybe had as many as four at a time and they learned a lot of things about engineering or whatever from working on barns.

Elmer: You said the standing seam metal roofs, the best ones were--. How did they attach them without leaving a hole?

Clare: Every hardware had a metal roof installer. Like in Fowler, there was two hardwares and they each had an installer for the standing seam metal roof. They bought the panels in ten-foot lengths and two feet wide. Then they would bend the ends up. I think, one end they would bend up like two inches and another end was like an inch and a half and then they would lay them on the roof. Where the bend was, they took a little half-inch wide piece of galvanized metal and it made into an L and the one end of the L was nailed into the roof deck and the other part stuck up in the seam. The seams they would roll that at least twice and that would get rolled up in there and they had one of these angle clips every twelve inches if they did it right. Sometimes they cheated and went eighteen. That way there was no fastener that was showing.

Elmer: Quite a process to put a metal roof on.

Clare: If the rafter was more than ten feet, then they'd add a piece to it and they put a seam in it. Those are good roofs and very good metal. The metal had a lot of lead and zinc, very good metal.

Elmer: It was real metal or iron. It wasn't tin or aluminum.

Clare: Yes.

Wayne: Are there still barns with those original metal roofs?

Clare: Yes, a lot of them. Probably thirty percent of them still have those original metal roofs and we will repair them as needed. Everything needs some repair. They hold paint well. They could be without paint for many years and very seldom will they rust through.

Wayne: Was that because of the zinc content?

Clare: Yes.

Elmer: Plus, they drained well.

Clare: It's just very good metal is part of it. If they duplicated that in recent years, it'd probably be pretty costly.

Clare: Yeah.

Elmer: What about connecting the silo to the barn? What kind of tricks did you have connecting anything to the barn.

Clare: Silos were connected to the barn. Well initially, the silos were wooden and they were ten feet in diameter and thirty feet tall, tongue-and-groove two by sixes. Usually they were California Douglas fir redwood because they were resistant to rotting. Now, those had a wooden connection to the barn, most of them. Later on they had concrete silos, either staved or poured concrete. I helped pour a concrete silo for us. Some of those are connected to the barn. In the 50's, they started locating the silos away from the barn because they were huge silos. Twenty by sixty was the smallest and then they would have a feed manger off of that that was covered. Those weren't connected to the barn at all. Of course, by then they were going to the pole building which was free stall buildings. That's where they housed the cattle. That's when things changed. We're familiar with the wooden silo. We have one up in the barn that we've saved for somebody.

Elmer: There was a barn near us that had a silo. I think it was a 20-foot-wide silo and it was inside the barn on the end.

Clare: Oh, one that was wood.

Elmer: No, I think it was a slab; it was a staved.

Wayne: I can remember those. What I remember the most is being told never to go inside the silo. They said, "The gases are going to get to you and you'll die." I don't know if it's true or not, but that's at least what my grandparents told me to probably keep me out of the silo.

Elmer: My dad never told me that. I always had to go up and get the silage for the cows.

Clare: After the silage has been put in and you've stopped filling, maybe five days later you'll start seeing some nasty looking gases and mold growing on there and that can be fatal too. You have to ventilate it out. You have to move the air because it'll kill you.

Elmer: Lucky we're still alive, all of the playing and tearing around in the barns and swinging from the hay ropes!

Clare: Did you ever put up loose hay, Elmer?

Elmer : Yes.

Clare: I got a chance to do that too for a short period of time.

Elmer: We used to have horses. I would be able to drive the horses over the windrows.

Clare: I never drove horses. I followed my dad. I was a little guy.

Elmer: Well, I was in the middle. They were all changing their tool wagons over to short tongues. All the equipment on the farm to adapt it to the tractor.

Wayne: Well, thanks a lot for speaking with us today. We appreciate it.

Clare: You're welcome.