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Iron Hill School Oral History Project

Interview with James Lee

Date of Interview: April 2, 2010
Interviewer: Roberta Perkins

Roberta: This is Roberta Perkins. Today's date is April 2, 2010 and I am with James Lee better known as Jim in his home in Glasgow and we're going to be talking about his experiences, his remembrances of growing up in Iron Hill and the people that you interacted with and you remembered. Jim thanks an awful lot for finally getting together. This is really good. Can you start off here by giving me your full name, when you were born, you know and where?

J. Lee: Okay. It's James Charles Lee. I was born on August 8, 1939 and I was born in a farm house that's located behind the Welsh Tract Baptist Church at the foot of Iron Hill off of Welsh Tract Road. I was born and my uncle, Clifford Lee, the bedroom above the kitchen and that house is still there the last time I was over there a couple of years ago.

Roberta: Okay. Let's see and your parents. Would you tell me you know who your parents are and where they were from?

J. Lee: My father was Harvey Preston Lee and he went by H. Preston Lee and his father was the Harvey F. Lee, Ferris Lee and so they called him Preston or Press most of his life so distinguish between the two of them and they were from this area. I know he talked about moving around and they were I think on farms up around in Pennsylvania's Stickersville. I know he played semi-pro ball over at Gulph Mills area and I'm not sure where he was living at that time or what team he played for. Friends at the museum told me he played in the Susquehanna league semi pro ball and my mother was Mary Rambo. Her father, my grandfather, was Albert

Darlington Rambo from the Rambo area around here and I know one of the grandfather's family had a farm near Chestnut Hill around the Chestnut Hill area and they date back to Peter Gunnarsson Rambo who came over in 1638 on the Kalmar Nyckel and they settled up in Bucks County area and moved down and brought the Rambo apple from Sweden with them. My grandmother Rambo was Alice Schlack and that is my relation to John Schlack over at Wilson Schlack Farm. We were cousins but when she passed away my mother was about nine years old I think around 1918 and on the Lee side of the family we haven't traced too much. I know around the Newark area and at that time people tended to marry people that were close to them on different farms so we're related to a lot of different names around Newark area and but the Lee family we haven't traced back very far but the Schlack side we traced back to Uriah Schlack and in the Revolutionary War he served in the Revolutionary War and he was a skilled boatman and enlisted the record says being one of three very important boatmen that ferried Washington and the troops across the Delaware.

Roberta: Wow. Did you get any more history about that?

J. Lee: Not really. It was something that my mother told us several times as we were growing up. Uriah had been with Washington and the story was that he was one of the ones that rowed Washington across but we could never find anything but I found from John Schlack and talking with him several years ago that was in **[inaudible]** and he had that same thing on the Schlack side of the family that came up with the Schlacks and my oldest brother's girl, my niece, she found in the University of Delaware some records that listed him in this book and seen there in one of three. There's three of them that were boatmen and it listed his name so important with Washington.

Roberta: How do you spell that? Uriah? Do you know how you spell that?

J. Lee: U R I A H.

- Roberta: Very interesting. Now is there any more history of your family that you know coming over on the Kalmar Nyckel other than just that?
- J. Lee:** No. Would have been through the Swedish Society, Herbert Rambo who I think is now the president of the society, he had just been in the last year or two commissioned by the King of Sweden to reinstate the Rambo apple in Sweden and from what I've heard people in the society that he is in the process of doing that.
- Roberta: What is this Rambo apple?
- J. Lee:** It's, well Milburn's Orchard outside of Newark has Rambo apple trees and I know my mom loved to bake pies with them they are very good pie apples so I recommend to people try the Rambo apple. You used to find them in the grocery stores in Newark but of course they aren't a famous apple anymore there's too many other ones.
- Roberta: Now is this something that your family hybridized when they came from Sweden?
- J. Lee:** All that we know is that Peter Gunnarsson Rambo brought this seeds over from Sweden and started planting in America and raising apples and so they come in season in August at Milburn's.
- Roberta: What siblings? Do you have brothers and sisters?
- J. Lee:** Yes, I had one older brother, Ferris Auberly, he just passed away and he was career in the U.S. Army retired as a major and went on and did some teaching and he and his wife Martha had two daughters and then I had a younger sister, Florence, named after our aunt Florence Walton. Actually she was a cousin but we always called her Aunt Florence Walton and she still lives with her youngest daughter up at York Glenn (?) and we have a younger brother, Robert Preston Lee, who passed away I think he was like thirty-five years old. He worked down, I don't know what you call it in Jefferson University Library in Philadelphia and he was one that computerized their library and travelled all over the United States

lecturing on it and helping people in libraries to computerize. He passed away when he was about thirty-five.

Roberta: What's your first recollection of school? Where did you go to school?

J. Lee: I started school in Newark, the old building brick building that was across the street from Newark Fire, the old Newark Fire House the one that's still there now on the corner of Academy of Delaware Avenues. It was two story with an attic. I remember Mrs. Steele was my first grade teacher and Miss Armstrong was the second grade teacher. Her son Stuart was one of our class mates **[inaudible]**. Another class mate was Rita Handlaw of the Newark Handlaws and I know there was more but I can't remember but that's where we started school and then we went first and second grade there and in the second grade there was, I am trying to remember, I know they started though in the new addition onto the High School and put in an elementary school. I don't really remember being in class there. The next grade I can remember is we were on the lower floor of the old high school.

Roberta: What year was that you started?

J. Lee: I was probably six years old so 1944. Then I went through the ninth grade was moved out to the Delaware Avenue School and we were the first class to go through four years out at the new high school on Delaware Avenue of course at that time there was just classrooms there. There was no gymnasium, there was no auditorium but we graduated and we graduated on the steps of the old high school, the Class of '57. We just had our fiftieth reunion up here you know. Out of eighty-two, I think there were eighty-two graduates we had fifty-two there.

Roberta: I was going to ask you how many people were there?

J. Lee: First undefeated football team that year in seventeen years. We beat William Penn the year before we lost one game and that was to William Penn by one point. In '57 we got them back. We beat them by one point, an undefeated year.

Roberta: Has that continued? Did that start a rivalry?

