

**Interview with Kenneth Dupree**  
**January 28, 2010**  
**Conducted in the Kinsley Library**  
**Interviewers: Joan Weaver and Rosetta Graff**

Joan: We are interviewing Kenny Dupree today, January 28, 2010. We are at the Kinsley Library and interviewers are Rosetta Graff and Joan Weaver.

Joan: What is your full name?

Kenny: Kenny Eugene Dupree.

Joan: Where do you currently reside?

Kenny: 217 West 6<sup>th</sup> Street, Kinsley, Kansas.

Joan: When and where were you born?

Kenny: I was born the 5<sup>th</sup> of March, 1926, in Kinsley, Kansas.

Joan: What were the names of your parents?

Kenny: John Dupree and Clara May Dupree.

Joan: And Clara's maiden name was?

Kenny: Taylor.

Joan: And do you know the names of your grandparents?

Kenny: I got it at home. I never have seen them in my life. So, I got it at home, but I can't tell you his first name. He was from Missouri, but I can get it for you. (*Tom and Lyda Dupree*)

Joan: This is the Dupree grandfather you a thinking of?

Kenny: He was from Missouri.

Joan: What brought him to Edwards County?

Kenny: My dad?

Joan: Well, whoever came here.

Kenny: In the Oklahoma Land Rush, his folks left him in Missouri. They took a quarter in the Oklahoma Land Rush. So when my dad got out of the service, they'd both died, so he thought he was going to come out to the homestead and live on it. So my mother and him came out here, but the land

had been sold for taxes because they didn't notify him. So he took a covered wagon and came to Lewis, Kansas, and started working for Jefferies in Centerview. Then he moved on to Kinsley and went to work.

Joan: When you said he got out of the service, was that WWI?

Kenny: That's what my dad was in, WWI.

Joan: And your mother's family?

Kenny: My mother's family was from Virginia. When they got married, that's when they left for the country.

Joan: In your household, were you an only child? Did you have brothers or sisters?

Kenny: I had two brothers and a sister. Arthur Dupree and Elmer Dupree and Margaret Dupree.

Joan: Where were you in the birth order? Were you eldest? Youngest?

Kenny: I was the third one.

Joan: What was it like growing up in your house?

Kenny: It was awful poor, I'll tell you. It was poor. It was in the thirties when I grew up. You want to know about the thirties?

Joan: Yes, we want to know.

Kenny: Well, I'll tell you something. When we was kids, the only thing we had for toys was, you ever heard of playing kick the can? Well, we played kick the can, and hide and go seek, and we walked stilts. That's a past art anymore, but we got so all of us walked stilts. And we played swords. We'd make a sword and have sword fights. We'd make wooden guns. We'd go down to Jack Moletor's service station and get an old inner tube and cut strips about this wide and put a clothes pin around them and put the inner tube around real tight. When we pushed to clothes pin, we'd shoot the rubber band. That was our guns, because we couldn't buy any.

Joan: At this time, are you living in Kinsley?

Kenny: I was living on West 3<sup>rd</sup> Street. Yes.

Joan: And what was your dad doing?

Kenny: He was working on the WPA.

Joan: What did he do for the WPA?

Kenny: Before that he worked for the City of Kinsley. But politics changed back in them days, and he lost his job. The thing then was when the Depression hit, he had horses. So he went to the WPA, and he made 18 cents an hour. But he'd get a dollar a day for his horses. He had slips that slipped the dirt out

of ditches when they went out to work up north of Kinsley.

Joan: So he was building roads for the WPA?

Kenny: Yes. He had horses. Three or four farmers, people in town, had horses: Warren Jarvis, Chris Franklin and my dad. So they paid him a dollar a day for the horses. He worked on the relief for six or eight years, and then he went to soil conservation. And he'd go out and plant trees on farms. Then they'd come back and hoe. He worked on that three or four years. Then he started working other places.

Joan: You probably don't know, but do you know how much he got paid?

Kenny: My dad? He got 18 cents an hours.

Joan: 18 cents an hour on the WPA.

Kenny: Then when he went to soil conservation he got 20 cents an hour.

Joan: That's amazing.

Kenny: Oh yeah.

Joan: And he had a family with four children.

Kenny: It was tough; it was hard.

Joan: Did you own the house?

Kenny: It was a shack with tar paper on the outside edge. And we didn't have no electricity, didn't have no gas. We had a wood stove. You heated with the wood stove and when it went out at night, it was cold until the next morning. We never had no lights in the house until 1938. A man named Peterson wired the house. When you went to the restroom, you walked about a block out in the woods. That was the restroom. I'll never forget it; it was tough.

Joan: You didn't you have an outhouse?

Kenny: We had an outhouse, oh yes. We had our own cow for milking, had our own chickens. We had hogs. So we had eggs and milk and cream. We'd take the cream which mom would separate. Back in those days everyone would take their cream to the creamery. Even the farmers brought their cream in.

Joan: Did you have water in the house?

Kenny: Later on we put a pitcher pump in the house because you could go down eight foot and hit water. So we had pump water in the house. We never did have running water in that house.

Joan: How many bedrooms or rooms in the house.

Kenny: Two. It was so cold in the wintertime. I'd go to bed and Mom would heat up 4 x 8 bricks, and she'd wrap them up in a towel and bring them in to me. That was how we kept warm. When the bricks cooled off, you was already warm in the bed, and you'd last until next morning. It was tough. I never

will forget it. In the thirties, I remember the dust bowls coming in, and it would come in so black you could not see. Mom would cover us up with sheets and put us to bed. When the dust storm would be over with, those sheets would be clear muddy. That's how we survived the dust storms.

Joan: So that sort of filtered the air for your lungs.

Kenny: Yes. It filtered the air to your lungs. Then along about '37 or '38 we had grasshopper plagues. The grasshoppers would come in by the billions, and they ate every ounce of limbs off the trees, all the grass off the ditches. There were no weeds in the ditches; they ate it all. They took over for two years. The bindweed shop used to mix poison and put it out, but that was a waste of time. But that went on for about two years, the grasshoppers. And then along about that time, the farmers all grew turkeys, and they fed on these grasshoppers and whatever else they ate. Then there was two turkey pools in town: Bear's Produce and the one right down next to the Fravel building. That's where they picked turkeys. But every farmer had turkeys. I'll always remember that.

Joan: So when they would come through, you would lose your garden?

Kenny: Oh yes. You lost everything that was green. All the leaves off the trees was gone; all the gardens was gone. The roadside ditches was clean.

