

Interview with Neil Scheer

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By: Ellie Moffitt

EM: Think back to when you were 16. Where were you living at that time?

NS: With My folks in northeast Nebraska.

EM: Who was living in the house with you at that time?

NS. Brother, Dennis Scheer, and sister, Fae Scheer. And Melvin (father), Edith (mother).

EM: What did your parents do for a living?

NS: Farmed, milked cows, fed hogs.

EM: What kind of jobs did you do, like did you get paid? How much did you get paid an hour?

NS: I started when I was three years old, milking cows on a one- legged stool. I worked for some of the neighbors. When I was nine years old, Dad put me on a team and farm planter. I got out of high school. I went to mechanic school for nine months Then I had to quit because my little brother got sick with Leukemia, so I went home and helped out. We got paid per day, four bucks a day. I worked for my uncle.

EM: What was you main transportation?

NS: An old beat- up '35 Ford.

EM: What year was it when you were sixteen years old?

NS: "It was either 63' or 64'. 1963 or 64'. I was born in 1945.

EM: What kind of class did you have, and how many kids?

NS: One- room schoolhouse, sometimes eight kids.

EM: What kind of school activities were you involved in?

NS: I played football in high school, track, and basketball.

EM: What did most teenagers do when not at school?

NS: Well, the friends I had, most of them worked on the family farm. The town kids there didn't have much to do really; unless their dad had a business. Then they worked there.

EM: What type of dances did you go to?

NS: When I got out of high school, there wasn't one within one hundred miles that I didn't hit. Two- step and square dancing. Square dancing is fun. It was a work out.

EM: What was the latest invention coming out?

NS: It wasn't iPads. milking machines, electric separators, cream separators, starter lights on a tractor, didn't have to hand crank them any more. That was about it, besides race cars.

EM: What was going on in the news?

NS: The second world war was getting over with. Paul Harvey. That's about it.

EM: What were the gas prices after it was no longer being rationed?

NS: 16, 18, 22 cents a gallon.

EM: Who was the president?

NS: I can remember Truman on, but not the order. Truman had a dirty mouth.

EM: What do you know about the drafting?

NS: What did I know about it? They got me. I had just gotten married and it wasn't very good to leave home. I went through Fort Leonardwood, went

through most the basics, and I couldn't pass the hearing tests so I got off on a physical discharge. I was drafted in September and got out in November.

EM: What did you see on TV about the Vietnam War?

NS: It was suicidal type thing for these American soldiers. 'Cause those Vietnamese dug tunnels and you never knew when one would pop out and just wipe you out.

EM: How did you feel about the way the soldiers were treated?

NS: I had two uncles in the service. They were treated pretty good. Most of the soldiers I knew got treated pretty good in the second world war, but there were a few I heard that didn't make it back.

EM: What about the war protests?

NS: Don't ask me about this.

EM: What did you know about hippies?

NS: Drug addicts, no morals. That's about what it boils down to.

EM: Do you remember where you were when JFK was assassinated?

NS: I was hauling gravel when he got assassinated, I was weighing across the scales, seeing how much I had on the truck, and they told me he'd been assassinated.

EM: After living all these years what advice would you give teenagers today?

NS: Study hard, save your money, and don't go wild, and it rewards you in the end.