

INTERVIEW OF ROSELLA NEGYICKE BALOGH SEKERES

By Mildred Allen Beik

August 9, 1985
Mine 37, Windber, PA

MB = Mildred Beik

RS = Rosella Sekeres (March 19, 1899-July 2, 1987)

Beginning of the Interview

Beginning of Tape 1 Side A (August 9, 1985)

MB: I want to get your complete name. That's one of the first things I want to get. What your name is so that I can spell it right and all that. I have a little notebook here. Would you mind if I take a couple notes while we're talking too?

RS: Yes, go ahead.

MB: What is your complete name Mrs. Sekeres? Is that how you say it? Sekeres?

RS: Sekeres, yeah. It's my second husband anyhow. The first one was Balogh.

MB: Oh, Balogh? What was your maiden name?

RS: My maiden name is Negyicke.

MB: How do you spell that? You want to write it on here for me and then I'll have it.

RS: N-E-G-Y-I-C-K-E.

MB: Okay. That was your maiden name. What's your first name?

RS: Rosella.

MB: Rosella. And you were married to a Balogh did you say?

RS: Balogh, uh-huh. Married in 1914.

MB: What was his first name?

RS: John Balogh.

MB: I don't know so, don't mind. And then you married Mr. Sekeres?

RS: Sekeres was my husband was killed 1934 and I got eight kids left when I married and I broke my neck [inaudible]. I never get no penny.

MB: Tell me about this. Before we get to that. I'll put this closer so we can pick up your voice well.

RS: Are you related to that Peter [Schnelli]? Yellenic name?

MB: Yeah. Yellenic from Hungary. [Schnelli]. Yeah. I've heard that name.

RS: He was next to my husband.

MB: I didn't know that. I'll have to notice when we go up there.

RS: Did she marry that [inaudible name] guy?

MB: Yeah. Right. That's the one. That was my grandmother. Small world.

RS: That's why I said Peter [Schnelli]. Next time I go up to cemetery I'll look [inaudible].

MB: Would you tell me when you were born? So I get these basic facts down?

RS: 1899. March 19.

MB: What was it?

RS: March 19.

MB: March 19? Where were you born Mrs. Sekeres?

RS: Hungary.

MB: Hungary? Do you know what town, village, or whatever?

RS: It's called...different. Not too big town, but was a big company. Actually, it's a ranch or farm you know because in Europe it was a different life than over here. Like arranged different in Europe. But, now, it's all different now too because there's [inaudible] or nothing.

MB: Yeah. It was the old Austria-Hungary Empire in those days.

RS: Yes.

MB: What was the name of the place?

RS: Csosrgó.

MB: Would you write it there for me?

RS: I'll write it down and you copy it down. C-S-O-S-R-G-O. But, you put the point on top of the "O." Csosrgó.

MB: Csosrgó? And Zemplen Province?

RS: Zemplen Megye, yes. Your grandma was Zemplen Megye. Maybe she told you? But, Liska?

MB: Olas Liska, right. Uh-huh.

RS: You remember Mrs. Kovach? Jula Kovach?

MB: No, I've heard the name, but I don't...

RS: Because actually, you don't understand nothing Hungarian?

MB: No, not really.

RS: They were very good friends. Mrs. Kovach and I, her two sons, and my son-in-law. When she died, I don't remember how many years ago, but might be 1950s. She died too. Actually, one of my grandson's children was over near her oldest daughter. They lived in Kansas. So she was my friend since maybe 1958. I'll meet you there, but it is too far from here. Coming down with the two daughters and one boy, husbands, and my son [inaudible]. Joe Kovach. It was very, very... That's what I remember back, you know, because when I moved here in [19]34, so we went, like strange. People moving, always strange, to Mrs. Kovach. And I'll meet your mother here and a lot of Hungarian people used to live around here.

MB: Well, before we...

RS: And I know very well for Mrs. Yellenic. That's why I said Peter [Schnelli] Yellenic.

MB: That's her. But, before we get to life here, maybe you could tell me something about life in Hungary? Where you were born? What was your family like? What did your parents do for a living? Were they farmers?

RS: My parents worked for the big company. My father was like a foreman before he come over.

MB: For what company? Do you know what it was or what it did?

RS: It's [hexta], they call them Hungarian. I can tell you, it's a second generation for [the] king. It's a rich company.

MB: A rich company? What did it make or do? What was it for?

RS: All farming. They had like a hundred farms. They had more people than in 1937. They raise everything.

MB: Hm. They raise everything.

RS: They work in horses. Did you ever see them buy those horses that...? Those horses that they have. And cows. And ox. Milking cows. And pigs. There is every damn thing. Every damn thing.

So, like I told [inaudible name], I don't think in Europe that they had what I don't know what they work. They work every place. I'll tell you too, my father come out in 1905.

MB: Your father came to America in 1905?

RS: Yes.

MB: Did you come with him then?

RS: No. I cannot. Not until 1921. My mother come out in 1906. The three of us stayed home. My mother they got four kids. This is Julie, Andrew, and Josie. Josie died, after two weeks, they died over here. This spot, maybe over a year, they come out 1907. They got more kids over here, but we three stayed home.

MB: Who did you live with then while your parents were both gone?

RS: I stayed with my grandmother when my mother left me and my grandmother put me in a school too. Because actually, there was a court...it was a law that you went to a summer school. It was a law that my mother fought because it was far away where the school they were going to put me in. But, I tell you, old people, they don't think about education because they think that everybody can live like that. So, when they come out 1906, and then my grandmother are coming here, and in the school, actually I was eight.

MB: Your grandmother came here too or?

RS: No, no. I stayed home. With my sister. We stayed home.

MB: So, what kind of school was it and how long did you go to school?

RS: It was a Catholic school. I went twenty-three years.

MB: Twenty-three?

RS: Three years only.

MB: Three years only? Oh, I see.

RS: I started at eight and...Because I didn't have no parents and we didn't have no law...It's very hard already. [Speaks in Hungarian]. I had a very sad life to put it this way. Because my grandmother was very rough to me. My sister, my older sister married. She was rough to me. I didn't have nowhere to turn. So I went to my aunt's place. My mother's sister's place. And her husband had the same job like my father used to have. Same company, just different work. So I worked for four and a half years for those two. Worked day and night—hard.

MB: Doing what kinds of things? What did you do?

RS: Outside work. Work inside. Work everything. Because they raise pigs and cows, everything. And when I finish at work, I go and get the money for everything.

MB: Hard work.

RS: All I get was a little bit of food and I don't have any decent clothes and I was really heartbroken. You couldn't be a young child, a young girl, a woman (I don't know if you're married or not), but if you have a pretty dress or better [inaudible]. Did they buy for you? I don't have no decent dress, actually, holey ones. So, if I asked for my aunt to buy me clothes. What for? You're going to grow up and get big. I don't grow much. They were a bunch of stingy bastards, you know. Excuse me.

MB: It's okay.

RS: So, I was wanting to get married too because I was [inaudible].

MB: When you got married? You got married in Europe?

RS: Europe, yes. Because I got married 1914, fourth of June. So, then I made my house then at those place it was a shame because sometimes a company they transfer you to another farm. So, they transferred my uncle to another farm because they don't have any higher man to them because he was working for company since he was a little boy and he was going higher like what we had too. So, we went to a new place 1913. Grew up. Moved up new people all the time. Because they got contract like [inaudible name], he signed a contract, like when they sign a contract, he knew when he would have to start and when he would have to quit. A year. A year. Not a month like over here. A year. So we went. I meet my husband here because we're the young generation. It's very hard. The young generation must always be happy. Work hard. I used to sing and dance and everything. I thought someday I would get like a gypsy. The gypsy, we hate them over here. Now, it's dying out mostly, but back in [19]71, still have a gypsy. They came and danced so often. A lot of people come together. You had a town or you had a farm. You all gathered together. Over in [Chernobi Hebra] we had a big farm and everybody had a big family because they don't have any control like now, they have control. Some place we had three-four girls or two-three boys. Some of our play with the accordion, some of them play with the sika, some the flute, and they'd make a band. So some day afternoon, when we come home from church, and after dinner, you go out, because one street was here, here was the other street, and everyone was close together, they go singing and dancing. Happy life it was. No matter how hard you worked I was a happy life..

MB: So, tell me about your husband. How did you meet him? From a dance?

RS: I didn't meet him for my husband. We have like, over here at the...[Hungarian] what do you call play and game? But over there, it was playhouse. Sunday night or no, it was Saturday night. You go together from one girl's house. There was a lot of boys, a lot of girls that went. We play

a game and that's how I met my husband. And I don't even know his name yet. And I don't want to go. I'm ashamed to go because I don't have [inaudible]. He bought a dollar for my enter. He did it that way in Europe they had a little bit higher class. A little bit education higher. So, like my uncle, it was the old territories. It was high class. So, they thought I was an adult. So, that's how I know the people and everything [inaudible]. It was my aunt and my grandmother too. But, it was a rough life. I said the only thing, we got good food, but I worked day and night hard. I worked day and night.

MB: So, you met John Balogh then and you got married at fifteen and a half? 1914?

RS: I was about 14 when I met him, you know. We don't go around together because you don't know what [inaudible]. I don't know about the situation now, but at the time, you don't go hiding or you don't go no place. Like, I sit outside and at night, I have to be in the house. Because the house, the street, and my aunt Helen, nine o' clock, in the house. And I'd go in and wash up the supper dishes or anything. So in the old day work. All day work. They give you a penny for them. I told them, we want to get married, but they promised me if I'm going to keep myself decent, they going to give me everything, make my wedding, and everything like your daughter because they had a married daughter. Fine. If you want to get married, but they changed their mind. But, nothing.

MB: Oh dear. So, how did you end up getting married then? Did you get married in a church?

