

Earl Canterbury and Harriette Hastings

Where: Earl Canterbury's home

Date: June 30, 2017

Location: Hurricane, WV

Interviewer: Emily Hilliard

Transcription: Emily Hilliard

Length: 54:32

Earl Canterbury (b. November 1, 1938) of Hurricane, WV, and Harriette Hastings (May 30, 1929) of Pinch, WV, are brother and sister. They grew up in Malden, WV. Their father and grandfather both worked for Dickinson Salt Works in Malden, WV. In this interview, which was conducted in conjunction with the Malden Salt Fest, they speak about their memories of the Salt Works, Malden, and the Dickinson family.

Earl Canterbury: EC

Harriette Hastings: HH

Emily Hilliard: EH

CanterburyEarlHastingsHelen

00:00

EH: 00:03 So could you introduce yourself and tell me your name, when you were born, where you're you were born, and where we are right now.

EC: 00:13 My Name is Earl L. Canterbury Jr. I was born November the 1st 1938 in Malden.

EH: 00:27 And where are we right now?

EC: 00:29 We're in a Hurricane. At my residence—[redacted] in Hurricane. And that's in Moss Creek.

EH: 00:40 All right. And could you introduce yourself?

HH: My name is Harriette Hastings- I'm Earl's sister. I was born May 30th, 1929. I live at Pinch, West Virginia.

EH: 00:59 OK. And could you tell me a little bit about your family, your childhood, what your parents did, and your upbringing.

EC: 01:09 My mother was a substitute teacher and my father worked for Ford Motor Company before going to the Dickinson Salt Works working with his dad, my granddad.

EH: 01:25 So was there a Ford Company in Malden or in Charleston? The

EC: 01:30 The Ford Company was located in Charleston and he was the foreman at that company and he kind of foresaw that it was going to closeout. And that's why he went to work with his dad.

EH: 01:49 And why don't you tell me about that store.

EC: 01:54 The company store?

EH: Yeah, the company store.

EC: 01:57 OK. I was contacted by Mr. Enic (sp?) Horton who is the secretary at the mall and salt works for Mr. Dickinson and John Dickinson and he asked me would I be interested in working in

the company store? I was only 14 years old and my parents were informed that I would have to work under the child labor law. I would work on Fridays after school in the company store and then all day Saturday, selling goods to the people that worked there at the salt works. It was an experience I learned a lot. You had to slice bologna and bacon and cheese. And we used an old ice chest. They would bring a block of ice to keep it cold and the people would come in--the wives of the people that work there or they would stop on their way going home. And we would order 50 pounds of chicken feed and so forth. And the ladies would come in and pick out the bag that it was in for the print because they would make the dresses for their daughters and for their selves. So, I would just record what they'd bought and they had a gas pump and I would go out and crank up the gas pump and put gas in their vehicle if they needed it. And I worked there from 50... 1952 to the summer of 1956. When I graduated from high school... and I made a whopping lot of money

EH: Really?

EC: They were very generous. I think I checked my records from Social Security when I first started to work and for the whole year I made like \$311. But I used it to buy a bicycle. (Laughs) Recently I went up and anyone that previously had worked there would carved their initials on the window frame in the store and I went up to... got a chance to go in the building and look around and they were doing some work and I thought I'm going to see my initials. But they had to remove the window frame and did some painting so my name wasn't there.

I remember a lot about the office and Mr. Dickinson and John and Rusty and Nell... and just a good experience and worth... work ethics and to see how that operation ran on the farm and then out going into the field of the gas and wells and so forth.

EH: About how many people were living and working there?

EC: Oh my goodness. This would be an estimation because at the time that I was there in '52 the salt works was no longer in operation. They were making bromide and bromine-- a basis for Aspirin.

And I would say that just guessing-- no more than 12 employees working. They had two truck drivers and then they had my granddad ran the maintenance shop and shoed horses and then they had some people that worked on the farm and people that worked in the making of the bromide and bromine. So it wasn't in the heyday of the salt works but it was the aftermath of... They kept the men employed.

