

INTERVIEW WITH WILLIAM AND HANNAH KING

By Mildred Allen Beik

September 30, 1986
Windber, PA

MB = Millie Beik

WK = William (Király) King (1900-1988)

HK = Hannah Beba King

Beginning of Tape 1 Side A (September 30, 1986)

MB: Okay. Well, say something, and I'll play it right back so you can hear your voice for a minute. [Mr. King had never heard his voice recorded before.]

WK: This is September 30th.

MB: 30th. Right. And tell me what your name is?

WK: William King. [Beik turned off the recorder so that King could hear his own voice, and then she restarted it.]

MB: Now it should be all right with that [the recorder]. Yeah, you have to wait like fifteen seconds or something for it to get going. Why don't you first tell me your full name and your birth date so we can get that kind of fact. It [the recorder] should be okay. Go ahead. Tell me your full name again.

WK: Is it ready?

MB: Yeah.

WK: William King.

MB: And when were you born, Mr. King?

WK: Mine 37, Windber, PA.

MB: What date?

WK: 19--...When I was born or what?

MB: Yeah.

WK: I was born 1900, April 25.

MB: So you're 86 years old now.

WK: Yeah.

MB: Okay. You were born here?

WK: I went to school down at Scalp Level. I got out of school, I worked at the farm for one year, Uriah Weaver's farm, and then I went in the mines in 1915.

MB: Oh boy.

WK: And I quit in 1959.

MB: So you mined--

WK: '59.

MB: Wow! '15 till '59.

WK: They shut the mine down.

MB: Did you always work in mine 37 then? Most or all that time?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Would you tell me about your parents, and where they came from, and so forth, and their lives a little bit?

WK: Well, I can't tell you much about them. The only thing that... My mother come to McKeesport, and she married in McKeesport. And then in 1900 they come to [mine] 37. And in 1904, a rock fell on his back and broke his back, and he died [in] 1904. They had six children.

MB: Are you the youngest?

WK: No, no, there were three younger.

MB: It must have been very hard for your mother.

WK: Yeah. She kept boarders. See, then, the company would get these immigrants from Europe. They'd be single, some of them. They'd [the company agents] bring them to my mother. She was a widow, and she'd have to board them. They'd have two places. One place they'd sleep, and the next place they'd eat. (Laughs) That's how she raised us kids. (Laughs)

MB: Oh boy.

WK: Yeah.

MB: You were telling me earlier about the company getting people who came from Europe. Could you tell me that again so that we have that on tape? Because that's interesting.

WK: People come over from Europe on the boat. They'd get off, I think in New York, and they wouldn't have no place to go. So the company would send men there to talk to them and bring them here. There was Polish, Slavish, Hungarian, German, and all that stuff. The ones that they could talk to, why, they would talk to. And they [the immigrants] didn't know any different, and they'd come with them. He [the agent] brought them here to Windber on a train.

MB: You were telling me you remembered one person's name, too, who did that for the Polish. Right?

WK: Yeah, Stanley, [turning to his wife] remember that guy who used to go down there?

MB: Roden, I think you said... Was it Roden, R-O-D-E-N?

WK: Roden, Stanley Roden, he was the Polish getter. (Laughs)

MB: But they had others for the other nationalities, too, then?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Oh, wow. Yeah. Did they make any particular promises or anything about what they would find when they came here like--?

WK: They [the immigrants] was glad. They'd [the agents] bring them here because they [the immigrants] had no place else to go.

MB: Yeah. Right.

WK: They brought them here, and they got them a place to stay and got [boarding] houses for them. And they went to church in Windber, St. John's Catholic Church. Most of them were Catholic. (Laughs)

MB: Did that work pretty well? To bring people that way? Did they get a lot of people that way?

WK: Yeah, they would come.

MB: Uh huh. Well, you had an interesting story about your family coming from McKeesport, too. How did that work exactly?

WK: Well, they come here. They come here from McKeesport. They come to the 37 mine here. I don't know how they got... They must have got word somehow that they [the mine owners] opened the mine, and they need men to work. Yeah. He [William King's father] worked in the mine. Then, in 1904, he got hurt.

MB: He must have been one of the earliest people to come here if Mine 37 opened in 1900.

WK: 1900.

MB: And he came in 1900.

WK: Yeah.

MB: So he was one of the original people then, one of the first ones who--

WK: Some of the people that come here, you know, come here, and they'd leave their wives in Europe. In time you get the money to send to her, and then she'd come out. Then she'd come, and she'd have a place to stay.

MB: Uh huh. But your parents didn't do that. Your dad came separately by himself?

WK: That's right.

MB: Did he have some relatives who had come to the United States earlier?

WK: Oh, yeah.

MB: Or was he the first one in the family to ever come?

WK: I don't know how they come.

MB: Hmm. Then he met your mother in McKeesport?

WK: Yeah. (Clock chimes.)

MB: And then they came here. He didn't know her in Europe, though?

WK: No.

MB: Do you know what villages or provinces they came from in Hungary at all?

WK: The what? (The clock continues to chime.)

MB: What villages or provinces? Wait a minute.

WB: I can't hear. Yeah, that bell.

MB: Do you know what villages or provinces your parents came from in Europe? Did they talk about that very much?

WK: They used to talk about it. But my father, I didn't know him. I was four years old when he got killed.

MB: You wouldn't, would you?

WK: But my mother always talked about...She comes from [Inonch].

MB: Inonch, okay. I'll find out about that. I don't know about that. I'll have to look on a map and then find it.

WK: You don't know either?

MB: No, I don't know that. And your mother was Hungarian Reformed all along then?

WK: My mother was Catholic, and my father was Reformed.

MB: Oh. So then she became Reformed when they married?

WK: Yeah

MB: Was that uncommon? Sometimes you think Catholics didn't marry Protestants, but it seems that the Hungarians sometimes married [Protestants]. Like a [Hungarian] Catholic wouldn't hesitate to marry a Reformed or vice versa, which seems unusual because a lot of times a Catholic might marry another nationality, but often they stayed within the faith. Do you have any thoughts about that? Did they intermarry a lot? The Reformed and the Catholics, the Hungarian Reformed and Catholics, or not?

WK: Oh, there's a lot of them. There's a lot of them that married that way. Then the boys would turn Protestant, and the girls would be Catholic.

MB: Uh huh. Oh really?

WK: That's how they had it worked out.

MB: Oh really? And everybody spoke Hungarian, though? So that the language wasn't a problem like--

WK: No.