RS: Well, we got [married] in a church because [inaudible]. But, only thing was, I was underage. That was 1914. I don't have nobody to sign, I don't have no guardian. My grandmother was the guardian because my mother left the [other] place. So, over there I was 11 that was my [entry]. But, that didn't make no difference actually because my aunt was a guardian because he was responsible for my life after that. He was the head of me. The boss of me. But, he promised everything. We never can't get married. We never even think about it to marry that because I was too young to in Europe then. They not crazy in their own generation always, like now. But, then, the War broke out. So, in June, they killed our king's son, Franz Ferdinand. If you read about it, I don't know. So, my sister, my two sisters and their husbands too, got ready, who was in the service in Europe. He even obey the law. When they get to their twenties, they took them in the service. It's not like over here. They going into the service for money. In Europe, the men, they have to serve time as a soldier. Two years. Or three years. Very many [inaudible-describes some type of money] I don't know now, how much [inaudible-describes some type of money]. But, before the War, they get only four penny a day. Of course, they supplied them food. But, they had to serve because when the War broke out, they had to be ready. That's what I told him many times. Over here they bring them because in the United States, they had to be brought or born over here. They have to save the country. They have to serve. But, they won't bring them over here because they were going in the service. That was good pay. Like now. They don't have no job, they going in the service.

MB: So, is your husband older than you when you got married?

RS: Yeah. He was close to forty, I mean twenty.

MB: Was he drafted into the army?

RS: No, he was going to take it because of the sign. They were going to take men, twenty-two to thirty-six. So, he has only the father and mother. The father was blind from 1913. His father was working for the same company. But, he went blind because he was working all the time for the oxen. So, you ever see or hear about the ox? What the ox? The ox was like a cow, but they had big horns. Once in a while, I see them on the television, like old-fashioned. That company, they have a lot of them. They have lots of work for the ox. So, they have big pay. [inaudible] He don't have no eye glasses. He had in both eyes—cataracts. So, they don't have to do so much education like now for a doctor either. So, my mother and I used to take him to the doctor, and it had to be cut away. They said they have to use like a [flute]. So, after a while, it was 1913 it happened, and it was about 1917, they have an eye-cleaning [inaudible]. So, we forgot about it. You know we don't have no money, we don't have no building, nothing because my husband was working for that company, but after then they took him in the service, we stayed in the house, but they don't allow us to read nothing. And I had to work twenty days just for the rent.

MB: So, did you work on the farms then?

RS: I tell the truth, I have brains even though I don't have no very smart education, but I wasn't boss for my mother or nobody because I wasn't raised like that. In Europe, they don't raise kids like now. If anything happen, [inaudible] for the kids. Because [inaudible] business... get the hell out! Or if you're sassy, they slap them. You're not allowed to be sassy back to the older people. I was raised like that. So, I was strange with my mother, but I don't bossy them. I don't say nothing for what she going to do to me? She going to be boss maybe because she was much older.

MB: Did you live with them then?

RS: I keep them actually.

MB: Oh, you kept them?

RS: Around [19]15, I took them in. My husband and I was married 1914. So, what they going to do? My mother had cows, a lot of pigs, chickens, everything. They allowed to keep a chicken, but no pigs, no cows, no ground, nothing. Because when you work for the big company, you had free rent, you got full big [loading] you can't keep cows and a calf, you can't keep pigs, how much you able to keep for the pigs, you know, because the company paid for them then. Watch it! I don't remember exactly how many hundred kilo grain you get a year, I mean in a week. And give you an acre ground every year and you plant corn in it, potatoes in it, beans in it, everything. And they have everything in the harvest and you got everything.

MB: So, it was a hard life then?

RS: It was a hard life, but it was very productive. Because if you know how to handle it, you could manage it because you got everything. You got pigs. You can kill two-three every year. You got pigs, you got lard, you got [inaudible] everything. Chicken, you could raise how much you able. It was close to the city too. My mother went every day for the market because it you could pick out the morning milk. You could make cheese, butter, or a couple dozen eggs or something someone selling at the market.

MB: What city were you close to?

RS: [Ooya. Charta Ooya].

MB: How do you spell that? You can write it right here for me.

RS: [Writing]

MB: I have to look at a map and find it.

RS: You got the Hungarian map?

MB: I got a good one. Not with me.

RS: [Charta Ooya]. You see that on the paper? On the sign? We really called it [Ooya] for the suburb, but nobody [Charta Ooya]. That's the city name. We went to the church over there and married in the same church back that I was in back in [inaudible] because we went to. My nephew came down from [Cheslocki], because the territory [Ocha], where I come from. It was from 1919. My husband left then 1914 for the service, and they trade him in 1915 for the battlefield, In February, he was wounded at [inaudible battlefield name] in the left arm. They took him to the hospital, but they bring him close. Miskolc.

MB: Oh, I know where that is. I know that one.

RS: Yeah. We went to visit him with my mother at Easter time 1915.

MB: Easter time, 1915? So, was he well then?

RS: He was in [inaudible hospital name] and they ship him back again for June. So he was in battle there and captured by the Russians. He was three and a half years Russian prisoner.

MB: Oh, he was a prisoner for three and a half years? Where was he? Do you know? Did he talk about it?

RS: What I hear about the city name or [Kocas]?

MB: Oh, I know.

RS: [Kocas] was a state. The city was [Kubra obrac--inaudible]. My husband all the time mentioned.

MB: So, he had a hard time then as a prisoner?

RS: First time he was cook for the prisoner camp. But after all, he don't feel good and the doctor told him that he had to stop that. So he went back to work for what they call a like a city [inaudible]. He was like a chauffeur with a nice family. They would be given out to the... If you hear about the Cossack's. He would go out to the farm. So, he was working for the Cossack's. In 1916 actually, they broke out in revolution that's when they killed them all. They killed the Czar. They had a beautiful family. Nicholai and their kin, you know, the Czar. They killed them, you know. And after that, the common people... My husband told me, they dig the hole and put the handgun in, and some of them, kicking and crying and then, cover them. So, he work for the Cossack, I don't know for how many years because the farmers over there, they work. There a big difference. [inaudible] Like now, you know how they say they don't have any big Czar. My grandson said, you know how they have these state [inaudible]? I said, now, bullshit! I said, I grew up in Europe, I show you. That company where I told you, I went [inaudible] when I was just a small child. They have a track machine that was bigger than the whole [inaudible]. Even free to let them build a bridge where they got a big river under the city.

MB: Would you write the name of the company for me because I'm having trouble understanding what the company name was.

RS: I can tell you for the name was [inaudible Hungarian name].

MB: Could you write it for me? This will help because I won't be able maybe to get it from the tape and I just was curious.

RS: [Writing] [inaudible Hungarian name]. I remember because I went there because I see the family when I go to church or school. Oh, it was some beautiful territory. You must read history. Dracula in Trans [Transylvania] was an old-time Hungarian leader. That was the king for that castle.

MB: That's interesting. Your husband worked for this Cossack on this farm. Did he continue to do that until the end of the War then?

RS: He disappeared. He actually worked for the farm, but I can't tell you how long it was because the Cossack was really rough. And when he come out, he explained everything to me, you know, and then come the Lent. Seven weeks, they don't touch nothing only smoked fish and salt fish and then potatoes. No butter, no bacon, no nothing, no meat. So he grew used to that. I don't know if you're Catholic or not.

MB: I'm mixed.

RS: I'm a Catholic too. A Greek Catholic is more strict than a Roman Catholic because we keep a Lent, but still we eat the butter and the milk and everything. Only thing, we don't eat three days of meat. Because we used to have cows, we got milk, we got cheese, we got butter, we got a lot of things with that. But, even some of them over here too, they don't eat the seven days of meat. I know a lot of people. You look at the Greek Catholic people, they don't eat when they come to Easter, they eat so much and then they got cheese for the month. [Your stomach is dry]. But, I said really, calling or anything for Catholic, but I learned at a strictly Catholic school for a nun. Not boys, just girls. And I have to go to church even if I don't want to because every Sunday we have to be over there. Before we go to school, we go to chapel because the school and the chapel were built with a wall all around. And I [inaudible] because nobody else can come in. It was really, I like it because they teach you very nice and they teach me knitting and embroidering. I like to talk about it because my great-grandchildren, they went up and they come down and [inaudible-Hungarian], granddaughter with the husband. I have a single bed, I said my son-in-law. [inaudible]. I said, you can sleep over here because I can't have, you know, sexual. I want it this way and I want it that way! And the boys will sleep in [inaudible]. When they come down, they say, oh, Grandma, how pretty the things. I say, it look like [inaudible] a statue and everything. That's what I tell them [inaudible]. I say, I'm going to change everything because [Hungarian word for flowers].

MB: Oh, your flowers are beautiful.

RS: [Inaudible-Hungarian] so, when I get the beans, I clean them up. I picked more than a bushel and that's what I have in here. I clean them and then put them in the freezer. Some of them, you know...

MB: Why don't you go back now and tell me about your husband coming back when you got reunited with him.

RS: 1914-1915. I get...I don't hear from him when he disappeared, you know, couple weeks. I wrote him for [inaudible]. They wrote me back. They don't know no place, no foreign record, not life, nor death. But, they don't get back all the records for the prisoners yet. So after a while, I think, in two weeks, he write me, I think, seven postcards. He didn't like to write letters. A lot of times it was just post cards. [inaudible], that's what you call them. And he said, don't worry about it. I'm a prisoner. I feel good. I got good work. That's all--just a couple lines. And after the two weeks, I think seven cards, 1915, then nothing. Nothing. So, when I thought about it, everything, a couple men to ask them in Russia do you know what...