- EH: 06:41 So would you say 20 families, 50 families?
- EC: The ones that worked in that, you could probably say that. 'Course in the company houses-- some people lived in the company houses that didn't work there. A Mr. Dean and a Mr. Walker and a Mr. Homer Grounds and a Hubert Graham. They all live in company houses right there.
- EH: And was that on the location where the salt works is still?
- EC: That was on the road leading up to the salt works and then back in the salt works. Um, I drove by there just to familiarize myself with the area and I didn't... It had all grown up and I didn't see any company houses. I know where they were and I know who lived there. But since Terra Salis went in the upper part of the field. There were company houses up there also.
- EH: OK.
- EC: And my granddad. He lived in Malden right out from the entrance to the road leading up to the salt works in a house. And of course he would walk up there to work every day.
- EH: 08:13 Could you describe what the store looked like on the inside?
- EC: Well we did have some mice.
- EH: (laughs)
- EC: 08:21 And we sold-- they had dry goods. You could buy material by the roll. A lot of canned things. They had some hardware that the men would come in and they would have to have a particular file or something and they would just get it there. Um, sold a lot of feed for their farm animals. Not like a grocery store today with a lot of perishables. No produce, but just the staples that the people could charge on their account until they would get their check and then pay it back. But they have a good variety for an old fashion company store.
- EH: 09:18 Why don't you tell me a little bit about what your... your father and grandfather did for the Dickinsons?... Or you can jump in too (to Helen).
- EC: Want to tell her about grandpa?
- HH: 09:36 He ran the whole plant-- our grandfather did. Lewis Canterbury.
- EH: Was that when there was salt being made?

- HH: 09:53 Yes. Mmhm.
- EH: 09:57 And do you know when he was born?
- HH: Our grandfather?
- EH: Yeah.
- HH: Oh, let's see. I can't remember. Do you?
- EC: 10:15 No, 'cause when I was working there, to me, he was an older man then. I'm not sure when he was born.
- HH: I'm not either.
- EH: 10:33 So he ran the salt plant?
- EC: He ran the salt plant, did all of the maintenance. He even shod the horses that they had that pulled the machinery. Anything that needed to be done. He was a blacksmith and his own right. He could make hinges if a hinge broke. I went in the shop where he worked and he had any type of machine that you could think and it was run by big belts-- one motor would run multiple machines and he would show me. He was a very unique individual and he loved his work. Always had a little short cigar. We called it a stogie in his mouth but he never smoked it. He would just chew on the end. Very clean...
- EH: (laughs)
- EC: 11:37 ...man.
- EH: And was he from Malden?
- Speaker 15: 11:43 He was from Malden. And my grandmother was a Martin that he married and they lived there in Malden and had two sons and one daughter, and one son was my father.
- EH: Mmhm. And so what was your father's name?
- EC: 12:00 It was Earl L. Canterbury, senior and I'm a junior.
- EH: And what did your father do for the Dickinsons?
- EC: 12:08 I'm not totally sure 'cause I wasn't in that. I was little then and I'm not sure what he did but most of the men did about anything that needed to be done in processing the salt and pumping the brine into the vats, letting the water or brine escape. And then the crystalized salt would be there in gigantic vats.

- EH: So do you remember those?
- EC: I remember those and the reason I remember those-- when we were little boys and lived in Malden and in June when the June apples would come on the trees we would get a bag... of June apples and walk up to the salt vats because they were closed then. And we would eat the June apples and dip 'em in that salt that had been left.
- EH: (laughs) That sounds pretty good! Do you have memories of the salt works? Do you have memories of the salt works?
- HH: Yes we were always fascinated when we would go there because our grandfather would take time out to walk us around and... and show us different things.
- EH: Cool. So were there... there were big vats. Were there-- could you actually see the salt?
- HH: 13:46 I couldn't. I was so... I was very young.
- EH: Mmhm.
- HH: Yes.
- EH: Salty apples—I don't know if I've ever had a salty apple--that doesn't have caramel on it too. (laughs)
- EC: 14:02 The vats were probably--- I estimate maybe 50 feet long and 20 feet wide and they were about 12 inches or more tall. And through the years where the salt brine had penetrated the wood it was kind of old and fuzzy. But I do remember-- we would walk in the vats, and they were big.
- EH: And what were they made of—they were wood?
- EC: They were wood.
- EH: Oh wow.
- EC: Wooden vats and they would let the brine flow... the liquid flow off and the salt would be not like coarse salt or fine salt you would buy in the store. They were kind of large crystals. And they, where they stopped, they just piled the salt up when they went out of business. And that's the salt that we would taste.
- EH: Okay. Was it sort of pink?