Joan: What time of year would the grasshoppers come through?

Kenny: In the summer.

Joan: In July? Or whatever?

Kenny: Yes, July and August. It was bad.

Joan: I take it your house wasn't very tight with the dust storms either.

Kenny: No, no ones house was back in them days. Then we had jackrabbits. We had jackrabbits by the millions. I went to one jackrabbit...

Joan: Was that because they had eradicated the coyotes?

Kenny: Yes, but they paid a dollar apiece of coyote ears at the courthouse. But the jackrabbits got so thick they had jackrabbit drives. About every ten foot a person went around for three or four sections and drove them into a fence. They sold them to get rid or them.

Joan: Did you eat jackrabbit too at that time?

Kenny: We ate cottontail. We ate lots of them, and we ate young jacks. Sure, everyone did.

Joan: Now were you involved in those, or were you too young?

Kenny: I went on a jackrabbit drive. I went up to Sts. Peter and Paul (*Catholic Church*) one morning.

Joan: Did they kill them by hitting them?

Kenny: Sure. Knock them in the head, any way to kill them. It was quite a sight.

Joan: I've never asked this question, but was it treated like a festival at all? With a dinner? Or as it...

Kenny: It was a big get-together. No, we didn't have no dinner at the end, but everyone from town came out, and the farmers all came out, and they would get rid of the rabbits. No, I never will forget that.

Joan: Well, we have some pictures of that here at the library that show all the rabbits.

Kenny: There was no crops for nine years. My brother-in-law farmed out north of town, and he lost his crops for nine straight years. Then in '40, he had a good crop. He only got about 18 cents a bushel for it, but that's when it started coming out. We started getting rains.

Joan: Did you know people who moved away that did not survive?

Kenny: Lots of them. I even know a person that got killed. Frank Bertnazki had a boy (*Richard*) that got killed in the dust storm because he choked to death.

Joan: What did they call that, dust pneumonia?

Kenny: Yes, that's what it was, just choked to death. During relief times it was so hard. My dad worked on the relief, but they had CC Camps. And they sent the young boys to CC Camps, and you sent half the money home. So my brothers wasn't old enough for CC, but they got NYA -- National Youth Association. You've heard of it? They got ten cents an hour, and they'd go do projects down here at the school. They'd bring in those great big old bricks from Hodgeman County. They'd have stones, and they squared them up. That's how that pink building in the park got built, through NYA labor cleaned brick.

Joan: Oh yes, that's interesting.

Kenny: There's still those bricks. They was new, but they had to be trimmed up square. But the brick still sits out here at Coover's. There's a lot of them out here in a row. My brothers worked on them. That's how they got money to young people under 18.

Joan: Did they square them up by somehow...

Kenny: There was a square tool; they squared them up. They'd hit that old brick and square it up. There's a lot of bricks made bridges around here during the relief time. Anything those NYA boys could do, that's what they did.

Joan: What age were NYA boys?

Kenny: Oh, I'd say from 16 to 18. After that you went into the CC's. My brother-in-law went into CC's.

Joan: And what were they doing around here?

Kenny: He worked on the lakes all the time. I had two brothers-in-law that worked on lakes. They sent half the money home for their families.

Joan: So they left Edwards County.

Kenny: Oh yes, they had to leave and go out to the camps. There were a lot of camps. My brother-in-law worked out at Meade Lake. It was mostly lakes and stuff and trees and planting. I remember that. Then when I come home from overseas, you couldn't find a good job. Have you ever heard of the 52/20 Club? For 52 weeks, you get \$20 a week. That was an army deal. I signed up for it, but I got a job. And I never did use it. I got a job on the county.

Joan: Okay, we'll come back to that in a minute.

Kenny: You never heard of the 52/20 Club?

Joan: No. That hasn't come up yet. I think most of the guys got jobs, like you did.

Kenny: I got a job. I didn't use it, but I signed up for it. I had to go up to the court house to sign up for it.

Joan: Is there anything else you want to say about the Depression or the Dust Bowl time?

Kenny: When I went to school, I had two pair of pants. One I wore, and one Mom was washing. And when she washed, she had a great big old tub. It was a barrel. The boys would have to go out and heat the water underneath the barrel. We had an old washing machine that had an old gasoline motor on it. They'd have to go out and heat that water and carry it in to the washing machine about 100 yards. That's how she washed.

Joan: The washing machine was actually on the porch of the house?

Kenny: Well, you know, it was an old shed out there by the house.

Joan: A wash shed.

Kenny: It was a Maytag washer that had a motor on it. I never will forget that.

Joan: When we were doing interviews around Christmas we asked what Christmas was like?

Kenny: It was poor. I tell you, Christmas was so bad, we never had presents. We just didn't have presents. If they asked me at school, "What did you get for Christmas?" I had to lie, because I was ashamed of it. But we was so poor we didn't have Christmas. I don't ever remember Christmas in my house.

Joan: Did you have anything special to eat for Christmas? Or was it...

Kenny: No, chicken or goose or something.

Joan: Something that you raised.

Kenny: Yes, we raised it. It was poor and hard. No one had work, we was all alike. If they want to tell you the truth, we was all alike. Your mother can tell you; she can tell you all about it. It was tough.

Joan: Do you regret that toughness?

Kenny: No. It learned me how to work. I didn't get a chance to go to school like I should have. My dad left my mother. She was in bed for 16 years with rheumatism. He went to work for Ed Lippoldt and got to running around, so my mom and him got a divorce. It was just me and my sister up there. She was about 12. I was about 15. So we had a big flood in 1951, it ruined the house. It come in about...about a foot of water come into the house. It just ruined the floors, and so I had to call my brother to get my mother out of there. My dad took my sister, by court, and then she (*mom*) didn't have anyone to take care of her. So we had a woman from town take care of her. But they had to come and get her in a stretcher in the flood.

And so, I lived with my brother for a week, and I seen that wasn't going to work. I was 15 years old, so I asked my (*future*) wife's mother what she would take for a room overhead. She said \$5 a week. So, the county commissioners made me pay \$10 a month for my mother for help on her. And so I gave Mrs. Winters \$5 a week. That left me \$3 a week for two years. And then I supported my mother while I was overseas. I had to pay \$28 a month towards her keep. And when I got through, I had \$6.40 a month for two years. Except when I went overseas when I made private first class, they gave me \$10 more for overseas duty. When I hit the front lines, they gave me \$10 more for action. So, that's how I survived. It was tough. I can remember all the old times.