End of Tape 1 Side A

Beginning of Tape 1 Side B (August 9, 1985)

RS: So, we don't hear, we don't hear. Get out, outside, and we walk through the town. We don't stay at the farm because I told my mother, I had realized a thought, I said, mom, we're not going

to sell the cows. Nothing told me, I don't [inaudible] for you. But, if you're going to have cows, they gonna' have to eat. How we going to feed them? Don't worry about it. I'm going to work to keep them up? That's why we went to the town. It was about a mile away from the town and we rent a house. So, we keep a couple cows and a chicken, you can keep all the time because we raise corn and everything. And, I work day and night, like a slave. Anyhow, I give it to my mother-in-law. And, I never asked them, what they do with the money or anything. But, I was exactly like a slave. And, I was afraid to let them alone, what they might starve. What they gonna' do? You know how people all the time, I think about them [inaudible], you let them because [inaudible]. Some people [inaudible]. No, I don't have anything of mine. Just working hard, but I cry all the time. No matter how hard I work, I don't have no decent horse or anything and I carry everything on my back. Firewood. Even working for the grape fielder, you know, when they open a grape field, the grapes started ripening. Always working hard for the manager because the manager was a man too. And the [inaudible] I carry on my back all the time, and the planting, and the digging, and the cultivating. But not cultivating like you think. They had...did you ever see sharp pick? Not sharp pick, a different one. A pick, but double. It's kind of like a... [Draws image]. And here's the handle. A pick. A two-pointed pick. And a long handle, but my mom said it was more rocks than dirt. So, I have to...and the boss he said don't be afraid to turn that damn thing and he said turn! Big lumps, I'd have to turn them over. Sometimes, I don't know what I do not for me, but a lot of girls and women they work a lot, they don't know what. And I went to them, sometimes, I was so hungry for something, for some soup, I don't care dry stuff because it's all day in hot sun and drinking water because we go sunrise to sunset. You work days because of [inaudible] Sunset, sunrise we was working.

MB: What kind of wages did you earn?

RS: Well, different...I don't remember we get...well, I used to work and get thirty cents a day too. Before the War. I used to get thirty cents all day.

MB: Thirty kronen?

RS: Thirty pennies.

MB: The whole day from sunrise to sunset?

RS: When I was eight years old, I was working for thirty pennies. So, I work even in tobacco over there when I started at thirty cents. In the wintertime I was working too, so I earned ten dollars a month. And I worked [inaudible]. You know, in town you working for the tobacco, and packing and smoothing and everything. And we start early morning sometimes. At four o' clock in the morning, we have to get up and go. And we come for breakfast, we come for dinner, we come home supper and ten-eleven o'clock again and then go to sleep. For ten dollars a month. Even for every penny. I work even for the dairy cows or the milk cows we call them. We had a girl who was eighteen, but I was only thirteen. There was all the big kids with the little kids, we sit there. We make cheese, we make butter, separate them. That's what I told my grandson. I

said, no, there was nothing over here, but I remember that big company. I was carrying for the milk morning and night because they milking. Carrying for the city because they had milk, they pour it in, [inaudible], quart to quart. And even the buttermilk because like over here, they don't have any that like the buttermilk. So, when we make cheese and that one too, oh...they have beautiful...they don't have no electric, but they have all [inaudible] and they run it with the machine. So, they have all the milk separators there too, but they use ice. They don't have no electric or [inaudible], but they have ice. So, a lot of it, we have to cool the milk. Before you separate it, you have to cool it. So, when they have to cool it, it's like a pipe, it's two pipes, and you have to put it at the top and they have ice in it and they put the milk in on the other side with the two pipes and the cream. You don't want milk. But, those that separate the milk, they don't use them. They put it in a big pan because oh...there was about...two hundred gallon. Maybe more. It was like a big top. But, a beautiful unit, but [inaudible name] said it was like a gold. When they put the milk in it, you know what, they had ladles or something, and leave it in a can until it got sour, then they take the cream off, and after that, they put it in the big tank and then they have steam under there in a pipe and they have steam under it. Then they have like a tank, like a machine worker, a mechanic. They working on the motor and everything. So, even the cementing top, that's why we wash our cans, because we're washing our pans because they build them in cement. One room we were washing and the other one rinsing. In the other room, we have like a shack, and we put them upside down even if they have a drop of water to leak out. And they have to be shined those cans because we have to use our sandpaper like over here. They have to be shined because they come so often with a big shot for inspection. And I get fifteen for rent a month.

MB: Was there any fighting near where you lived in the War.

RS: Fighting?

MB: In World War I?

RS: There was fighting [when he come to check on me] and the companies broke up. My husband, I don't even tell you, come home. So then, I [inaudible] while the people actually to get married because we don't hear from nothing. I pitied the two old poor people because they had another son that was in the service and he was ten years older. They was there when they come home and when the War was over. I think, 1918?

MB: 1918.

RS: So then, I don't hear nothing from my husband. So, I figure out if I gonna' live here a while or anything if he don't show up, and I got a letter from my parent's over here trying to help me out. But, I don't want to marry nobody because it happened and an American and then come back. So, it was the 29th of November of 1918 and I went to live in a house to buy and to milk cows. And we got two pigs because we don't keep so much for we're not using. We used to keep

[petting] stock earlier because we used to butcher before Christmas. First time we feed them with cooking-smoked tomatoes and crush them with [what do they call those, inaudible-Hungarian]...

MB: Cabbage?

RS: No, when you grind them with the flour and not for the [inaudible-Hungarian]. Chop? So, we chop for the cows and milk left over, and strained cheese and food or something leftover. And we got like half a pail or whatever. We called it slop, like for the pigs. So my mother-in-law said, bring some slop, like some drink for the pigs. I said, Okay, mom. It was Friday. I remembered it too. We never eat Friday meat, like I told you. We make a cream of big soup. And make some noodles with some cheese or something. And, the front door was like that, and when you come in our yard and the window. We got the table and we have a chest. You know in town [inaudible] they have the old-fashioned, you know they have a flower shop, they have the two [ropes] or something. And they have a [bar] and when you see down, you lift it up and they have like a chest, you know that you can keep linen or anything in it. So that's where you keep the side for the table. I had my back to the window. I turn my back and I see some soldier walking in our yard. So, my father-in-law was sitting down on a bench and he can't see that time because I took him up, it was 1917, and they operate on for one eye. Because they don't operate both eyes at once. And 1918, July, he took him up himself, so he can't see that. So, I said, I going to see why this soldier come collecting [inaudible] from the town, and they have a barrack. An army barrack. My husband was there too. So, a lot of times, a soldier would come out to beg for food because they don't have enough of food, you know. So, I sit down and maybe some soldier come and begging for food, I want to see it. But then, I open the kitchen door and he bent down and scrapping the mud from the boots and lifted his head up and I recognized him. It was my husband. And I just said [inaudible-Hungarian]. And I went Papa, Papa! Johnny home! Johnny home! And he start crying. Oh, God help you, bring [inaudible] for us. And we start talking, talking, and he don't...he says, I'm so hungry. So then, I think about, my mother-in-law milking for the cows, if you come in with the bucket and you see your son, you're going to dump it. So then, I took some slop for the pigs. I get the slop and took it out and then I give it to the pigs. I say, mother, did you finish your milking? She said, why you ask? I said, did you finish it and I'll carry it in. She said, I can carry it in. I don't say nothing, you know. I go in the house again, I wait a little while, and then I went back. I said, mom are you finished milking for the cows? What's the matter with you? You don't act like this. You crazy? I'm not crazy. So, I can tell her, I said, there's somebody here. She said, who's here? Suzy? That was another daughter. I said, no. Steve or something? They [inaudible] was visiting [inaudible] the War. I said, no. Alright crazy. You're always crazy. I said, no, mama, I'm not crazy. So then, I forced her to give me the bucket. It was a good thing too because when we went in the house...Oh!! Start screaming. My dear son because he was such a lovable son. He start talking and everything. We got some, we called them [inaudible-Hungarian], cheese curds and stuff. So he eat and after a while he ask for water and of course, nobody had it near here, over here for a long time. Not everything. Not for toilet. Nobody had it at that time, no. Now, in Europe, it's coming around.

Like over here fancy like. So, I warming up water to the bucket with...like I had a bailer. Sometime you see them in Texas you know. Those big bailers. That's a bailer. That's why you did it because, it was lice. You know, two months. Just hiding here and here. They don't have no clothes to change. So then, my mother-in-law after a while, she got the clothes that he left home. They were [inaudible] because they were bigger or something [inaudible]. So, and the clothes what they got and my mother-in-law burned them up. In Europe, it was different because that's all they use [inaudible-Hungarian]. They come out at Easter, what they called? [Inaudible-Hungarian] Or...I forgot already. Easter. We call them [Hungarian]. Somebody called them green [sundaes]? At Christmas. The big baking that we used to do like at big holidays. We used to make so much! Oh, so much. [Hungarian names of baked goods], rolls, and small cookies, and everything for the holidays. So then, my mother burned some wood and then threw the clothes in. They were outside burning.

MB: So what did your husband do then when he was out then? And did he come to America? Did you both come together what happened afterwards?

RS: Well, he started working for that company. That same company that I told you before. That company, again, it's the second generation, third generation because the second generation that come from the king. They called it Grove. Szécsény Grove. So my father walk off the job. And he can't see, he always call me, my daughter Rose, he said, you have to work hard to keep us because you're going to pay for rent, clothing, eating, animals, everything. So, I never had no money. Never kept a penny. If I got to church, I got ten cents for the basket, you know. So, I never argued with my mother because I wasn't raised like that, I be [grateful-inaudible]. So, I [inaudible] what going to happen? And at that time, he got a job for that company.

MB: Your father-in-law?

RS: My father-in-law. He worked with the ox. So, this is when my husband come home on the 29th, like I said. When he find out, he said, no, Papa, I don't want you to work anymore because you think about yourself. Because my mother was around sixty when I married him. She was around forty when my husband was four. He hardly can walk. I never know my father. I never asked him. I never knew how old he was. Maybe he was a little bit older than my mother. But, he looked so old. Old and [inaudible], at least eighty. How much you think I am?

MB: Well, you told me so it's not fair. [Laughter] I asked you that earlier. Whatever your age, you're very lively and you look very good. And you're very alert, while some people may not be.

RS: That's what a lot of people tell for me.

MB: Yeah, you're right. That's true. That's absolutely true.