MB: Oh, wow. That's interesting. So then tell me about your childhood then. When did your mother remarry? Did she remarry right away after your father died?

WK: Oh, no, no, no.

MB: She worked. She kept this boarding house.

WK: Quite a while.

MB: Six kids would be a lot to take care of, with very little money, I would think.

WK: Yeah. And just like I said, our name was Király, but the store manager down here, he couldn't write Király. So he put King down. And it has been King every since. (Laughs) Well, Király/King would be about the same. ["King" is the English translation for the surname Király.]

MB: The same translation. Oh boy.

WK: Then I worked in the mines.

MB: How long did you go to school first before you went in the mines?

WK: Well, I didn't have much school. People around here, they all had cows, pigs, and chickens. They had a yard like in this up here, and I'd have to stay home and watch the cows.

MB: That was your job.

WK: Yeah in the summer. [I] didn't go to school much. They didn't have no truant officer then. Then, later on, they got one.

MB: Hmm. But when you went to school, did you go down to the Scalp [one]? Was there one down here [in mine 37] then? Or did you go down to Scalp? [Mine 37 and Scalp Level are adjacent.]

WK: No, down Scalp.

MB: That one was there? That's the same one [same school] I went to, I guess. So you went there a few years then. Did you go all the way through? You didn't, did you, go--?

WK: Yeah.

MB: [Did] you go through a certain grade then?

WK: Yeah, there was the first through eight. I got to fifth, and then I stopped and went in the mine. (Laughs)

MB: Oh boy. I guess that was legal yet in those days that they took young kids, boys, in the mine.

WK: Yeah. When the fathers worked in the mine [and] when the kid get[s] 16 years old, he'd [the kid would] go in with the father. See, the father would break him in. When he'd break that one in and the other one was ready to go, this first one would go with somebody else, and the father would take the second one and break him in.

MB: So who did you go in with then? Who did you go in the mines with when you first went to work?

WK: When I went in, I had a company job. So I didn't have to have nobody.

MB: What...Tell me what a company job is. I'm not quite sure what that is.

WK: A company job is where you clean the road and put the timber up and stuff like that. See, when I got 18 years old, I got a job spragging it. That's [a] conductor on the train like. And later on I got to be the motorman, and I run motors. For about 30 years I run motors.

MB: 30 years. Wow.

WK: Haul the coal out, and they had ton cars. The men would load it [the coal] in the ton cars, and I'd bring them [the cars] out and take the empties in. That was my job for 30 years. Then I had other jobs, too.

MB: But always in [mine] 37?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Always in this one [mine]? Did you always live there in one of the company houses?

WK: Yeah.

HK: No. We lived in another one.

WK: Well, we lived down on third row, but that was a company house.

HK: Yeah.

MB: So you really, you spent your life pretty much here.

WK: 62 years we've been living here.

MB: Oh boy, that's a long time. Wow.

WK: We've been married...In December it's gonna be 62 years old.

MB: Oh, you've been married 62 years?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Wow. Well, how did you meet your wife? Tell me about that.

WK: Well, I was living over there with my brother. My brother was working here, too. I was living with him, and she was staying here with her sister. And we finally got together. [Turning to his wife] Remember that?

HK: (Jokingly) No, I don't remember none of that.

MB: (Laughs) Or you don't want to.

WK: I'll tell you the way we met. I had a Ford car in 1924. I had a Ford car coupe, and there was a medicine show down below there. Somebody would come in [and] try to sell some medicine for rheumatism. He'd call it snake oil. (Traffic sounds from outside are loud.)

MB: (Laughs) Oh boy.

WK: A bottle about that big (showing the size with his hands) for a dollar. A dollar for snake oil. And I'm sitting down there in the Ford car, and she comes down. And she stood in front of me, in front of the car. And when the show was over, I said, "Come on. Sit down in the car." So she sat in the car. (Laughs)

MB: And that's how you met?

WK: That's how we met. After the show, why, I said, "Where are you going now?"

"Ain't going no place."

So I said, "Well, we'll take a ride to Windber."

So we went to Windber, and I bought two bars of candy.

MB: Oh. (Laughs)

WK: I gave her one, and I had one and brought her home. This was in 1924.

MB: Did you get married pretty soon after that?

WK: Then, December the 20th, we got married. The same year.

MB: Now is your wife Hungarian? Or was she Reformed or what? I was just wondering how the marital--

HK: I was German.

MB: Okay.

WK: German.

MB: What was your maiden name?

HK: Beba.

MB: Beba?

WK: Hannah Beba.

HK: B-e-b-a (spelling).

MB: Hmm. That's interesting. That's a name I'm not familiar with at all. That's interesting. So you got married then. And your families, were they happy about this then?

WK: Well, then, we stayed with her sister for about three months, and it was getting crowded down there. They had six or seven kids of their own [in a] four room house. So my brother's wife got sick, and he asked us to go over there and stay.

MB: Now tell me about your brothers and sisters then. Did you have...How many brothers did you have and how many sisters?

WK: Oh yeah.

MB: How many? You said there were six of you in the family, I guess.

WK: Well, I had a sister Dora and a brother John and a brother Andy. Andy was a twin, but one of the twins died. Then I come next. Then come Steve and Richard and then Louie and...[turning to his wife] Isn't that all?

HK: I don't know none of that stuff.

MB: So you had like five brothers then.

WK: Yeah.

MB: So how many of those went in the mines? All of them?

WK: All of them.

MB: All of them.

WK: But they didn't work too long. They all went and scattered around. My brother Richard, he went in the Navy, and when he come out of the Navy, why, he settled in California. He was a boxer on a ship (laughs). And he was there for a long time, and finally he died there [in California].

MB: So none of your other brothers stayed in the mines, but you did?

WK: No, no. And Dora, she got married. She was married when she was 16 years old, and then her husband died. I don't know what year it was. They lived down there in Scalp.

MB: So did you and your brothers and sisters have to help with all the boarders then?

WK: No, no.

MB: Did you help your mother with taking care of the boarders?

WK: Well, Dora was just a young girl yet. She helped.

MB: And you took care of the cows. (Laughs)

WK: And the chickens and the pigs and the cows.

MB: Did everybody have a job to do in the family? Every child have jobs like to--?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Well, tell me what it was like to work in the mines in those early years then.

WK: The what?

MB: Tell me what it was like to work in the mines in those early years when you worked there. 1915 and all those [early years]. That's a long time ago then. That must have been a lot different than it is today.

