

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

NARRATOR: Lucille and Richard "Doc" Kopper

BIOGRAPHICAL INFORMATION: Richard and Lucille Kopper were both born in 1923 in Southwestern Kansas. Richard grew up on a farm North of Ingalls, Kansas in a family of twelve children. Lucille lived on a farm in Scott County, just south of Scott City, Kansas. She had three siblings. They met and church camp and were married in 1945, just before the end of WWII. They now live in Cimarron, Kansas.

DATE OF INTERVIEW: January 12, 2003

INTERVIEWER: Rebecca Pederson with assistance from Regina Pederson

LOCATION OF INTERVIEW: Cimarron, Kansas

NUMBER OF CASSETTES: 1

LENGTH OF CASSETTES: 45 min. sides

LENGTH OF INTERVIEW: 54 1/2 min.

SUBJECTS DISCUSSED: Grasshopper and jackrabbit plagues, effects of the Depression and drought; daily life on the farm and in school; experiences at home with World War II, changes in lifestyle; family life; experiences with the Dustbowl; entertainment during the 30's and 40's; how the narrators' met, courting; vehicles; Pearl Harbor.

**Lucille and Richard "Doc" Kopper
Narrators**

**Rebecca Pederson
Interviewer
With assistance by Regina Pederson**

**January 12, 2003
Cimarron, Kansas**

Richard "Doc" Kopper – **RK**
Lucille Kopper – **LK**
Rebecca Pederson – **RP**
Regina Pederson – **RegP**

(Side A)

RP: Today is January the twelfth, 2003 and I, Rebecca Pederson along with the help of my mother Regina Pederson are going to interview Richard and Lucille Kopper. We're in Cimarron Kansas.

OK the subject that the main point of our assignment will be life during the 1930s and 1940s and I'm writing my paper about families at home, like what people at home experienced, so what age were you guys in the nineteen thirties?

LK: uh, bout, well I was born in twenty-three so in thirty-three I been ten. And well he was that same age then.

RP: so you were born in twenty-three

LK: in twenty-three

RP: and where were you guys born, do you remember?

RK: I was born in Plains.

RP: Plains.

RK: Plains, Kansas

LK: I was born in Scott County. I wasn't born in a town. I was born in a farm house.

RP: Do you guys remember the Dustbowl?

RK: You bet you.

RP: How old were you about that time?

RK: Well about, eleven or twelve.

RP: And there was like all the jackrabbit plagues and grasshopper plagues did those happen where you lived?

LK: Yes, I don't know, I expect he experienced it but uh, and my school, they would turn school out for jackrabbit drives. Everybody would take a whole bunch of people you know and you go get, stand side by side, you know and walking down in a certain area and the rabbits were just flock ahead of you. And you have a certain place set up that had a crib of some kind . . .

RK: Snow fence

LK: Snow fence, that would have been the right thing, and uh, make pens out of them and these rabbits were just driven into those pens, and then they were slaughtered

RP: Did that happen a lot during school?

LK: Yes

RP: So like were you, what grade were you in? Fourth Grade? Do you remember how old?

LK: Well, I don't remember what school I was going to, if I was going to Shallow Water School, why I would have been older than that, would have been . . . Well I expect eleven or twelve

RP: eleven or twelve?

LK: Yeah that sounds right

RP: Uhm, the the depression hit later. Do you guys remember a lot about the depression too I bet.

LK: Well but I think the cause of the depression was the crash of the stock market in twenty-nine. Then, the banks all closed if anybody had any money in the bank they could . . . it wasn't theirs anymore.

RP: Do you remember how old you were then?

LK: Well, twenty-nine, I would have been ten years old yet I about . . . eight, no seven. And I don't remember that too much but a sure remember my folks talking about it a lot and I think that's, that's what started the depression and then as far as we were concerned in the area we had a drought. Just didn't get any rain, so we couldn't raise any crops and it was just devastating. You just eeked out a living however you could. It was pretty hard, in a lot of places.

RP: So what, what was you guys', did you both live on a farm? [Nod in agreement] You both lived on farms. What was your day to day life, like what were you in charge of doing at the farm. Like, what chores did you have to do, you know . . . like from day to day was there like specific things that you were in charge of?

RK: Yeah, I had a, had a old jersey milk cow, that was my job to milk her/

RegP: From how old? How old were you?

RK: Well I was about eight years old.

RP: You started milking when you were eight?

RK: Yeah, seven and eight. I was about eight years old.