- EC: 15:04 No. Well... it's hard to say because it had been there so long it was kinda dirty! But it was kind of a white or cream color.
- EH: 15:17 OK. Because I thought Nancy had said that in its heyday they were making sort of a pink or red salt.
- EC: It could have been.
- EH: 15:29 Yeah. So those families... that were working they were mostly white families or were there African-American families?
- EC: OK—The ones that were working that I remember were Caucasian. They had one colored family that lived there. They... Mr. and Mrs. Jordan.
- EH: Okay.
- EC: And she was the cook and he was the chauffeur for Mr. Dickinson-- would take him in his car to the bank and run errands. And Mrs. Jordan would do all the cooking and cleaning and order the food. And they lived in a little house-- not a slave quarter, but it was a little house close to... And it may still be standing-- close to the mansion. We called it the mansion because it was the biggest house in Malden...
- HH: We'd ever seen!
- EC: Everybody would say – the Dickenson's mansion. And I was told one time Mr. Jordan said, well you'll have to come over and ride the elevator. And I thought—an elevator in a house!
- EH: Wow.
- EC: And they were very sweet people.
- EH: 16:51 So is that the white farmhouse that's on the salt works or was this in Malden proper?
- EC: 16:57 It was on the property next to the Dickinson house facing the front of the house. It was over to the left and it was a small little cottage but I'm pretty sure that they lived there because I never did see them ever leave.
- EH: 17:17 OK. And would they be your grandparents' age or your parents' age?
- EC: 17:22 Well it was hard to tell but I would say they would probably be my parents' age.

- EH: Yeah, I wonder if any of their descendants are still around.
- EC: 17:34 There was a family that lived in Rand and I was told that the gentleman also worked for Mrs. Ratre and his name was Dubois Jordan.
- EH: Okay.
- EC: And they were... they may have been a descendant of the Jordan family that Mr. Dickinson hired—I'm not sure.
- EH: Okay, I'll look into that. Why don't you tell me a little bit about working for Mr. Dickinson at the bank.
- HH: 18:11 I went to work for Dickinson Fuel which was on the 14th floor of the Old Kanawha Valley Bank Building. I went there in 1958 and worked 20 years for them. I was actually hired to just do secretarial work and... and... sometimes receptionist and various, various jobs and they were very good... good to work for.
- EH: 18:56 Were you living in Charleston at the time?
- HH: 18:58 I was living in Belle at that time.
- EH: 19:06 What was—who were the other employees and what was the atmosphere like?
- Speaker 30: 19:15 It was-- it was good. We weren't over worked at that... at that job and in later years I did mainly just work for Baxter Shaffer—did all of his letters.
- EH: So he was part of that family?
- HH: He was vice... no he was not related to the Dickinsons at all.
- EH: 19:43 OK. He was the vice president of...
- HH: Of Dickinson Fuel Company.
- EH: OK.
- HH: Which was our company name.
- EH: Okay. What memories do you have of growing up in Malden that might be related to the salt works or the Dickinson family businesses?