RS: I said, well, I have a problem too. Now, they mix them up and everything because I have a problem. Now what am I going to do? I'm going to put my [inaudible] together for the rest of my life. So I keep myself up high. I keep myself happy. But, I don't want to bother with nobody.

MB: How many children do you have?

RS: Ten.

MB: Were they all born over here?

RS: One. The oldest daughter, I bring her here. November...no, wait a minute...October 27, I start for [inaudible]. My husband started working in the mine for November 2, because Thursday was...

MB: November 2, 1921? Well, tell me about coming to America and your decisions.

RS: We were coming back from [inaudible Hungarian town name], he started working over there. So, my second daughter [inaudible].

MB: 1921? [19]22?

RS: About 1921. We stayed with my mother because we don't have nothing. They help us out with the money and everything.

MB: Well, how did you decide to come to America and what did your parent's originally come for?

RS: Well, my parent's actually, I tell you it was a treat when I found out. But, I come out because I never dream that I would see a mine, you know.

MB: Your father came here to mine coal?

RS: Yeah, coal mine. St. Benedict could pass for a...

MB: I don't know. I'm sorry. I can't help you because I don't know what you mean.

RS: When I think about it, when you go to [inaudible] town and that is St. Benedict. And they started working over there.

MB: Your father came here in 1905?

RS: 1905.

MB: Did he stay here then?

RS: He stay here then and one year after my mother, they make a little bit of money and they send me some money for my mother to come out. So, my mother come out with the three kids.

Three kids. Julie come out after a couple years and they bring out Julie and Andrew and Jula. Jula died 'bout one...actually, three...Couple years Julie come out.

MB: But, they didn't bring you over. So you were with...

RS: No, they don't bring me. They tell me that they send the ship cards for me, but I don't want to come because I go to school and I don't even beg for the parent's love or everything. Sometimes, I pity my grandmother because my grandfather, one year after that died and my mother come out and he was real old and sometimes he was real nice to me, you know.

MB: Well, how did you and your husband decide to come to America then? Why didn't you want to stay?

RS: We decide because such age was bad for you in the companies. So, they broke up the companies and after a while they broke the companies and then down come out with the [inaudible]. It was very rough life. And they cut off the city [Ooya] from our town, and [inaudible], or shopping, we got to church and everything. They cut it off because [Ooya] then [inaudible] They divide [Ooya], that's a Hungarian territory, up with Czech. Now, we don't any place to sell anything. We don't have no place to go shopping. And they closed our city where we go sell or shopping [Kasha]. That's Czechoslovakia now. Before it was Hungary. That take us a couple hours to go for. Now if you want to go shopping, you pay more for the grain and what you get for the stuff that you sell. That was not what we got not with, but the whole town, the whole territory. Because the bread, it awfully too much food, it food, grapes, everything.. And we used to [inaudible] for [Ooya], that's Hungarian. But, that was starting into the city. Because this territory hauling for [inaudible].

MB: So when they created Czechoslovakia, it made a difference then?

RS: That's why they divide. For the city, for Hungary, for the territory. Those old towns, the food come in the city, but not for Czech. So, the people were working very hard for a living because no matter what we got, even if I got the big [inaudible], food ripen, everything. I tell you, springtime early mornings I went out and bring the water bucket, blackberry. And into the city I saw them. I used to go out and get like a raspberry, but it was big. We took six, seven like pitcher, like big pitcher. We could eight in one pot. But, they didn't want anything. So, you can't help yourself. But, we don't have no place to take it because in the city you pay more for the picking that we get for the pot. That was the problem.

MB: So then, you decided to come. But, why did you come to the US and why did you go to Barnesboro did you say you went to?

RS: Because my father was living, that's why we come out.

MB: That's why you came and that was the connection then? So your husband started in the mines there?

RS: My husband was killed over here.

MB: Okay. How did you come to Windber then? Tell me about that.

RS: Well, I tell you the truth. We come out 1921. So we have to pay them every penny for my father. What they hurt me, I don't know. I feel myself like, I don't do nothing for the family. But, my mother never treat me like her own child. She never gave me a cup of coffee freely. We pay fifty dollar for the board. We have to pay every penny what they paid for the ship cards. He never loved my kids like the grandparents. Never kiss them or anything. My youngest brother was five when we come out. My mother got every damn thing. They pocketed it, pocketed it, pocketed it, everything. They have something. My oldest daughter was two. They can talk and pray and everything. Momma, I want that what Johnny got, because we just come from Hungary. I don't have it. I thought, I don't have any. But, I want... You know how the kids. They never eat those kind. So, he [described], he wants it, he wants it. So, even I give him all the candy, because it hurts me. Something about that, my grandchildren come out, I give them the [inaudible]. Or when they're close to me, I give them [inaudible], everything, oh wait, I want the bigger one. My mother, it hurts me because what they raise-that was lovey-dovey. I was like a stranger. They don't have nothing left for me, they greedy. Greedy. Just greedy. She was more greedy than me. [inaudible name] He can't talk 1906 to [19]21. [inaudible]. He can't for nothing because the kids went to school, but he was a stupid. Dumb. But, he know the dirty words. So, I can't say nothing because she jump in. That's when I think about it, my husband he got good living together. But when I see that my husband is right, I shut up. We never have an argument, no matter what he done. But, I see that he's arguing with something or mad, I walked away. But, the kids grow and I give them a licking, I realize it, they deserve it. Because you have to teach your kids. That's why it's so bad now. They do everything, the parents, they don't care what they do. But I say truthfully, I raise up eleven kids. Decent.

MB: Eleven? The first one was born in Europe in 1920 and you had one here. Oh boy.

RS: First one in Europe and died. I may have a doctor see my children. That was the blame of my mother-in-law too. Because, she said, go to work! Go to work! I want to take him to the doctor, so I did to town because in Europe, no [farming] the grapes, you know. So then, they bring fresh food. Not for just everybody, because you go and take a morning, what you want? You take a piece of bacon. You ever see [rolls] and bacon? That was their thing. I wasn't crazy about too much, you know. I like, two rolls, a [inaudible], and a bottle-lemon. That was my life all the time. We don't have any fancy jars or anything like they have now, you know. So, take a little glass of powdered sugar, put that on my bread and a bottle of tea or honey. Even now, I still like honey bread. Toast, I like it. But, the meat, I don't care that much for it. So that day, the town, they bring him fresh food, you know. They cooked it, soup, noodles, anything. He coming along. I bring him out. So, [inaudible-some Hungarian] maybe they think I didn't lift him right. That was the answer. And I start crying, I can't even eat. I said, Mom, I'm going home and I took him to the doctor in the town. We had to go to [Ooya] to the doctor. So, when I come home

at night, because we working sunrise to sunset, we get in the dark, where am I going to go in the city? I don't even know where I'm going to find a doctor because they don't have any... I never was to the doctor in Europe. Now, it's night time. Where am I going to find a doctor? Where am I going to ask where the doctor? So, we figure out in the morning, I'm going to take him, but the morning, Saturday, he died.

MB: This was your first born?

RS: My first born.

MB: So, you had ten others?

RS: Eleven. When my husband come home from the service, November 29, 1918. My first girl, 1919. [inaudible] they talk about it.

MB: When was your last child born then?

RS: [19]44. I was close to forty-five. With the second husband I got two boys.

MB: Tell me about when you came to Windber then. How did you come to Windber and this area?

RS: I tell you the beginning. When we come out for Europe, [19]21. [19]22 they come out on big strike. Around here, there was a big strike at the place. So, that's why I know the people a couple of them, before I come along for Windber, [19]25. Peter Schenelli? Was that your grandma?

MB: Right.

RS: So, you don't know nobody over there? [inaudible names]

MB: Yes, I know a couple of them.

RS: [inaudible names]. He was greenie, so he stayed with my mother because he don't even want for my child born at the house. They say, move, move, move. So they have a couple of empty houses. Mother what am I going to do? I don't have no penny because I get paid, they want paid for the board. I don't make money much, you know. So what am I going to do? Sit down in the room and looking for the four walls? Well, you gotta' do something. They just pushed me out, pushed me out. I thought maybe they'd let me because he work too with my father. No, they don't. So then anyhow, every payday, my husband, working with my father, so, if we have three four, five dollar left, I put it on the side, and I saved about sixty-five dollars up. So, we go up and get the stove from the company store, my two brother-in-laws go along with my husband, the store that had the stove [inaudible], it was eighty dollars, but they figured they go down and they come out to strike because they know everybody going to be strike 1922. So, they go down, my mother found out we were going to buy a new stove. Greenie like you, you got a new stove? How you going to pay the amount? [inaudible-Hungarian] secondhand stove? We have to tell

them. There's nothing else I can do. I don't have no money, I don't have no return. So, we end up paying thirty dollars for the stove. I can cook in it, I can bake in it, but it was just junk. And so, my mother's sister was living here with Julie and after they move out of that one, because they come back for the jobs at the mining town, but in 1922, they move back again. And I said, Josie, my husband did the work [inaudible]. And he died over there in 1922. She was living about the third house from me and when I make bread dough and everything, and ready raise it, and I give it to her, and she bake it for me. But, my husband never ate a piece of store-bought bread. He didn't need to. Even after he died, I was always baking bread and after a while I married that there Sekeres, you know, somehow the kids know when we are going out at the farm, we're going to have everybody out. If I have a decent husband, he going to keep earning. But, he sit in the car and roam around because he spent his whole life in Windber buying cars. And the kids come out with their pennies, and they never give a penny buying [tires. Six tires]. So then anyway, we lived not so far from my sister.

MB: Now, is this in Windber? Or is this still back in...?

RS: Barnesboro still. So when we get back there's trouble. And the junk stove and my husband put the wood in from the building. So, I have one woman...