RP: And, uhm, where did you guys go to school? Did you have to, and how did you go to school? Do you remember?

LK: Well, for me when I started, well, I started school at Shallow Water but I only went one year and then we moved to a different place so then I was going to a country school. Well, we went to school by horse, either if was just one or two of us on horse back, and if there was three then, why we drove a buggy.

RP: Do you remember (to Richard)?

RK: I rode a school bus.

RP: It came and picked you up?

RK: [unclear] everyday north of Ingalls. By then we moved north of Ingalls, in the fall of thirty.

RP: So you went to the Ingalls School?

RK: I went to Ingalls' school.

RegP: What did your school bus look like?

RK: Well it was a school bus like . . . It was a home made body. The bus mechanic and his father-in-law built the body to mount on the school bus. It was a Real bus motor.

LK: Real was the brand name.

RK: Yes, but it was a home made body. You sit on each side with a bench down the middle to rest you feet on.

RP: It's a lot different than now.

RK: Yeah.

RP: When World War II came around, do you guys remember when that all started?

RK: What?

RP: World War II.

RK: Well, the war started in what? Thirty-nine?

LK: I think so.

RK: But the United States didn't enter till. . .

RP: Until later.

RK: Till the Japanese bombed Pearl Harbor. December the seventh in Forty-one. That's when we actually entered the war.

RP: Did anyone related to you guys become involved in the war? Anyone close to you?

RK: Well I had a . . . my brother Harv joined the navy and Shorty, Alvin, was drafted by the army and he got into the air force, but he had a bad knee, injured from basketball, and so they wouldn't let him fly.

LK: He was color blind too, so they wouldn't let him fly a plane.

RK: But he was in maintenance. I think he was shipped to England. He served from England.

LK: I remember him talking about how he would. . . I don't know if he went out on a plane that went out to pick up bodies but he told about them picking up bodies and bringing them back in and he rode a plane that did that. So he probably helped. It may have been that were just injured too that came back on those planes. It sounded pretty gruesome to hear he tell it.

RP: Was there a lot of talk at home about what was happening at the war and why everything was going on? Was that a big topic to talk about?

RK: Well, yes. By then we had a newspaper in Hutch [Hutchinson, Kansas], the Hutchinson Herald, and Dad read that real close. Talking about . . . about the war and their progress.

LK: We didn't have a newspaper in our family but we did have a radio, such as what it was. Sometimes you could get a station and hear it and sometimes. . . I remember, listening to the radio with our ear right against the radio in order to hear it [laughing]. So it was pretty hard to get any news that way but we did get some.

RP: During the Depression and around World War II, how did your life change? Did either of your moms have to go get jobs? How did things change?

LK: Women didn't work in those days.

RP: They didn't?

LK: (not) Outside the home. It was difficult because we had no money to buy anything with, so we always had a herd, a small herd of cattle and milk cows and we always raised chickens. My mother would get every spring, she got five or six hundred baby chicks and raised them and we lived on chicken on the farm. Plus what gardening she could do. After a few years, when it started to rain a little, why she had magnificent garden... Just wonderful, so we had a lot of food that way and like, we ate chicken. And we had enough cattle that we near always had a beef butchered and hanging in the shed.

RP: Did you sell eggs and cream to the stores? What about the rationing like the gas cards or food rationing at some of the stores? Tell me about some of that stuff.

LK: Well, there was a lot of food rationing we had stamps that you could take to the store and buy things with. Sugar was one thing that I think was highly rationed, coffee. I don't remember too much, well, I don't know if flour was. I suppose it was rationed. I don't remember that but, then of course was gasoline and tires, things like that were rationed and you couldn't hardly buy an appliance. We were married in 1945. That was just before the war ended and we couldn't buy a stove or washing machine or anything like that. They were just not available in the stores. We finally did find a stove that. . .the burners worked – it was a gas stove- the burners worked fine and the oven worked but it didn't have thermostat on the oven. So, you know, I baked cakes by putting in a Dutch oven and baked them that way and I still have people talk to me about how I bake cakes on top of the stove. That lasted. . . We had that then until, it must have been forty-nine. I think it was when Lauren was a baby when we finally got a stove that had a thermostat on the oven. And we had trouble finding a machine also. We got one that was so different.

It was called an EASY brand and it had two tubs on it. One tub did the washing and the other tub had a spinning thing on it. You put your clothes in there and turned that on and that spun the water out of the clothes and then you had to pour water in there to rinse the clothes. You spin that dirty water out and poured clean water in the rinse. So that was a very unusual washing machine.