- J. Lee:** Well it was a rivalry earlier years Conrad High was the Thanksgiving Day rival and that made William Penn our rival when we got beat by one.
- Roberta: So you had to fight two of them?
- J. Lee:** Donny Miller (?) I don't know **[inaudible]** he was a famous quarter back for the University of Delaware. He was our coach I think he went on to Rhode Island to coach in Vermont and then a university up there.
- Roberta: Before **[inaudible]**?
- J. Lee:** Yeah before **[inaudible]**. My dad worked, he was a carpenter. He was a man of all trades.
- Roberta: Was this your dad?
- J. Lee:** My dad. My uncle Herbert had a machine shop on Cleveland Avenue, Newark. It was across from High's at the time. The building is no longer there it's just an empty lot now. My dad worked there off and on. I remember going up there watching them machine things. My dad was a carpenter. He built the house where we lived in Chestnut Hill. He also built a house for my grandfather Lee which is still there and it was built out of a building from the Triumph of Elkton which was an ammunition plant during the war, World War II.
- Roberta: Now say this again. From somebody who's not familiar with that and from this area. The Triumph of Elkton?
- J. Lee:** The Triumph plant was ammunitions built to make ammunitions and packed ammunitions for World War II.
- Roberta: Okay and that was in Elkton?
- J. Lee:** Yes, it was in Elkton and after the war they had surplus buildings and my dad and my uncle they went down and tore one down and built the house just above the Mormon Church up the hill. It's brick now but he could be a mason. He built our

house that we lived in. He worked for a carpenter's union then spent his last fifteen years before retirement having a carpentry shop for the University of Delaware. He retired from the University.

Roberta: When was that? Do you remember what year that was?

J. Lee: I can tell you. I've got his picture in there that the University printed and gave it to me on his retirement.

Roberta: What did your mom do?

J. Lee: My mom a homemaker. She was a mom and she was a great mom. Everybody loved her. Our family on the Lee side and pretty much the Rambo side, but more the Lee side, almost all my cousins lived within a half mile of us at one time or another. I had an uncle, Uncle Walter, Walt Connelly he was a Wilmington police officer killed, a gun went off or something or other in the locker room or something and killed him and they moved in with my grandparents up on Chestnut Hill oh for a long time and then I had Uncle Herbert Wood and Aunt Betty, my father's sister Betty, lived just up the road from us so we spent a lot of time together and it was nice and we're still a close knit family. We always have a family reunion every year in July.

Roberta: That's special. It sounds like it was really nice.

J. Lee: We've lost track of whose kids are who now. We look forward to it and thank goodness my family, [inaudible] from my family here and their anxious to go and every year we go if we can.

Roberta: Is the family reunion held in this area?

J. Lee: Yeah, Edna Wood and Herbert Wood who had the machine shop they have a place up by 95 on Ott's Chapel Road the [inaudible] house is gone. Uncle Herbert's father lived there and had the farm there. We used to, anyway the son lives there. We used to have it there and my cousin Edna Wood, her and her husband Al Cox (?) they bought a place near Rising Sun. It's a beautiful place and

it's perfect for the reunion and that's where we go this year and every year now. A lot of stories I could probably go on for hours telling you all of the stories.

Roberta: That's okay. We go in and out and as we talk if I ask questions and you think of a story just have at it, just insert it. Let me, let's see, at the point you moved to Chestnut Hill, your family moved, how old were you?

J. Lee: I'm not sure whether I was, wait a minute. Mom and Dad I know rented what was called the Ed Green place (?). It was on Whitaker Road. I've been through there a couple times to show my wife and kids and grandkids. You know this is where Mom and Dad and Uncle Ferris when he was born and he was born the same place I was in the same bedroom up above the kitchen and but they when he was born they were at the Ed Green place and I remember Mom and Dad telling us that where they lived with Ferris but I don't know if that but they never said if I lived there or not, but I remember Chestnut Hill and growing up there that was my first recollection. I've got some pictures of me, pretty young at that house. You may have seen my granddaughter Katie wrote the little book. **[inaudible]** shown up. See this it's a copy of it at the museum on the table.

Roberta: No I didn't see it. Next time I go I'll look. She wrote that?

J. Lee: Yeah, that was when she went to Brader Elementary School. Beautiful teachers there and she just loved every one of them and we thought the world of them and the principal, I can't think of her name now she's over at **[inaudible]** on 40 now.

Roberta: Where's Brader? Wilmington?

J. Lee: It's right up the road here behind the Water's Edge in that area, but she had, her fourth grade teacher gave a project, they had to write a book and then they had to read it in front of all the parents that came and their library/auditorium, they have a place in there. They had to read their book to all the kids and their parents. I used to tell her about Joe Duck and I. I think the picture is still over there of me and Joe Duck and when Joe Duck was a real little duck he and I would travel around together. We were good friends but as Joe Duck got older he got mean and

of course in those days you wore shorts so I was always dressed in short pants. Well Joe Duck got to chasing me around the yard and pecking my legs all the time so that's what she wrote the little book on. So I've got pictures of Joe Duck and me when he was little and Joe Duck when he was bigger and chasing me around.

Roberta: Wonderful. So is it **[inaudible]** the book that she illustrated?

J. Lee: Yes, the picture on the front is the actual picture but she did all the illustrations herself.

Roberta: I'll take a look at it next time I'm there. So Jim take us to as you were growing up in the Iron Hill area. So you know give us kinda of an **[inaudible]** and before we got to this interview you were telling me about some of the Iron Hill residents that you interacted with, just some of the **[inaudible]** events that happened to you, you know with that interaction.

J. Lee: Unfortunately I don't remember a lot of names. We had, the kids in the area, the Stempers lived down the end of Ott's Chapel Road and Newark and Elkton Roads across from Iron Hill Lumber Company it was at that time and there was the railroad and there's a bridge over the Pennsylvania Railroad up there now, that wasn't there at the time. That was known as Rambo Crossing mainly because it was owned by great-grandfather or great, great grandfather Rambo at one time that area and I'm sure that's why they called it Rambo Crossing but just down the hill on the Newark Elkton Road side you crossed the railroad tracks and there was a road right down along the railroad and the Christiana Creek runs through there and the railroad bridge is over it not far from that crossing. We had to go over about ten or fifteen foot deep swimming hole. That was our swimming hole for the area and we would go up there a lot and people would even come from other places when people had cars but mostly during the summer months and during the week we'd go up there, friends in the area we would swim at the swimming hole and the black children or African American children from down around the Iron Hill area there every once in a while they would come and it was a community

pool you know. We would swim together, didn't interact that much together that I can remember. It was mainly swimming and having fun. That happened a lot you know. Looking back I may have had some names to go with people but I don't remember but I knew there was the Websters and the Earls that lived down there because I knew Dave Webster worked, did a lot of work for my dad, we farmed and Dad would also work at Herbert's machine shop and he had a couple dump trucks and a stake body truck at one time and hauled a lot of gravel and sand and stuff for people. The Pit (?) family in North East, the quarry over in Elk Knoll and he also was a Southern States **[inaudible]**. We hauled I remember hauling a lot of feed and so forth out of the port down in Baltimore up to the Southern States and we'd go up there every once in a while in one of them rail cars for Southern States and but I remember those two kids and wanted to get people that worked on the farm now with my Dad and my brother and I but it was Dave Webster who lived across from where Ott's Chapel is and I think one of the houses might still be there. I know they're clearing land and building in there now and there's I think the last house I remember Dave living in I think is gone and there's a replacement house there now and I think it was his wife when my mother had my baby sister and she may have helped Mom when I was born too, I don't know. She came up and took care of laundry and cooking and stuff for my mom when she first had the baby. I can remember her and Dave up there. A really nice lady and my mom and dad thought so much of her and same with Dave. I can remember and I don't know how old I know I was still pretty young my dad had to go over to farm, the Wilson farm over behind, well it's right on the Maryland line where Fletchwood Road is now, Newark and Elkton Road and made the right there, and it was the first farm on the right and we had to go down through the pasture for something and Dad drove the tractor over and he did a lot of mowing for different places, mowed pastures and stuff, **[inaudible]** Dairy down in Chesapeake City, did a lot for them but we went over that day Dave and I were in my dad's **[inaudible]** truck and we came to the gate and Dave got out and opened the gate and he came around to the pasture side where I was and he said you have to move over and I said well who's driving and he said you're gonna drive I don't know how to drive