End Tape 1 Side B

Beginning Tape 2 Side A (August 9, 1985)

RS: ...twenty dollars. And one kitchen cabinet, a friend give it to me free. I just meet them over here. She said, that was my mother's and I don't use it on the back porch on the building because it gets cold. She said, she give it to me, what you call it, bare knees or something. I give it to you for nothing. I said, Mrs. [inaudible name] if you don't charge me, I don't take it. Now, after a while, we go to my place, she said, give that back. She said, you're not giving me that dollar. You know how many years I keep that? 1947 to when my son married. I give it to them and they put it down in the cellar. It was a good one, like new. It was like a fortune. And one trunk, one woman give it to me. We only got one bed. We got the junk stove here and here. We need another bed. So my sister said, I have a bed, she said. I give it to you if you want it, but I don't have a mattress, so how am I gonna' sleep in it when we don't have no mattress? You know what, my mother answer was? Oh, there's a bunch of straw that was a farmer's. There is a store man who give them out are hardly any good all the time to the people who don't want to run down all the time to the company store. So, that was my mother's answer. My mother sewed them all together, the burlap sack and that was my mother. I'm not ashamed to tell and I'm not ashamed what I went through because it's everything too hard. And but, to sleep on the straw and everything. And my other sister come and help clean the stove out and scrub the floor because it's very, very run down. And curtains. At that time, everybody making the moonshine. So, my mother used to make moonshine and they have a sugar bag in twenty-five pound sugar

bag and I sewed them together and that was my curtains in my window. My mother didn't give me a measly needle, match, or toothpick. Nothing.

MB: So how long did you live with your parents?

RS: I live only little bit more than two months. Because Johnny wanted to move, you know. My husband started working November 2nd and after that we move separate for the three room house. So, we move separate. It was struggle, struggle. There was five month strike coming. We don't have no money, we don't have nothing.

MB: Is this still in Barnesboro you're living?

RS: Yes. Barnesboro.

MB: So, there was a strike in Barnesboro too?

RS: All around. In every place they strike.

MB: So, tell me about that and what you remember from that.

RS: So anyway, they strike and we got friend. It was my mother's neighbor, and one a little bit down, like two rows of houses, like thirty-five, and thirty-six. So then, my mother was living up the road and a neighbor about four houses down was the lower road. So this one, used to be border to my mother's house, but they were single. At that time, they had three or four kids already. But they was neighbors in a single house. So, every night, they call me to see my father because my father like to drink wine all the time and because he like wine, he gave them a glass of wine. I don't have nothing against my father, only thing, I don't want to mix up everything. He was an old man because he was the right kind of man or they have feeling for the children. He can tell them, shut up, and the children seem like the other ones. I can't tell them no different because I can't leave. I'm not leaving yet. But, I love all the same way. But, they don't know that I wasn't against my father. Because he was an old man.

MB: Well, did you have a hard time during the strike then too?

RS: Yeah, we had a hard time.

MB: Where were you living before?

RS: Before that, I moved on the tenth, and on the fourth [fourteenth?] when my baby born.

MB: This is the second child you had?

RS: The second, yeah. And they have a midwife. It was close to where my sister's neighbor was. Somehow, it was really that with my younger sister's husband. But, I meet them over here. Actually she's not in the county. I just meet them over here. That was fine. She was waiting for my brother-in-law. She said Rosie come. She said, don't call the doctor. I know you don't have

no money, I help you out. Because at that time, I talk Slavish to them, Polish people, Slavish people help them out, but they don't charge nothing to me. I help everybody, poor people. They pity me. I don't know them. They pity me. So, she come out and I was sick and my husband [inaudible]. So then, they come out and they help me. Actually, she was a Greek Catholic and the blessing and I don't know what they call them in American? So then, she said, oh, we're not going to see Lizzy? Because my sister was living near for them. And I going to see Lizzy in the morning and I tell her, you going to have a girl. So and, she said, well, actually, I going to come this way, I'm going to church and for they don't want to go down to highway. I'll come closer and I'll come over here and clean you...excuse me...I don't know if you're married or not.

MB: Yeah, and I have some kids.

RS: I'm going to change your bed, clean you, and I going to take the [wood] to the church. I said, okay Mrs. [Clites]. So, besides she's coming, my sister and my mother come and see me because my sister told my mother, they coming together. My sister was I think, three years older or four. My brother was five. I got my bed over here, another over here. We got first for the kitchen before we make a bedroom because we don't have no furniture. We got the pot stove there, table over here, and you don't feel it. It was very, very rough cold for us. Snow all the time. I put it that way, excuse me, you know. I couldn't stay in that bed anymore. You know the situation? I don't have no money. My mother buy...I got two baby boys and they help me. And, I couldn't stand and I told my husband, get me the clean clothes from the town, when they give it to me, I take the baby and I change here, but I don't want him to see it. You know what I mean. Now, you don't know nothing if you're going for the hospital, but if you're home, it's something else. But, I was shy all the time. I don't want my husband to see. We don't grow up like that. [inaudible] I wasn't that way and now, everybody is like that. So, we took the baby over and we change the bed everything, because I couldn't let them see my body. So then, my mother coming and they stand in the middle of the kitchen, where my bed was, and they don't even come close. They don't even pick up the paper to see him. They treat him like an [animal]. An animal. They stand around for about two--three minutes and they turn around and went back. I thought maybe they'd bring me cooked [inaudible] because they cook something to bring me. Nothing. A drop of food, nothing. We don't have nothing. So later, they come up, they say, Rosie, where is your dinner? I say, Mrs. [Clites], I'm different. I can talk American. I said, I change my bed. She said, you? She said, your mother and sister was here? But actually, they don't do nothing. They don't pick up the paper to see the baby. I cry. I cry. I wish I never come over here. I was poor, but I was happy. So she said, oh my God, I never see anything like that. So anyway, we don't have much to eat. On Sunday, the sister that I told you, they helped me clean the house. So, they were living in about the third or fourth house. So, they bring me soup and they used to sell three pound of lard in a bucket. Like now, you sell and pay for something. They bring me soup and a couple big cabbage. So, and I eat the soup, and at nighttime I was hungry because we didn't have no food in the house. So, I told my husband, do you have anything good? He said, we don't have any money, but there's a couple cabbages over here. It's not going to be good, but it's good for

the stomach. I said, oh, I don't think I'm going to bother with them. I eat the two cabbage. In the morning, I was so sick. I was so sick and my husband was afraid to go out to call because I'm going to turn blue and everything throw up [inaudible]. So next morning, he went too because my sister was rougher than last time. So then, Monday, they went to work. He said, what I gonna' do? When I go you gonna' freeze? You can't take care of yourself. The oldest girl was two. [Thirteen, fourteen] You're going to freeze because you have to poke the stove to keep it going. You can feel it close, but [inaudible]. My mother come down, alright Richard, go to work. You know you got a bill on your head? You got no money? She said, you gonna' sit home? I never forget those words because especially since I'm alone and nighttime, I can't sleep and I cry myself, why? Why does my mother curse me out? Why I was left out of the family? So after a while, my husband went out to work and I have to get up. I didn't have no clothes, I only have [inaudible] diaper. My sister bought a pack of ten yards of flannel, that's how my kid's grewed up. So one woman, Hungarian woman was [inaudible name]. But, my husband know them from Europe. She come out and she married over here. I know her sister in Europe, but I meet them over here. It was in the third house from my mother. So, I washing and I got the wood in, my husband went down to the store and got wood. I put the wood in, like big boards, in a box like, a big box, and I put the tub on it, get to washing. Maybe clothes for my bigger girl, myself. After a couple pieces, somebody knock at the door. So when I open it, I say in Hungarian, [inaudible-Hungarian], in American. I couldn't say come in or something you know. So she open the door and he seen that I was washing clothes, he said, Jesus Christ, in Hungarian, he said, you washing clothes already? You have three big sisters because my sister with my mother was fifteen year old. Another was eleven year old, and my two married sisters over there and my mother over there. Nobody helped. And he said, you washing clothes? I broke down crying. I can't imagine any [inaudible-Hungarian]. I said, I wish I never come out over here. My mother like it here because when I got the first baby, my daughter, resting? Because you gonna' feel it when you be old. It was true. But I said, I wish my mother could be nice to me, but she would never come. She bring a big basket of food, you know, cake and soup. I don't know what kind of meat it was. Canned stuff and what was the canned food. And, that's all they had, you know. So, I have to get up and work. Work around for myself. My mother never give me nothing. So after that, one pay, my husband got twenty-eight dollars in eight hours. So, they take out for the house rent, we got a load of coal. I don't know how much that was. We got five or six dollars a store bill. Check payment, check everything and take them up. So, they don't give him but anything but two dollars after he give them the envelope. From the envelope, the two dollars, I give a dollar fifty my mother for the milk that they bring me every day for the quart of milk. They don't even give me a glass of milk. So, that time, I don't get nothing for the bill to send out for my father. They want me to give him every payday, twenty-five dollar's for the bill. My husband say, pop, you know very well how much I got. How much I got made? I got two dollars afterward. My wife gave a dollar fifty for mom for the milk. I got left fifty cents. How am I gonna' pay twenty-five dollars from fifty cents. He said, well, if you're not gonna' be nice, you're gonna' be dirty. So whenever we think about it, they were mean, you know. So one night, they come down, we can't

stop them. We don't know who they was, what they want. We can't talk, we don't understand nothing. My husband come home from the mine and I just got the tub with the water in it because we don't have no washers. Dress up happy, you know. There's somebody knocking at the door. I open the door, I got a backroom, and they're not supposed to be in the kitchen. So, I pull the table and let them in. So, when I went through it, I got the kitchen here and then go around. But, I don't understand nothing. It's somebody I don't know. So, I come back again, he followed me. So, I said, who was it? Somebody, I don't know, I don't understand. So after a while, he see the window and he motioned to come out and I showed him. So then, I opened the door and he come out and [inaudible]. So, my mind is a little quicker, so my mind a lot of people talking, so the boss said in American, I can't think of proper thing, he said, sit down. He showed me to sit down. He motioned to me to wash and dress up. Besides, he told me when we got the [inaudible]. So, I can talk pretty good for Slavish, I don't understand German. So, I went over there and I told him that I come because I don't understand who they are or what they want. He said, soon I'm going to wash. So, I said, you come out now and I'm gonna' wash. So, that's why I told him, sit down and later, I'm going to wash up. And after a while, they left. So after they took out [inaudible], I don't ask then to tell me nothing. So I went and I got a couple weeks a baby old, my daughter two years old, and by that time, there was electric every place. I just crying and crying and crying. Where I gonna' turn? I don't have nobody too close to me. I got sister, I got sister, I got brother, everybody, who gonna' [search] for me? What I gonna' do?