- HH: 20:10 Happy memories. And like I had said-- we were fascinated with the ...with the salt factory. And I can remember as a child if I maybe at home didn't get my way or wanted to do a certain thing--and our parents were very strict with us-- I would pack maybe two or three pieces of clothing and all the dolls I had and tuck them under my arm. I can close my eyes and see myself doing that!
- EH: (laughs)
- HH: 20:53 "That's OK mommy, I'm going to the salt furnace to live with my grandpa."
- EH: 21:01 (laughs) And would you walk down to the salt...?
- HH: 21:04 No I wouldn't. After about a half a block I would turn around to see if anybody was following me or keeping tabs on me and I would... the longer then I walked to the end of that block, I would feel uneasy and hurt that nobody was following me but they were peeking out the windows.
- EH: 21:37 (laughs)Yeah I used to run away under the dining room table.
- HH: Oh you did! That's all the farther you got, huh?
- EH: Yeah, I would pack a peanut butter sandwich and take some books down there. (laughs) But I told them.
- Um, let's see what else...
- EC: 22:02 Would you like to know some of the names of the people that I remember?
- EH: Yeah! That would be great. Yeah definitely.
- EC: 22:08 OK. Course we're-- the Canterbury families are four generations of working for the Dickinson and my grandfather Lewis Ira, which we called, or everybody called Lou. He was the maintenance-- or I always heard he was over the plant.
- HH: Yes.
- EC: Then my dad Earl Canterbury Sr. He worked there, then I'm Earl Canterbury Jr.-- I worked in the store. Then my sister Harriette Hastings--she worked in the office at the bank building for Mr. Dickinson. The people that I know that worked up there and I saw was a Mr. Dent and he lived in a company house close to the entrance of the road going up there. Mr. Shirky (sp?) Walker--he lived in the company house close to Mr. Dent. Then Mr. Sneed

and he worked-- he lived at George's Creek. That's close to Malden, and he worked in the bromide and bromines that I saw. Then another Mr. Dent that was probably kin to the other one-- He lived in Georges Creek and he worked in the bromide and bromines. Then there was a Bill Meadows-- he was a truck driver and of course, he's deceased now also along with Hubert Graham, and then I mentioned Mr. and Ms. Jordan-- they were the housekeepers and chauffeur. Then a gentleman I had contact with all of the time with the secretary to Mr. Dickinson, there at the salt works, Eric Horton. He was crippled but he was a genuine friend of the Dickinsons. Then a Mr. Homer Grounds-- he lived in a company house close to the Walkers and the Dents and I don't know if he was a surveyor or what. Than a handy man by the name of J.D. Marshall. He did work there. After I left, but I know that he worked up there—I'd see him walking home from work. And I got to know Nell because we were all growing up and she would ride horses and got to chum around a little bit with Rusty...

EH: So are those Dickinson...

EC: That's Mrs. Price's children. And of course I knew Mrs. Price until she died and I would see her frequent-- where she would be shopping in the Kroger store and that's where I worked for years. Then she would come in and we'd always talk. Rusty and I would work on guns together there in the office-- Mr. Dickenson's office. And that's a very swell family and it gave me some good work ethics. Those are just the people I can remember that may be descendants. I'm sure some of the descendants-- I know there has to be with the Walker family because there was at least 12 of them and I know some of them are still living. Like a Bonnie Walker and Nancy Walker and Doris and...

HH: Becky.

EC: Becky.

EH: So who was Mrs. Price?

EC: 26:08 That was Mrs. Ratre. She was the lady that just recently died. That was Mr. Dickenson-- Cece Dickinson's daughter.

EH: OK.

EC: She was the mother of Nell and Rusty.

EH: Okay.

(Earl's wife asks if we'd like water)