Joan: Yes, you have a very good memory. So that flood must have been about 1940?

Kenny: No, '41.

Joan: I was trying to figure out.

Kenny: That flood was in 1941. And it just ruined everything. They had 15 inches of rain up at Paul Heit's. It didn't even use the creeks. It just came across the field and down. I was drilling wheat for George Eslinger, and the storm came up. I put the drill on a hill, and I just barely made it out of there with the truck. When we went back out, that drill was beat to pieces with hail. You never seen such a...the road was all messed up. It was bad. But the last time I ever lived in that house. We had four hogs out in the barn. Lewis Winchester helped me float them in the house into the old bedroom. It was the only place we could put them. We'd grab them by the tail and the ear, and we'd float them into the house. Four of them. And so Bert Lewis bought them, finally, to get rid of them. They'd chewed the walls all up looking for something to eat.

Joan: That was one way to get rid of that house.

Kenny: Yes, yes, it was a poor old house. I tell you, we couldn't do no better.

Joan: Do you remember...December...did you finish high school?

Kenny: No, I didn't. That's why I telling you why I didn't finish high school, I was out working.

Joan: So when did you quit?

Kenny: My sophomore year, after my sophomore year. I didn't have a chance to go to school. I supported my mother. If I'd known...if I'd went to a lawyer, the county commissioners could not make me do what they made me do. But I don't regret that, taking care of my mother. I took care of her for four years before I got married. It was hard. Try to live on \$3 a week and then buy clothes out of it. If I worked on Sunday, he give me \$21. I never will forget it, but I don't regret working hard. I worked hard all my life. But I can tell you about hard times.

Joan: Do you remember December 7, 1941.

Kenny: Yes I do. I was in the Methodist Church because the school house burned down. We went to the Methodist Church and the Congregational Church, back and forth. They called an auditorium meeting, and we listened to Roosevelt announce that we had been attacked, and we had declared war. We had three or four left right then and there and went into the service. Earl Lippoldt was one of them, but I can't remember the other three of them.

Joan: I'm trying to think how old you were. You were...this would have been just before you quit school. You were in the 9<sup>th</sup> grade.

Kenny: Yes.

Joan: At that time, your brothers were older. Did they...

Kenny: My brother Elmer was five years older than me. He lives in Great Bend. Arthur was six and a half years older than I was.

Joan: Did they have families?

Kenny: They had families.

Joan: And they did go into the service?

Kenny: They all went into the service. In fact, Arthur went in at the same time I did. When he trained at the camp in Arkansas, I trained at the camp in Texas.

Joan: So who was the first to go in of the three boys?

Kenny: My brother Elmer. He was in the service probably a year and a half before we went in.

Joan: Did he enlist?

Kenny: No, he was drafted. But they took him early, three years and three months. But my brother Arthur went in at the same time I did. I don't know why; he trained at Camp Robinson.

Joan: You and he were drafted also? Everybody was drafted. Why don't you tell us a little bit about your brothers' service. Were they army?

Kenny: My brother was infantry also.

Joan: Which brother?

Kenny: Arthur was infantry. I come home from service at the same time Arthur did. II wanted to go back to Fort Meade, Maryland with him. So we went over to and got a train out together. I left a day early so I could go with him. We went to Kansas City, and he had to leave out of there with an airplane. I went with a train. So he went in as a whole company. I didn't. I went in as an individual. So I asked the captain if I could join his company, and he said, "Oh no, you can't do that." So I went back to my old train, and I beat him to Fort Meade, Maryland because they got weather logged and couldn't get down there. But when he hit there, I found out he was there and I went and seen him. I'm the last

Dupree that seen my brother when he shipped overseas. But we weren't but about 50 miles apart when he got killed.

Joan: So you were both fighting in Europe.

Kenny: Yes. Fighting is no fun. It's bad. I always remember my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. The first time we crossed the German lines, I fixed bayonet on my 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. That's something that if you've ever done it, you'll always remember it all your life. After I got through, I threw that bayonet away so I'd never have to do it again. Now, I don't tell many people that I did it. You don't have to fix bayonets on your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday. We used to fight all day and at night two went out on guard at a time. Two hours on, and then you were supposed to sleep while he guarded. That gave you four hours outside. You're just fooling yourself if you ever get any sleep in those four hours. Then someone else would take over. It would get so that you can even hear a leaf blowing while you're out there watching. You're scared. I never will forget it.

Joan: And where are you at this time in Europe?

Kenny: I went in at Belgium and fought in Belgium and went into Germany. But when we started fighting in Germany, you never seen any people. They kept moving back. We went into Germany quite a ways before we seen people.

Joan: Were you close to...we interviewed Robert Stack, did you know him?

Kenny: I know Robert Stack.

Joan: Because he was in the Battle of the Bulge.

Kenny: I was in the Battle of the Bulge. I went through that. We paddled across the Rhine in rubber boats. We attacked them by hand. We got to Leipzig, Germany. Before that, we fought in the Ruhr Valley and we went around the German army and they collapsed. We made a ring around them, and they had to surrender 'cause they couldn't get out. At that time, all we seen was these synthetic gasoline plants; they were everywhere. They'd make gasoline out of weeds and everything else. But war is hell, I'll tell you. I had three rifles while I was over there. One rifle I laid aside when they was bombing us and shelling us. I laid it down beside of my leg, and when I picked that rifle up, it was all blowed to pieces. That protected my leg, and I didn't even know it. So I had to get another rifle. Then I had one of them shot on the barrel, bent the barrel.

Joan: That was a bit tight then.

Kenny: It was either my gun or me. It hit my gun. They tried to kill me over there! But I got a book at home I ought to let you read, but we were the first outfit to have a colored platoon in it. We attacked ack-ack guns (*anti-aircraft guns*) You know what ack-ack is? Ack-ack is what they shoot airplanes down with, but when they point it at you, it just a cloud of black smoke. When they explode, a million pieces of metal comes out at you. If you ever hear that whine, the whooooo. We attacked before we hit the Rhine. A boy from Nebraska that I went overseas with got blowed up with one of these ack-acks. But I had to make a run to contact another company, and they throwed that ack-ack guns at me. I was so scared I dropped down and took my shovel and just kept digging down. So finally, another guy come through and says, "Are you hurt?" And I says, "No, but I'm shell shocked." But we went over to the railroad track. I thought I could run, but I had an old sergeant, 50 years old, and he outrun me up there

through that ack-ack. You could hear them shooting point-blank. That night, the colored troops fought. They couldn't see 'em. They went hand to hand with them and attacked those troops and those ack-ack guns. That's before we hit Leipzig, Germany. But I was in Frankfort. Then I got yellow jaundice up in the front lines and went to the rear for a week. Where Hitler started, I got to see that town. Then they sent me back to the front.