WK: Oh, it was different than it is today. Before, before they used to have what they call a pick. Did you ever hear of a pick?

MB: Um hum.

WB: Well, they used a pick. To cut the coal, you'd have to lay down, lay down and cut the bottom of the coal, then drill a hole in the coal and put some powder in it, shoot it down, and then load it in the car.

MB: So what were the working conditions like then?

WK: That was the way. That's the way they started.

MB: Yeah.

WK: But nowadays they got machines that cut the coal that cuts the coal. The men don't have to dig it.

MB: And you got paid by how much you loaded, right? And got--?

WK: You got 53 cents a ton of coal for loading it.

MB: What about dead work and boney and all that?

WK: Oh, the boney and all. They'd give you very little, not much.

MB: But you got something?

WK: Yes, we got something, but not too much.

MB: What kind of hours did you work when you first went in the mines in 1915? Did you work a really long day or did you work... Was it more than 8 hours a day or--?

WK: 8 hour day.

MB: Was that what everybody worked? Or just because you had the company, what you just called a company job?

WK: Yeah. I had a company job, and I only worked 8 hours, and the miners only worked 8 hours. And the mine wasn't in so far at first, but at the last, it went under the ground six miles. (The clock chimes.)

MB: Wow. That's a long way.

WK: Yeah.

MB: Well, you almost saw the mine from the beginning to it's closing really. Certainly you and your father would have, between the two of you. Wow!

WK: I used to haul the coal out in the summer. It was hot. Sweat and go in, get cold. In the winter, come over and be cold. Go back in, and it'd be warmer. They had a fan to blow the air [to blow] the gas, what they call the gas, out. So that's the way we worked that. And now, now it's all machinery. You don't dig it, and you don't load it.

MB: You would have only been a little boy, but do you remember anything about the 1906 strike that there was in Windber?

WK: No.

MB: Or any stories that people talked about, about that?

WK: Well, they had a strike [in] 1922.

MB: That [emphasis] you would have been older and would have remembered. Yeah.

WK: Yeah. I remember that.

MB: Do you want to tell me any... What would you like to tell me about that? That was a big one, I guess, and it was not just here, but [throughout] the whole region.

WK: The whole [mine] 37 here went out on strike. I didn't stay here. I got, I... When they started the strike, I went to Detroit.

MB: Oh, okay.

WK: I got a job in Detroit. Ford factory. \$5.00 a day.

MB: Oh, yeah.

WK: Boy, that was big [emphasis] money in 1924!

MB: I bet it was. Yeah. Were you there very long then?

WK: I didn't stay there. About two, three months I stayed in Detroit. And I come back because my brother says, "The strike's over now. You can come back, and you can get your job back." So I come back and been here ever since.

MB: I understand it was hard for the miners to get a place to meet. They used to have to meet in farmers' fields and things. Do you remember anything about that? Or--?

WK: Oh, yeah, we used to walk from Windber up there by the park. Were you up--?

MB: Recreation Park?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Yeah. I remember that.

WK: We used to walk up there to have our meetings. Berwind-White didn't want no union. He [E. J. Berwind] give you everything, but he wouldn't give you no union. Nobody, nobody [emphasis] could come in here. No farmers could come in here to sell stuff.

MB: Because of the company-store business?

WK: The company store had the business, and it was a good thing it had it because there was a lot of times we didn't work steady, and we'd still go to the store. They'd still give us stuff. Yeah. One time around 1930, that boy of mine, the oldest boy of mine, he was going to graduate from 8th grade. And he said, "All the other boys has a long pants suit."

I said, “Well, I ain’t got no money. I can’t buy you nothing.” [Mr. King’s eyes well up with tears, and he cries softly as he tells this story.]

So we went down to the, this, [emphasis] [mine 37] store. See, this is a buy store. Windber was the big company store. They used to get the stuff from there and ship it here. So me and ma went down there and saw the store boss [probably Joe Thomas], and the store boss said, “You go up to the company store--

MB: They sold clothes up there?

WK: [continuing] “So they’ll give you a suit.”

We got him a suit. (Mr. King is very affected by the memory.)

MB: They used to deduct what you bought from the statements, right, from [for] what you brought from the store?

WK: Yeah, a long pants suit.

MB: He was proud of that I bet.

WK: Two pair of pants. We made sure we got two pair of pants with it. One week or two later, on a Sunday, he had one pair on, and he went up to play ball. There was a ball field up above there, and he ripped one pair of pants.

MB: Oh no.

WK: Is it [the recorder] still going?

MB: Yeah, it’s still going. I’m just checking on it to make sure it is. It’s fine. It’ll pop up when it’s done, and I’ll have to turn it over to the other side. No, it’s going. So you had four children, did you say?

WK: Three.

MB: Three. Okay. So you...well, what else can you tell me? Were the ‘20s bad times or good times then? And what about the Depression and so forth then?

WK: That time...Yeah, it was a bad time [referring to the Great Depression].

MB: Did the mines work steady in the ‘20s when the strike was over or not?

WK: I worked steady for six months. Then it dropped out again. The company would...You’d have to have clean coal. You’d have to have clean coal, see. There’s some rock and some boney between the coal. And if the men would keep it clean, they’d [the coal company] have orders, and if the men wouldn’t keep it clean, why, then, they’d lose the order. Then we’d go back down to 2-3 days a week.

MB: Is this in the ‘20s or the ‘30s or both of those?

WK: The '30s.

MB: Well, how did they get the union into the area then since Berwind-White was so opposed to it?

WK: [Franklin D.] Roosevelt. Roosevelt got to be president. Then he made John Lewis have the union all over. That's how we got, we got, the union.

MB: Was it hard to get one started, though?

WK: Oh, we, they, started it here. Two or three times they started it, but we couldn't make it out. Berwind-White was stronger than we was. Berwind-White was a big shot. He owned all of this. (Laughs)

MB: They had the Coal and Iron Police, too, did they? They had the police, the Coal and Iron Police?

WK: Oh, yeah, the Coal and Iron Police.

MB: Do you remember them? Did they used to come up to [mine] 37?

WK: Yeah. He'd [one of these police] walk out to the end of the street, and he'd walk back. See if there's anybody having a meeting.

MB: Oh.

WK: Then I worked with one of the Coal and Iron Police, and he says he always had two guns in his pocket. He said [that] if he'd have to shoot somebody, he'd shoot 'em and throw the gun away.

MB: Oh, for heaven's sake.

WK: Then they couldn't hold him because he had a gun in his pocket. (King laughs.)