RP: How did families help each other? Did you guys ever get together and like to their . . . chickens . . . How did families on different farms. . . Did you ever get together and help each other some of those times?

LK: I don't remember of doing that much because nearly everybody around us did the same thing we did. They raised chickens and raised cows and had milk cows but as far as . . . course we were . . . my parents and the kids too were very generous in helping anyone who was needy. We used to have hobos come around. You don't have that anymore but we used to, at that time we had that, so you kinda had to watch yourself and then we had, had others who were not exactly hobos but they had sticky fingers, so they'd steal things from us [laughing].

RP: Were you trying to say something, Doc?

RK: Well I didn't hear your question plain.

RP: Sorry, I asked how different families helped each other, during the depression, how they helped each other out.

RK: Well, our neighbors were just as poor as we were so . . .

RegP: Did you get together for harvest or for butchering or anything like that?

RK: Well we were a big family. I can remember one time when we butchered five hogs at a time.

RP: How many brothers and sisters did you have?

RK: Well, I had six brothers and five sisters.

LK: I just had one brother and had three sisters but one of them died as a baby.

RP: Were you guys one of the older, were you the oldest?

RK: I was next to the youngest.

LK: I was next to the oldest. There was one older than me. My, my parents were a lot younger than his. His, his uh oldest brother was the same age as my mother. A lot of difference in age there.

RP: Do you remember how much stuff cost back then? Like how much did you sell some eggs for?

LK: Well I don't remember. I don't, we sold cream too but I don't just have any idea how much they were.

RP: That's OK.

LK: But I do know that we did, and I think his folks did too, took eggs to town and exchanged them for other groceries.

RP: So you just traded.

LK: You go to the grocery store and they would trade, trade you.

RK: We would ship our cream to Garden City. I can remember I drove a school bus when I was in high school and I'd take the five gallon can of cream on the school bus to school and then I'd carry it down to the depot and ship it to Garden City and Dad would go and pick up the can and the check and buy groceries.

RP: Do either of you have any unique memories that you just remember when you were younger, any kind of stories that stick out in your mind?

RegP: [unclear] Dustbowl.

RP: What about the Dustbowl?

LK: Oh, yeah that was another, whole other ball game. You would –

RK: You- Go ahead.

LK: You would, the, the sky would be clear and it be a beautiful day and all of a sudden there'd be a cloud come in and it would be a cloud of dust at would just be rollin' in, and I remember then coming in from the north. And by the time that hit you it was just black as night and to keep some of the dust out of the house we would put up sheets, wet sheets at the windows. . . Uhm I don't know, there were other ways that folks had of keeping dust out of the house but you just fought the dust all the time, constantly cleaning. It was, it was so horrible I didn't even think about it but when those dirt storms would come it they'd just scare you to death as little kids. I remember it, we were just scared to death of those. . . We just knew that the world was gonna come to an end [laughing].

RP: What were you going to say?

RK: Well I could remember we went to Sunday school in the school house and on Sunday morning – if the dirt wasn't blowing- why uh Dad would take two of us boys and clean it out, take scoops of, scoop shovels, scoop the dust out and sweep it, try to clean it to have Sunday school.

RP: That's a lot of dirt.

RK: It was a lot of dirt.

RP: Did you guys ever, like eat under your table clothe so the dirt didn't get in the food? I've heard other people tell stories on how they would cover their food and then like eat under the table clothe so more dirt wouldn't in, did you ever . . .

LK: I don't recall anything like that in my family.

RK: Well we lived in uh basement house and we didn't quite as much dirt come in the house but uh there a lot of people got pneumonia from the dust, had trouble that was . . .

RP: How many big clouds do you think came through, that had all the dust?

RK: Well there wasn't so many like that but every time the wind came up the dust would blow.

LK: These clouds would just come in just like rain clouds only they'd be totally dry. Just, the dirt would just roll in and if you got caught out on the road in one of those you probably couldn't see to drive.

RP: After one kinda blew over, how much dirt do you, how much dirt would be left? Like on the floor or in the windows or by your, how much dirt would be there?

LK: I don't know. The window sills would just be full of dirt. And course then, course then it didn't all stay there it came on into the house too.

RK: I say two or three inches.

LK: Yeah, very likely.

RP: Back to the Jackrabbit drive, how many rabbits do you figure were in a drive? How many did you gather up?