Joan: Jaundice is caused by bad nutrition?

Kenny: No, water. Back there in Germany, you have a farmhouse. They go right out from the kitchen into where the milk cows is. They milk the cows and bring it in. Well, on farther around would be the feed house. Then out here 30 feet from the house would be the manure pile. And that manure pile would be as big as a haystack. Then they'd carry it off in the spring. They had the water right there. Well, we drank the water and that's where we got the yellow jaundice. They were filthy, but that's the way they did. Then overseas, I seen oxen hooked up plowing. Two cows, you never seen such a mess in your life. They would come right up to the edge of the road. That's how they farmed, right up to the edge of the road. But over there on the autobahns, we went through Frankfort, they had these autobahns. Then back in the hills they dug these big tunnels. Them planes would land on this autobahn and get in those tunnels and you couldn't get 'em. That's how they did it. Then I seen, when I was overseas, flame throwers. If you ever went through that once. It shoots flame out about half a block and burn you to death. I seen that. I tell you, we attacked three divisions before we hit the Rhine. You never seen so many troops, armored, in your life. They shot ack-ack at us. They shot German 88's at us. I don't tell many people all this.

Joan: Well, it is going to be on tape. Is that okay?

Kenny: Yes, that's all right. War don't cure nothing. You fight and you fight and what have you gained? You lose a lot of people. Gain a lot of experience. My thoughts towards the army? Every boy that's 18, when he gets out of school, should serve one year, but with the restriction that he's not to go to war. But everyone should serve one year and then come home. No 4F's or nothing, 4F's can get a job, but everyone should learn how to mind and do what they're told. That's a thought I've had all my life. It would stop all this silliness of boys that don't know how to work. When the war was over, we stayed up in Czechoslovakia, and we were the first unit selected to come back as a unit. That's why I didn't stay overseas very long because they sent us back for two weeks. We was supposed to hit Japan and train amphibious. When I was here on my furlough, the bells rang. Were you here when the bells rang?

Joan: Tell us what it was like.

Kenny: Oh mercy. I tell you, the shouting and whooping, you never seen nothing like it in your life. The church bells rang, the fire whistles rang. The war was over. I didn't have to go to Japan. That was the best time of my life.

Joan: What was it like in town? Did everybody come out?

Kenny: Oh, it was exciting. It was exciting.

Joan: And you were on furlough at the time.

Kenny: I was on furlough.

Joan: So did you have to go back to be mustered out somewhere?

Kenny: No, I went back to Camp Swift, Texas, then to Fort Lewis, Washington. That's where they kept me until they wanted to get rid of me.

Joan: Okay, let's go back a little bit. Your brother Arthur was killed. And you said he was about 50 miles away from you. When did you learn of that?

Kenny: Oh, about two weeks after he got killed.

Joan: We didn't have that on tape. Do you want to describe how your brother was killed?

Kenny: He was...they had a mortar. The German troops were coming up there, and they was going to fire at them. They (*Germans*) backed off. So this guy forgot to put his pin back in his mortar. He had the mortar bag and carried lots of mortars. All the guys got in, and this guy got in last. He just threw his mortar bag into the back end of the jeep. It went off and blowed my brother's arm and leg off. They say it wasn't in wartime. I don't know what they call it. A German didn't shoot him, but an American did.

Joan: Is he buried in Europe?

Kenny: No. He was buried in Europe, but they brought him home while I was still overseas. He's buried here in this cemetery. He was a good guy. He was a drayman for years and years. Do you know what a drayman was? Well, Santa Fe used to bring all the freight into this town. And they had a freight office down there and called it a drayman. He just went all over town with that freight. He delivered freight to everyone. He did it for years, six or eight years, before he went to the service.

Joan: You said he was married at the time. Did he family? Did he have children?

Kenny: He had a girl. (*Gayle*)

Joan: Now your other brother that went in with you...

Kenny: Now Arthur went with me. Elmer went in ahead of me.

Joan: Okay, where did he serve?

Kenny: Hawaii and the Philippines, all over in there.

Joan: Was he in the navy?

Kenny: No, he was army. But he was maintenance, he wasn't infantry. All they knew when I went in was infantry. And you didn't get much training then. You got 17 weeks' training in the army. They would train you on mortars and machine guns and rifles and all that and how to run fast and 20 mile hikes. We had 17 weeks of training and then came home. Then over we went.

Joan: Then his maintenance was on...

Kenny: Army trucks. Yes, he was with Leonard Carlson. They stayed together all that time. Three years and three months.

Joan: Okay, so during the war, you never got to come home.

Kenny: No. I was home when I came from overseas. That's when war was over.

Joan: So you were away from home for how long then, in Europe?

Kenny: In Europe, we was over there fighting for six months. Then they decided the second division would be the first one to train for an amphibious hitting Japan. We got to come home as a unit. Then after the war was over, the guys had to stay over there for two more years. We just lucked out. We went over then came back. But I went over on the *Louis Pasteur Ship*. It took us eight days to zig-zag back and forth to Europe because the subs was out there. But the *General Richardson (USS General W. P. Richardson)* was what we came home on.

Joan: Did you have any time off when you were in Europe?

Kenny: No. All these guys saying they went back to rest area. I don't know what they're talking about. We walked and fought. We fought 20 mile hand to hand, going over 20 miles. When we got through to where we were going, Patton came through us with all of his tanks. We were glad to see him, and he pushed about 100 miles.

Joan: So you were ahead of the tanks.

Kenny: We were ahead of the tanks, and when we broke through, here he come. He went on.

Joan: Did that make it a little better, after the tanks?

Kenny: Damn right. We were glad to see them; we waved every one of them. Yeah, I'll tell you.

Joan: Now, all during this time, you were basically just sleeping out...

Kenny: Oh yes, you slept out or anywhere you could find. But if it rained, we had ponchos. They went over your neck down. You put your rifle underneath so it wouldn't get wet. But, it didn't make no difference. You were in that foxhole. If it was wet, you stayed out there.

Joan: You were there in the wintertime, right?