he said now you're gonna learn. See he was the first one about driving anything and it was that stake body truck. So I always remembered Dave. The other thing I remember about Dave is Dad and he and a man named Jim Case from a farm that still down there where Shelly Farms is, the farm house is still there and I think one of the Case's still lives there. I know one of the boys, Donald, lives in Shelly Farms right off of County Road there and he and I have made donations to the museum.

Roberta: Can I ask you a question or are you?

J. Lee: I was gonna say about Dave, yeah, okay. Dad and Jim Case cleared the land for the Chrysler plant when they were gonna build a tank plant over there and also during World War II over where 95 is now you still see some of the remains of them but across the road from Route 72 across the drive they cleared strips of land back into the woods there and they built **[inaudible]** berms and they ran railroad trains in there with ammunition trains and supply trains and hid them in the woods up behind these berms and that's where a lot of the trees that was there were for these berms. You would just clear a strip for the tracks and the berms to get in there and leave the rest of the trees alone. All those logs would pile up in our field and eventually Raymond and Eddie Edwards would saw them up at the Iron Mill Saw Mill and Dad built an addition on the house but they were piled up and they went out there one day splitting wood for our wood stove and we kids were playing around there, Dick Stompers (?) and Roger Smith and I, got up and were running up this pile of logs and one of them started rolling down and it rolled down and pinned me underneath of it. I was pinned on my hip and there was (pause)

Roberta: I need to make this thing. This ends side A, tape 1.

Roberta: It's side B, tape 2. Jim.

J. Lee: Well the log rolled down and pinned me by the hip underneath of it, a pretty good size log and thank goodness Dave was there because he saw what happened and

come running over and I don't know how he did it but he got that log up enough to where I could get out from under it but boy did he scold the – playing on that log. Thank goodness Dave was there that day but he was one special guy that I'll never forget.

Roberta: Did you break your leg?

J. Lee: No I guess you know the ground was soft enough or whatever I lucked out there. It bothered me a lot and it still bothers me now and I think that's what the problem was you know the lasting effects over the years but he certainly was a great part of our family life and I know Dad depended on him so much because he was able to do other things and Dave would take care of things around the farm.

Roberta: You mentioned, was it Dave's mother that helped you, helped your mom when the babies were born?

J. Lee: I don't remember the name and I really don't remember if it was his mother or his wife.

Roberta: Okay, okay, that's fine.

J. Lee: I can almost picture her. I remember, my vision of her is hanging clothes on the clothes line in the back yard, but I really can't remember her name.

Roberta: Let me ask you another question. You mentioned something about your dad's truck. You called it a state body truck?

J. Lee: Stake body, yeah it had the two dump trucks and then it's a flat bed with sides on it that have stakes. Each section has stakes that are down in slots.

Roberta: I was just curious. I know exactly what you mean but I'd never heard the name before so I was just kinda wondering.

J. Lee: Yeah, that's what we called it. They probably call it something different today.

Roberta: Go ahead I'm interrupting you with questions.

J. Lee: Well I can remember I think it was Dave's house when we down to put a new roof on one day. I remember doing that. Dave helped us with that. I know it was hot. I told my dad I didn't want to do anymore roofs, the hot tar and all that. I don't remember anything more than that.

Roberta: What was your first job? Do you remember your first job?

J. Lee: The first I could remember, there's three for first jobs. The first was, the Gamble's had a service station. The building is still there right at the Maryland line and Newark Elkton Road and Fletchwood Road on the corner there and they had gasoline and then they sold a lot of stuff in the store. Small item groceries and stuff [inaudible] and they asked me to work there and I worked one Sunday from eight o'clock in the morning 'til nine o'clock at night. That didn't go over with me and it was too much you know and I had to ride my bike home. My dad came looking for me and followed me with his truck with the headlights but so that only lasted one day and then Durantis(?) who had the farm there next to Ott's Chapel, the brick house and all cross from the [inaudible] and I think the West's (?) lived over there too. Two families lived across the road there. He was a Finnish man and worked with my dad a couple times in the carpentry end and he fell and was killed, fell off a building and was killed, I think in Wilmington. They hired me to come down on like two Saturdays a month and clean sections of their chicken house. They had a two story chicken house, sold eggs and I did a lot of odd jobs around the yard for them if they had something else and that was just every other Saturday and then Albert Folk (?) had a big farm up on Chestnut Hill, the park is up there now, part of their land and a bunch of kids, you know, the Folk (?) children, they had a big family and he raised tomatoes a lot up on Chestnut Hill and so I had a job up there. One season I picked tomatoes a few times up there. I know, man I made \$13 the first day of picking tomatoes and I couldn't believe I had that much money for working one day up there.

Roberta: Do you remember how old were you then?

J. Lee: I was probably in my early teens, thirteen to fourteen maybe, but that really got me going. Of course we, Dad never raised them. We raised mostly corn and grain and stuff on our farm and then we had what we called, Dad called it the "truck patch garden". It was a big garden and he was always adding something but we had a lot of strawberries. We would pick strawberries and sell them out along the road. I know Frank Diver, Frank W. Diver he came by with his chauffer limousine one day and bought some boxes of strawberries from me and he gave me a Diver souvenir, a thing with a penny in the middle for good luck. He told me when I was going to graduate from high school come see me and I'll give you a job. I never went to see him but Dad, we had blueberries and he bought blueberry plants and we had a lot of blueberry plants. We'd sell strawberries and blueberries and other stuff and take them in to the Acme in Newark and the A&P [inaudible] if we had enough [inaudible] and we had a stand along the road and we had one cow. My brother's job was to make sure the cow was taken care of. We had pigs. At one time we had neighborhood pig races. Two or three people in the neighborhood and Dad built a pig pen and that's where we raised the pigs and then they would slaughter pigs every year and they'd all get together and share with each other and the farms around and my brother wanted goats and he had a couple goats one time and they were, I was glad to see them go. You never knew what was coming up behind you and chickens, we had chickens and Herbert's father, Mr. Wood would buy extra eggs from us and of course my dad milked the cow. Ferris when he got older he milked the cow and then we had cow's milk and the pigs and chickens and ducks and dad tried raising rabbits on time my sister and he went out and she was trying to feed them I think and she stuck her finger in and the rabbit bit the end of her finger off so Dad got rid of them then.

