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INTERVIEW OF
HANS AND LISA STEFFINS

October 31, 1974

ORAL HISTORY PROJECT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF DELAWARE

GEORGE K. VAPAA, NARRATOR
All right. It's the 31st of October 1974 in the middle of the afternoon. And ah, we're in a home half way I guess or a little bit better from Camden to ah, Rising Sun. Is this right?

H. Steffins: That's right.

Vapaa: And your name please?


Vapaa: And your mailing address?

H. Steffins: 140--Box 149, Route 2, Camden.

Vapaa: Route 2, Camden. And your telephone number, Hans?

H. Steffins: 697-7274

Vapaa: All right. And your wife's name?

L. Steffins: Lisa Steffins.

Vapaa: And ah--

L. Steffins: I was born in Germany.

Vapaa: All right. What else can you tell us about your early life?

L. Steffins: We ah, we both come from the same village.

Vapaa: Now we want to know the name of the village.

L. Steffins: Er, ah, Basbeck.

Vapaa: Basbeck. How do you spell it?

L. Steffins: B-a-s-b-e-c-k.

Vapaa: I see. And where is that exactly in Germany?

L. Steffins: What is now in the English Zone. And eh--

Vapaa: Go ahead, Hans, where is it? Do you think?

H. Steffins: Well eh, it's in the former province of Hanover.
Vapaa: Hanover.
H.Steffins: Yeah.
Vapaa: Yes. Well, I've been in Hanover. Yeah. So I--
H.Steffins: Eh, near the North Sea.
Vapaa: North Sea.
H.Steffins: Yeah.
Vapaa: Yes.
Vapaa: On the River Elbe.
H.Steffins: Yeah.
Vapaa: E-l-b-e?
H.Steffins: Yeah.
Vapaa: Right. I have to spell some of this for our secretary, Hans, so--
H.Steffins: Yeah.
Vapaa: ...that's the reason we have to do it this way. Now ah, I want to know when and exactly where you were born and something about your parents.
H.Steffins: Well of course, they are all born over in Germany--our parents. And--
Vapaa: The same town?
H.Steffins: No. I wouldn't know. I only think my father was born the same town I was born--that's Osten.
Vapaa: How do you spell Osten?
H.Steffins: O-s-t-e-n.
Vapaa: Right.
H. Steffins: And that's about the same we as Camden-Wyoming here.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: Is--we have the same station--railroad station as Aspeckosten.

Vapaa: Aspeckosten.

H. Steffins: Umm.

Vapaa: Um-hum. I see. And ah, when were you born?


Vapaa: July 10th, 1902. So you are how old now?

H. Steffins: Is hard to figure, isn't it? (laughter)

Vapaa: No, not too bad.

H. Steffins: 74.

Vapaa: 74.

H. Steffins: No, 72.

L. Steffins: No (voice overlap, unintelligible)

Vapaa: 72 years old. Yes. Let's not make you any older than you are.

H. Steffins: All right. All right.

Vapaa: All right. And ah, your wife said she didn't mind telling her age, so let's get the information from her.

L. Steffins: I am 62.

Vapaa: Yes. And your maiden name was what?

L. Steffins: Lisa Feindt. F-e-i-n-d-t.

Vapaa: Feindt. And your mother and father's name?

L. Steffins: Yah. Course they was Feindt too. Johan Jakob Feindt and Johanna Geboren.

Vapaa: Geboren. That was her maiden name?

L. Steffins: Yes.
H. Steffins: Yeh.
Vapaa: I see. And Born is spelled B-o-r-n?
L. Steffins: Eh, Geboren in German.
Vapaa: Geboren.
Vapaa: Geboren. How would you spell it?
L. Steffins: G-e-b-o-r-e-n.
Vapaa: I see. And, Hans, your parents' full name? Do you remember that?
H. Steffins: Johannus Steffins.
Vapaa: Johannus. Did he have a middle name?
H. Steffins: I don't remember.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: I don't think so.
Vapaa: Um-hum. And your mother's maiden name?
H. Steffins: My mother's maiden name--
Vapaa: Or given name.
H. Steffins: Maiden name was Bertha von Essen.
Vapaa: von Essen.
H. Steffins: von Essen, yah.
Vapaa: Yes. B-e-r-t-a.
H. Steffins: Well, B-e-r-t-h-a I think she spelled it. I'd--I've forgotten.
Vapaa: I see. But you pronounce it Berta.
L. Steffins: Ber-ta.
Vapaa: Ber-ta.
L. Steffins: Ber-ta
Vapaa: Ber-ta. Right. OK. I have an awful time with these European names even though mine is European too.
L. Steffins: Yah.
H. Steffins: Yah, but yours is Finnish.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And that's so entirely different.
Vapaa: Yes. But you pronounce it—you pronounce it correctly. Most people don't pronounce my name correctly, Hans. You do.
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: You know I—even I mispronounce my name. And I better introduce myself now—George Vapaa.
H. Steffins: Um-hum.
Vapaa: And ah, in English, Hans, my name means Free—Vapaa.
Vapaa: You see it on the tops of all taxi cabs—
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...but—
H. Steffins: It's hard for us to do.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: Especially for me.
Vapaa: It is?
H. Steffins: Yeh.
Vapaa: Why hard for you?
H. Steffins: No. I mean eh, w-t-h and all these sounds.
Vapaa: Oh.
H. Steffins: I mean it's hard for--I mean so many Germans make terrible mistakes. And even--I mean I--. You remember Rootens--. What was his name? Wasn't his name Latvian--Rootens.

Vapaa: Rootens.


Vapaa: No. No, I don't remember.

H. Steffins: He was at the State Highway. I mean he was a smart cookie. Is that all going on there?

Vapaa: Oh, yes. It's recording.

L. Steffins: Unintelligible)

H. Steffins: And--

Vapaa: We're picking it all up.

H. Steffins: And he couldn't pronounce the t-h at all. And he had college and university degrees and all that. But so many Germans are sad.

Vapaa: Well, you know about a month ago we had a German professor in here in--the Kent County. And he wanted to--he was from somewhere near the ah, Ruhr.

H. Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: You know, the industrial part of Germany. And he wanted to see what our Pennsylvania Dutch talk like.

H. Steffins: Umm.

Vapaa: And to find out if their ah, language was very much like his own. He had heard that it was. And the first thing he found out was that our Pen--our Amishmen are not Pennsylvania Dutch. They
H. Steffins: They didn't come from Pennsylvania. Most of them came from other places like ah, Iowa, Indiana.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: But they did speak a language that he could understand and they could understand in German. They talked back and forth in German. And you know the Penns--I mean the Amish don't like to tape record.

H. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: And ah, they don't like anything modern.

H. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: So we didn't have too much trouble though. The only trouble we had was his recorder wouldn't work so we had to go and use mine.