Kenny: The winter was so cold you couldn't hardly stand it. Yes, I'll tell you, the biggest thing I ever remember about the wintertime. We had them OD's on. They was wool pants. And you had an army coat on and a poncho. You wouldn't get a bath for about two weeks. They pulled us up reserve on the front lines. They brought up a truck and sucked water out and heated it. You would go in for two or three minutes and take a bath. You'd dump all your clothes in this big old pile and then go take a bath. They'd bring an army truck up and just dump a load of army clothes. When you got out of there, you'd run and try to find what fit you. But I never will forget it. The hairs on my legs were white from all that sweat. It would shock you to even touch it. It was hard to get that off. I never will forget that. It was like dandruff on you legs.

Joan: And your food was K-rations?

Kenny: They brought K-rations up to us all the time. If we was stopped overnight somewhere, the

kitchen would try to bring us some warm food. But if you went up there with your mess kits and got it and made any noise, they mortared you. You can't make no noise. We even got our flu shots on the front lines. They must have hit a muscle because I couldn't move this left arm for three days. I ain't had a shot since WWII. I ain't took a flu shot since. I had enough of that. You know, I tell you. I could tell you more. I felt so sorry for...we had a captain named Goldstein. He was a Jew. He knew that if he got captured, he would be murdered. So he was ornery to prisoners. He made Major while I was there. I was coming through there and he said, "Soldier, you guard these prisoners." They kept bringing prisoners to me. I had 20 or 30 in there and guarded them all night long. They thought I got killed. He had authority over me, so I had to watch them all night long. They took me back to see my unit. We got raked with machine guns across the field. That was before we hit Leipzig.

Joan: What were the German prisoners like that you were guarding?

Kenny: There were a lot of really old ones and a lot of really young ones. But if they had an SS man with them, they would kill 'em if they didn't do what they told them, the SS. I've hit some of those SS, they're mean. You got to watch 'em; they'll kill you. They're mean. But when we hit Leipzig, we went out to the outskirts of Leipzig and there was a square building there, and it was dug clear around. So we chased Germans up the hill, and we got into their outpost. They had us zeroed in. That's where I lost this rifle that got shot out from under me with the stock. We got in this deal with a whole squad of men, and when we left there wasn't enough to carry the wounded away. There was two of us left out of a squad. When we went overseas, in Camp Fannin, Texas, they would pick ten men to go to Europe and then ten men to go to the Pacific. That's the way they did. So when you went home, you wouldn't know anyone that you trained with, didn't make a friendship. So I was almost the very last one. I didn't want to go to the Pacific, I went to Europe. That's how I did it. The same way when you loaded the ship. When you went and sailed, you went to the front line and the "repo-depo" is what they called it, the replacement depo. Well, if they sent down that the second division wants so many men, then so many men went to the second division. Then the second division would divide up so many regiments, three regiments. You'd get broke up again to go to regiment. Then you'd get broke up in the companies. So you didn't know anyone. I didn't have many friends.

Joan: Did you make friends with the guys then?

Kenny: You'd make friends, but you didn't keep them. No, I lost a lot of my friends. Two or three real good friends that, you just got hurt too much. I had one sergeant that got a piece of shrapnel in here and had to go clear to England to get it out.

Joan: He's pointing to his chin.

Kenny: Right in his chin. They sent us up on outpost duty to go out on guard duty and try to get German troops before we hit the Rhine. About eight of us went out. Our sergeant and lieutenant got murdered, got killed, by machine guns. We never got further, had to get out, couldn't make it. I never will forget that. And then, you'd get so many new people come in all the time.

Joan: I'm trying to think. You had your 19<sup>th</sup> birthday you described, so you are 19 or 20 years old.

Kenny: Right. When I come out I was 20. But this experience, I don't want none of my family to see what I seen. Keith (*Kenny's son*) did, he seen two tours in Vietnam. He seen a lot of it.

Joan: And you were in Europe after the war was over in Europe. You were still there.

Kenny: No. Yes. Part of the war. Not in Japan, half of the war was over when I was in Europe. But they shipped me here, and that's when the bells and all the stuff in town...

Joan: So that's when you...where were you after VE day, after the Victory in Europe. Where were you at that time?

Kenny: Czechoslovakia.

Joan: Czechoslovakia. Was there a celebration when you learned...

Kenny: No, they met with the Russian troops and had a big old drink affair. We went right up to the Russian troops.

Joan: Did you, were you able to see the concentration camps or any that?

Kenny: No, not where we was. I tell you what we did see, though. All the German farmers, they would have foreigners...Lithuanians, Estonians, and whoever they capture, they had to work on these farms. Men, women, or both, on every farm. But when we was pushing up in Germany, statues for religion lined the road. Oh, every four or five miles. I seen people dropping down. As we pushed forward, it released them off of these farms. They was coming back by the thousands. I always remember that. People dropped down on their knees and prayed. And I seen one woman had grease all over her little girl, about 14 years old, and a bag hanging down that stunk, you know. I asked why she had that, and the woman said if she didn't have that on there, the German troops would rape her. I seen kids come down with wheel barrows, I seen kids coming down with great big sacks on their backs, thousands and thousands.

Joan: They were trying to return home.

Kenny: Trying to return to the depots they lived in until they could get back home. That's the way they did that at the end of the war. As we fought forward, they were coming out of there. And I will never will forget it. I don't want none of my kids ever seen what I seen.

Joan: Now you said yours was the first unit that had a black division.

Kenny: Yes, I have a book at home that I ought to get and let you read. Then I want it back, but I should let you read it.

Joan: Did you have any association with those black troops, or were they separate?

Kenny: Not with our company, but the company right beside of us did. I knew they were there. They were good fighters. Good fighters. But that's when they first tried out colored in the infantry. No, we captured four or five thousand troops there in one campaign. I did have a slip showing how many trucks and infantry. Then too, there at the end of the war, I seen hundreds and hundreds of airplanes in the air going to strike Germany. I seen it twice. Boy, I was glad to see them because every thing they bombed we didn't have to win. Marburg, Germany, I come through Marburg, and it was nothing but a mess of twisted rails. No houses, they just bombed it clear to pieces. Like LeHavre, when we come off the ship at LeHavre, German troops there were cleaning brick. But you could still smell that, all the buildings was bombed out. They was saving every brick they could get.

Joan: I don't know if we said that on the tape, that may have been before. When you went over, you landed in England.