Roberta: What was the event? You know when it came? I understand that in some of communities that they were a community event when it came to slaughtering the pigs, you know and the whole community got together and sometimes it was a several day event. What do you remember about that?

J. Lee: I don't remember a whole lot. The biggest thing I remember is standing at our house in the kitchen at night and turning the grinder making the sausage. We'd stuff the sausage and stuff like that. I remember going, oh once in a while we'd get a big snapping turtle somewhere and a man up the road, Mr. Hendrickson, had a big wooden barrel and we'd put the turtle in it and feed it and get it ready and then his wife, they said made the best turtle soup, made the turtle soup and that was you know all the ones in the community there and in the family area there the **[inaudible]** and the Rambos and all would share and they would all get some of the soup. I never remember eating turtle soup. **[inaudible]**

Roberta: **[inaudible]**. Well what was the recipe? Do you remember what went in it but that's ok. If you didn't actually taste it you aren't going to remember.

J. Lee: Too young to try it.

Roberta: So after picking the tomatoes what did you do after that?

J. Lee: I guess my last two summers in high school between junior and senior year and when I graduated in '57 I worked for the University of Delaware farm. I started out working for the farm along across from the Chrysler plant and we did a lot of different things there and a lot of guys were from Newark worked there baled hay and I remember we picked cherries behind Worrilow's house there and storing the hay in the barn and all.

Roberta: Worrels?

J. Lee: Yeah. I think Worrilow. He was in a professor up at the university and he was there for a long while. I think it was W O R R O L or something like that. I know they've got something for the Worrilows' there somewhere in the archives. He was there for a long while but I think he was in the agricultural area but then they had an experimental farm. Three hundred acres down off **[inaudible]** Road near Choptank Road down near Middletown and they needed help down there and they asked me if I would want to go down there and work so after I was there maybe a month or so I went down and started working down there at **[inaudible]** Road

farm and they had race horses and they had a big farm down there across the road and I worked there that summer and the following summer and we raised experimental, it was alfalfa mainly mixtures of different things. Doctor Mitchell from the university was there, I worked a lot with him. We would prepare, plant and raise, we had the irrigation, the big pond and we had to move the pipes there twice a day. Once in the morning when we came in and once in the evening before we left and we turned the pump on in the big pond. Weren't supposed to swim in there but every once in a while the foreman would say come on down to the pond we're going to take a dip but we kept saying we don't want to get caught in here, we don't want to get caught but I really enjoyed working down there. There was a couple other guys that were in the Ag program [inaudible] that worked there and it was hard work but it was really nice. I was used to working on cars and we had a lot of fun. They were good people to work with especially Dr. Mitchell. Dr. Mitchell knew I had inspected (?) at the university that fall and he tried his best to get me to go into the Ag program and I wanted to be a coach of sports and that was my real interest and so I started out my freshman year and go into teaching and the education part of it but it was, I'll tell you, it was a big difference between high school and college.

Robert: Was it?

J. Lee: Going into big lecture halls and listen to a guy on the stage give a lecture and then always had trouble because when I was down at [inaudible] Hall or one of those down near the Library and right after that my next class was ROTC and I'd have to run all the way across to get to the ROTC room and I was always late. I could never get there in time 'cause I really liked the ROTC. I've been in the Boy Scouts and Explorer Scouts and the first Explorer Scout in Newark I just English classes and stuff I said this is not for me and I still feel very bad. I told my mom and dad I said I hate for them to put out money to get me in there and I qualified for assistance. I took the test and all forms and I had my grades at school, high school were [inaudible] but I said I apologize but I can't so I ended up dropping out near the end of the first semester but my cousin, Bob Rambo and I had always talked

about having a place over near the airport during World War II and all that. I spent a lot of time over there. We watched the air planes. We were always gonna join the Air Force. I ended up going to Wilmington and joining the Air Force. He went in the Army. After all that, me joining the Air Force and everything else, I moved back here with my wife and she talked me into, she and my cousin, Barbara Ann [inaudible] sister, her husband was a lieutenant in the Marine Corp in Viet Nam [inaudible]. The veteran's education, the GI Bill for going to school he says come on, we'll go to Goldey Beacom. So we went up and signed up at Goldey Beacom and ended up graduating from Goldey with a business degree.

Roberta: When was that?

J. Lee: '77, I believe '77. We went two years straight night school and I was working for Formosa Plastics [inaudible] at the time and rotating shifts and I was [inaudible] and I had a guy there [inaudible] that worked with me when I had to go to school, the nights I had to go to school on the four to twelve shift, he would trade shifts with me, all the way through, never failed me. He was a special guy. I met him last year down at Fort DuPont [inaudible] military museum thing down there and we had a great time talking together. First time I've seen him since I left the place down there.

Roberta: What was he doing then? Had he retired or what? What did he go on to do?

J. Lee: I know he was still there. He and I both ended up working in the, he ended up as a supervisor in the quality control lab of the plant and then they had a research and development lab next door and he ended up going over there and recommend me to replace him in the lab so he got me out of the plant and got me off the four to twelve shift. I worked there for two, three years as a foreman in the quality control lab and then the military got to me again. My wife knew it, she helped me. You can back into the military again she made me get back into the military in less than two months. I couldn't get in the air guard and I couldn't get in the Air Force Reserve at Dover, they didn't have any openings. This was back in late seventies and the Army guard [inaudible]. I had one of the foremen on the shift

down there was with the maintenance unit in Delaware City, Fort DuPont and [inaudible] and that's what I did.

Roberta: What was it about being in the military that [inaudible] your life?

J. Lee: You know it's hard to do it. I think you find a lot of people, a majority of people that do it. You join the military no matter what branch it is you get used to the camaraderie and it's there and you miss it when it's gone. I know when I turned sixty they said, the U.S. Army says sixty year old I was active duty with the Guard and they said you're sixty and they let me go until the end of August. They said the eighth of August you'll be sixty and the eighth of August we're discharging you from active duty so the National Guard let me stay until the end of August as a member of the Guard. I originally went in as a member, part time with the Guard and then gone on active duty and left the plant down there. [inaudible] especially both my units [inaudible] all three units I was in first one was in the first war, Desert Storm and I was in the maintenance unit at the time and I was in a unit [inaudible] biological warfare and I was in charge of that for the unit and my name kept coming down in Washington to go over into Iraq and [inaudible] you've got to stay with your unit so your unit may go too. We were a heavy equipment maintenance unit and they wouldn't let me get out, three times, but I didn't get over at that time but the battalion went over and they were written up in the paper about the lost battalion that the war was over but they were still there and weren't coming home but they finally came back and then the maintenance unit was disbanded and they put me into the battalion company headquarters down at the first [inaudible] and I was with them until they moved down to Middletown and they were bringing an engineering unit on line at Middletown and they detailed me over to bring the engineering unit on and order all the equipment and supplies and they give me a little office in the old maintenance area and I just loved it.