H. Steffins: (laughter) And ah, I have another recorder besides this one that works by batteries. Now this one is working off you ah--your high lines. But it is recording. And it's recording very well. So ah, we'll ah, not worry too much about it.

H. Steffins: I have to admit, I have an awful hard time eh, speaking. I mean I can read and write. I could write it better than I could speak it.

Vapaa: In German?

H. Steffins: Wha--

Vapaa: In Germany?

Vapaa: When did you come here?
H. Steffins: 1924.
Vapaa: And where did you come?
H. Steffins: Missouri. Little town in Missouri.
Vapaa: Yes. Where you from a farm in Germany?
H. Steffins: No. No, my father had insurance. But I grew up in Germany and I was--left school. I even wasn't 14 years old. Ah, my der schooling (?). But about 1916--that was during the--the war--
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And there was nothing to eat at home either. So I went on a farm. And I've been working on farms since.
Vapaa: Have you liked the farms, Hans?
H. Steffins: Oh, yes. It's my life.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: If I didn't--didn't like it, I never would have made it here.
Vapaa: I see. Now, where were you in Missouri--in--nearest town?
H. Steffins: Well, the mailing address was Waverly, Missouri.
Vapaa: Waverly.
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: I see. And everybody knew everybody else I guess in--
H. Steffins: Yah, I would say so. But our mailing address--but when we went to town we went either to Blackburn or Alma on Saturday afternoons.
Vapaa: Yes. Armour?
Vapaa: A-l-m-a
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Yes. In Missouri.
H. Steffins: Yes.

Vapaa: Well, if you can think of anything now--. Did you come to-- Mrs. Steffins--did you come to ah, America with Hans?
L. Steffins: Eh, no, no. He should go on with his life here in the United States. He has be--so many things here.
Vapaa: OK, but I--
H. Steffins: (voice overlap, unintelligible)
L. Steffins: I'm from Missouri.
H. Steffins: Eh, ah, I came back--I only stayed there 14 months. I came in October--just was Columbus Day (unintelligible) This way we arrive (unintelligible) eh, Friday night. Didn't get off on-- on eh, Saturday because they didn't work. Eh, I came over Ellis Island still.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And then on Sunday was Columbus Day which celebrate Columbus Day on Monday so we came off on Tuesday.
Vapaa: I see.
H. Steffins: We have been on the boat until Tuesday for 3 days.
Vapaa: Un-hun. Well, and you rode a train I guess from--
H. Steffins: Oh, yah. From El--oh--
Vapaa: ...from New York to--
H. Steffins: From New York--
Vapaa: ...to Missouri.
H. Steffins: Of course, I don't know--. We were herded along. I mean we all
up in-- (unintelligible) ...coat. And we were stuck in a train. And so was regular train not a cattle. (laugh)

L. Steffins: But then after Missouri--

H. Steffins: After Missouri I came East again properly worked for few months in a bakery. But night I was cleaning dishes. Not this was all the pots and pans they used in the bakery.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: Was a German baker.

Vapaa: Where was this bakery?

H. Steffins: In Brooklyn.

Vapaa: In Brooklyn, New York.

H. Steffins: Yah. Yah. Yah. I never liked inside work so I went on a farm. In around New York there are so many private estates. I mean we all made a little bit more money than on regular farms. I went to Mamaroneck. You know where that is?

Vapaa: Mamaroneck.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: I've heard of it. It's out on Long Island isn't it?

H. Steffins: Yah. But--and the farm was located between Mamaroneck and Whi--White Plains.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And we--I made $50 a month there. $50 a month and board.

Vapaa: And board.


Vapaa: And you still weren't married?
H. Steffins: I still—oh, no, no, no.

Vapaa: OK

H. Steffins: (unintelligible) There was now in—eh, when I quit there, I went to Long Island.

L. Steffins: (to faint, unintelligible)

H. Steffins: In—on an estate.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And one estate was a—a dulls (?). I didn't like it there so I only stayed there a few weeks. And I got in contact with a neighbor here, Kodger, a German. And he like to have some more man there. So I went over there and was J.W. Harriman estate.

Vapaa: The politician?

H. Steffins: (cleared throat) No. He had a bank on Fifth Avenue.

Vapaa: Oh.

H. Steffins: But he was, if I remember right, he was n—later on he was put into Sing Sing, that was during the depression.

Vapaa: Oh.

H. Steffins: That's what I heard. But ah, I have a friend I have been staying with in Brooklyn and he was a mason helper. And they made a lot of money. Ah, for that time they got $1.12 and half cents an hour. So I went over to him again and I worked as a mason helper—hod carrier.

Vapaa: Umm.

H. Steffins: And ah, mit $9 a day, but then they—depression came and I had only 1 or 2—2 days a week. So I quit (unintelligible) And found a job on an estate in Ossining. Shilmark Farm they call it.
Vapaa: Shermrock?
H.Steffins: Shilmark.
Vapaa: Shelmark?
Vapaa: Un-hun.
H.Steffins: S-h-i-l-
Vapaa: m-a-r-k.
H.Steffins: Yah. And was a beautiful place. Imagine was way on top of a hill there and Ossining I think it's somewhere around 30 miles. But at that time they were either building the George Washington Bridge--but it was about. But on clear days we could see all the way down the river to the George Washington Bridge.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: On clear days. Beautiful. But there I have been (phone rings) (coughs) 4 of us in the--either 30--29, 30, I don't--forgot when I started there. But there I have been until 1940. But in--in '31 I got married to a Norweigen girl and was in the wintertime in January. In November we went over to Europe. And then she have to stay there because she have TB and (unintelligible).
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H.Steffins: And within a year I went 3 times to Europe. Ah, first off I go for the main visit and then the short years I was there (unintelligible) and she stayed over there.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And she—then her brother-in-law send me a telegram that—that was seri—serious at that time. She was in coma in the hospital. I stayed for about 2—2 weeks with her in Copenhagen and then I went back again. I had—I had to keep my job. But then in August she died. Well, I sat tight for—. I was still on the same place in Ossining. I sat tight—saved a little bit of money. 1936 it was, wasn't it, Mama?

L. Steffins: I think—

H. Steffins: I went to in—in '37—

L. Steffins: (Unintelligible)

H. Steffins: ...in the wintertime—in wintertime I went to Germany and then we got married over there.

Vapaa: I see. Eh, was it that simple ah, Mrs. Steffins?

L. Steffins: Yah, we—we knew each other well. And it was his last chance, he wanted to come to America again, but he wanted to take a wife along. And ah, it just happened that way. And ah, so we got married there and—

Vapaa: 1936. Do you remember that—

L. Steffins: '37

Vapaa: '37. Do you remember the exact date?