Kenny: Yes. We went from Liverpool to Southampton and up to London, then back down to Southampton and boarded a ship to LeHavre. Then we went in at Belgium and started fighting. But in Belgium, it was funny. Belgium women, when they cleaned porches, they had a mess of twigs they tied together, little tiny twigs made a broom. That's how they cleaned. But they seen horse manure on the pavement, they all ran to get it. That's what they used for fertilizer. They went crazy over it. They swept every bit of it up. They wanted it for the plants in the garden. They're big gardeners over there. Germany is a pretty country. It's real pretty. Belgium's not so pretty. Czechoslovakia's a real pretty country. But, I can tell you more, but I don't like to.

Joan: Well, you've told us an awful lot. When you came back, what did you start to do?

Kenny: I couldn't find a job anywhere. The government had a program, if you went to work for anyone out on the farm, they would pay half. So I went to work for Leo Craft. I made \$75 a month, and the army give me \$75 a month. Then after six months, he was supposed to increase me and the army'd decrease me. Well, he wasn't going to do it that way. He wasn't going to increase me, so I come to town. I spent about a month looking for work. A man promised me a job, and then he backed out on me after I quit. So, Lonny Winters helped me get on the county, and I worked for the county for ten years. Then, I quit the county and went to work for Burl Stevens for two years on the milk route. Do you remember Burl? Burl Stevens that had the milk route? He had an ice cream joint out here by me. He built that. Well, anyway, I worked for him two years. Then I went to work for Rex Strate. I worked for Rex Strate two years.

Joan: And that was on construction?

Kenny: On construction. So Ralph Baird and Rex (*Strate*) bought John Mix's sand pit out. So they knew I could pump sand; so I took that sand pit over. They made me manager, and they gave me so much money to run it. I run it for nine years. Then Harry Kerns was commissioner. He come out and asked me if I would come back to the county as a foreman. I said, "I like it here." So he left and come back one day at noon at my house and says, "What would it take to get you?" I says, "Well, Harry, you wouldn't want to pay me. I'll take \$640 and my Blue Cross and Blue Shield." He says, "I'll let you know."

That afternoon, he come and got me. He took me to the commissioners' room. L. E. Welch was still there, and Jack Miller, and him. He handed this to L.E. Welch and says this is what it takes to get Kenny. He handed it to Jack Miller and he said, "You're hard." So I took over the county, and I run it for 22 years after that.

Joan: Now, after you came back, how did your war experience affect your life and reintegrating into this?

Kenny: It didn't bother me. I just went right on and forgot about it. It didn't affect me. Close call, I lost my brother, and I hated that. But the experience don't hurt me, but I don't want no one else to have to go through it. But, you talk about experience. I been four years city commissioner and 32 years on the county, and then I've been county commissioner ten years. Or I will be this year. I've got two more years after this year to serve. So that's quite a few years.

Joan: A lot of public service there.

Kenny: Yes, 32 and ten and four. That would be 46 years.

Joan: I'm trying to think, and ... we haven't talked about your wife here. Did you know her before you went?

Kenny: Oh yes, I went with my wife two and a half years before I married her.

Joan: So, you corresponded during the war?

Kenny: Oh yes, about every day I could.

Joan: What was mail service like while you were in Europe?

Kenny: The mail service was pretty good. We could write home for nothing. But the thing of it is, if you had time, if you wasn't fighting. I got mail over there.

Joan: Did you get the mail regularly in bundles or what?

Kenny: It come in bundles that they distributed to you on the front lines. I got my mail regular. That didn't make it so bad.

Joan: What date did you get home? You got married in October 4, but when did you come back?

Kenny: The forth (*month*) and thirtieth (*day*). I went over on 8/7 of '44. Fourth and thirtieth and '46.

Joan: So April 30<sup>th</sup>.

Kenny: That pictures of my time in service.

Joan: Oh it is.

Kenny: Yes, I told Mildred that this morning.

Joan: What was Mildred doing while you were gone?

Kenny: She worked in Duckwalls. She worked in three different grocery stores, Harold Hearn's, Mammal's and Bob Weidenheimer's. Nine years in each one of them. And then she worked two years down here at the little old hamburger deal that was right across from where Standard...right across the corner there was a hamburger place there.

Rosetta Graff: Where the Spudnut shop was?

Kenny: No, well, I think there might have been the Spudnut there at one time, yes. Do you remember that house there by the bridge? Right there on the corner? Fat Lancaster...

Joan: By the highway...

Kenny: Where the Ford Filling Station was?

Rosetta: Yes, I remember that little place.

Kenny: Well, she worked in there two years. She worked all her life, with minimum wage, it didn't do no good.

Joan: So you came back in April and decided to get married.

Kenny: I was married before I come back. I come home on a three day pass and got married.

Joan: Okay, tell us about this then. You came home and ...

Kenny: I came home on a three day pass. The army said, "If you serve the lieutenants stuff for breakfast some time, we'll give you a three day pass." So I served them. I voluntarily served them and their wives on a weekend.

Joan: Where were you at this time?

Kenny: Camp Swift, Texas.

Joan: Which is about how far away?

Kenny: Oh mercy, 300 miles. But I come home with a guy from Dodge City. We caught a truck driver driving, and he drove relief for this truck driver clear to Dodge. I got a ride from Dodge to Kinsley.

Joan: Did you surprise her?

Kenny: Oh, she knew I was coming. But we got married in kind of five days there, with two days of a weekend and a three day pass. Then I had to go back.

Joan: Now this was before the tape, wasn't it? So where did you get married?

Kenny: Judge Anderson's office.

Joan: I think you told us this before we had the tape on. Did you have any honeymoon?

Kenny: No, didn't have time.

Joan: So where did you spend your wedding night?

Kenny: At her mother's. That's where I board and roomed ever since I was 15. I counted that as home more than home was. It was always home. Mrs. Winters was a nice lady. I always respected her. I rented from her, but when I came home, I went to her house like that was home. Been home ever since, until she passed away. She was the nicest lady, you remember. Nice lady. No, had a hard ole life. Paid all my bills, don't believe in debt. Everything I got's paid for. No one's ever knocked on my door for money. I don't believe in that. I've always paid my bills.

Joan: It's the way to live.

Kenny: Oh yeah. Need anything else?

Joan: Oh yes, we have a couple more questions here as we wind down now. How did the community respond to your family with your brother's death?

Kenny: They hated it. My brother was well liked here. All the business men, they was at his church for the funeral. But they hated it when he got killed. But I wasn't here when they had the funeral. My brother was; Elmer was here because he got discharged. He had enough points, but I was still overseas.

Joan: I would have thought you would have been racking up a lot of points too, with what you were doing.

Kenny: Yes.

Joan: We have a question here, sort of off the topic, but we're interested in it. We were trying to discover how at this time, around the Depression and WWII, the relationship of the minorities in town, blacks and Hispanics.