- EH: 26:42 When you say work on guns was that like polish them or would you actually make them...
- EC: No, Rusty was mechanically inclined on guns and I had a gun wouldn't work and Rusty would just put it up on the desk there in the office and tear it apart and say, "I can fix that for ya Earl." And we just got to be friends. Whenever I would go to work and he would be there, we'd talk and so forth. Neal was always busy riding the horse.
- EH: 27:14 So were they about your age?
- EC: They were about my age. Rusty may have been a little bit older.
- EH: 27:22 Okay. Do you have other specific memories of any of those people on the list?
- EC: Just Mr. Walker had hogs for his family and he would go around and pick up old bread stuff from everybody in Malden and this is bad terminology, but he would slop the hogs with that.
- EH: (laughs) Uh-huh.
- EC: And Mr. Dent—he was a big gentleman, but he was so kind. And I have good memories of him and I know that... Mr. Sneed drove an old A-model and every Saturday I would have to pump gas and fill up his vehicle for him and Mr. Dent to ride back up to George's Creek in. And you would hand crank the gasoline up in the tank and then put the nozzle and it would flow down into their vehicle and you would record how much gas they bought.
- EH: I see.
- EC: I have fond memories of the time when they would deliver a calf or when they would put the hay that they would cut on the property-- they would put it up in the silo and mix molasses with it and just-- they had a water tower there. I think I looked for it and I think it may have been dilapidated, but they would have water in the tower to use there on the farm and just reminiscing, going through the office and seeing the safe that they had and Mr. Dickinson's straw hat and coat hanging, and his desk and Mr. Horton's desk and the ledgers were they recorded, or where they shut down—I think in '45. They're so legible. And just fond memories of growing up riding my bicycle to work and back home.

- EH: 29:44 So was that after you bought the bicycle or this was a nicer bicycle that you bought?
- EC: I didn't have enough money to buy a bicycle. But my sisters had a bicycle and I didn't want to be teased that I was riding a girl's bicycle. So I cut a broomstick and fit it in between the handlebars and the seat and taped it there so people'd think I had a boy's bicycle.
- EH: 30:14 (Laughs) That's funny. That's pretty crafty.
- EC: 30:19 But we had fond memories and I believe down through looking back at my granddad was so mechanically inclined. My dad was inclined and I can work on a few cars and so forth. My son is mechanically inclined. And now my grandson-- he loves to work on motorcycles and he's mechanically inclined and 'course my dad's brother Arthur, he opened his own dealership and he worked... knew about cars. And so that's a heritage which is vastly fading away.
- EH: 31:05 Yeah. So you said four generations have worked-- so did your son also work for the Dickinsons?
- EC: No.
- EH: 31:11 OK.
- EC: No. My son did not work for-- he worked for the Newport News shipyard as-- he went to college. He's a mechanical engineer but he worked with the Newport News shipyard. But now he's working for Homeland Security for the government in DC.
- EH: 31:32 OK. So where was the fourth generation? Is that your great grandfather?
- EC: 31:38 No--my grandfather, my father, myself, and my sister.
- EH: 31:43 Oh yeah, yeah. OK got it. When people bought things at the store was it on-- did they have some kind of company scrip or what were they paying with?
- EC: 31:56 I would record it on a book—write down like what they bought. And then when payday would come I would give it to Mr. Horton and he would tell them this is what you owe the company store.
- EH: OK.
- EC: We had no script or anything like that.

- EH: So he would just deduct that.
- EC: And I may have misquoted in four generations because it would actually be three, would it not?
- EH: Yeah.
- EC: Yes it would be three.
- EH: But four people.
- EC: Yeah. Four people but three generations. I made a misquote.
- EH: It's okay. So they... then they would take out what they bought out of their wages?
- EC: Right.
- EH: OK. Do you remember people that you worked with at the store?
- EC: 32:48 Well there was only myself and of course it wasn't a big business. You could see with the store still standing, you couldn't put a lot in there. But then I would just report to Mr. Horton because his office was in the same building.
- EH: OK.
- EC: And just one person worked there and it was just for the courtesy of the company employees that wanted to purchase things there.
- EH: And is that where they have all the archives now? They have all the old posters and things like that?
- EC: Yes.
- EH: Okay.
- EC: 33:29 And there was a company store then on the right was the office. And of course the company store had shutters. And when you opened the shutters, the people knew somebody was there to wait on them.
- EH: OK. So at that point it was maybe only open Friday afternoon and Saturday?
- EC: Um, that's when I was there, but I imagine if anybody needed anything, Mr. Horton would go in and help them if they needed anything in particular. Yeah.