L. Steffins: Yah. Well, we got engaged. That was February 14th. True. But yes! (laughter) That was on a masquerade ball.

Vapaa: Oh.

L. Steffins: And ah, we got the (unintelligible)

Vapaa: 1937?
'37.
Yes.
So we got married April the 5th. I got married April the 5th (laughter) and she got married April the 8th.
How do you explain that?
Yes!
Oh, that's easy.
Come on.
Legally only was only those in front of the Mayor of the town who's a (unintelligible) legally. So that's what we done as soon as I had all the papers assembled.
He needed so many papers still was under Hitler.
Papers. Still it was Hitler.
(voice overlap - unintelligible)
And I bet you they want to use me as a spy. They want to find out whether they could use me as a spy--a spy or something because I Needed all kinds of papers--what I was doing and how much money I had and all that. And they--they sheriff studying the (unintelligible) on the 8th.
On the 8th.
Now I got married on the 5th and she got married on the 8th.
How do you figure you got married on the 5th and she got married on the 8th? (laughter) What happened on the 5th? (laughter)
Nothing.
(clearing throat) We don't--we don't speak about it. (laughter)
L.Steffins: Oh, and then we arrived here in the United States I think May thir--13th.

H.Steffins: Yup.

L.Steffins: We landed.

Vapaa: So you--you sailed as soon as you were married. Is that right?

L.Steffins: Yah, couple of weeks later. Four--4 weeks so or later then we sailed then--arrived in New York. Eh, then we stayed in Ossining I think 3 years. That's where Ruth was born and in between I had the paralysis.

Vapaa: Now Ruth is your daughter?

L.Steffins: The oldest daughter.

Vapaa: Oldest daughter. Yes. All right. Now tell us a little bit more about your family too.

L.Steffins: In Germany?

Vapaa: Or here.

L.Steffins: Or here?

Vapaa: Both places.

H.Steffins: You better tell about your sickness.

L.Steffins: Yah. I came in May and in September I had a stroke. I was paralyzed eh, the eh, right side. Of course, it was very dif-ficult at first. In January--the following January the child was born--the first child.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

L.Steffins: And it was really a struggle because I could not walk so much. And eh, it was all new--the language. Of course, I had Ger--eh,
English in Germany. But if you don't speak it 15 years you forget a lot.

Vapaa: Yes.

L.Steffins: But it was then easier for me to get into the language again.

Vapaa: Now, let's stop on this point of language because you made a point, Hans, in the beginning that your father was a teacher. Was that right?

H.Steffins: No, no.

L.Steffins: My father.

Vapaa: Your father was a teacher.

H.Steffins: Yah.

L.Steffins: Just a country teacher.

Vapaa: Country teacher.

L.Steffins: Yah. (unintelligible)

H.Steffins: Well, country--

Vapaa: But he taught the language? Who taught you English?

L.Steffins: No, no. That--

H.Steffins: She went to high school.

L.Steffins: I went to high school.

Vapaa: Oh.

L.Steffins: Lycee what they call it. Eh, lycee in a larger city next to our village.

Vapaa: I see.

L.Steffins: (unintelligible)

Vapaa: Um-hum. Was that--
L. Steffins: Eh, after Ruth was born--. We stayed 3 years I think in Ossining and then we came here to Delaware.

H. Steffins: Yah. But there's a reason for it. I mean ah, Ossining, I like the place where I worked. And I think I was well liked too. It isn't—it isn't that point. But even before I started there in '30 whenever it was, the old gentlemen have died already and it was left to the children. Of course, you know how it is. I mean they have to pay an awful tax.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And none of the children could keep it up from the (unintelligible) that was left. So it declined. Every year less and less money was spent on the place. And eh, finally I was making $21 and 75¢ and I paid $40 rent in town.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Still running? (tape)

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: I pay $40 rent in town. And that's why I knew that I would ah, be all right as a farmer. But of course, with my 2 best girls— I mean first wife and the second wife, I mean, I—. And at that time we didn't have any Blue Cross and so on. It all came out of my pocket. I don't say the first wife—I mean, when the trips I made were costly too. At that time when I went to Germany or in Europe—Norway, Denmark and so on. And—now I forget what I want to say. So we didn't have—she didn't have any money when we came here. We didn't have any furniture. I didn't have a car.
And lucky enough Leslie Gooden drove me around a lot—lot.

And he took me along to Rotary Meeting once.

Vapaa: Yes. In Dover.

H. Steffins: (cough) Here in Dover. Yah.

Vapaa: Yes. Leslie Gooden we better say was the ah, real estate man.

H. Steffins: Yah. At that time. And I met Bill Richter there.


H. Steffins: Bill Richter. And he says, now we have—. I have left this

Ossining already because I have made a bound payment on a farm

in Westchester. And then I came down there and the farm—or the

owner couldn't give me possession. He couldn't get off the

tenant. And took me an awful while to get that money back.

And I was pinched for money because my wife was living with

friends in—in Brooklyn. And then I was offered again to ac-
cept him—Bill Richter's offer, 15¢ an hour. Was 1940.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: 15¢ an hour. And—eh, eh, but when the fruit was gone I was laid

off too.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Now remember, I mean, as I said we bought some furniture—kitchen

furniture and we bought a bed and so on and I didn't have a car.

When I went to town I always have to walk. You know where Dover

Fruit Farm is?

Vapaa: Yes. (cough)

H. Steffins: I went to town to the employment agency. And then I got a job
with the--when the Wyoming--when they cut off that street where that bridge was build there. You know the road you used to go around the mill?

Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: You remember?
Vapaa: Wyoming Mill.
H.Steffins: Wyoming Mill.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: I walked it--from Dover Fruit Farm to Wyoming Mill. I walked it.
Vapaa: That's about 5 miles.
H.Steffins: That's just exactly 5 miles. Well, after awhile well, one morning I was a little bit early than usual when I went out. It's still dark, of course. And I met a milkman--eh, ay--a milk farmer. He brought his milk to Frear's Dairy. Now, I tried to be out there every morning at that time and he always took me along into town. So that saved me quite a few steps. And --

Vapaa: Shoe leather.
H.Steffins: Eh?
Vapaa: And shoe leather.