MB: Oh boy. How could they get their first meeting place then, too?

WK: Then they got the Scalp Level's Fire Hall.

MB: How did they convince the people at the Fire Hall to give them the hall if Berwind-White was so opposed to it? Do you know how that worked?

WK: Well, when Roosevelt got to be president, why, he [Berwind] had to give in. We had to have union.

MB: Then it took off, I guess. Do you remember...I don't know when you left in '22. People tell me there were tents of people who had been evicted from the company houses. Do you remember anything about that? Like [mine] 40 had a bunch of people living in tents for a long time and [there were other evicted people at] some of the other places.

WK: Down, down below there [in mine 37]. I don't remember much of that because I left. They lived in a tent down there, but they went back to work so they went back to their house again.

End of Tape 1 Side A

Beginning of Tape 1 Side B (September 30, 1986)

WK: There were times that we were pretty low.

MB: I imagine. How did you survive?

WK: Well, I had a garden, got some out of that, and we got some, ah, some food. What was that in a can?

HK: I don't know.

WK: Surplus food.

MB: Oh.

WK: The union, the union got us some surplus food, and it got us some cheese and butter. We'd have to go down to the union hall to get it. But the company store would allow us \$2.00, \$2.00 a day.

MB: For how many people? For just whoever, however many people were in a family or for one miner who was working or--?

WK: \$2.00 no matter how many.

MB: Oh, I see. So if you had a large family that would be different than if you didn't have any kids.

WK: Yeah.

MB: Oh boy. Those were hard times. Was there any time that the mines worked really well, that you thought you were doing well?

WK: When I started in the mine in 1915, I worked steady. They worked steady every day, every day, every day, all but Sunday and holiday.

HK: But they didn't make much money at that time.

MB: I see.

WK: But they didn't make much money.

WK: And the money you used to get them days wouldn't be no paper money. It would be all silver and gold.

MB: [Surprised] Oh really.

WK: If it was \$5.00, you'd get a \$5.00 gold piece. If it was \$7.00, you'd get a \$5.00 gold piece and \$2.00. There wasn't no paper money then.

MB: When did they use paper money then? When did they change it?

WK: I can't remember that. But our paydays was all gold and silver. Maybe your father ought to know that.

MB: Yeah, yeah. Well, what about the politics in the area then? Of course so many people weren't citizens so they couldn't vote either probably. Can you tell me anything about changes with that, with politics, with elections, and stuff?

WK: Yeah, we got an election house. We got an election house over there, but we have no politicians that live around here. Yeah.

MB: But it used to be very Republican, Windber at least. I don't know when you start getting [changes] up here. I don't know if things were different. It used to be because this is Cambria County, not Somerset, and stuff. But that was pretty strictly Republican, and I guess Berwind-White always liked the Republicans. And for a long time, they had won all the elections and stuff. But I don't know about--

WK: The company wanted you all to be Republican.

MB: And that was true up here, too, in [mine] 37 as well?

WK: Oh yeah.

MB: And then, did lots of people not vote then? I mean, if you had a lot of people who weren't citizens, they wouldn't have voted. Yeah.

WK: Yeah. They wanted you to be Republican.

MB: Well, how did they give you that message? (Laughs) How did they make that known to you?

WK: I was on the election board for nine years--

MB: Oh, you were.

WK: [continuing] and couldn't do nothing about it in there. Who voted the way they voted, that's the way we wrote it down.

MB: Did that change in the '30s then?

WK: That was after [emphasis] the '30s.

MB: After? Long after? I mean, it didn't change right away when Roosevelt was elected then. It took time and--

WK: Oh no. Oh no. When we got the union in, then we changed to Democrat.

MB: I see. Got that set up. Well, I guess there was...Mr. [Joseph] Novak helped run a, through the union, a school to get people to get their citizenship papers so they would be able to vote, so they could vote Democratic then, I guess if they wanted to. Do you remember?

WK: You had to be a citizen before you could vote. Did you talk to Joe?

MB: Yeah. Yeah.

WK: Poor guy. He's a boy scout [leader]. We had a Boy Scout meeting down here. We had a bunch of boy scouts. And Joe Novak, he was a boy scout [leader] in Windber. And he had a Boy Scout meeting [and competition] in Jenners. All the boys went there, and we took our boys, too. Our boys won first prize the first year (the clock chimes), won first prize, and Joe was mad as a hornet. (King and Beik laugh.) First year of boy scouts, and [we] got first prize. All we got was a tent. We got four tents. That was first prize. (King laughs.)

MB: Do you remember anything about the citizenship schools then that they tried to do that? Do you have any stories about that? Was there anything else? Of course, if you were born here, you didn't have the problems that a lot of the foreign born did, like with voting or anything. Do you remember like sometimes fraternal societies or any of those people trying to get people to be citizens so they could vote, or organizing for anything like that?

WK: Only guys that are running for something were trying to get you to be.

MB: I see.

WK: But still, when you're on Election Day. What do you call that? General election.

MB: General election.

WK: You can vote either way, but on the primary, you can only vote on your own ticket. If you're a Republican, you vote Republican, and if you're a Democrat, you vote Democrat. But then [during the] general election you can vote on either one.

MB: So when did you work on the election commission then? Do you remember what years that would have been about?

WK: I think it was around 1939.

MB: Would that be Richland Township's then?

WK: Yeah. Richland Township number 1.

MB: Okay. All right.

WK: There are seven precincts in Richland Township.

MB: And this is number 1. So you did that about [for] how many years, did you say? I forgot. The number of years?

WK: Nine years I was on the board.

MB: So through World War II you were on the board I guess.

WK: Yeah.

MB: So did you hold some offices in the union? What did you do with the union, Mr. King?

WK: Well, I did audit the books a couple of times. I didn't belong...I mean I didn't have no other office. My brother [Andy King], he was president for a while.

MB: Oh, he was.

WK: Andy.

MB: Oh. When would that have been? Early?

WK: In '22.

MB: Oh. In '22 he was president. Your brother was president of the local in '22!

WK: That's when they pushed the people all out in the tents.

MB: Oh, for heaven's sake! So did he really suffer because he was president of it then? Did he get blacklisted or anything?

WK: Oh, yeah.

MB: Yeah. Did he have to leave here forever then or-- ?

WK: No. He had to live in a tent, too.

MB: He lived in a tent. So what did he do after that then? Did he-- ?

WK: We got the strike broken and went back to work.