- EH: 34:06 Yeah. OK. So have you visited recently--the salt works?
- EC: 34:14 I visited the salt works probably maybe a month ago and I didn't get to see Mrs. Burns (Bruns). I had read about the salt works in the paper and purchased salt from Capital Market and I knew where one of the original salt drilling... the rig was located on the property and I can still see in my mind-- I can go up there and show you where the buildings were, where the salt vats were and so forth and where toward the hay and they would bail hay and store it offsite.
- EH: 34:59 When you tasted the new salt did bring back any of those memories of dipping the apples?
- EC: Well I was so young and I was more interested in the June apple than I was the salt. But it is good salt and my wife and I, we have it.
- EH: It is really good. Will you come to the salt festival in October?
- EC: 35:22 I would love to.
- EH: 'Cause that might be nice—we could walk through and I could have the recorder and you could point out some of the things that you remember on the property.
- EC: Okay.
- EH: 35:36 Well, was there anything else either of you would like to add?
- EC: 35:41 Harriette, maybe you could tell Emily about Mrs.Cavender that work there that did all of the billing. And she would—she's still living.
- EH: Okay.
- HH: Yeah, she's still living. But most of those that I worked with have gone passed away. But Marjorie Cavender and Fred Summerfield did all of the book keeping...
- EH: 36:09 OK
- HH: ...for the company. And Fred Summerfield has passed on. But Marjorie Cavender is still living. She lives in Charleston
- EH: OK. And so she was the bookkeeper for Dickinson Fuel.
- HH: Mmhm for Dickinson Fuel.

- EH: Nice. I'll see if I can track her down. I'll see if I can get in touch with her.
- HH: 36:41 Okay, okay. We just have warm... memories and uh... of the Dickinson family. I know when our grandfather was very ill, Mr. Dickinson came to our dad and said "I'm getting in touch with the best doctor there is." And so... (cries)
- EH: 37:14 And so there was a very close community.
- HH: 37:21 Yes. And I remember as a child growing up we would be at our grandparents on Sunday afternoon. That's always the time. Mr. Dickinson came to go over with---to see our grandfather while he was still active. And they would be discussing things that happened in the plant that week and things that were coming up for the next week. And sometimes we could hear their voices a little louder than other times.
- EH: (laughs)
- HH: 38:05 So I don't think they may have agreed on everything but they still remained best friends.
- EH: 38:14 Right. And what are other memories you have of visiting your grandparents?
- HH: 38:21 Happy memories. Our grandmother was a fun-loving person that loved to play the piano and as she got older, more hard of hearing, the louder those keys got. And I know at the time their house was kinda up on the Hill, up there in Malden, across from the Dickinson Properties, and she wanted to host a big birthday party for me and so they lined the hillside with Japanese lanterns and... and she whispered to me "Now don't let your father or mother know this, but you all can play Post Office if you want." I had no idea what Post Office was—she had to explain it to me! (laughs)
- EH: What is that? I don't know what that is.
- HH: Oh you don't?
- EH: No!
- HH: Okay. Somebody goes behind the curtain and says I'm calling for like...Nancy Drew.
- EH: Okay.

- HH: 39:36 So Nancy Drew comes in and kisses that person. Then in turn they come—they order somebody to come in. That's what Post Office is.
- EH: Oh, okay, okay. So it's sort of like... like Spin the Bottle.
- HH: 39:56 Yeah, like Spin the Bottle. Yes. But I... Oh goodness. That was something! You know you could say those lanterns glowing all over the hillside there. And she was-- in her younger days she ran her own delicatessen there in Malden and made all of her ice cream. All of her goodies. She was a very good cook.
- EH: 40:33 What are some of the things you remember eating at her house?
- HH: 40:44 Eating? You had such a big variety of the things that she would cook and the whole time we'd be eating, she would be worrying about the next occasion for us all to get together and eat. She would be saying, "Now what should I cook for that?"
- EH: 41:04 That's a tradition in my family too—while you're eating, you talk about what you're going to eat next.
- HH: 41:15 Yeah. Really?!
- EH: Yeah. (laughs)
- HH: We have fond memories of growing up.
- EH: Did they keep a garden there?
- HH: They had a big garden there and also had a barn with a cow which I never learned to milk. (laughs) And different small... smaller animals. And there was a spring on that property that really served the purpose of a refrigerator. We loved to walk back in there and it was soon as you started back in the cool breeze that came out.
- EH: 42:01 So did they have a spring house where they kept things cool or did they just put things in the spring?
- HH: They just put things in the spring house.
- EH: Yeah. Nice. But this was in Malden, not on the Dickinson property, right?
- HH: No, this was just in Malden. Mmhm.
- EH: 42:21 Well is there anything else you'd like to add?