H.Steffins: Yah. (laugh) And then later on I--this Chase plus together with Darby--. Wasn't his name Darby on Wyoming Mill? Darby?
Vapaa: I really don't know. (voice overlap, unintelligible)
H.Steffins: Yah, I think his name was Darby.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: He--he--ah--
Vapaa: b-y.
H.Steffins: (unintelligible)
Vapaa: Chase and Darby.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Un-hun.
H.Steffins: Which ah--and Chase was living near Betty's Lunch. (Roadside Restaurant)
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: And when they go to work I could get a ride with them.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: But it always was an hour early. They started at 7 o'clock in Wyoming Mill and my work started at 8 o'clock. And I had several times--started raining and we couldn't do anything outside. And ah, I have to walk home again. Very seldom I got a ride back. And it often was in the rain. I often got soaked.
Vapaa: Right. Now, where were you living then?
H.Steffins: Back at the Dover Fruit Farms.
Vapaa: At the Dover Fruit Farms.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Right on the farm?
H.Steffins: Right on the farm with the old gentlemen--John Richter.
Vapaa: With John.
H.Steffins: You remember him?
Vapaa: No, I remember Bill, Sr.
H.Steffins: Well, I mean was the father of Bill, Sr.
Vapaa: Sr. Oh, Bill, Sr.'s father.
L & H Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: 'Cause he's gone too. He's been gone a number of years.

H. Steffins: Oh, yah. We always stayed friends--

Vapaa: Umm.

H. Steffins: ...friends. And then of course, I didn't have any money. And then (laugh) I bought this farm and I'm awfully glad--awfully thankful that I did it.

Vapaa: Now, you're talking about the farm where we are right now?

H. Steffins: Right now.

Vapaa: Right. OK.

H. Steffins: I'm awfully thankful that we did it.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: It was awfully tough. I only want to put (unintelligible) Then I moved in--in the old house. I have to put in that we moved in on a Sunday. Of course, and then 10 window panes are broken just in the lower stories.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: We paper them up--paper and burlap and so on--closed up the holes.

L. Steffins: We (voice overlap, unintelligible)

Vapaa: Now this was on the north side of the road where we are now?

H. Steffins: Yah, Yah.

Vapaa: And the house is not--is not standing anymore.

H. Steffins: No, it is not standing anymore.

Vapaa: No. OK.

H. Steffins: It's down the war (?)

Vapaa: Yes, well I remember--I remember it very well, Hans.
H. Steffins: And ah,--
L. Steffins: Was the 5th of January--the coldest day of the year that time.
I remember that.
H. Steffins: 5th of January.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: Yah, and then I--. We was so poor we found 1 chicken. I think
it was a-one of these larger gray ones. Is that a Plymouth
Rock?
Vapaa: Plymouth Rock.
L. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Yeah, hard (♀) rock.
H. Steffins: Hard Rock (♂). On that farm the chicken began to lay an egg. My
wife cried because she have an egg for her (unintelligible).
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: That's how poor we were.
Vapaa: Un-hun.
H. Steffins: So, I never forget that.
L. Steffins: So later we had a cow. We had our milk--
H. Steffins: Yah.
L. Steffins: ...and made our own butter and cheese.
H. Steffins: We made our own butter and--
Vapaa: So your (unintelligible)
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: I see.
H. Steffins: So then the chicken eh, laid eggs--hid eggs. They own an old
packing house.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And she was clucking—I mean brooding.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And then I say if you watch her where she is going. And then I traded eggs—of course, there wasn't a rooster there—I traded eggs with a neighbor. And they were black people. Wonderful neighbors.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And the following summer or in the summertime we have already--we have 7 chickens. We were rich. At times we had 7 eggs a day. We were rich we thought.

Vapaa: How did you get this farm in the first place, Hans?


Vapaa: Through Leslie Gooden.

H. Steffins: I have seen so many farms. You always remember. I didn't have any—very little money.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: $800 when we came down eh, here. We bought some furniture. I bought a team of horses. I bought a cow. I bought feed for everything. I had to feed the animals—all have to be done. We moved on the 5th of January.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And ah, that $800 paid part—$500 down on the farm.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And then the (unintelligible) nothing grew here. You see it was a half in the fruit farm—
Vapaa: Right.

H.Steffins: ...originally. And the property have been about 50 acres in fruit. And all the stumps still was sitting there. The wood was all gone. But all the tree holes was grown up in sassafras and wild cherry, and so on. And I pulled it out all by hand--with the team and by hand. I didn't have a bulldozer.

Vapaa: Un-hun.

H.Steffins: And then the first year I probably eh, 10 - 15 bushels of corn to an acre.

Vapaa: Un-hum.

H.Steffins: Because corn never got higher than a foot.

Vapaa: Yeah.

H.Steffins: Most places.

Vapaa: Right, you didn't use any fertilizer?

H.Steffins: Well, I didn't ha--well, I use some on ah, on the tomatoes. Our first year I put 2 acres of tomatoes in with Libbys.

Vapaa: With Libby.

H.Steffins: Yah. But I spread the fertilizer by hand.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H.Steffins: I mean I didn't have a machine for it. It was--the most fortunate thing was I was in a location that you could get a lot of chicken manure.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H.Steffins: And I--all the chicken manure there was with team of horses then still when it was 10 - 20 degrees outside as well as 80 or 90 degrees outside.

Vapaa: So you would say that chicken manure really helped build this farm.
H. Steffins: Chicken manure build my farm.

Vapaa: I see. Well, you know we have said this many times, Hans, eh, particularly to our corn farmers in Sussex County--

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: ...because of the broiler business. We've been real lucky that the broilers have come to Delaware and we've been able to grow corn and soybeans to feed--provide feed for them. And we're just about out of tape, so I going to let the thing run out. And then we'll turn it over and play on the other side.

L. Steffins: Oh, Unintelligible)

Vapaa: Oh, we've got lots of time left.

L. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: Oh, yes.

H. Steffins: Yes, you could need more.

Vapaa: Oh, yes.

L. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: Oh, yes. I don't know how much time is left on here. Maybe 15--20 seconds. I'm going to let the thing run out. All the way out and then ah, we'll ah, we'll turn it over. And ah, it's working. The machine seems to be working very well though. Do you want to hear a little bit about what we're saying?

L. Steffins: Yeah, we could--

Vapaa: OK. I can turn it off.

(TAPE 1, SIDE 1, ENDED)
Vapaa: But ah, this farm again—you just told us that you cleared it by hand because you had no tractor at the time. And how did you do this?

H. Steffins: Have a grub axe and a shovel.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And then of course, whenever I could use my horses. I usually have them on the—took the box off the wagon and so on. And then just set the chain on the—on the hind—tail end of the wagon.

Vapaa: Did you take out everyone of the fruit trees?

H. Steffins: Well, the fruit trees more—many places they were up.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: But the worse thing is, I mean, the sassafras and the wild cherries at times they were a foot thick. So eh, I mean, that part—was—was my worst trouble—that's my worst trouble. About not the few fruit trees, but the other tree holes got go—grown up in weeds and—and briars and—

Vapaa: So you really inherited this from someone else—these briars and—

H. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: ...all of this other?

H. Steffins: Yes.

Vapaa: It wasn't a very good fruit farm when you bought it?

H. Steffins: No, was no fruit on it at all anymore.

Vapaa: I see.