RK: Well I don't remember how many, but we gather them up and feed them to the hogs.

RP: The hogs?

LK: There'd be hundreds of them.

RP: I can't even imagine that many.

RegP: Did you just toss them in the pen with the hogs or did you dry them out or....

RK: Just toss them in the pen and let the hogs fight over them.

RP: Did you, did you cook them first or just give them to them-

RK: Just give them to the raw.

RP: How many hogs did you have?

RK: I don't know as we'd count them but there was quite a few dead. We raised quite a few but we ate most of them or a lot of them.

RegP: Did you divide up the jackrabbits by families or just whoever wanted them?

RK: Just whoever could grab them.

LK: My dad wouldn't let us eat them

RK: Oh, we didn't eat the either.

LK: We had, we had relatives that would come in from Illinois, they come, and they just thought that was great sport to go rabbit hunting and they would go out. My dad would take them out and he didn't want to do it but he did to keep peace in the family, he went out with them and with guns and they would shoot them and they would bring them in and dress them and eat them and it didn't make any difference whether it was an old rabbit that was tougher than a boot or what. They ate them all. It just, thought that was wonderful stuff and my dad didn't like it at all because there was diseases among those rabbits.

RP: Uhm, when the grasshoppers came through, did you guys have problems with grasshoppers? Did they just wipe out-

LK: Yeah, I remember the grasshoppers coming in, in droves, but I don't know was that after we had, we were growing things already . . .

RK: Well, I remember my dad talking about them. They come in like, like clouds, just like clouds, just as thick. But don't remember that.

LK: Oh, I remember the grasshoppers coming in like that, but uh, that's about all I can remember of it, but I don't know . . . I often wonder where they came from if there wasn't any vegetation. Getting back to that, our cattle; there was no grass for the cattle. We had a pasture and put them in there but there was nothing in there for them to eat. My dad harvested Russian thistles and you know what a thistle is? These big tumble weeds and he would harvest them like hay, stack them in a stack like hay and that's what he fed the cows on. It's a wonder we had any milk.

RegP: That's in the thirties right? Was that the thirties?

LK: Well, yeah I expect it was the late thirties. But we had, we had this, uh, crash of the stock market and then the drought. Those things all worked together to where there was . . . there was no one that wasn't affected. Everyone was effected one way or another.

RK: We had uh, a bumper wheat crop in thirty-one. Got less than twenty-five cents a bushel for it. Dad had more debt after harvest than he had before because he bought, I think they bought a combine and a truck.

RP: Do you remember how much the truck and combine cost?

RK: No I don't. I remember when . . . that was thirty-nine or forty; our neighbor bought a new Chevy car for like eight hundred dollars. Course we never had a new car . . . well I think Dad bought a new car in 1928. We still had that in thirty-eight.

RP: What was school like? Like, was, small country school, correct? How many kids went to school and what was it like at school?

RK: Well her school was different than mine.

LK: Oh and that country school where I went . . . I don't know, fifteen or twenty kids, all grades in one room. I remember, uh, there was, there were families that had older boys that like, they should have graduated out of school for a long time before but they might be twenty years old and still be in school and uh, it was, it was kind of difficult because I, I remember the boys uh, get out away off of the school grounds and they go to fighting and just beating each other up and I had a man teacher that year that I remember about and he would watch and when he saw what was going on, if it got rough enough that he needed to do something, why he would tear out of that school yard just as fast as he could go and get out there and get those, straighten up those boys.

RP: Is that when you were like eleven, twelve?

LK: No I wasn't that old I don't think.

RP: Like nine or ten?

LK: I, I know this, that, this, when I started to this country school I was probably in the second grade and uh, well, we went to that school I don't even remember anymore. I think I was about in the fifth or sixth grade when we went to the town school.

RP: What was school like for you, Doc?

RK: It was hard. I was in the second grade when we moved up to Ingalls. Clarence Penner was in the second grade. He was, been my friend ever since. We had an old, it was in an old school house, was heated by coal. Uh, had that stove in the, in the [unclear].

RP: What did you guys do for fun, or for entertainment back then?

LK: Not much [laughing].

RK: Well in school there was baseball in the spring and basketball in the winter, fall and winter. That's when we played outside of course.