MB: Was there a strike any other time, too? Early?

WK: One time. In 1906 there was a strike.

MB: Yeah. Do you know anything? You don't know anything about that? You would have been just such a little boy. You couldn't really--

WK: [seriously questioning] Who told you about that?

MB: It's in books and things but not much about it. Nobody knows a lot about it. And people are gone who would know, remember, things. Just newspaper clippings and things. There are references to it. But I guess some people were killed. They had some Pinkertons in the jailhouse that shot into the crowd at some point and killed some.

WK: It's just like I told you. The Coal and Iron Police had two guns in their pocket.

MB: That's interesting.

WK: Shoot one, and throw the gun away. Then they call him in. He says, "Yeah, I got my [emphasis] gun." (King laughs.)

MB: So tell me, how did your brother get to be such a leader then? If he was president of it then, that took a lot of courage, I would think.

WK: He had a big mouth. (Laughs.)

MB: (Laughs) It still took courage in those days to be identified as a leader of something like that.

WK: Oh, yeah, yes.

MB: Now, is he older than you, your brother Andy?

WK: Yeah, he was older than I was. He'd start a fight and walk away from it. (Laughs)

MB: Oh boy. (Laughs)

WK: That's the way, but my brother John, he wouldn't walk away. He'd walk. He'd fight.

MB: So what did your brother Andy do then after the strike was over? Did he come back to this area then? Was he blacklisted so that he couldn't get jobs or--

WK: He went back in the mines.

MB: Is he still living or--?

WK: Yeah.

MB: He's still living? Your brother?

WK: No. He's dead. 1950. [In] 1950 he died.

MB: I'm sorry. I don't mean to be probing. I just don't know that. (Laughs embarrassingly)

WK: I'm the only one living out of the whole family.

MB: Are you really? Oh boy. Well, I wish you a long life, long healthy years, both of you [Mr. And Mrs. King]. I hope you'll both do well.

Well, what would you think were some of the most important things that ever happened around here? Historically like? Or if you had a young person and you wanted to tell them something so that they could understand something about your lives, your life, your parents' lives, your brothers' lives, your sister's life, the life of the people in 37, in Windber, do you have anything you'd really like them to know about? To have them understand?

WK: Well, the people nowadays is not like they used to be.

MB: Hmm. How so? Explain that to me.

WK: You could go on a street and walk up the street, and if they'd be sitting out on the porch or so, you could stop and talk to them. Now they don't do that.

MB: Oh.

WK: Everybody, they have cars. They all have cars, and they go. Go to the park, and go swimming, and stuff like that. But in the olden times, we didn't have no cars. We had to stay home. And on Sunday or Sunday night was about the only time we'd take a walk up the street and down the street and talk to the people. At one time I knew everybody that lived down that lower road. Now I don't.

MB: Did you have social events? Did you belong to any fraternal societies?

WK: I used to belong to the Moose. [For] 20 years I belonged to the Moose. Then I quit it.

MB: But, in the earliest days, did your, well, did your mother get anything at all when your father died in an accident in the mine? Did she get any--?

WK: \$32.00

MB: \$32.00.

WK: She collected it at the paymaster. When they had payday, there was one guy [a miner] standing there with his hat open, and all the men [the miners] that got money, they'd drop a dollar or so in.

MB: Oh, really.

WK: The company didn't pay nothing.

MB: Oh boy.

WK: \$32.00 she got.

MB: That's all she ever got from anyone? Your father hadn't belonged to one of these fraternal organizations where they had these insurance policies at all?

WK: No, I don't think.

MB: Let's see, there was a Verhovay [a Hungarian fraternal society] and I don't know what else. Some [other] Hungarian one[s]. William Penn took over some of those. But your family had no connection with any of these? Or the German Beneficial.

WK: Yeah.

MB: Well, there were a lot. Slovaks had a whole bunch of them. But when there wasn't a union that had insurance, it was the only sort of protection for death.

WK: Pretty low insurance, too.

MB: Pretty low insurance, too. But you didn't have anything of that, though?

WK: No.

MB: Did you ever go to any dances either before you were married or after you were married? At any of the clubs for social life? Did they have different things? No?

WK: No...Because when you would go in a hotel, get a drink of beer, there'd be somebody else come in, stand by you, and talk to you. And by the time you drink your beer, you'd want another one, and you'd have to buy yourself one and the buddy one. That's why I never went there.

MB: Oh, I see. Okay. But sometimes those clubs had dances and things.

WK: Oh yeah, yeah.

MB: Did you go to any of those?

WK: Yeah. More weddings--

MB: The Hungarians used to have a hall somewhere down here, didn't they? And they had dances. I don't know if you would have gone to anything, but I can remember even when I was a kid that they did czárdás dances.

WK: Yeah, we had dances.

HK: In Scalp.

MB: In Scalp. I don't know where. It's too vague. I was too little, but I remember going to some somewhere down there.

WK: Yeah, back of Estep's Hotel there. They had a big hall there. They used to have weddings down there and dances. They tore that down.

MB: Did they?

WK: They even had movies in that hall.

MB: Did they? So how did you have fun? What were the main ways you had fun?

WK: What?

MB: To have any fun, what did you do? How did you get together? Just walk around and talk to neighbors? How did you get together with people then? How did you have fun?

WK: You didn't have no fun.

MB: [You] didn't have any fun.

WK: We had a car. We'd go for a ride. We'd go for a ride to Bedford and then come around here, and the day would be shot

MB: Did you ever have picnics or any of those things?

WK: Oh yeah. On Sunday we used to... We had the three kids already, and I had a different car then. I had a Grand Page car. And every Sunday after supper we'd take a ride out to the end of Windber. There was an ice cream store there [Fairview Dairy], and [we'd] get a big ice cream. You'd get a cone with the ice cream sticking up like that, nothing inside. Ice cream was sticking up. You saw that.

MB: Oh boy.

WK: This one Sunday I was broke, didn't have a nickel in my pocket. So mom says, "We're not going to have no desert tonight, today."

MB: Uh huh.

WK: No, no money. So I took a walk out the road there, and on my way back, I found 50 cents in the driveway.

MB: You must have felt rich. (Laughs)

WK: A 50 cent piece. So I said, "Get the kids together, and we'll go get ice cream." So I got five ice cream cones, and I had a quarter left.

MB: Oh boy. (Both laugh.) Wow, and that was a big treat, a big thing?

WK: Oh yeah. They expected it every Sunday. Now they go after beer. Yeah, cold beer.