L. Steffins: Was only the stumps.

H. Steffins: Was only the stumps was any good.
L. Steffins: Stumps.
Vapaa: I see. Now ah, you say you used a grub axe. I'm--presume
you also used an ordinary axe to cut the--
H. Steffins: Oh, the roots.
Vapaa: How about the top?
H. Steffins: Well, ah, I mean I tried to pull it down. You see I have to
get it away. We used--we used as firewood.
Vapaa: I see.
H. Steffins: Ah, eh, it was season in the--in the--in the house in the basement
there. And we used it all for firewood. I never used any coal,
anything else. We had a gas stove, so--
L. Steffins: In the kitchen.
H. Steffins: In the kitchen.
Vapaa: In the kitch--stove in the other farm house?
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: I see. Well. All right, now ah, we got the farm clear. What
did you plant it to? What were some of your early crops?
H. Steffins: Well, usually I planted some asparagus in the 40's already. I
think it was '41, '42 and '43 each time an acre.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: At that time wasn't any plan, just wanted to go into asparagus.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: Didn't plan to go into asparagus that time.
Vapaa: Yes, you did. I thought that time. (voice overlap, translated
as it sounded)
H. Steffins: Yah. And so I planted some. But of course, we always cut it along with the 2 - 3 acres.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And we--that all was sent to market then. And Joe Scheppler bunched it for me.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: He had Polish (unintelligible) there.

Vapaa: Un-hun.

H. Steffins: They bunched it for me because I had to take care of the rest of the farm. And--and then tomatoes. As I said, the first year I had tomatoes.

Vapaa: How many acres?

H. Steffins: 2 acres.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Nobody takes 2 acres now anymore.

Vapaa: No. No, indeed.

H. Steffins: But I got in and that was Bill Boyd's doing. He got me in there. I was good friends with him at that time already I think. And he got me in there with 2 acres.

Vapaa: Bill Boyd?

H. Steffins: Bill Boyd.

Vapaa: Boyd.

H. Steffins: Boyd.

Vapaa: B-o-y-d.

H. Steffins: Yah. You remember him--the short, stout fellow. Later on he was with duPont I think.

Vapaa: Oh, yes, a field man you mean.
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Yeah, technical man.
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
Vapaa: In a way, yes. I think I do.
H. Steffins: Yah, but only you—you came here—
Vapaa: Now wait, I didn't come until 1950, Hans.
H. Steffins: Yah, yah, you're right.
Vapaa: In Kent County—I mean in Dover. I didn't come to Dover until 19—November 1952.
H. Steffins: You see, when I came to Delaware—I stayed a night was in a Bayard Hotel. And the next morning I went to the County Agent's office—and it was Russell Wilson that time—
Vapaa: Yes. Well, that would have been before 1942.
H. Steffins: Yah. I said it was 1941.
Vapaa: Right.
H. Steffins: And then Mr. Tarburt—Bill Tarburt was—
Vapaa: Tarbell.
H. Steffins: Oh—
Vapaa: T-a-r-b-e-l-l. 1--2 l's.
H. Steffins: Oh, yeah, that's right.
Vapaa: Yes, Bill Tarbell.
H. Steffins: Yeah, and after that you came in.
Vapaa: Then after I came—I came in 1952, 10 years later.
H. Steffins: Yah, um yah. Yah. And then especially in '46 I have a good year.
I had--I only have 3 and a half acres of tomatoes. But that year I have tractor. I bought a tractor in '45.

Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: And I bought a duster on the tractor--3 row duster--eh, 6 spouts on it. I could cover 3 rows with.
Vapaa: Do you remember what that tractor and duster cost you? Off hand?
H. Steffins: No, I don't remember what the duster cost, but I still remember I got a--it was called Ferguson--tractor with a plow--2, I think it was 2, 14 inch plows I think.
Vapaa: Right.
H. Steffins: And a disc--the slip disc--
Vapaa: Right.
H. Steffins: It cost me somewhere around $900. And (cough) that was all.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: Somewhere around $900.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: Now I forgot how much I paid for the duster. I forgot that. But I have some horrible luck that time. It was Professor John Heu--Heuberger--
Vapaa: Heuberger, Yes.
H. Steffins: ...he found it out that I had a duster.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And he had so much dust--I don't know--from all different companies--
Vapaa: Right.
H. Steffins: ...for trial.
Vapaa: I think we ought to explain at this point, Hans, that Dr. Heuberger was the Extension in—am—ah, plant pathologist at the University.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: And he was trying out some research—

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: ...with these various stuffs. And particularly some of the duPont products because they're made in Delaware. Or at least the company headquarters is in Delaware. OK.

H. Steffins: I forgot how many different dusts I have and kept with in strips you know.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: Always so comparison. But at that time I kept on dusting and other people wasn't spraying and dusting so often practiced at that time.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: I mean not as much as it is now.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: They didn't follow a schedule.

Vapaa: We just didn't know much about it at that time, Hans.

H. Steffins: No. But I followed the schedule.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: I followed what Dr. Heuberger told me.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: And he was a nice man.
Vapaa: And he's still living.

H. Steffins: Oh, yah, I know. I know. He always calls me Carl when he sees me. (laughter)

Vapaa: Why?

H. Steffins: I don't know.

L. Steffins: German, I guess. I don't know.

Vapaa: Well, you know he went to Germany and gave a talk or a series of lectures. And they called him Herr Dr. Heuberger.

H. Steffins: Yeh eh--

Vapaa: Hoy--Hoyberger.

L. Steffins: Hoyberger. (voice overlaps, unintelligible)

Vapaa: H-e-u-b-e-r-g-e-r.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: Spell it for the secretary.

H. Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: But ah, Heuberger. Yeah, that's right.

H. Steffins: Heuberger, yah.

Vapaa: And he went to Europe this one summer and oh, he had a great time.

H. Steffins: Oh, yah.

Vapaa: And he was talking about these spray materials. Because he was I think one of the first people who used as one of the fungicides--

H. Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: ...for ah, not only fruits but also for ah, vegetables.