LK: We had some entertainment. We went to church all the time and we would have church . . . the church would have parties that we would go to. We did have, that was our main source of entertainment. There were activities with the schools too that we participated in. But uh, I know that we had some friends that were . . . they lived, I don't know, I suppose ten miles from us and we would, at least once a week, we went too . . . and, and we didn't- there were no telephones. You didn't call up and tell somebody that you were coming over, you know, to be prepared. We didn't do that. We just went and I think so much because that, uh, with that one family we were at each others house once a week I think, just about regularly. Just, all of a sudden, some evening my dad say "Ok, let's go over to Dirden's (sp?) tonight." And we get up and go and then that, then they would another time, then they would come to our house the same way.

RP: And what would you do? Would you just play with other kids your age? Is that what you would do?

LK: We just all played together when the weather was so we could play outside, why we'd, we would uh, play games outside as long as we could see to do it.

RegP: What was you favorite game?

LK: Oh, I don't know, we played, uh . . . I can't even think. What were some of those games? I don't know there were games probably that you never heard of and I don't know, don't remember them anymore.

RK: We didn't socialize that much. We big family, too big to go anyplace so we just stayed home.

RP: How did you two meet?

RK: Do you want to tell her?

LK: Yeah. We met at church camp.

RP: How old were you at church camp?

LK: Oh, did we meet before I was, before we were out of high school? I don't think so.

RK: When we met at church camp we was probably about eighteen or nineteen.

LK: That's what I was thinking. We were probably out of high school when we met. Uhm, I was-

RK: She calls it church camp but it was Sunday school camp. We didn't go to church, it was Sunday school.

LK: But our church was involved with it and we had church and Sunday school so . . .

RegP: Where was it at? Where?

LK: Scott County.

RK: North of Ingalls.

LK: oh, the-

RegP: The camp.

LK: The camp was a Methodist camp up Scott, Scott County State Park, north of Scott City. That's where we met and uh, we didn't . . . he had another girlfriend and I don't think I had a boyfriend in that length of time at all but . . . it was interesting. It was really nice. I thoroughly enjoyed the church camps. They were, well you, that's where we got our desire, I think, to live the Christian life.

RegP: Was it for a whole family that would go?

LK: No.

RegP: Ok and then how long would it run?

LK: About a week. Oh, it would be just for the kids and, well I don't know. I think that all ages went to the same camp and you were divided up at camp. You were divided up by age. I don't fully remember too much about it anymore.

RP: So then after camp did you just keep in touch? Is that what happened?

LK: Well, what happened for us was that my younger sister got a boyfriend up there and uh, the two of them were together a lot. I mean, I should say a lot, because it wasn't, but they kept up their relationship for quite a long while and then I went to college. And uh, I went two summers and one winter to college and uh, what was a going to say?

RegP: About how your relationship . . .

LK: Oh, uh, Wilma and her boyfriend was together quite a bit more and then I started teaching the school. I taught school one year and uh, I had another boyfriend for awhile and then that broke up and then his relationship with his girlfriend broke up and so then the, my sister and this other fellow were still together. He was his friend and they, the two guys got together and my sister's boyfriend asked him if he thought that I would go with him if he asked me and Russell told him 'no, he didn't think so,' because there had been another guy in my life before that that uh, what he didn't know was that that broke up and so anyways that was how we got together then. He lived down north of Ingalls and I lived south of Scott City and so, what was that? Thirty, oh how uh, how many miles was that?

RK: It was almost fifty miles.

LK: yeah, and so then . . . and that was course while the war was still going on and there was the tire rationing and the gasoline rationing and so uh, when we became an item, steady, why uh, he would come up to see me once every three weeks. And, I don't know how long that lasted but during our courtship that's the way we courted, once every three weeks we saw each other on Sundays.

RP: Did you ever buy her anything?

RK: Oh, I don't . . .

LK: Christmas presents. But I don't, I don't remember anything . . . He wasn't one to go to a flower shop and buy me a flower and bring me a flower. That just wasn't done in those days, at least not in the setting that we were in.

RP: Hmm, I'm trying to think. Is there anything you remember about those times?

RegP: What kind of cars did you have?

RK: Well uh, Shorty, my brother-

LK: This was Gary's dad, Gary Kopper's dad.

RK: I was just out of high school and he had been to junior college a couple years. He decided he wanted a car. So he and I, well he watched the Hutchinson paper for a car that was for sale, a used car. He couldn't buy a new one so he found a forty-one Chevy coupe. Pretty good looking car and so he went to Hutchinson, I guess by bus, and bought this car. He and I bought it together and when he was drafted, I bought the car from him.

RP: How much did you buy it for?

(End of side A, Beginning of side B)

RP: What about you? Did your family own, like a pickup or anything?