Roberta: So basic training wasn't a big deal for you?

J. Lee: In the Air Force it wasn't. I remember I got homesick one time and I was, oh that was, but I got over that in a day or so and I took all the [inaudible] and everybody that got technical schools had been notified and then all of a sudden I was called in and told to pack my bags we were going to fly out of Lackland to Scott Air Base in Illinois to tech school up there. They flew up there and I was there a good long school, the air borne [inaudible] and repair and went through that they were closing the schools at that time on the air base so a couple of us got kept back, they took a class, the last one to have gone through they needed extra people to keep it going so they kept us back. Then I got transferred to California, Beale Air Force Base and I [inaudible]. My first base was Bliss Air Force Base in El Paso, Texas.

Roberta: Base did you say?

J. Lee: Air base. Bliss Air Base. It's big Army air field now. Oh we had B36's and C47's there. I worked on a lot of older aircraft. B25's but that was the experience that I was glad to get out of there but my name came down. I was the only one in my squadron that didn't have a transfer request in and I was the first one that got called and sent to California to Beale, north of Sacramento. I knew it was affecting my marriage so and we worked on it. Got there we only had one aircraft [inaudible] Traverse [inaudible] they didn't have the runways finished or the buildings complete so for about three months we had formation every morning. [inaudible] called twice a week and the rest of the time was ours and that was [inaudible] the whole country up Pratt's Valley and around the city and fished and swim and chase coyotes [inaudible] and we were just a small part on that [inaudible] area and I met my wife there and church and convinced her I was the right one for her and then when I got discharged I was kept over. I was supposed to get out in February for my four years were up and then they had the Berlin build up and the Berlin (?) crisis [inaudible] you're a special tourist so you can go so I signed on the dotted line to extend for another year and then when I got out I had a job and that didn't pan out and it took me a while to find a job and I lost a job my wife's father he was a doctor in San Mateo and he wanted to move in with

us. Her mother died when she was young. It ended up that there were a lot of jobs shipped back here and [inaudible]. Yeah, she was born in St. Louis. She spent about half her young years living in St. Louis and then lived in California with her dad. He was from California, her stepdad. Her mother had gotten divorced and then married her dad later. He was a wonderful guy, a wonderful guy but she followed me back here and said wherever you go that's where I'm going.

Roberta: I was going to ask you know how did she make the transition? You know you finally made peace with Delaware?

J. Lee: Forty what? Forty-six years going on forty-seven years. I must [inaudible].

Roberta: You know Jim if you don't mind I'll stop the tape now.

J. Lee: I get to rambling so.

Roberta: That's not a problem, it's that the [inaudible]. This is Roberta Perkins end of side B, tape one.

Roberta: This is tape 2 side A and I'm interviewing James Lee at his home in Glasgow, Delaware. This is April 2, 2010. Jim, if we could you know ask you. Oh you know what, a couple things I wanted to ask you. The fellow named Albert Folk? How do you spell that? Is it F O L K? Do you remember?

J. Lee: F O L K, Albert.

Roberta: Okay and then you mentioned Weymouth (?). Do you remember?

J. Lee: Weymouth (?) had the farm down on Choptank Road across from the University experimental farm. We took a lot of hay over there.

Roberta: Okay and how was that spelled? Do you remember? Was it W E Y or something like that?

J. Lee: W E Y something and I'm not sure. They were into race horses like the du Pont's and I think they were related to du Pont's.

Roberta: [inaudible] What part did [inaudible] you know in your life?

J. Lee: Well, I always remember every Sunday we went to Ott's Chapel for Sunday School and then there was service too and I know Aunt Florence or cousin Florence Walton was like the preacher. We didn't have a real preacher, it was just a community gathering of people in the community. I can remember some of the Finnish people coming there. The Flaherty's (?) and Paylows (?). They came from Dixie Line Road down off of Old Baltimore Pike near the Maryland line where the [inaudible]. We'd go there every Sunday and later on, I don't remember the year, but they had a Lutheran minister from Wilmington and I can't think of his name right now, he came out, the Reverend Mueller, that was his name. He and his wife started the Bible School in the summer that they would have in the summer but Mom and Dad, Mom was the Trustee of Ott's Chapel I remember that. I think there was like three or four trustees, I'm trying to think. Elmer Howe, the Howe's were trustees and Thorpe, Margaret Thorpe and Ray Thorpe used to have a performance shop down there near Pleasant Valley. They still live down there. They were all trustees and were responsible for you know making sure the place was taken care of but the community got together and they would make an addition, they built an addition on the back of Ott's Chapel later in the years and we had strawberry festival there every year in the summer there. I remember Dad would go pick strawberries from our patch and he would go delivery someplace else that had strawberries that he would pick. He would go and spend the day picking strawberries and then we'd set out [inaudible] and you'd just throw on milk [inaudible] and try to break balloons with rocks in the yard there next to the chapel to raise money for the chapel and that was a big thing and I was surprised when I went back that the old piano was still in there still exactly like it was when we were kids and go in there and when we got out of Sunday School we'd all, our family Mom and Dad would take all of us and we'd go over to Mom Mom and Pop Pop Lee's house over there on further by Iron Hill when all the other family members on the Lee side would come over there the cousins. We'd have Sunday dinner with Grandmom and Pop Pop Lee's on our own and then Chuck [inaudible] when they moved over there in later years and then when they passed

away it became Mom and Dad's, my mom and dad, everybody came to our house for Sunday dinner.

Roberta: Well was that in Chestnut Hill?

J. Lee: Yeah, Chestnut Hill and Ott's Chapel.

Roberta: You never lived on Iron Hill?

J. Lee: No. That's the only place I can remember living. And my brother like I said lived on Ed (?) place there on Whittaker Road for a while when he was first born.

Roberta: Were there any more disturbances and were you involved in you know going to church **[inaudible]**.

J. Lee: Later when I got into high school my brother and I both went to the Methodist church in Newark. We joined the church when I was in high school and then when I was in the Air Force, when I got to California I joined the Marysville Methodist Church in Marysville. They called the twin cities Marysville and Yuba City. The river runs between them it separates the two but they are called the twin cities and that's where I met my wife and that's where we were married. In fact I even preached a sermon there one time. My dad was pretty pleased with that because he told me I had my grandfather, James Lee, that he always said was a preacher to stay on at the church here and a book that my son-in-law has it lists him as being a Trustee but Dad said he used to circuit ride and he would go to other churches in the area and preach and they said the Trustee did preach at the church and they would do that sermon. He's buried over there, he's buried down along.

Roberta: Do you think, I was going to ask you, how do you feel like being involved with such an active life (?) **[inaudible]** Ott's Chapel and then your other church.