H. Steffins: Um-hum.
Vapaa: Un-hun. And Captan—these were all duPont products.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: And then there were some others. I can't remember them all.
H.Steffins: Yah. I—I think I have some from Rohm and Haas too.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: That in '46 already. Eh, well, anyway and that gave me such good results the late blight hit.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: That was the late blight year. On the farm was probably not less than 5 tons to an acre. And it was only—was me—of course, I am the first one—
L.Steffins: Teh!
H.Steffins: ...and Joe Scheppler. I don't know how it happened.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: But he had tomatoes too.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H.Steffins: And I raised 21 tons to an acre. I was the first Delaware grower went over 20 tons. Was all due to Dr. Heuberger. I mean, I never would have made it without the dusting.
Vapaa: Un-hun.
H.Steffins: So then it was awful fortunate thing. Of course, it was contract. I could have sold all the tomatoes for $1.15 a basket. But it was contract. It all went to Libbys. And I think I got around 35¢.
Vapaa: A basket.
H.Steffins: A basket.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: At that time.
Vapaa: If you contracted at the beginning of the year didn't you?
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Before you ever put your plants in the ground.
H.Steffins: Oh, yah.
Vapaa: So you knew what you were going to get for the crop.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: But you didn't know how much you were going to get.
H.Steffins: No.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: No, no.
Vapaa: All right.
H.Steffins: No-o-o. (laugh) But that one year if I sold the tomatoes on
the open market but eh, I could have paid my farm and more.
Of course, even at that price, 35¢, I got a new car out of it.
Vapaa: Yes. Do you remember some of the field men back in those days
that Libby had?
H.Steffins: Well, of course, as I say they--I started out with Bill Boyd
and I think next one was Walter Ake--
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: ...Ralph Draper--
L.Steffins: (unintelligible)
H.Steffins: ...Ralph Draper--
Vapaa: Draper?
L.Steffins: Pete (?) - unintelligible
Vapaa: Ralph Draper.
H.Steffins: Ralph Draper.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Yes, yes. He was at Greenwood.
H.Steffins: We--well, but he was not there the first one.
Vapaa: No.
H.Steffins: He was (unintelligible) Pete Townsend. Yes, he was. So was Voshell.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: But I think he with ah, with Bill Boyd and Walter Ake--
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: ...Draper and then Chile--Ben Chile.
Vapaa: Yeah.
H.Steffins: And they all help me. And ah, eh, of course often, I mean eh, they could trust me too. I mean eh, that I followed their recommendation.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: I mean actually when it comes to chemistry--but this mold what do--at that time especially what do most farmers know about how it works. Now, I have 2 winters in agriculture school in Germany. We are further math (?) chemistry. That's what--what I had.
Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And if I hadn't had that as well as my German training on the farm, I never would have made it here.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: You see the first farm I worked for in Germany--. Is that all right? (The tape recorder begins to sputter)

Vapaa: Oh, yes.

H. Steffins: It wasn't a small farm. There must have been--I think we have about 750 morgens. That's about 300 acres--3--300 hectares--times 2 and a half.

Vapaa: 2 and a half. Right.

H. Steffins: 300--

Vapaa: Gives you acres.

H. Steffins: Huh?

Vapaa: That'll give you the acres.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: That's--

Vapaa: 2½ hectares make--no, no. And acre makes 2½ hectares. How--

H. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: I'm wrong.

H. Steffins: No, no, no. You just reversed it.

Vapaa: Just reversed. Yes.

H. Steffins: You see--

Vapaa: The hectare is larger than--

H. Steffins: ...that's 300--300 hectares times 2½.

Vapaa: Right. OK.
H. Steffins: That's ah, that's 750 isn't it?

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: 750 acres. (cough) Of course, we were with 12, 15 men--I forgot exactly--all year around. Eh, they are--they hold milk route in the city, milk wagon running and so on. Of course, and was this old gentleman--the 2 sons were in the war and mostly we have 1 old man. He was a day man. He was weekly man employed there. But most of them we were boys and children so you see. As I said, I wasn't 14 years old when I left home. But the first time he sent me out with horses he went along with me with the oldest horses he had of course. They have to teach me. Eh, he taught--that's what he taught me. Then of course, when the horse starts to move after lunch they usually drop something. Well, he say, broh. That's he say, whoa. That means whoa. And then he took off his cap this old gentleman.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And he wasn't a poor farmer. And put his cap on the roadway and scraped the manure together, put it in his cap, and carried it out in the field.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: That's how valuable it was. Then that--I never forget that.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: And that's what--that's a fundamental thing. I mean they are (unintelligible) . I mean you can put--apply all the chem-

icals if you haven't got the--
Vapaa: Organic matter why--
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...you can't ha--expect results.
H.Steffins: No. Without it you don't expect results.
Vapaa: Right. Do you know what the average organic content is in Delaware, Hans? Do you have any idea?
H.Steffins: It's less than 1% isn't it?
Vapaa: Right. It's less than ½ of 1% over the state as a whole.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: I mean we got some areas where we have peat bogs.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Which are all organic practically.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Except for the water which is in there.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: But ah, most of our soils are quite sandy.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: And as you know, you have a hard time to find a stone anywhere around here don't you? All the stones that have come into Kent and Sussex County, I believe, have been hauled in from other places.
L.Steffins: You mean (unintelligible)
Vapaa: Pretty much, yes.
H.Steffins: Yah. I have some.
Vapaa: Yes, the Indians brought them in and one thing and another. But ah, most of these stones have been hauled into the state--
L. Steffins: Humph.

Vapaa: ...rather than washed er, from glaciers or anything like that.

L. Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: It was all formed from the ocean you know.

L. Steffins: Yah.

H. Steffins: Oh, yah.

Vapaa: And in some places you can find sea shells and things like this.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: In, in, in Kent County not only just Sussex County.

H. Steffins: Right. On the front door here I have 2 pieces of petrified wood.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Was out the farm here.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: Ah, when he took the corn. (?)

Vapaa: Right. Um-hum.

H. Steffins: It's very interest--interesting.

Vapaa: Now ah, let's see, we--I don't want to run this thing along too long and we haven't started to talk about your new home yet. We haven't started to talk about--no, we gotta finish your farming. Little bit more of your farming. We haven't talked about your asparagus too much yet.

H. Steffins: Well--

Vapaa: You started off with a couple of acres of asparagus--and then what?

H. Steffins: Yeh. Well ah, of course, this is a small farm. Eh--

Vapaa: How big is it?
H.Steffins: ...I never have more than 72 till--tillable acres.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: And after I sold the farm now it's 65. But as a farm it isn't a farm anymore. You--
Vapaa: No.
H.Steffins: ...you all (unintelligible) know that. You need acres. So gradually I--all I could do put it all in one crop. And asparagus I have to say it's a costly operation to--to plant it. But then later on I don't think there has been a single year we have lost money on asparagus. I always made some money. And at times I made--done real well.
Vapaa: And you always had it under contract didn't you.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Un-hun.
H.Steffins: I always had it under contract.
Vapaa: I see. So you were always sure that you were gonna have some sort of a crop and some sort of a price.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: You knew generally at the beginning of the year what your price was going to be--
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...for that year--
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...when you signed the contract.
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Did you sign a contract every year?
H.Steffins: Yah. And--and of course, I grew cucumbers there when I started in. I had only 2 acres of asparagus and finally I had 13 acres. Then I needed outside help. And then I had enough eh, cu--cucumbers and tomatoes to keep the help busy the season.

Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: Let me say 5, 6 acres of cucumbers and 10, 12 acres of tomatoes.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: I kept ah, my help busy.
Vapaa: And where did you keep your help at this--that time?
H.Steffins: Well, first of all I have an old tenant house.
Vapaa: (voice overlap, unintelligible)
H.Steffins: Yeah. Next to Bailey Thomas there.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: (cough) But I tore that down or burned it down the same as my old house. Fire company practiced on it (laugh) and they burned it down. And ah, I build a new labor camp here. First off it was for 8 people--8, 9 people I was allowed to have in there. That's all I needed. But later on then I cr--increased the asparagus acreage ah, to larger to 15 or 17. I was allowed 17 men in there according to Board of Health--

Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: ...specifications.
Vapaa: Right. Do you still use that labor camp?
H.Steffins: No, I--I rent it out. My 2 son-in-laws--
Vapaa: I see.
H.Steffins: ...rent it.
Vapaa: For storage?
H.Steffins: Well, one end is for storage and the other one has a shop in there.
Vapaa: I see. What kind of a shop?
H.Steffins: Eh, carpenter. He made all doors and windows on my--du--is it all going on there?
Vapaa: Oh, yes, don't worry about the machine.
H.Steffins: That man he bought that old house, you know. You must know it. And you know where Gus Wisk lives?
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: Go--go east--
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: ...and this old brick house--
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: ...shows on the road. He bought that. And it was going fall into pieces. And--and he--he all the windows. He made them all here. Through--all the house. And Jack he has old ones (unintelligible) The same with the doors. He made them all here. That man is so accurate I really have respect for him.
Vapaa: Now, Hans, when did you build this house?
Vapaa: '66. How long did it take you?
H.Steffins: Well, actually I was sick at that time.
L. Steffins: Yah.

H. Steffins: I have attacks (unintelligible) again. And--and I was sick. And I even couldn't watch it much. I couldn't walk. And I went ahead with it. And Harold Carter I think he done a wonderful job.

Vapaa: Yes. And Harolds just built himself a new home you know.

L. Steffins: Yah.

H. Steffins: Yah, I know. Anyway--

Vapaa: Have you seen it?

L. Steffins: No.

H. Steffins: No, no. Well I--from the outside, yes.

Vapaa: Yes.

H. Steffins: Lisa, my daughter, drove me out there.

Vapaa: Yes. Right in back of Sud Emerson.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: You know where Sud lives.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: I play bridge with him ev--almost every Saturday night.

L. Steffins: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: You do?

Vapaa: Yeah. Generally beat him. (laughter) Oh, we have a time.


Vapaa: Well ah, when you build the house here why did you decide to put it in this particular spot?

H. Steffins: Because I have the farm here.
Vapaa: Oh, you already had the farm here.

H.Steffins: I had the farm. The farm was here. Eh, that was the year before wasn't it--'56.

L.Steffins: Yah.

H.Steffins: It's finished. The farm was here.

Vapaa: Who demo'd the farm?

H.Steffins: There was soil conservation.

Vapaa: District?

H.Steffins: Ah-h-h, Kelley.

Vapaa: Oh, yeah, he was a contractor.

H.Steffins: Yah, he was contractor.

Vapaa: Right. And ah--

H.Steffins: Let's see, that was the year when--

L.Steffins: '65.

H.Steffins: '65, yah.


Vapaa: Yeah, '65 sounds better.

L.Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: 'Cause I seem to remember the farm.

L.Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: And I remember when you were building this house.

L.Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: And this was about 4 years before my stroke.

L.Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: So ah, that's the reason I remember that a little bit.
L & H Steffins: Um-hum.

Vapaa: You don't remember much when you have a stroke, but remember a little bit.

L. Steffins: Well, we were still farming then.

H. Steffins: We were still farming there. You see I don't--intended to quit until I have this trouble in '67.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: I have to quit.

Vapaa: Now, who's tilling your farm?

H. Steffins: Joe Jackewicz. Well, I have 10 acres eh, eh, in the back I usually do myself. And Olin Gooden--but Olin Gooden puts in there on that side--you on the George place.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: He puts in mine. We have an agreement. Just a gentleman's agreement.

Vapaa: That's either--usually corn or soybeans. Right?

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: It's not asparagus?

L. Steffins: No.

H. Steffins: Ah, I mean I have asparagus there.

Vapaa: Now, what does Joe Jackewicz grow here?

H. Steffins: Asparagus. He tills--has asparagus.

Vapaa: And who does he sell it to?

H. Steffins: Well, last--last year I think he went through Ritter in the final end. Because ah, I know who he--I get a certain share out of it.

Vapaa: Yes.
H. Steffins: And I got a lot more than I expected. And if he hadn't gone to Ritter I wouldn't have gotten that much.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: So, in a way, ha, I mean he—he deserves more. He is a businessman. I have—no have been a businessman.

Vapaa: Oh, I wouldn't say that, Hans.

H. Steffins: No. No.

Vapaa: You've been a small farmer, but you've been a good one.

H. Steffins: Yah, I have—I am a good farmer. I know that. But I know—

L. Steffins: No business.

H. Steffins: No businessman. I am no mechanic. That's my—my—one of my worst troubles.

Vapaa: Well, you've got a son that—son-in-law who's a mechanic, right?

H. Steffins: No.

L. Steffins: No.

H. Steffins: No, but I mean when it comes to fixing machinery.

Vapaa: Oh. I see. Well—

H. Steffins: I mean, I think I can grow just as (unintelligible) a crop as anybody else, if it comes to it.

Vapaa: Right.

H. Steffins: But I can't keep the machinery in.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

H. Steffins: I mean with each little bit I would have to run to the mechanic and spend money.

Vapaa: Um-hum.
L.Steffins: It's hard to for selling the crop. That's why we contracted so we always be sure.

Vapaa: That you had a buyer.

L.Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: Right.

L.Steffins: And we--then we had to work on one pay to another do you want a crop or so. We just--

Vapaa: Did you ever sell any milk or any eggs or anything like this?

H.Steffins: Eh--

L.Steffins: No, that eh, we are a little way.

H.Steffins: Eggs eh, Carlos (unintelligible)

L.Steffins: Yeh, Carlos. Oh, oh, I don't remember that hardly. Oh, and--

H.Steffins: Heah, we--

L.Steffins: ...Haas they came over sometimes when I made my own butter.

Vapaa: Yes.

L.Steffins: And cheese and they bought some every weekend.

Vapaa: Yes. Did you do this same thing in Germany? Make butter and cheese?

L.Steffins: No, no. Um-um.

Vapaa: No, no.

L.Steffins: I was in the post office--post office clerk.

Vapaa: Oh.