MB: What happened to your husband?

RS: At night, my husband knock at the door. I was at the cradle. My sister had a cradle, they gave it to me to use for the baby and then I laid him in the cradle and she gonna' cry. And I yell in, who's there? And they say, it's me mommy. He always call me mommy. I say, they let you out for the jail? He said, no mommy. They don't take me to jail. Where you was so long? I could even see through my eyes. I'm just crying and crying. Just think about yourself. So he said, no. They gonna' have a hearing. They took him. I told him what that meant my mother to me, always to my father. Because that man, when they find out where they come from. So I asked my husband, do you have any brothers? Steve in Europe? He said, that was my best friend and another Hungarian. So that one, I told my husband, they come hearing, if he have a problem, just come to me. He don't know what that mean, you know. He don't say nothing else. But, he know everything because in Europe they tell him, this one, this one do to us. So, that's how my husband first start when we went over because we don't understand what they want, what happened. So, that was like a [inaudible], what they call them in that language. And we walk in, and that was good friend for them. So anyway, my husband asked them, what they gonna' do and they told him. That guy, remember that guy? They explain for my husband in Hungarian, he say, there gonna' be a hearing because they want our money. At that time, we no can give them because the payday was twenty-eight dollars made out fifty cents. I couldn't make fifty dollars. So and, we got the hearing. I don't go because like I said, it was cold everything. I couldn't take the kids. So then, my mother, my father, my sister, [inaudible].

MB: I don't understand. What was he charged with? Your husband?

RS: They want him to put down twenty-five dollars to pay for the bill for to pay for the ship. What he owe them.

MB: For the ship? For coming?

RS: Ship here. But, he paid them every time. Every payday, but we don't have any.

MB: I see. I understand. Okay.

RS: They don't say, we don't want paid. We don't pay them. We give them every time we can. Because like I said, one month for the board. I mean, one pay, because every two weeks for the payday. One payday for the board we had to pay for the bill.

MB: So, what happened with the hearing?

RS: So, he can do nothing. Because after a while, they told my father because we got a paper everything, what he paid them. They prove it on statement because they have a duplicate every time that you paid them. So they told my...the guy who was witness for us, he told him, even if they pay five dollars, my father have to be satisfied. He can't sue them how much even if he don't pay the rent. He was a liar. He said, you know what, you lied to [inaudible]. The family don't have it to live on it. They put you in and you work hard and that money, you gonna' pay it. So, we don't see it. We don't keep him back, because we paid him all the time. So anyway, after they come out on the big strike, this one guy said come out for [passing?]. My husband said, how am I gonna' [passing], I don't have no penny? He said, I'm happy for a train. He said, I got the bread for [passing]. He said, I can't get a job. But, oh, I don't even know the name. I forget already. Where they make all the [inaudible]. We drink for free. I remember for the name too, but I forget. So, the guy paid for the train and everything. But, that was hard too because you have to pay all the board, you know. One time I sent him twenty dollars, but I gave it to that butcher who would bring me something to eat. I can't starve the two kids. That was the day I was told to go to Barnesboro. So, I can't talk to them in Slovash. Bring me anything. Who you gonna' pay? Why you have to steal my money or something? So I don't starve.

MB: So your husband just went to Mosaic then?

RS: Yeah. He was working there.

MB: Was that during the strike then that he went? He went to Mosaic and you stayed in Barnesboro?

RS: I think he was working about one month or two months. He left them because he said, there's no use working because he can't send home money. So my mother, she tell the police, my husband sent home money, money and he don't want to pay the bill. He don't send them because he have to buy food you know? And what he sent me one time, twenty dollars a pay for the store

man to bring me food. So, that guy that he have to pay for the train ticket too. So, he come back, he said, we might as well struggle together. Because I can't eat. Every time I sit down to eat, tears come out of my eyes. Thinking about his loving family so much. So, he come back and we just live like that and that store man bring us what we need really. So then, September 1st, he went back for the working.

MB: In Barnesboro?

RS: Next to Barnesboro, They call it [inaudible].

MB: So when did you come to Windber?

RS: I tell you that too. So, they went on strike and it was over in September. And there were five people of the thirty-five and they looking for to sleep over night because they got the job. And I don't know, they don't have no contract here or what. I don't ask because I don't, it was Hungary and it was [Repcó] and [Mocri] and two Repco, and [inaudible name], and the three... I don't remember. So, they went...they start...over was the strike. That time, my husband got another body. They don't want to work with my father. And they have a [in audible]. They don't make enough money, you know, to keep the family or anything. So, I got two boarders. One was Polish and the other one [Granish]. The [Granish] used to watch him. Frank Zorco was his name. So then, I left together because they got good stove where I can bake and cook. They got table, they got a lot of dishes, everything. They had everything. I got a fuzzy chair and they give it to me for twenty dollars and all those things. So, he bought this food and I was cooking for them. And sometimes, I fix like a, they call them, not quite...I don't know what the hell they call them in American. [Inaudible-Hungarian] It's like you make a goulash, but you don't put no, maybe a little bit potato or something. He like my cooking because they cook different than the people in Europe do. So, he like my cooking and he said you gonna'...what I charge for the cooking, they take off for the furniture. I don't have to pay for the furniture.

MB: This is in Windber now?

RS: That was back in Barnesboro yet. And the other wanted a pitcher of it. And he pay me board the other one. So then, after a while, working, working. We pay for the bills, and everything. We just can't go nowhere. So the other guy that I told you, after we change our house too, we find a three-four room house closer to my mother not because I want too close, but the same size house. But when the two men come to my place, so I figure out I need a bigger house too. So now, I discuss for the other Hungarian men. What do they want for [passing] to work in? They have some relatives for [Roughton?]. I don't ever hear about them. It's closer to Barnesboro.

MB: Yeah. I know where it is.

RS: I can think about [inaudible town name]. And so, we went 1923. January 8th. Last week before Januar, or beginning [inaudible]. At the end of Januar. Because he has some [inaudible]

really in [Roughton] and I write him a letter, is he working good? How much do they pay for you to dig coal or the machine coal? And that's why we went. They work one week and the company paid them out, they said if you had bills paid them out. And the company paid for the two cars. And the three families moved from [Roughton]. Actually, my husband who was in debt was [inaudible-name] later she become the godmother for my son. So we moved Februar 7th.

MB: 1923?

RS: 1923.

MB: How long were you in [Roughton] then?

RS: And we was late because we come out with the train for the territory and I get with the train and the family and we change the train for Cresson, Cresson come into Johnstown. Then in Johnstown, we got a taxi with other people, we sit in the taxi. [Roughton], oh, that town it was muddy. So, my husband come out with the truck because one truck, somehow they broke down and something drug and they come later and that was our truck. So, he come on back with the truck and it was midnight. So, he come sleep over then and with a load on our truck. He sleep with the people. So, next morning, he went to work because he was going over there and build up the stove and start a fire because the house was empty in [19]22 because the people were striking and they put out the people, so empty was the house. So then, he warmed up and he walked so far away. We were neighbors with another man with six children. Together we moved. So, when we first came out, it was seven then eight, and he started working for the [fifty]. We don't have much [inaudible] when we made out. So then, my husband said, you know mommy, we're not going to send money for you for your father because you don't have enough. He said, we going to have to pay for the milkman because we don't have a store like now. Farmer or something. Begging for milk. And he say, send ten dollar for your sister, ten dollar for my mother because we don't send any since we come out in 1921. We don't have them, so we send them home. They come a dirty letter they write to me. So, my husband run away because he don't want to pay for the bills. But they gonna' show us. They gonna' make him pay because they find [inaudible-Hungarian]. I like fat. I like fat. I don't know it. I never hear it because, you know. And who was the letter writer? My sister. What, they owe a couple hundred. He was always crying on my neck. So then, I know everything. So after a while, they come and get a letter, dirty letter, that they wrote for some people. I never meet the people. My sister used to live with them. My sister older than me that come out with my mother. She was living in [Roughton]. She asked for me to leave [Roughton] because your husband never going to work, He sit around with the girls and drink. So, she was a letter writer and I threw it. But only thing, I make a mistake, if I know then that much now, if I took them for the court, I can fix it. They wrote the people, lock the chicken because the chicken thief moved over there. Now you watch it. And that people, they don't know me because we just moved over there. We moved out on that old road that go through the woods. We got that. I don't think we even have a house in the town because it was flat. Sloppy place. So we went to the outskirts. So, the people, couple days after we

moved, they moved some place, I don't even know their name, but at that time, they live over there. And they gave the people that was sleeping over there [inaudible]. That was John Butcho, the name. So that is when they give it to my husband. And I showed them the paper [inaudible]. I mean after all, they was the godmother to my kids. They said, you know what Mrs. Balogh, you should take this to court because they don't like to [inaudible] if they can't prove it. This kind of dirty trick they used to do. So after I fix it, they say, you doing alright, you doing alright. I say, who knew the others? You weren't living out there. You don't know the people.

MB: So, how did you get from [Roughton] to Windber?

RS: We like [Roughton] very much, but my husband like [inaudible]. Money, money, you talk. This was the first thing. To put the money to get the bills out. So we moved here and when we come out, it was six hundred sixty-one dollars. That's what we paid for everything. It's what they gave for board for them. When I move we had three hundred sixty-one dollars.