J. Lee: I really hadn't thought about it was just you know something my parents said you know and I've always believed in the church and I guess I'm like some people I have no qualms or thoughts about what your religion is you know. I think you

should have that background. I certainly believe in what the Bible says and when I found my wife I hadn't been going to church and when I was out in Marysville in the Air Force and that's for sure so I met a lot of nice people through that church and had some good times and got involved with the youth there but in the past few years I've just gotten laid back [inaudible] and Katie my daughter and the other kids are all involved with church where ever they are.

Roberta: You passed the torch.

J. Lee: Yeah, and I think it makes a difference in your life the background and the knowledge (?).

Roberta: Going back to your military [inaudible] that camaraderie do you? You said you missed it. Do you still get involved with the people you went to the Air Force and then after that the National Guard, do you get together with them once in a while?

J. Lee: Not as much as I used to. Of course the Air Force I'm really not involved too much with the Air Force part of it here but I'm a member of American Legion Post 12 in Delaware City. I'm a life member of the Vietnam Vets of America but I never was in country and I don't, I just didn't feel comfortable in associating with those who were so I really I attended meetings for a few years but and then they kind of drifted away and different things and I some good experiences there doing twenty-four hour vigils that they had, a memorial and monument Charles Parks did in Wilmington and we'd sit there over night and pay our respects and in fact I have signs [inaudible] names and signs [inaudible] the memorial that Parks did and he stopped [inaudible] and one unsigned still here but the American Legion [inaudible] the commander there was in the Guard and a couple other guys there weren't in the Guard thing the time I was some of them are still in the Guard I guess they were both retired now too in the last year or so but you still search for that camaraderie with those guys because you're talking the same language you know even though some of them were World War II. We lost so many, I'll bet we lost 5 out of our post from World War II and of course with the museum having the battlefield memorial and taking care of the battlefield up there for our original

freedom fighters, the ones that really gave us our freedom to begin with and then required retirement ceremonies that's still means a lot to me and I would think it's because of what I went through the Air Force I wouldn't trade that for anything I really enjoyed what I did and really enjoyed the friends I made and the people I met and still enjoying them.

Roberta: I was going to ask you how satisfying was that for you or is that for you?

[inaudible]

J. Lee: Yeah, gives me a chance to run my mouth every once in a while to tell my stories.

Roberta: People like stories. They do. Besides the Websters and Earls were there any other African American families you interacted with?

J. Lee: I don't remember any more.

Roberta: I apologize you did say that, yes.

J. Lee: In looking back on it I was lucky that our high school class was one of the first classes to integrate in Newark and we had, I have to get the year book out and look through it, I remember a girl with the last name of Wasserman and but we had like five or six graduated with us and I remember one name I'll never forget is Timmy Hall. He was there with the track program in Newark from Brown when they (?) all had to go to Brown in Wilmington and what a fullback he was on the football team. I mean I just loved to watch him play you know and I was sad to see two years ago that he had passed away because he was one of the named stars for Newark High School and we had others too on our team. I felt lucky that our class were one of the first classes. **[inaudible]** we had an integrated class.

Roberta: What year was that?

J. Lee: I graduated in '57.

Roberta: Okay, okay.

J. Lee: I don't remember there being, there could have been but I don't remember seeing or knowing any you know problems with the black kids with us. They were all part of the class we all took together. As far as I know I don't remember any problems and I never remember when I was growing up around the neighborhood, my dad or any of the neighbors they were saying anything derogatory or you know and I think that played a big part in my life too as I was growing up in that you know. I accept people for what they are.

Roberta: What do you remember and I may get back to this on **[inaudible]** in the area? Were your parents involved in any way with politics and that it affected you? It molded your perspective? Sometimes folk will be involved with voter registration, worked at the polls, do you remember any of that type of thing?

J. Lee: I never remember anything. I can remember when President Roosevelt died because my mom and dad let me run up the road to Mom Mom and Pop Pop's road to my Grand Pop Rambo's house, they didn't have electricity, to tell them that the President died and I remember that but I was really I think it kind of blew me away that Pop Pop Lee, he retired from Continental in Newark and he ran for State Representative and my dad I remember my dad telling people he wanted to run for representative for a long time you know and I can remember later on during the term, my dad telling people he had had enough, he wasn't going to run again because he couldn't stand what was going on down there so he never ran again but Dad's only brother, my uncle Clifford Lee, people **[inaudible]** son is down there now he ran for representative from Laurel and Aunt Janet still lives there but he was still a State Representative from the Laurel area when a tractor trailer ran over the back of him at a stop light at 13 and Stanton, a stop light and killed him and then his son Cliffy (?) ran to take his place and was elected and is still there. I think he finally been opposed in the elections a couple times or maybe three times. Our daughter Tammy is involved. She was Clerk of the House last year and on the Republican side. Of course so when the Democrats won this time she couldn't clerk for the House anymore but she'd volunteered as a page and she worked part time in the offices in Dover where they need her so that's about it as

far as I don't know of any. I know my aunt, my dad's sister Aunt Betty went to one of the conventions, Republican conventions. I remember [inaudible] California. I can remember everybody talking about her being out there for the convention for the Republicans and my sister's oldest girl Florence was her name but she married a guy named Jerry Smith and they divorced but their oldest girl Debbie was really into politics she was Citizen of the Year in Newark or something or other when she graduated from high school she worked for a Republican, two Republican Senators down in Washington for a number of years and was involved with Reagan's first campaign in fact donated her flag, Reagan's campaign flag, to the museum and Barbara liked that. She was very involved with the Republican party but that's it.

Roberta: It never occurred to you or you never attempted to one?

J. Lee: I don't think the wife and I are about fame, we look at how we feel. We're separate. I don't ask her how she votes, she don't ask me how I vote but I think we're pretty much the way we talk about things we look at who's running and what they're saying and we might vote Democrat or we might vote Republican. I don't [inaudible] but we get literature from both sides. I try to look at the person and if they've been in office then I look at what they've done when they are there and how respond to me. [inaudible] he was one of my instructors at Goldey Beacom and he was one of the best ones. I had two at Goldey Beacom that were instructors and one of them became president of Goldey Beacom and the other was [inaudible] I found out he ran for state representative in my district here and lived over on Porter Road and if I had something to say or something that was troubling me or I wanted to know about or something I could go online and within an hour usually or two hours I had a response back from him and that means a lot to me. It may not be what I want to hear but he at least responds and he is honest and I think he did a lot of work here you know. Other people I understand the national people you know where ever they are and I voted Democrat or Republican over the years I've tried contacting them several times but never got an answer. I bet I take one person within twenty-four hours I got a form response

back but you could tell somebody just punched a button and it automatically sent it back but she never did it and I'm finding the same thing at the museum you know. These people they don't respond I mean we could get the French Ambassador to come a ceremony and work us you know. Now the German Ambassador, they're anxious to come [inaudible] but our own representatives don't even respond to anything.

Roberta: I'm hearing that more and more.

J. Lee: So politics I don't talk about it much unless family is involved [inaudible].

Roberta: Let me ask you, you know what? You mentioned the railroad that used to be Elkton Road, I mean did that play a part in your life?