MB: Oh boy. So you've seen a lot of changes in this area, haven't you then?

WK: Oh yeah.

MB: When the mines worked and then the Depression and World War II and all of that. Did the mines work a lot during World War II then, I guess? Didn't they?

WK: They worked every day. They need[ed] the coal. My old car was just about broke down. Well, it was [emphasis] broke down, and I had to order in for a new Chevy, and I had to wait four months before I got it. That was tough.

MB: And then you worked then after the war until the mine closed. Right?

WK: I worked until the mine closed [in] '59.

MB: So did you see a lot of people leave the area then when the mine started closing?

WK: Yes. A lot of them left. All over the place. They come around every now and then to look the place over.

MB: Just like me. (Laughs)

WK: Especially this school house over here. [They] come and see it. They say that's the school I used to go to.

MB: So you raised your kids, but they didn't go into the mines? The boys didn't, and you told me [about] your one son who died--

WK: None of my boys was in the mine.

MB: Yeah. What did you want for your children?

WK: What?

MB: What did you want, Mr. King? What did you want for them when you were bringing them up? What kinds of things did you want?

WK: I let them kids do what they wanted. Bobby went in the Army. He was in for two years. He's the oldest boy.

MB: How old would he be now?

WK: 60 [years old].

MB: Okay. (The clock chimes.)

WK: When he come out of the Army, he got a job in the Post Office. He was in there 39 years. Then he retired. He cut the grass here this morning in an hour.

MB: Oh.

WK: And the other boy, he went to Indiana College [probably Indiana University of Pennsylvania]. He got through there. He went in the Navy. He was in the Navy for eight years, and then he come out, and he settled in Virginia. Ever been to Virginia?

MB: Yeah, but--

WK: Where does Phil live now?

HK: Oh, I don't know where he lives.

WK: Around Alexandria. Do you know where that is?

MB: Yeah. I know where it is.

WK: He had a daughter and a son.

HK: We go every year where he's buried.

MB: You said he got a doctorate in music? Right?

WK: Yeah.

MB: So did you want your children to have an education then?

WK: Oh yes!

MB: Did you sort of push them that way a little then? Did you want them to go into the mines at all ever?

WK: No, no, no. I didn't want them to go in the mines. That's hard work in the mines. The fellow went to the boss. He asked him for a job, and he told the boss. He says, "Give me an easy job."

And the boss says, "There's no easy job with coal."

So he didn't get no job at all.

MB: Oh boy. Wow. Oh gosh. Wow.

WK: The boss told him there's no easy job in the mine.

MB: Yeah. Right. Oh boy. Physically very hard. Boy, did you ever get hurt in the mines or anything?

WK: No, never hurt, but boy I was pretty close.

MB: Yeah. What happened?

WK: Well, I was three feet from my death there one time. I didn't think about it until I got home in bed, about what happened. They go down the grade, and two timber men, what they

call timber men, they switched the motor in the side and left the switch in there. And I was going down with two empties, and I didn't see it quick enough. And I went down here in the corner, and my motor went right up against right where I was sitting. And I had those two fingers there--there was an electric wire [that was] apart--and I wanted to put it, turn it together, and I burned two fingers.

MB: Did the union bring many changes in working conditions and things then? How would you describe the impact of getting a union in the mines? From the way it had been before 'til afterwards. Like from before the '30s and then afterwards. Were there any changes like with accidents and things like that? Or were they the same?

WK: You had more say-so after [emphasis] than you had before.

MB: Could you tell me about that? How did that work?

WK: Well, that worked as...If you had something on your mind, you'd go to the boss. He'd listen to you, but, before, he'd tell you to get out. He wouldn't even listen to you.

MB: Um hum.

WK: That's the kind of business we had.

MB: So you had a grievance procedure and things that would work.

WK: Yeah.

MB: So do you remember some of the famous, larger union leaders more than the local ones like...Do you remember John Brophy? He would have been in the '20s. He would have been President of the District [District 2 of the United Mine Workers of America]. Do you remember him at all?

WK: John Brophy? No.

MB: Powers Hapgood [a District 2 organizer] who was in the area once working then?

WK: No.

MB: You have to remember John L. Lewis. What did you think of John L. Lewis?

WK: John L. Lewis was the only one I knew.

MB: What did you think of him? Do you think he was a dictator like some people do? Or did he save the union and do all these great things? Exactly how would you put him [rate him] if you were going to make a judgment about how well he did?

WK: John Lewis was a good man. If you needed money, he'd give it to you, but you'd have to pay it back.

MB: Oh boy. (Both laugh.)

WK: He'd loan it to you. Whenever, whenever John Lewis was president and Roosevelt got to be president, Roosevelt...See, before that, they had all steam engines burned with coal. And John Lewis would furnish the coal. And when Roosevelt got in there, he turned it over to oil.

MB: Oh.

WK: See. And John Lewis got mad at him.

MB: Oh.

WK: He didn't like the idea of not using the coal. They used to ship coal to Europe. John Lewis [Perhaps Mr. King was confusing Lewis with the Berwinds here?] would have ships. They'd load it in New York, and they'd take it to Europe. We'd work every day. When they quit that, then we were working two or three days.

MB: Do you remember the strike during World War II when Lewis sort of defied Franklin Roosevelt and when he took the miners out on strike? Do you remember that?

WK: No, not much of it.

MB: You don't remember that? To tell me anything about that? I guess, I mean they [the miners] went out on strike, I guess, then and did that.

WK: They went out on strike, but they didn't stay long.

MB: I was just trying to think of anything else about that.

Well, what about the ethnic groups? There were so many different ones around here. How did they get along with each other?

WK: With who?

MB: With each other. The Italians, the Hungarians, the Germans and the Russians and all the different groups. There were so many different ones. Tell me about that. As you were growing up, you must have seen it [relations between the ethnic groups] change. It couldn't have been the same all the time exactly. When you were a little boy, how did they get along with one another and--?

WK: Well, you'd just go out there and talk to them. That's all. Sometimes they would understand, and sometimes they wouldn't understand. It would be the same way with us. They'd say something to us. If we would understand it, why, we'd answer them. If not, we'd walk away.

MB: Did you have fights with each other, though? School fights and things and--?

WK: No fights. Walk away.

MB: What about the Johnny Bulls? Was there anything between them and these groups?

WK: Ah, the Johnny Bulls. They wanted to be the big shots. Yah, Irish, Irish, Scotch.

MB: Were there any of those people living up here in [mine] 37 or were--?