End of Tape 2 Side A

Beginning of Tape 2 Side B (August 9, 1985)

Two hundred twenty, hundred and fifteen dollars. Twenty-five dollars. What was really nice money at that time, they work hard. Double shift sometimes. They go in morning and back to midnight again. They working. My husband said, mommy, send them, send them [inaudible] the bill. Every pay, honest, they got fifty dollars. That's not good either because they spread a rumor around that my husband robbed a bank. But, he don't believe it to make that much in a mine and then maybe two weeks fifty dollars. But like I say, I have friend from those people when we moved, that was like coal mines together, you know like baptized and at the same time, [Charles'] friend, they come up to my friend, they was friends with my husband. It's a payment for my mother and she wrote everything on the paper. For the letter. And I just crying and crying. And after a while, I just pulled myself together and I figure out what they say in Hungarian—the dog barking and they hungry. When they feed him, he shut his mouth. That's what I figure out. Let them bark and then I gonna' pay the bill and they gonna' shut up. So then anyway, I send them every payday fifty dollars, fifty dollars, the rest was sixty-one dollars. So, I send them again sixty-one dollars. Here's the last bill, pay sixty-one dollars. Please write me what I owe you for the rest I say too. So, and they wrote back, you don't owe a penny. You paid out all the bills and I send you my signature that says you paid me back. He said, keep it. Anything happens to me, show this up and you don't owe me nothing. Still, when I move, 1937, I move out to the farm in [Salix]. My youngest brother was five when I moved out. 1937, he moved out Jersey. He come out visiting a lot, but I never see the wife. First time I see them, she told me everything I owed for money for my mother and all this and that. So after that, my mother...my father died 1930. I don't even go to the funeral I tell you. Not because I hate him, but because I have my baby two weeks old. What I gonna' do? If I take him, that's a trouble. If I leave him, that's a trouble because I can't nurse him. And I don't have no car. They don't have

no Hungarian store and no company store, I tell you, because my husband said, I want to see when I'm working. I don't want an empty envelope.

MB: Well, didn't you tell me that your first husband was killed in the mines?

RS: Over here. Hallway exploded.

MB: What mine was he working at?

RS: I tell you that we left [Roughton], for a little bit we slide down. We don't make money, you gotta' go. So we and other people we moved for... I can't think of the city name now. Brazil. We was over there about, two months. Or something like that and I was so scared because he used to work night shift and one morning, I get a fire warmed up for the water and he don't come, he don't come and I'm waiting. There were four kids at that time. I was pregnant with the fourth one. So, I have a boarder at that time too. He don't even went work. He said, I don't go to work Rosie. He come out my place first from [Roughton] because when I told him which daughter I am, he know my sister, he know my father, they say, I was like his daughter. [inaudible-Hungarian] So he said, Rose, I don't go to work or anything, but I said, John, what you gonna' do over here? So, I don't know where he turned or what happened and I could talk then pretty good yet. I don't even know if he was at the mine or which way he was. I just crying. What happened? What happened? It was eight o'clock. And he said, why you crying? I said, oh my God, something awful happened. Because that mine had already blown up two times, I guess. So, I thought maybe something happened. So what happened about noon, they crawled in the mine. So, they hide some place so they can shoot and we can find a big opening for the men at the entry part. So then, after a while he was mad and he then get a job at the Consolidation Company, but that mine. One mine would be [inaudible]. He go Somerset, he had to crouch in there to turn right. And that's...and it was that way again. Oh, I like that place. We make money. Of course, you don't owe for my father because we paid them in [Roughton], you know. We just want to make money because the family grow and actually, we always need money. We start sending Europe to my sister, my mother-in-law, and his brother, here is package and everything. My husband was like [inaudible]. Give you the heart too. And that's what I think was worse. He give away everything he once owned. So and...

MB: He went to Consolidation Coal?

RS: So, we live over there and he went to Coal Consolidation Company. So and, one spring in 1926, it was, they call them slope mine. You go down the place [holding] up the building, nice, clean place. You never see can or garbage or anything because the company sweep them out for the men. You know, when they clean the garden everything, you know the yard, put them away and haul them away. You don't see no dirt. They give you money for the seeds and everything and give you a price for the garden. So anyway, I [inaudible] my husband and I got two boarders working up there, three of them working together. So they can work. One was looking for work, so they went to the boss and super to give us a place. So they say, we are two married men. We

need the money and they told them, the super and the boss, here and here, this [inaudible], at three-thirty they have three places. But, those damn Italianos, they stick their nose in it, they want the best of everything. So, over there, the full town was Italian. So maybe about two-three family was Slavish. I was the only Hungarian. The other people were Goulash. They come from [Roughton]. They moved over there. So, that's all the Hungarian people. So then, my men, they go down and find the place where the three Italianos work and they told them, give us the one place to work and pull out for the water where they were working. And they got the pick and they start cursing in Italian, you know. And they said, we don't want you upset because the Italian people are very [inaudible]. So they come out, and the boss said, well, what's the matter with you? We want an Italian boss, not you. Because they even drink when they come out the mine. I see it with my eyes too. The bucket [inaudible]. Mr. [inaudible name], Mr. [inaudible name]. One has come out and I call them in because of the beer and the whiskey and the wine it was over every place. So they say to one week he was working and [inaudible]. So one of my boarders, his name was John [Jacobs], they have a family for Europe, and they was living at that time when we moved here. I don't even know what they had in Hungary, so my two kids was playing outside in the road. But it was real clean, you know. They have water drainage that was outside, but they have city drainage. You don't walk beside the highway. They have like a sidewalk and everything. It was pretty nice. So that one day, I had some friends from Wilbur [Windber?]. Wilbur was for the [inaudible name] company all used to own. So they wrote a letter, like a coal mine, I think he was Slavish or something. Broken Slavish and Hungarian, [inaudible] every day they wrote. They wrote for the people how much was the machine coal, come get a job, like a Slavish actually. So, that's why they come and they got the job. All three of them you know, and they started working.

MB: Here in Windber? In Windber?

RS: Wilber.

MB: In Wilber?

RS: That was the [inaudible name] company. So, he was living over there for eight years, from [19]26 to [19]34. That was the depression everything, you know. But I never get, a lot of people get ready for the depression. Free coal and clothing and everything. I got eight pieces...I didn't get nothing because I was a millionaire. I wasn't a millionaire. Because I dress up my kids? I tell you how I do it. I got good brains. I tell the people, how you can manage it? Your kids are dressed up so beautiful? I said, because I make new ones from the old. I don't believe that you make it. You don't believe it, you don't have to make it because I learned myself sewing and before I had boarders, you know, they don't wear jackets down in the mine. Now, they do in church, every place. Even patching and saving everything. I think about that, my God. So, they have nice things, but they throw them away. I'm not ashamed to tell you. And I got nothing to patch my dress, everything is saved for my kids. Embroidering, crocheting, everything, I learn it myself. So at Easter time when the kids dress up, only thing, I buy their shoes, their stockings,

and sweaters if they need them. So, they have a couple, the shoes back in them days. My three boys, they say, mom, can we have shoes? Go ahead. You know how kids are, go play. And my second boy, Joe, that's...he don't forget the Hungarian words [inaudible—Hungarian] He said, you know, mom what Mrs. Shubert said? I said, what she said? I can explain for you American, how they say that... you can't understand anything Hungarian?

MB: No, not really.

RS: And it's like, wishing for something. That wishing. For me, they said we are poor people. Look, they dress up like a millionaire. So my Joey come home, he said, you know what Mrs. Shubert say? I said, let them talk. Let them talk. So, we had water for the spigot bucket. That crick was sulfur. I can't use it-nothing. They have opened already a high school by. A couple hundred fifty miles and I was living [inaudible] in the corner. [inaudible] down here and then one more house and a little mine. So we went in there, it's just like I go to for my room, you know, and we haul drinking. Sometime, we have to wait 'till we get a bucket of water. So then, I'm [inaudible] for my husband, what the [inaudible]?

MB: In [19]37, now are you?

RS: That's in Wilber.

MB: I'm still trying to locate where you are.

RS: Wilber. So, they said, how you can manage it Mrs. Balogh? You dress up for the kids, they look like a millionaire. Your husband, he don't work. Where you get the money? I said, Mrs. Shubert, I make new clothes from the old ones. She said, I don't believe it. No you don't have to believe it. That's what I tell you.

MB: So you came to Windber in 1934?

RS: So after a while, the Depression, you know what Wilber, sometimes two days, three days, two weeks, you know what you gonna' read? And everybody get tired. Me? I don't get nothing. They say three fifty room rent? Maybe I stole it, what you call a millionaire. My husband working, but when they're working, they make money. Like I told anyone, Wilber was very good place. As long as they're working. But, you go in the morning for the trip, you just get the morning trip. But, my husband sometime go in the morning at 3 o'clock. They load them up and they empty for night. Because if you don't load them up in the morning, and they come out, you don't get an empty. 1926, my husband make a hundred six, a hundred seventy dollars. But, very seldom you hear it. It was hard working too because I do everything.

MB: Well, when you came to Windber, where did you live? Thirty-seven here?

RS: [19]37.

MB: You hadn't been here very long before your husband was killed then?

RS: It was about two months. It was coming end of June. The 18th they burnt. On the 25th, he died.

MB: Did you get any benefits at all?

RS: Sixty dollars a month 'till they get sixteen years old.

MB: From the company?

RS: When they sixteen years old, they cut them down. And no job. For sixty dollars a month.

MB: Did you belong to any fraternal societies or anything? Get any insurance benefits?