J. Lee: Yeah, of course it was there. In the early days when we were real young my Aunt Alice Rambo would, Will Walton, the three Walton brothers all had farms in that area. Will Walton had a farm over off of Iron Hill Road there towards the Maryland line and he had a store next to the Iron Hill Station which there's a road that goes out where First State Liquors is now on Newark and Elkton Road, State Line Liquor and if you go down that road that off road that goes over to the road [inaudible] that used to run out it used to go all the way out cross the railroad and come out where Cracker Barrel is now down there, but he had a house there or at least one of the daughters did that lived there but he had a store there and that was Iron Hill Station and the trains stopped there and there was a lot of times when the family members we would you know walk over when my mom and them were growing up they had horse and wagon they would drive over there and get the train to Newark, Wilmington and a big thing was to go to Elkton. I remember that, it was really something but of course all that was gone now. I think the house is still there but we have some furniture and a mirror frame in the dining room that came from there the Walton's the one daughter Gladys they sold out and we bought some stuff there but oh and Mom used to say that Rambo Crossing up on Ott's Chapel Road there sometimes the train would stop there and that the engineer knew that's where they were going instead of making the stop at Iron

Hill Station and them walking back over it was the train would bring them to Rambo Crossing and let them off [inaudible] but I have a picture of my grandmother Slack Rambo at the Iron Hill Station taken on the train.

Roberta: Wow. Do you have any idea when the train stopped running now?

J. Lee: I can remember going over there several times as a kid and I know there was Mrs. Powell (?), the Powell's, Harry Powell, his mother and he had a brother Leonard Powell. She lived in the station house there I think they both I know Harry was the former track foreman on the railroad on the [inaudible] in that area and I think that they were like station masters or something at that time but his mother, Old Mrs. Powell, was there and Leonard was in World War II. He served with Patton so I got memorabilia from his trip coming back from World War II and that but when my Aunt Alice would go over and stay with them because [inaudible] a lot of times 'cause she was there by herself and nobody else lived around and I can remember going over and spending time there during the day you know, spent the day over there. I don't remember Walton's store being open. I remember going in the store and all the stuff they had in there but something like [inaudible] down off the Old Baltimore Pike there near Ott's Chapel. The store but he had the scrap yard in there too. I remember going in there with Dad. Dad talked to him about buying different things out of the scrap yard and stuff. I know I remember I think he bought me a candy bar a couple of times but that's what I remember and the [inaudible] and I just remember Jerry Bullock (?) and I can't picture him but I can remember Dad going in there and talking to him. You know it's funny when I got involved with the museum and everything and talking about the Iron Hill Museum and the colored school there I never remember even noticing that was there you know. I don't and I'm upset now because a couple times why I didn't I remember seeing that or you know and I guess I did I don't know. I can remember the one at Summit because I used to drive past it when I was working at the farm down there for the university in the summer. I would come up and came across the old drawbridge on 896 and I'd come up that back road and there were several families that lived back there.

Roberta: Do you know if that building is still there or not?

J. Lee: You know I **[inaudible]**

Roberta: I know.

J. Lee: I go down there but it's just down over on the new road. I haven't even - several times looked. I should drive back through there and go down along the canal again just to see what's left out in there. I remember the draw bridge. Over the bridge and the next right you go down.

Roberta: Is it far from here? This place you mean?

J. Lee: Yeah.

Roberta: Let me stop this. This ends tape 2 side A.

Roberta: This is April 2, 2010. This is tape 2 side B. Jim if I could ask you know **[inaudible]** you know about you growing up in this Iron Hill area and there is some things that tried to mention you know you haven't covered. How do you feel about the changes and also how do you feel about the changes in the area?

J. Lee: Well, you know things got to change. I really I don't know what you call it, upset it bothers me that there's so many houses and so many farms and places that are being even across the road from Ott's Chapel they tore out trees, cut out trees across the street there and you know I think when you get older look back at the time and you think how am I **[inaudible]** then you know. Everybody within several miles of us the family knew, we would get together for the strawberry festival, the Chapel, the neighbors would get together to build a house, repair something and **[inaudible]** Dad and my brother and I and others helping **[inaudible]** redo a roof on a house down there, neighbors got together and they helped each other and they looked out for each other and especially when they were up in years or living by themselves and you don't see that now. We're lucky here we have neighbors across the street and the **[inaudible]** farm there. Outstanding guy you know and his family when they were growing up his son and

daughter and our kids knew each other and our next door neighbors here, George and Linda, have been here almost as long as we have couldn't have asked for better neighbors. The kids, our Tammy used to babysit their daughters and all and they're all they still get together, they still know each other and the neighbors next to them [inaudible] we help each other you know if somebody is doing something out back with their shed even mowing the lawn. If we go find George he'll mow his lawn, mow our lawn you know. [inaudible] oh I was just out doing and I figured I'd do it for you but especially a lot of things like our old farm in Academy Hills, Chestnut Hill the old Iron [inaudible] where we used to play as kids all but one of them is gone now and probably you know we used to a lot of things up there hunt, camp and [inaudible] Iron Hill I could remember there was the big old pit up there and a pond and the story was don't go anywhere near there the guy lives up there and he'll shoot you if he catches anybody around there and you're not allowed to fish up there, but there's big fish. I got a picture of my dad up there on Iron Hill there's hardly any trees when he was a teenager but we used to sneak up there. Sneak through the woods and we'd get up and hide behind the tree and throw our lines out. I don't remember catching anything, probably had carp because there were some big fish in there and [inaudible] but that was part of growing up and it was exciting and we did something dangerous and all the cousins when we were living down there on the farm they would come to our house. My mom was Aunt Mary to all the cousins and when she passed away I was working for the furniture barn over on 13 and when she passed away it seemed my dad and my youngest brother Robert were buried at Christiana along with most of the family back on the Rambo side and we were at the funeral and the cousins did the funeral, they talked, they all got up and talked about Aunt Mary. Everybody loved Aunt Mary and the owners of the furniture barn and the store manager who hired me to work over there they all came over. It was a family kind of thing anyway and I didn't know they were coming and after the ceremony they said that is the most wonderful ceremony that they had ever witnessed. They couldn't believe, they said your mother had to be a special person. I said Aunt Mary was Aunt Mary to all the kids and they just loved her

but that was the family and that was the era you know so anyway you got ta' take what's here.

Roberta: The community, as you remember it, is kind of fading?