WK: No.

MB: No?

WK: None of them.

MB: Where did they live then? Did they live in Windber or some [other] place?

WK: Windber and all over.

MB: Well, who lived in [mine] 37 then? What different groups lived in 37?

WK: Polish, Slavish, Hungarian.

MB: Was that an accident? Did that just happen? Or did Berwind-White want those groups, sort of, to live together, do you think?

WK: Yes. Yeah.

MB: Well, how did that work then? How did you get all these groups together? Like, for a union, you would have had to have everybody working together and not in conflict with one another.

WK: Whenever--

MB: Because you had all your different churches and lots of reasons why people wouldn't get along, but how did you get them [together], and [you had] language problems. How did they get together then? Could they--?

WK: You tell one, tell the other, and the other, and the other, and so on. That's the way they got together. That's how they get together.

MB: Is there anything you want to tell me about the Hungarian Reformed Church? If you know something about that because I really don't know much about that at all. [I] haven't talked to anybody who really does.

WK: There was one family, Mrs. Yurko. She's a widow. She goes to Johnstown Reformed Church. The boys take her.

HK: I don't think she goes now anymore.

WK: No?

HK: I don't think she goes anymore. She's not well.

WK: She's 86. She's Hungarian Reformed.

MB: But you remember the one [Hungarian Reformed Church], when it was here [in Windber] before the fire then?

WK: Oh yeah. We used to go to it.

MB: Tell me something about it, it's history. Or was there any special event or special minister or anything that you could [tell me about]? Any events? I don't know anything about it at all.

WK: Does your father know anything?

MB: He may, he may. I don't know what he would remember, but he never went to it. He went to St. Mary's [the Hungarian Roman Catholic Church].

WK: He didn't go to Hungarian Reformed?

MB: No, he went to St. Mary's [pausing] when he went, and then I think he may have stopped going period.

WK: That's the Hungarian Catholic church.

MB: Hmm. No, he wasn't Reformed. He was raised Catholic.

WK: So your mother was Reformed?

MB: No, nobody, nobody. (Laughs) That's why you have to tell me about it. I don't know.

End of Tape 1 Side B

Beginning of Tape 2 Side A (September 30, 1986)

MB: [As she was turning the tape over, Mr. King asked Beik how she would use the tapes once the interview was over. He seemed to want assurance that the coal company would not retaliate against him for anything he might say. In response, she replied:]

[The tapes will be] donated, eventually, years from now, to a university library. But when I'm doing anything [for my dissertation], I won't use people's names. I'm just going to use a pseudonym, a fictitious name. [King was reassured.]

Let it [the recorder] run a second more so it gets going. But I don't really know; I don't know anything about the Reformed Church.

WK: The Hungarian Reformed Church was up there on 4th Street in a wooden structure.

MB: It was pretty old, wasn't it? Was it part of the early churches in the community?

WK: Well, it was pretty old, but the immigrants, they built it. The people who come from Europe. Just like this Roman church down here. And we belonged to it. My father belonged to

it. And we had two boys baptized by that preacher. [To his wife] The preacher's name was Kerekes, wasn't it?

HK: I don't know.

MB: Oh, Kerekes?

WK: Kerekes Béla. Ever hear of him?

MB: Oh. I've seen that name some place in a newspaper article or somewhere. Yeah.

WK: He was a big Hungarian of a man. He was a good preacher.

MB: That was at 4th and Somerset?

WK: 4th Street, yeah. 4th Street.

MB: There was another Hungarian Reformed, some offshoot, an independent Reformed, some place up there, too. Small.

WK: Oh, they had it in a hall, but people didn't go there.

MB: Oh, okay. It was real tiny then.

WK: See, there were two groups.

MB: Okay. Tell me about that. I don't understand why there were two.

WK: Two groups. One wanted this, the other wanted that, and they couldn't come together. So they split.

MB: Do you know what the issue was that they split about, that they fought about?

WK: No.

MB: No.

WK: Then the one that split went down to this... They had a regular hall [on] 8th Street. One had the church there, and the other one had it up here. Paul Jurfee [Gyorffy? spelling?], Paul Jurfee. Ever hear of him?

MB: (Shakes head no.)

WK: He had it up here for a while. Then, finally, well, finally, they all broke up and tore the church down.

MB: Has that been gone a long time then?

WK: Hmm, hmm.

MB: Huh.

HK: Is he still living?

WK: Who?

HK: Paul Jurfee?

WK: No, no. He died in a home over there.

MB: Is there anything else? (The clock chimes.) I'm sure you know lots of stories, Mr. King. I just don't know what to ask you anymore.

WK: Just a minute. I can't hear good with that. (The clock continues to chime.)

MB: I don't know what else to really ask you. I bet you know lots of stories that would tell things about the life of the people here and things. Do you have any favorite stories or anything you want to tell me about like--? I don't know.

WK: Well, I told you pretty near everything I know.

MB: It's all fascinating.

WK: And there's a bigger book that I don't know.

MB: Well, that's true of anybody. My heavens. Mrs. King, would you want to tell me anything about yourself?

HK: Huh uh (no).

[Beik thought it was time to wind up the interview. Mr. King seemed tired, and it was hard to ask more questions. She turned off the recorder, but Mr. King continued to talk, and Beik turned the recorder on again.]

MB: So you knew all these languages in the mines?

WK: Yeah, I knew Italian and, well, Russian. Russian is something like Polish. There was a Russian man working down here. He couldn't read or write. And payday they'd give you a statement that would show on there what all you're gonna get and how much money you're gonna get. So he couldn't read or write. He didn't know what was on that paper. So he'd bring it in, and I was motorman, and he'd show it to me. I'd have to explain it to him--

MB: Right.

WK: [continuing] as good as I could.

MB: How much Russian did you speak? Not too much--?

WK: No.

MB: But you would have to try to figure it out for him. Oh boy. Was that common, though, that the miners really had to learn a lot of different languages, little bits of it anyway? I suppose they learned all the swear words first.

WK: You don't have to know language in a mine. All you have to know is how to work. You gotta have a strong back and a weak mind.

MB: (Laughs) Do you still know Hungarian, Mr. King? Can you still speak Hungarian?

WK: Not good.

MB: Not good. Your wife doesn't speak it so you don't speak it to each other.

WK: I can't speak good.

MB: But you at one time... Was that the language your parents spoke at home though? Did they know much English?

WK: Yeah, they would speak it.

MB: Hungarian at home?

WK: Yeah. Hungarian.