RS: Well, insurance, I got, really not for the, but from the veteran's. We got lots from Europe, but it was the Depression, we kept paying it all. [inaudible-Hungarian] we used to call them, I can't remember, but all the Hungarian people, [inaudible], but you got a bill to pay. But that one, we keep it up in Wilber. Actually, the company got that, two thousand dollars. But that I couldn't get out here you know because he got killed no more than two months. The first time he working for coal there. But, they don't make much money. They paying for board. Better come home. We better get ready or something and we go up together. I said, you eat food, I don't eat nothing. Because even though my husband working, we don't have no money when...because we always need shoes, we need something. When we come up with the two men with the car, we keep them two, three days, sometime come home Friday night until Monday. What they buy something food and then they eat it. So I got stuck with that. So, then we come back, we gonna' struggle. So then, after that, he went down to Wilber where there was a little mine. And so, that was about two and then...So then, they hired men for Windber and he got the job over here and we come in in April and my youngest daughter was living in Bedford. I thought it was eight months, because ten months was when he died.

MB: How many children did you have were you left with when you were widowed?

RS: Eight.

MB: Eight children.

RS: Oldest was fourteen, youngest was ten months old.

MB: And you've lived here ever since? From [19]37?

RS: No, because in 1937, like I said, I married for the second--Sekeres, you know. That bastard. Excuse me, you know. He was single for all his life and I don't think I would've married him, but my neighbor talked me in. And I never can to because I got awfully good husband. We was young when we go together. We don't have any.... He never swear at me. Because I know when he was something angry, I walk away and I don't bother him. They need it, the kids, he punish them. He was drinking. He love his kids, but he was drinking.

MB: Was there much choice for a woman when you were widowed like that? To live around here?

RS: Not much choice around here. Nothing.

MB: So, you had to get married?

RS: And I buy the [inaudible] and after they died. So at least I had to have the thirty cents for the carpet. We paid thirty cents [inaudible]. Thirty cents a yard for carpet. So, [inaudible] carpet, carpet. Up day and night-pining you know. A little bit extra because I always keep insurance for the benefit for the family. Always, I never keep them because my husband keep them all the time too. But, otherwise, you weren't able to pay it. So, we got the loan out, eighty...I think it was eighty or eighty-two dollars loan. That's what I pay and for the four months, for the kids, and for me, and for my husband, you know. So maybe four months, maybe they change something, but still they don't change nothing. After we moved over here and I never realized it, so I don't have nothing because everything the company keep up. You're entitled to it because after five weeks you working some place, you don't get nothing. It was five weeks. So and, [Murdock], he was a blacksmith, you don't know him, but he was good friend. So that Jula Kovach, he married to the daughter. So Jula was burned too. Jula's other brother was six months in the hospital. They was about eight men was burned up. My husband was [inaudible], it exploded, everything burnt. Hands, everything. I can't even tell you. I cried day and night. Day and night. I don't have no man. So, that Murdock, when I come out, I never see them because we come at the end of April, and June, at the end of the statement, it wasn't much. I think it was two dollars when it come out. I don't even have any money to buy the wreath for the coffin. My neighbor helped me out, honest to God. Every time I talk about it, I crying. [inaudible-crying] Please give me strength to raise my kids up. We got to the hospital, he says, Mrs. Balogh, do you have any insurance? I said, yeah, I used to have it, but we couldn't pay it. I told him, [inaudible] next to [Freedent's]. He said, who's the president then? I said, Joe Shauley. And he said, Okay, that's all I want. But I said, we got some loan too. And for the loan, I said, I pay them back in four months. We thought he was going to working, start working some place, but we don't have no job. I don't know if it's good or not. So, he was lucky because that June it end, he died. One year was...how you call American...some words, it's very hard for me. Like, give him the longest month to keep the insurance, but I pay ahead. So actually, it ended in June, the insurance. So this way, I get eighteen hundred to pay for what I took for loan and everything. After that, I bought the tombstone and little bit, little bit. It lasted me a good while, they asked me for the thirty dollars every two weeks. I know it wasn't much money for the clothes, and everything, the keep up for the children.

MB: Was it sixty dollars total for those children? Sixty dollars total was all you got a month? Period. From the company.

RS: That's all. I have to pay the rent, electric, buy everything, clothes, and everything. And like I said, I got the insurance for the kids too because [inaudible]. I don't eat, because you never know what's coming. And always keeping the insurance for my kids because like now, they don't insurance for parents, how you can be somebody when you don't think about his life and everything. Like I told the kids, you don't have to worry about nothing. I got the place, I got the tombstone, because my husband's company paid for the funeral and coffin. But you know, I bought just single, because I was thirty-five? It was [19]39? I said, yes, I'm young, God knows what going to be happen 'till... So, I don't buy no double grave. It's the style and nobody died from my family, you know. Where do they have a place to bury a person? It made sense that I bought another plot right beside him and I change the tombstone actually about six, 'bout six years already. That's when I said, my husband's here and there's Mrs. Yellenic [inaudible]. So, the next one, never have a tombstone. The Mrs. Yellenic. And next to that, Peter Schenelli's husband, no, Mrs. Yellenic, Mrs. Schenelli beside him, because they married the head guy... oh, I know the damn bastard. I hate him when I find out when Peter Schenelli married him He was a bastard. I know them from Wilber. Couple houses from me. My husband, he can't stand them.

MB: I guess he was a drinker, wasn't he?

RS: No drinking, but crazy, filthy. When they moved here from Wilber, their farthest window was always open and you could see the sheet on the bed. They don't give money for the second wife. They never give him money to buy clothes or anything. They were dirty house and everything, I never was in the house. My men went one time to help one time to catch a pig, and then kill him. And they forced them to have a [biscuit]. At that time, everybody get [biscuit]. They don't have no dry [inaudible], they come out after first war. So they come after we moved here. So we took my youngest daughter, I say [inaudible] where they was burnt, because I don't have nothing. We just waiting, waiting. By that time, a police come out and investigating the father... what the hell, I can't think about what trouble they were in. And he said, how many in that family? Because every time they come out, they were baptized over there. Which one? Andy, [19]26. Mikey, [19]28. [Bishta] [19]33. They had four kids that were baptized there. How many in the family? I said, I don't have any notice for the eight kids. And he said, we got a newborn baby, but not new actually because he was born August and it was first of January come to the house. And they said, how's come? And I said, I don't know they was baptized. We don't have no money to put him in a church. They said, if you need that money, you give him, you gonna' have it. Because I belong to the church up here and you do some [inaudible] and they pay you and it was [Schinsky]. I think it was [Shinsky]. He was real nice priest. He said, you give it, you gonna' have. But bring the baby. But at that time, my husband got a job and we don't want to bring him out to be baptized and go to church. But at that time, they come back for the liquor. So, we moved here, like I said, and he tried the job before and then after April then, June he was burned.

MB: Was Mr. Sekeres a miner too then?

RS: He was a miner for the whole life, but he never was married. I was thirty-seven and he was fifty-one. He look like he going to be a decent man or something. I used to chase him out and everything. I said, I don't want another man for myself. He said, I help you, I'm here for your family. I liked if you marry him. I said, no, I don't want to marry him because I don't find a husband for mine because still, I was heartbroken because my oldest daughter married when she was sixteen. And that one too, I told her [Marge], now you're going to be sixteen, maybe you can find some kind of job and buy at least clothing for yourself. Because it was hard for me for the clothing. Eight kids, not just for me, but for the food. So then, he was a coal digger just like Joe Kovach. He was good friends with the mother for Peter Schenelli. So Joe said, well, I don't let [inaudible name] go working because we going to get married. I said, don't you think it's too early yet? I got married when I was fifteen and a half. I know I have hard time. Maybe if you don't take my husband for the service, we don't get married because who gonna' take care of the parent? They was very old when he get the job. Young people working for the [inaudible] place, anything. There was just old people in Europe at that time. But, it was a different situation. But after a while, I was sorry because she was sixteen, seventeen they got the baby and then another one. Then another one in a year and then he was real sick when they turn about three. The daughter we're talking about anyway. That's our oldest daughter. I said, yeah, I remember that grandma you're talking about, I said, sure, I said, I married young, and that's what I told your mother. We got good life, but I have hard life because they took him in the service, we don't get no doctor, we don't get no pension or anything, I don't get a penny. Neither the parents. No Europe, they don't get no pension. I don't get a penny from the government. So, I have to work hard day and night to keep the parents up and besides the rent and everything. It was very hard for me. But like I said, I just give thanks to the God and keep me up and give me help. And I'm proud. I can do anything. I don't do anything for my mother though. Because I learned when I was mostly like a slave for my grandmother. Outside and inside. A lot of people, how can you know anything? Because I don't think there's anything on Earth that I don't know how to work with. I was visiting in New York. Actually, it was hard for [inaudible], I think. And a woman, Sekeres, I just call the woman Sekeres, never gave me a penny for his payroll. Working eight years and never give him penny. Help him pay for the car. Help him buy tire. If I go shopping for Windber, stop for the gas station, give me money for the gas. But his money, I never see it. He said, you ride on it? Sure, I ride on it when I buy food for your stomach. And after that, he went to the pension to get seventy...I think seventy dollars for [inaudible]. That time, he was going to give me because one time [inaudible]. Because my boys were working here and here. I told him, what would most help. My boys, one of them, I think [inaudible] was the oldest, but they don't pass for the service. The second was eighteen when they took him in the service. So, when he sign up, twenty dollars to home he send every month. So, they took him in 1940, May the 23rd. [19]43 because my David was born in [19]44. Year later. [19]43 they took him in. [19]44, May he was wounded for the French invasion. He got shot when he was in the Navy and he was very, very...he still have a piece between the ankle and they have to operate on because he gonna' be paralyzed. So, one year he was in the hospital. First time was in England. And after a while, they

bring him to Boston. It was one year for the hospital. The brought him here to the hospital. It was [19]55, he got discharged. 1945, he got a discharge. And after a while, I think it was one week later, he got done. When he got a discharge. And then, he started working for the mine, but he got so much pain, because he got a piece between the muscles. And then he started [inaudible] harder, four weeks harder. Some of them were doubles. It was awful long. We ready. Nice coal mine, but it's very painful for him. Then after that they go out to Michigan. He was working for a mechanic for the garage and...

End of Tape 2 Side B

End of the Interview (August 9, 1985)