J. Lee: Yeah you know you watch TV programs where they're out in the mid-west and people on the farms out there and all it's the same thing I think. You always knew there was somebody was [inaudible]. As kids we used to play you know Red Rover, Red Rover and as kids they'd come at night or come during the day and we'd play tag a lot of that you know it fits (?) guys [inaudible] Roger Smith that I talked about earlier he'd be with the cousins when they were around we'd take the bikes and cut a stick, little sapling something short and put some string on it and wind around it, get a hook and put on the end of it and we'd dig what we called fishing worms, ground worms and [inaudible] and the little white grubs they were even specialer, grasshoppers and go fish and we fished Christiana creek from the other side of Stine Lab all the way down past Cooch's Bridge just walking. We had a special hole over on the other side of near where Fisher's Mill was I was aware of Fisher's Mill at the time I found out that one of my grandmother's was a Fisher's Mill family. We could it was deep enough we could swim there but we had a nice place to fish and if you get across one side the other well then they built tank plant and the test track ran just the other side over the whole field and they had a big draining pipe that came out from the underneath the tracks and it ran down with drainage down underneath the fence and there were these tanks running around there we'd sneak across and [inaudible] grab a tank on the bottom and we'd time the tanks so we knew how much time it is. Tank come on by and get off quick zip under there, run up and get under in the t drainage pipe and let the tanks run across the top of us and then we'd sneak back. One time the other two guys went and I don't know why. I had to work with the Ulrick's that day but they came and that next day they were over at the house and they said, "man you should be glad you weren't with us yesterday", why? "We snuck over the tank thing and security got us". I said "what did they do?" and he said "man they had me shaking in my boots, they got us for an hour in the office

and then they were really letting us have it you know. They finally let us go and told us never to get caught over there again."

Roberta: What were those drainage pipes, what were they made of?

J. Lee: They were made of concrete but they were in a secured area. I think it was private and Chrysler was building the tanks. We didn't get into much trouble after that. **[inaudible]** played ball for the American Legion and I coached there in Newark and talked me into one year, oh come on out and play ball. We would work different farms around and help them with baling or weeding or whatever you'd do that for a day. We'd get a good **[inaudible]** at lunchtime because they really fed you good and they paid pretty decent too but we would walk to the farm along over on Elkton and come down on Dixie Line Road and then walk back home, change and then walk to Newark, three miles to Newark from our farm and walked to Newark and played ball and I can remember going on the one game was in Wilmington and I don't know what time it was when we got back, Dad come and picked us up at that point from that one. I don't know how you did it.

Roberta: Remember when you were younger walking was not a big deal.

J. Lee: Yeah I was a skinny guy too. Mom fed us good and my brother he would go to the University of Delaware and he got into Theta Chi and they were wearing their old **[inaudible]** on West Park, it's changed hands so many times its probably torn down, but the Theta Chi fraternity moved into that house and he would bring his fraternity brothers every other Thursday to our house for dinner and they would eat and eat and eat and Mom just loved it. The more they ate the more she fixed and at my brother's eulogy a couple months ago one of his fraternity brothers gave a talk about coming out to Mom's and getting fed. She would send food back and I told him then, "you know when you guys left we didn't eat for a week 'cause there was nothing left over.

Roberta: You have some pictures there?

J. Lee: Oh, this is my dad and this is my grand pop Rambo. The house is still up there, it's on Ott's Chapel Road. They're cleaning fish and salt them down. They would salt fish and put them in wooden barrels for the winter. **[Inaudible]** had a place on the Susquehanna Flats and they'd go down there when the Shad were running and go out by boat and put out big nets and bring in the Shad **[inaudible]** but Dad and Grand Pop Grand Pop especially were surf fishermen. He loved to go surf fishing. He'd go down to Bethany and whatever and this is my family all except for our youngest brother, he wasn't born. This is my brother Ferris, Dad and my mom. This is me chewing gum, probably bubble gum and got my dad's National Guard hat on and my sister Florence and that's up at this place outa in the front facing Ott's Chapel Road.

Roberta: And when was this, do you remember what was the date?

J. Lee: Well I was born in '39 so figure out how old I look there?

Roberta: You think seven, eight?

J. Lee: I don't think I'm that old.

Roberta: You're tall.

J. Lee: My brother was the tallest he was three years older than me.

Roberta: Oh this is your mother the one that everybody called Aunt Mary?

J. Lee: Yeah.

Roberta: Okay, alright and you can see in the back of this the area is not developed.

J. Lee: No. That's the farm where the housing development is that **[inaudible]** across the road from where Mom grew up. She used to talk about they had a spring and a spring house and they used to go down there when it was real hot out and sit in the spring house and cool off. I remember going up to that farm and Merlin and

Kitty (?) [inaudible] when I was growing up and they had a son Bill and a daughter Karen I think Karen was adopted but Bill.

Roberta: One of the things I enjoy is talking to people who grew up in this general area, Iron Hill and just all of this Glasgow area this is how open it was and it is I mean even though I'm from Wilmington, the city, when I come out here I can feel, I can tell there's a certain feeling that comes from areas that have been developed from farm land. There's this to me there's a certain discord that happens you know. It's too much of everything houses, too much traffic, you just can tell.

J. Lee: This was a soy bean field when they built this house.

Roberta: Is that right?

J. Lee: Peoples. Bob Peoples.

Roberta: Peoples okay. That's People's Plaza?

J. Lee: Yeah. Bob Peoples was the developer and he had a brother Bill who was my scout master in the Boy Scouts in Newark and he also worked for the phone company and worked in the university. He and my dad saw a lot of each other there and my cousin Jean married Jimmy Fox from the Fox farm. Jimmy Fox was a telephone guy that worked at the university so they saw a lot of each other. Yeah, this was the Brown Farm and the tan house up here was where the retirement community is now and the old farm house, the barn is gone but a couple sheds are out back that was the station for the [inaudible] Newark, New Castle, Frenchtown Rail Road.

Roberta: Is that right? I'll have to go out and if I go down this road.

J. Lee: Well if you go out here go right and it will be right up the road on this first old house on the right there but [inaudible] first official to move in there and there was a family that lived in the house next to us here at the time and Bob Peoples told me they just got married, she'd been divorced and they just got married and they didn't have any place to live so I told them they could move in but they didn't

have the occupancy permit yet so I appreciated it and that's what brought me in so we were one of the first ones. We moved in in March 1976.

Roberta: It's so quiet here and what a view. I just love this house.

J. Lee: Oh yeah, this has been. I told Tommy so many times I said, "Don't you ever sell this place to anybody who's going to tear this place down." I tell you it makes such a difference to look out and see a barn and a pasture. People who lived there originally when we first moved in they had a horse that they trained jumping that's what you see the jump there but he doesn't, he's retired and he collects antiques. He has stuff all over over there and **[inaudible]** he's got some old cars, trucks and a shop going around back. We go over there once in a while and cut some trees come on over, he's got a refrigerator in the shed there and Nick two houses down and I sit there and drink a couple beers. Harry has beers, soda whatever. But he's right there if you want him.

Roberta: Yes, it's a beautiful view. I looked up and I saw that it was like oh my. Jim, this has been a pleasure. This has been more fun than words.

J. Lee: It's fun to me.

Roberta: It's really nice I appreciate you sharing you know with us in our project. Thanks a lot.

J. Lee: It's my pleasure. You can tell I love to learn and talk.

Roberta: This ends this interview with Jim Lee. It is tape 2 side B.