MB: When did you first learn English then?

WK: Huh?

MB: When did you first learn English then? Playing with--?

WK: Going to school.

MB: Going to school. Did you speak any English at all before you started school?

WK: [I] didn't speak [it] at all.

MB: Well, that must have been hard. (King laughs.) Were there a lot of you like that? Tell me about that. That must have been a big adjustment then.

WK: You go... You'd speak their language, the Hungarian language, but then it'd be broken, half English and half Hungarian.

MB: Oh boy. That would have been hard.

WK: No, it wasn't hard. You get used to that. My brother Andy, he was manager of the ball club. They had a small ball club, and my mother would say "There goes the manager" (pronouncing "manager" very badly with an accent).

MB: So your mother spoke English then?

WK: Not good.

MB: Not good.

WK: No. Everybody speaks English now.

MB: Now it's different.

WK: There aren't very many immigrants coming over here no more.

MB: Yeah. So it [foreign language use] sort of dies out with that. The churches used to have the services in different languages, too, I guess.

WK: You can fly overnight to Europe.

MB: Uh huh.

WK: In them days you had...It took 16 days on a boat.

MB: Right. You never went to Europe to see where your parents came from? [Did] anyone in your family do that, though? In some families somebody went back to see. No? Okay. I just wondered.

WK: Nobody went back. My mother always said that we had some ground over there. My father had some ground over there, but [the] Russians got it, I guess.

MB: So maybe...I wonder when they first came if they planned on staying or if they planned on going back and having a farm or something.

WK: Yeah.

MB: They thought they were going to go back, you think?

WK: Yeah. They work here until they get about a \$1,000, and they go back to Europe. Then they was big shots in Europe.

MB: I guess they could buy some land or something there and have...A lot of people did that, I guess. So you think your father wanted to do that then if he had some land?

WK: I don't know.

MB: Well you wouldn't.

WK: I don't know.

MB: Well, thank you very much, Mr. King.

[Beik turned off the recorder again thinking the interview was over. But Mr. King continued to talk, and she turned on the recorder again.]

MB: Mr. King, you were telling me some things about the [farms], and I don't know a lot about that. You were telling me a story about the Berwinds buying up farmland and how that worked.

WK: They bought it. They bought the ground, just the ground, for \$6.00 an acre. And they got the ground, and they got the coal. They didn't use the ground. They just got the coal out from under the ground, and when they got the coal out, these farmers had springs on the farm. This farmer here had three of them, springs on the farm. And when they took the coal out from underneath, the mine would cave there, and the water would go down in the mine. Then the miners had to pump it out, had to pump it out. Then the farmers didn't have no water so they had to get rid of their farm.

MB: So that's why they sold it for \$6.00--

WK: So they sold the farm back to the Berwind-White. They [the coal company] bought the coal and the farm cheap. Then, later on, they, Berwind-White, sold the houses, the farmers' [houses].

MB: Hmm. Yeah, so they--

WK: Then they had to run to get water from the city. Just like Windber here.

MB: So Berwind-White actually owned [emphasis] farms then. I mean, it sort of... You wouldn't have thought it [as] being in the business.

WK: Berwind owned the ground and [emphasis] the farm after the water was gone.

MB: Some farmers brought some lawsuits, I think, about that. I've seen [that] in papers.

WK: Up at [mine] 33 there, the other side of Windber, the farmers had a lawsuit for ten years--

MB: Wow.

WK: [continuing] suing the company for losing their water.

MB: Did they win?

WK: And the ten years was up. The company paid them, and after they paid them, then the water came back up. (Laughs)

MB: Ah. Oh boy.

WK: That was only one place that happened. Now these mines gets filled up, the water'll come back up. Might be ten or twenty years.

MB: What was this farm behind your house then? Does this have a, belong to, together--

WK: The farmhouse right over here.

MB: Do you remember the Hamilton farm? People talk about the Hamilton Orchard or farm or what was, what was it?

WK: Oh. It's over there, as you go along.

MB: Oh. That was a big thing, wasn't it, or something?

WK: Oh yeah. He [Alfred Reed Hamilton] was a stockholder in Berwind-White.

MB: That's so. I had heard that. But that's where it was? Right above [mine] 37 here?

WK: Yeah.

MB: Because I'm never sure where that was.

WK: Do you ever go out this way?

MB: Uh huh.

WK: Just before you get up on the hill there. Over there, there's a white house and a barn. That's where it was.

MB: Okay. That [the Hamiltons] was a pretty prominent family around here then?

WK: Oh yeah. They used to raise sheep, then take it [the sheep] to the fairgrounds. They'd make money on it. He was a stockholder with Berwind-White.

MB: Yeah. So they--

WK: Hamilton.

MB: Yeah. Uh huh.

WK: Pete [Pete Gerula, Beik's uncle] ought to know all about that stuff.

MB: Yeah. I can ask him about that. Yeah. So the farmers had their own complaints then, too [about] the company, too.

WK: Oh yeah, yeah.

MB: Well, I would think some of the businessmen might, like [those] who wanted to run stores, because they would have had to compete with the company stores, too. I would think they might have some--

WK: Yeah. You had to buy in the company store. Everything.

MB: So if somebody wanted to have a little small business or grocery--

WK: They wouldn't let no hucksters or no farmers or nobody come in here. Not even a guy with a bag on his back selling clothes.

MB: So then there would have been other people besides miners with complaints, I guess.

WK: You couldn't do nothing. You couldn't do nothing because there was no union. If you had a union, you could have done something then.

MB: So you couldn't hold meetings. You couldn't have sort of free speech like you think of, or any of that. Yeah.

Oh, please be careful. You're going to fall. [King almost fell off his chair but did not.]

Well, do you know many farmers then, Mr. King?

WK: Oh yeah.

MB: Do you remember like where you met in 1922? Which fields? Which farmers were brave enough to let you meet?

WK: Pete Vogel. Down the hill there. Pete Vogel. He was a farmer. He had a beer joint besides that. And Uriah Weaver used to be over here. His sons run it now. Hillside Orchard.

MB: Oh yeah. I saw the signs.

WK: That used to be Uriah Weaver's.

MB: I see. Okay.

WK: A fellow named Jake Webb used to live here. He used to have this farm. And then this farm was up above there.

MB: So they had their own problems.

WK: Yeah.

MB: And some of the small storekeepers did, and then the miners did. Yeah. So that was really something.

End of Tape 2 Side A

End of the Interview (September 30, 1986)