LK: We didn't have a pickup but we always had a car. Uh, I don't remember anything about prices or anything like that but we always had a car. I mean, most of them, mostly they were Chevys we had and I don't think my dad ever bought a new car. We had one brand new car and that was a twenty-eight Plymouth so that was a long time before that. Um, but uh, after that we, we used the horses and the wagon a lot to drive around our area. We lived three miles from Shallow Water, which is just a little burg in the road, wide place in the road [laughing]. Um, but we, lot of times we would uh either ride a horse- that's where we got our mail. We didn't have a mail carrier that brought mail to us. We had to go to Shallow Water to get our mail. So sometimes we would ride a horse to get the mail or uh, my dad would, I remember him taking the wagon uh to go to uh to Shallow Water but I suppose he was buying feed. I don't remember what he bought but I suppose it was probably feed of some kind for the cows or the chickens or something, I don't remember. But I do remember riding with him in that wagon to go to Shallow Water to shop, to shop. There was a little grocery store there and a post office and, and an elevator all over there.

RegP: Lucille, when you went to college, where did you go and did you stay there with someone or did you have an apartment?

LK: I went to McPherson College. It was uh . . . McPherson College is a church of the

Brethren college and they had dorms and so I stayed in the dorm there. I, I started out, I went, I started school right out of high school. I, I went to summer school as soon as, as uh, just right after I graduated from high school I went to summer school and then I went in the fall, I went back to two semester and then the next year I taught school.

RP: Where at?

LK: Um, at a little town called Manning, just uh, I don't know how far it is . . . east of Scott City, I don't know, is it ten miles? I don't know, something like that east of Scott City and off to the north, between Scott City and Dighton.

RP: How many kids did you teach?

LK: I had, I think I must of had somewhere around twenty. I had four grades. I had the first four grades.

RP: Were you like twenty years old at that time, when you began teaching?

LK: Yes, I guess I was. [unclear] Yes, I was, I was, I must have been twenty.

RP: I don't-

LK: The, the, the, another girl that taught the upper grade and we uh, "bached" together. We rented a little house, dugout over there in that end. We lived together.

RegP: Do you remember where you were on Pearl Harbor day? Some people remember the exact occasion in what it, what the impression was. Do either of you remember? Or like when the war was declared?

RK: Well I was, I was home I suppose.

LK: I think I remember . . . coming on the radio, hearing it that way so I was at home too.

RegP: Do you remember any planes flying over? Was it . . . Did you have much plane traffic?

RK: Well after . . . what was in the war . . . there was a base at Dodge and one in Garden, in Garden. Yes, there were quite a few small planes.

LK: And I don't remember big planes from, from up where we were. We were away, away from any air base or anything so I don't remember any planes.

RK: When we'd go to Garden, why there'd be a lot of soldiers on the street.

RP: Well I don't have any more questions. Do you have any um, photos or newspaper clippings or like, journals or anything like that that you've kept?

LK: I don't . . .

RK: I don't think we have . . .

RP: Ok

RK: We raised sheep at that time. And uh, Shorty, when he was over in, in England, why when he'd write he'd say "Don't sell anymore sheep."

RP: Why not?

RK: They'd, they'd didn't fix them right.

LK: They, the army bought them, fed them to the soldiers and they didn't know how to cook them.

RK: But we sold lambs so we did, it was good meat but apparently the army didn't know how to fix them [all laughing].

RegP: How often would you hear from your brothers?

RK: What?

RegP: How often would you hear from your brothers?

RK: Uh, we didn't hear, we didn't hear from Harv very often. We heard from Shorty once in a while. Martha, older sister, would write to him and he answer when he could.

RP: So did you just have two brothers . . . two of you brother went to war?

RK: Well, yes, in the war. Now Gene, he, he was a conscientious objector so he was different.

LK: He worked in a hospital.

RK: Mental hospital. He spent most of his time in, I think it was Maryland.

LK: Then Utah for a while.

RK: [unclear] yes.

LK: I had a brother. He was younger than me so he was not old enough to go to the service but they also had deferments for farm boys and since my brother was the only boy in the family he was allowed to uh, he was deferred to stay home and help his dad with the farming. And that's how come Doc didn't go too, because he was, all his other brothers were gone and he was the only one left to help his dad with the farm and so he got a farm deferment.

RP: Well thank you so much for your time. I really enjoyed this.

LK: Well I hope you get a good grade on it.

End of Interview