Kenny: We were hated on the north side of the tracks. We were called...

Joan: Not going to put that on the tape?

Kenny: No.

Joan: It wasn't nice.

Kenny: No, but now, we've got better homes on the north side. The farmers on the north side went to the north side school house. Then we had the south side. But we was all poor, I tell you.

Joan: So then the Hispanics were on the your side of town?

Kenny: They all lived out here on the 'Y'. All but the foreman. The foreman had a big old house out here by the 'Y'. You know what I'm talking about by the 'Y'. They had a great big concrete house and eight or ten families lived in them houses. That's where they lived.

Joan: Do you know what those houses were like? Were you ever in them?

Kenny: Well, sure I was. They were good houses. But that's where they stayed though. It wasn't like it is now. They couldn't move out into the town. But I went to school with a lot of them: the Amaro, the Chicons. They were good people, and I still respect them. I don't know if you remember Lucia Amaro? The Chicons?

Rosetta: I remember the Amaros and Chicons, but...

Kenny: Ray Amaro's sister, oldest sister.

Rosetta: I don't remember her, but I know the names.

Kenny: Yes, Pete Amaro was a nice fellow. He worked the railroad. That's about all they did, was the railroad. Now they work everywhere. But I didn't have no trouble with them. I went to school with them. Went to school with colored people. I grewed up with colored people. But, we weren't very well

liked on the north side of the tracks when I went to service. They had different names for us over there. We was poor white trash.

Joan: So the negroes lived on the north side then.

Kenny: Yes. This town never was equal. There was a name for us on the north side for a long time. Not so now. We've got the hospital over there, and the fire station, and the rest home. Thing's has changed. Don't think nothing about it now. But they did back then. I guess they weren't no poorer than we were, but I think they were a little uppity.

Joan: I know that the theater was segregated.

Kenny: Yes. Colored used to have to go upstairs.

Rosetta: And the swimming pool.

Kenny: Yes, and the swimming pool. They couldn't go in the swimming pool. The old swimming pool, I don't remember them even being allowed in the swimming pool when it was down here.

Graff: We were told that they did not.

Kenny: No, I don't think so. They had an old wooden shack along there, and I used to swim down there.

Joan: Yes. In the research I've done, all those black fellows, they went in the service and served. Did the war change anything when they came back, or did it take the civil rights movement?

Kenny: No, it took the civil rights movement. It took that. They still wasn't respected. I talked to a colored man overseas, and he was from the South. I stopped and talked to him. He thanked me for talking to him. I says, "Why do you thank me for?" He said, "You're the first white man that's had time to talk to me." He thanked me for talking to him.

No, I'll tell you, when they loaded us up in those old Ford N8's, that's how we went up to the front line. They got a deal about that big around, and that's what hooked them together. They called them Ford N8's. They wasn't very big. By the time they got them all slapped together, you knew it. It shook you up pretty good. Our first time we was up, we went in the forest. I never will forget it. They put us up in the hayloft. I thought it was our troops shooting at them all night long, but it was them shooting at us. First day of service, the next morning, stepping over guys covered up that got killed. Jeeps all turned upside down, tanks all shot up. That's what I seen when I first went there. It's scary. The trees, so many...88's hitting the trees that the forest just all bent down from hitting...the trees hitting them. Bad. Just bad.

Joan: How do you think the war had affected your life now that you're older and looking back? What effects did it have?

Kenny: It didn't have no effect on me.

Joan: Well, did the service, I know you didn't think it back then...

Kenny: The service brought me out from a 28" waist to a 30". I didn't weigh very much, that picture

you see in there, that was me. I weighed about 130 pounds. It didn't affect me none.

Joan: Did it affect how you conducted yourself after the war?

Kenny: Training is good for...that's why I say all 18's should go in for one year and be mandatory, but not where they can send them to war. I think Switzerland does that. That's a good thing. It teaches you how to take orders, how to get up, how to clean yourself and clean your barracks. It teaches a lot of things. You don't have to go through training for 17 weeks like I did; train for a year then come home and you'll be a better person. You'd see this world change. Until they do that, we're going to be in a mess because you can't hire right now, two out of ten will be good workers. The other eight wants to lie down and do nothing. Just get money coming in for nothing.

Joan: Sometimes in your generation, maybe it runs together, that the Depression definitely affected how you conducted yourself as far as your debt and things like that. And the hardship of war maybe added to that?

Kenny: It did. We made \$50 a month. Now, they probably make \$2,000.

Joan: Do you think some of your desire to be a civil servant to serve as a commissioner and that sort of thing, was that affected?

Kenny: No it didn't. I worked under a lot of good county commissioners and I'm kind of a Republican, but a Republican run that the people didn't want. So the Democrats come to me and asked me would I run. Well, I didn't want to run. But they said, "We'll see that you get on the board if you'll run." So I said, "All right." So they got 58 Democrats to sign up for me on election, and that's how I run. I don't know if I'm Democrat or Republican when it's done, when I'm voting, because they voted for me. Democrats and Republicans voted for me when I first run. So I run ever since. But being a commissioner, I don't mind it, 'cause I went through a lot of commissioners. And we've had a lot of good ones, and we had some of them that wasn't too good. But I learned from them. And it's easy. It don't bother me. This'll be my last term.

Joan: Okay, how about the county, or Kinsley. How did the war affect the town? What were the changes that you saw, good or bad?

Kenny: Well, we went from 2,800 population down to what we are now. They moved away.

Joan: Why did they move away?

Kenny: There were no jobs here when the men came back. They left, just like they are now. If we don't get some jobs here, they're going to leave to find them. No, we used to be 2,800 population. When I grew up, we have about 14 or 15 service stations. You could go down and get a job at a service station. We had about five car dealerships here in town. And then, when I grew up, to earn money, if I didn't make enough on the county, I only made about \$160 a month when I first started on the county, we went out and shock feed on weekends. We had a regular shocking crew that would shock feed or bale. But now you can't do that. They got round bales. They don't shock feed no more, so the kids ain't got nothing to do. And the mechanics moved away and the dealerships. We lost everything, and there's nothing for the people to do. It looks to me like the times has changed in Kinsley to where you're going to have to go to school and find yourself a trade. You're going to either be a school teacher or you're going to be a barber or you're going to be something that you trained for

that you can make a living at. That's the only way I see that you're going to do it now. I might be wrong, but that's the way I see it.

Joan: Now were you involved with the start-up of the VFW and....