- EC: Yes let me let me correct.
- EH: OK.
- EC: 42:26 I said my grandparents had two sons. They had three sons John Henry, they had three sons. And a daughter and I misquoted that. Something to show the generosity of the Dickinsons-- the house that my sister was talking about I didn't see it happen but I was always told-- it was on the hill and the Route 60 was coming through and it would go right through their property and their house. And Mr. Dickinson negotiated to have that house moved off of the hill, down into Malden where it is still there today. And so that they wouldn't lose their house.
- EH: Wow.
- EC: 43:26 And that's how I remember the old house but I remember the moved house a lot more because I would go up there and visit them and I would always... my grandmother was like Coke-aholic. Coca-Cola. And when I worked in the company store she would say "little Earl would you bring me a case of coke home?" And I would try to bring that home on my bicycle too. But she would always be walking around with a Coke in her hand and I can remember that. And she was a tremendous cook.
- EH: 44:16 Nice. About how old were you when 60 went through?
- EC: Well 60 went through in '60 totally in 62 is that right, Harriet? I think that's on the bridge.
- EH: Mmhm. Okay.
- EC: 44:27 'Course, I graduated in '56 and I would have been what...uh, I have to do the math. I was out... when it totally went through, on into Rand, past Belle, up in there, I was getting ready to go into service.
- EH: 44:59 Okay. So when-- when you had that birthday party the house was still on the Dickinson property?
- HH: 45:05 It was still on the hill.
- EH: Yeah. Okay, okay. But that was Dickinson property or it wasn't?
- HH: 45:15 That wasn't on the hill, was it?
- EC: It was on a little hill because you remember the walkway that you had to go up and hold on to that pipe going all the way up?

- HH: Right.
- EC: I was always told that the Dickinsons owned in front of their place—the salt works. They owned the whole mountain over on the other side of the highway. And that would be their property.
- EH: OK. Okay.
- HH: 45:41 The houses is still standing, isn't it?
- EC: 45:46 Where they moved it down into Malden, it's still standing That and people live in it.
- HH: Right!
- EC: After my dad's sister moved in with my grandparents until they all died. Then she died and then I think they sold the house to somebody. But it is still standing and still looks good!
- EH: Where-- what street is it on—do you remember?
- EC: When you start to go around, it's the last street in Malden on the left--I'm not for sure of the name. I could be wrong but—it it's Plum Dr. or...
- EH: Okay.
- EC: 46:33 But it's the last street on the left and there—it's where, right on the corner the Dickinson owned that property and that house and they tore it down and so it's the only house there... in what we call the bottom land, the flat land.
- EH: Okay.
- HH: So I just thought about something that we used to do ...As you start out the lane to go to the salt furnace remember that they used to let us ride our sleds and build a big bonfire and all the kids would come around and you had to stand in line to wait to go down on your sled and they'd let us do that on their property.
- EC: 47:31 We nicknamed it Dickinson Hill.
- HH: Yeah, Dickinson Hill.
- EH: 47:37 And did you get a decent amount of snow?
- EC: Yes.
- HH: Oh yeah.

EH: It's hard to find a good sledding hill around here so I can see why that was important.