L.Steffins: Yah. I didn't do any--

H.Steffins: She all learned that from me. (laughter)

L.Steffins: Actually. (laughter)

Vapaa: You heard that, Hans.

H.Steffins: Yah, yah.
Vapaa: Well, we're gonna have to keep going here.
L. Steffins: But we like it in Delaware.
Vapaa: You do?
H. Steffins: Oh, oh--
L. Steffins: We both like it.
Vapaa: And you expect to stay here?
H. Steffins: Yes.
L. Steffins: Yes, oh, yeah.
Vapaa: Would you like to go back to Germany?
L. Steffins: No. For a visit yes. But ah, not to stay.
H. Steffins: For a visit yes.
Vapaa: Do you have any relatives still there?
L. Steffins: Yes. We do have some.
H. Steffins: I have a sister.
L. Steffins: I have more sisters, cousins and so on.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: Ah, what that appears to me so much in Delaware--. I mean eh, eh, the--
Vapaa: The fields.
H. Steffins: The fields are almost the same as it is in northern part of Germany.
Vapaa: Right.
L. Steffins: Flat.
H. Steffins: No mountains.
Vapaa: Flat.
H.Steffins: Flat.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H.Steffins: Of course, ah, that appears to me a lot.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: And I like it.
Vapaa: How about the soil?
H.Steffins: It's similar.
Vapaa: It is.
H.Steffins: The 2--well, parts--you know, you have been in Holland.
Vapaa: Yes.
H.Steffins: Well, northern Germany along the Elbe River along the North--North Sea that's the same as in Holland--in Holland.
Vapaa: Holland. Right.
H.Steffins: It's diked in.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: And that's awful heavy ground.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: Wonderful ground. And I have been in--in Holstein too on a farm. And there was what they call a polder in--in their (voice overlap, unintelligible)
Vapaa: (voice overlap, unintelligible)
H.Steffins: And in German it's Kodger.
Vapaa: Kerger?
Vapaa: Oh.
H.Steffins: (unintelligible) Koog. I have (unintelligible) koog.
Vapaa: Now, you've lost me because I'm afraid our secretary can't spell this. Can you spell any of that last part?

H. Steffins: Well, eh, koog is--is same as polder. You have that.

Vapaa: Polder--p-o-l-d-e-r

H. Steffins: Yah. Koog is k-o-o-g.

Vapaa: K-o-o-g, yes. Um-hum. OK. So you would like to finish out your life here. And I think I would agree with you, Hans. I live on a pond myself you know.

L. Steffins: Yah.

H. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: Little bit bigger than yours.

L. Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: But it's not as deep. And I don't think I have as many fish.

L. Steffins: No.

Vapaa: But we have more fishermen.

L&H Steffins: Yah.

H. Steffins: Well, anyway, I mean there was much about your section there in the paper. Is it that bad the water condition?

Vapaa: I guess it must be, Hans. Ah, it's a, you can taste--the water tastes differently there at Moore's Lake than it does ah, in other places you know. And they say it is polluted in some places because some of the septic tanks are too close to some of the wells. But ah, they'll get this thing cleared up. I'm not too much worried about it because I--my well's about 40 feet deep now. It was 28 and that was too shallow. 'Course I'm
only 50 feet from the lake.

H.Steffins: Yeh.

Vapaa: My house is closer to the lake than your house is to the pond. But not much—a little bit. Yeah, come over and see me.

H.Steffins: Oh, I--I have been there.

Vapaa: Yes, I--Oh, that's right. You have. I forgot.

H.Steffins: Yeah, I have been there.

Vapaa: Um-hum. So ah, let's think about winding this up now ah, a little bit. Ah, how much family do you have now? Here?

L.Steffins: We have 2 daughters and a son here.

Vapaa: Um-hum.

L.Steffins: The 2 daughters are married and both have 2 children.

Vapaa: Right.

L.Steffins: The oldest one has a boy and a girl. And the younger one has 2 daughters. And our son is 20. They are married working at the Happy Hoe Garden Center.

Vapaa: Um-hum. That's just ah, east of Camden on the dual highway.

L.Steffins: Yah.

Vapaa: Right. Does he like it?

L.Steffins: He likes it there. Yes.

Vapaa: Un-hun.

L.Steffins: But he says (cough) he would prefer that he goes back to the University and studies a little bit harder.

Vapaa: But he doesn't want to study?
L. Steffins: He just does not quite know what he wants.
Vapaa: Well, if he stays with Jim Tarburton very long--
L. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...he'll want to go back. Does he live at home?
L. Steffins: Yah, right now he—he lives at home.
Vapaa: And your ch--your 2 girls where do they live?
L. Steffins: Ah, the one lives here and right in town and the other one in Cheswold.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
L. Steffins: In that ah--
Vapaa: And what do their husbands do?
L. Steffins: Yah, Robert is with the--
H. Steffins: Well, he--
L. Steffins: (unintelligible)
H. Steffins: (unintelligible) sash and door company in (unintelligible)
He is ah, Vice President eh, and manager.
Vapaa: I see.
H. Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: Um-hum.
H. Steffins: And Clyde Jensen--I don't know what town--he is with telephone company. But ah-h-h, not just up in office.
Vapaa: Um-hum. Well, I think that about covers it, Hans. I ah, think too that it's about time we ah, closed this thing off. And I do want to thank you 2 for ah, participating in on this. And
it'll be typed up. And I'll give you a copy of the ah, transcript. Yeah, because this thing is recorded by the secretary, see. And then we'll send the tape back and the recording--I mean the record of it up to the University. And I'll have an extra copy made for you. But I've enjoyed it and I hope you have too.

L.Steffins: Oh, yah.
H.Steffins: (cough) I don't see you here. I mean I enjoy that.
Vapaa: Well, it doesn't--I mean ah, after all I think friends are important today--
H.Steffins: Yah.
Vapaa: ...And if you don't have friends you don't have much.
L.Steffins: Yah.
H.Steffins: Yah. Well, (cough) I mean of course, that is--is--is it. I mean have friends. And I mean you don't have to agree on everything but you still have respect for the other guy's opinion.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: That's the main point.
Vapaa: Um-hum. Now ah, we never got into politics. But you never were involved in politics anyway.
H.Steffins: Ne--oh, but ah, (cough) you see eh, eh, it scarey as it is now.
Vapaa: Right.
H.Steffins: It's scary. And I think--I mean it's so darn foolish to always blame the other. I mean the Republicans to blame the Democrats.
The Democrats blame the Republicans when we ourselves are to blame. We all want to eat the cake and keep it too.

Vapaa: Well, let's quit on that, Hans, shall we?

H. Steffins: Yes.

Vapaa: All right. Now we'll just let the thing run on out (cough).

H. Steffins: It's still running?

Vapaa: It's still running, but I'm going to let it run until it stops.

THE END