Kenny: Yes.

Joan: That started up right after the war?

Kenny: Yes, I didn't tell you about the VFW. I took care of that memorial out there. Me and my boy did most it. Rusty Strate donated all that concrete but one little phase of it. His brother, right where that memorial set coming out, he paid for that cement underneath there. Rusty Strate paid for all the rest of it. Donated it in honor of his dad, for service. He even come out there and helped us work. I took care of that memorial ten years, I probably...I resigned from it, but we can't get enough volunteers. I'm not going to let it go. Me and my boy'll go out there and plant flowers and probably water it. That's quite an honor to be out there for the servicemen. What we did, we didn't say that you had to be a combat engineer overseas, what we said was if you wore a uniform, we honored you. We don't care if you were National Guard or whatever you are, we honored you. Even Marty Strate, who was a nurse in the army, took army training, so we honored that. There was eight or ten nurses out there that took army training. Anyone that had a uniform on, we honored them. Outside, we can get by with that. Inside, you can't. You have to have been in combat overseas to be inside the building.

Joan: What role did VFW play with the guys? Was it a gathering place?

Kenny: Yes, we met. At one time, there would be over a hundred people meet. But, they've lost the respect. It don't mean what it used to mean. We lost the older ones, and we're still losing them. We lost two of them, Buck (*Gerald*) Belcher used to be an active man out there. We lost a lot of them.

Joan: So the younger men, the Vietnam, the Desert Storm or...

Kenny: The Desert Storm on, they don't seem like they're interested to join anything. I don't know why. They had an awful time in Desert Storm. All these boys fighting now had an awful bad time. But I don't know. They don't take an interest in the VFW. I don't know why. All of us old ones ain't going to last much longer.

Joan: Why was the VFW important to you? Why did you take an interest?

Kenny: Because that honored me for being overseas on my overseas duty. In fact, I never did join the Legion. The Legion is for inside the continental United States. But the VFW means you left the continental United States and was in a war zone. So, I chose the VFW. 'Cause that's what I was. And I've been active 60 years in it.

Joan: Rosetta, do you have anything locally to ask?

Kenny: We wore your tape out.

Rosetta: You talked about Burl Stevens milk route. And they built that little Dine Quick; that was Burl Stevens that built that. Well, there used to be a Stevens Dairy? That's who that was?

Kenny: Yes, south of town. Out there from Jack Miller's a mile east.

Rosetta: Shirley Stevens was my age, but I didn't know her mother or father's name.

Kenny: Gladys was her mother.

Rosetta: Okay, I got that. Now, didn't your mother-in-law have kind of a care home in her house? Didn't she care for older people.

Kenny: Yes, Mrs. Winters did.

Rosetta: That's what I thought.

Kenny: She had Mrs. Wade and my mother at one time, both of them at the same time.

Rosetta: This has been an ongoing discussion, that we haven't got settled yet. You know where Lafferty's used to have their cleaning shop, what was next to Lafferty's?

Kenny: To the north?

Rosetta: Yes.

Kenny: There was an old...well, the Bivouac was there, the old Bivouac. Turner's building was right south of that. Turner, the old Turner...I tore it down when I worked for Strate.

Rosetta: The was Lafferty's, going north...

Kenny: Yes, then Turner, from Lafferty's north.

Rosetta: Then where was the Bivouac?

Kenny: North of Turners. Remember Charlie Hesam? Back of this old Turner building, he was building a skating rink, but he never did get it finished. I tore it all down.

Rosetta: Okay, so there was Lafferty's, Turners, the Bivouac...

Kenny: And the John Deere Implement Company was kind of on that corner, that old tin building, and that's as far as you can go there.

Rosetta: Okay.

Kenny: You can remember that John Deere deal that sat there?

Rosetta: Yes. But I can't remember Turners and I can't remember the old Bivouac.

Kenny: The old Bivouac was a white building that sat right north of Turners. I got pictures that I could show you. I got pictures of the old skating rink that Charlie Hesam was building back of that Turner building.

Rosetta: Okay, do you have any other pictures of downtown? Or of any other businesses?

Kenny: Not no more than you got. Them ones that hangs out to the VFW, them's the oldest I can get, and you got pictures of all them.

Rosetta: Okay, but we don't have much on Colony. We don't have any pictures of Colony Avenue. We don't have a picture of the old Bivouac, well kind of maybe, just barely. And on the other side...

Kenny: See, when I tore down that old Bivouac, they built the one across the street, where it's at now. The bank bought that beer joint, which was the Bivouac, and the Turner building when they put the bank in there. Then they had to go across the street and build that beer joint. That's why that's built over there.

Rosetta: I remember Ross Motors on the other side of Colony.

Kenny: The Wimberly Building was north of Homer Ross' building. That's the first one in the alley, Wimberley. They used to sell apples and oranges and potatoes and stuff. That's what Wimberlys did there.

Rosetta: So they had a grocery store?

Kenny: No, they just had a place with produce there. And that was right there from the alley to the south. Then you started in the Homer Ross Building.

Rosetta: And then what was next? Ross had two buildings, didn't he?

Kenny: Yes, he had two buildings. His mechanics was in the back, but he sold cars in the other two. Old Plymouths.

Rosetta: And then, before the Bivouac, what was there?

Kenny: I don't remember nothing there. All I remember was the old two storey building that was set there...

Rosetta: The Flohr Opera House was what we called it, so was there a gap there?

Kenny: There was a kind of a gap there.

Rosetta: And Flohr Opera House, and across the street going south, there used to be...

Kenny: A big old mechanic shop. A Chevrolet mechanic shop. They sold cars there. Lloyd Britton run it for years.

Rosetta: That was behind Flohr's Opera House, right?

Kenny: To the south of the opera house. (*D. D. Baxter owned Opera House at this time Kenny.*)

Joan: What we called the Weyrich Building?

Kenny: Yes. The old Weyrich Building.

Rosetta: That was Britton?

Kenny: Yes. Britton had a mechanic shop in there.

Rosetta: Okay, and then still going south, there used to be a hatchery. There maybe a hatchery of some kind?

Kenny: In that same block? The Harris's had a...

Rosetta: No, no. We're on the wrong block.

Kenny: The Harris's had the one on the highway, but before they started the highway, they were somewhere, but I can't tell you exactly where they was at. There was two or three buildings back of that old opera house that going east, up to the Chevrolet garage.

Joan: Can I stop this for a minute? What I was wondering was if you would give him a picture and let him write it down, get the street name.

Audio ends here.