EC: 47:53 And on that—in that area, The Dickinson Hill, there's an old cemetery still located there. It's on their property and it's in the pasture land but I'm not sure who's buried there. But we were young kids and we weren't interested in tombstones, we were interested in slave riding and running in the field and chasing rabbits and they had cows-- always had cows there. We'd go over and try to pet the cows and Nell would ride her horse in that property all the time. Just fond memories.

EH: Were they milk cows or beef cows?

EC: They were beef cows. I don't think they even... and I don't know what they did if they just raised them and sold them. I don't... they didn't have any for their own consumption there to my knowledge. It was just having an animal on the property to eat the grass.

EH: Right, right. Well is there anything else?

EC: 49:07 No. It's fun to reminisce and still be able to... I can picture in my mind-- I'm sure my sister can-- you can picture Malden and it doesn't look like it did today. Let me state one more thing. I was always told growing up that the Dickinsons were members or they attended—I know John L. did—The Kanahwa Saline Presbyterian Church and as a youth I went to that church. And when you went in the doors-- they had two doors. When you went in the right hand door there was a little set of stairs that went straight up and we were always told that the homeowners would take their slaves to church with them and they couldn't sit down in the lower part and they would sit in the upper part and when we went to church there I looked one time and that's where the bell tower was also. And you could see where the slaves or whoever sat there would be not interested and they would take their knife and whittle the benches. And carved their initials in them. And the church still stands. I know they were part of the church and part of making sure the church had a manse which was a building for the pastor to live in.

EH: Right.

EC: 50:45 And I know John would get the candy into the store at Christmas time and then we would all put it in little plastic bags of hard rock candy for all the children. And he was very devoted to the church. And when we would go have the church picnic he would always let all the kids ride in the limousine back then to the swimming party. And they were just a swell family.

- EH: Did they have a pool?
- EC: No. We--They would always take us to Dunbar and that was a 4-H ground and they had a big pool and they would reserve an area and we'd go on the church picnic and that's things of the past.
- EH: Right yeah, I know.
- HH: 51:40 That was when we drank all of the pop we could hold and eat all the watermelon we could hold...
- EC: Ice cream.
- EH: It was probably homemade ice cream too.
- EC: 51:53 I'm pretty sure they probably did because he had everything well organized. Plenty of food, plenty of hot dogs, hamburgers. Swim...
- HH: We all ended up with a tummy ache. (laughs)
- EC: And a sunburn.
- HH: A sunburn—right. I doubt they had suntan lotion back then.
- EH: Not really.
- HH: 52:22 I still--Mr. Dickenson's grandchildren, of course grown women now with families of their own, but they've all been interested in horses and my husband's a retired blacksmith/ferrier and did all the girls horses.
- EH: Oh, okay.
- HH: Yeah. I don't remember. Rusty, their grandson riding so much.
- EC: Rusty wasn't interested in horses like Nell.
- HH: No, but now his wife did. They still have horses.
- EH: 53:03 So where was your husband a blacksmith? In Malden?
- HH: 53:08 He had a shop built on his truck and then a shop there at the house—our house in Pinch.
- EH: 53:16 Nice. So he was he both a ferrier and a blacksmith? 'Cause I know sometimes they're particular about one or the other.

HH: 53:25 Yeah, he made all of his shoes.

EH: Okay.

EH: 53:32 Yeah my mom has a horse and so she has her ferrier show up.

HH: Oh really?

EH: 53:37 Yeah, so the truck was like a mobile blacksmith...

HH: What?

EH: His truck was like a little shop on wheels?

HH: 53:44 Yes it was a little shop on a truck and...he-- his customers, he'd repeat work every six weeks. And so we've kind of kept up with Rusty's wife Nina and Nell.

EH: Nice.

HH: They are big horse people!

EH: (Laughs) It runs in the families, yeah! Well thank you both so much. It is really nice to hear all these memories.

EC: Thank you, Emily. It's nice meeting you.

EH: You too.

HH: Yeah, it's real nice meeting you.

EH: You too. I'm gonna turn this off.

HH: Okay.

54:32

END OF TAPE