

A Conversation with Anna May

October 1992

In 1992, John and Jill Walch took a tape recorder to Anna May Derosie Peashey's house to document some of the stories that Anna May often told. We usually visited Anna May in her home [the old Derosie Homestead] at least once a month. Jilleen and Jared were there, too, but are not heard on tape.

We're recording now. [John]

What?

He's trying to record those stories you've got about back in the old days. [Jill]

Oh, this is a talkin' machine? Well, I've really told all the stories.

Remember telling me about when you were the janitor at the school? The kids never heard that story. [Jill]

You've never heard that story? Well, when I was a kid, the oldest boy in the school, generally, was the janitor. And you had to build a fire and keep that coal fire in the wintertime. So, one Sunday afternoon, my father took me down and showed me how to build a fire. Then every Sunday afternoon, I'd go down and build a fire and keep it going through the week and then Friday afternoon, I'd let it go out. So, there was a coal bin in the back and you could go through the door to get to the coal and the wood – I needed a little wood, you know, to start it.

I'd get a pail of water and we had oiled floors. They don't have those anymore. *Oiled floors?* [John]

Yes, they had oiled floors – to keep the dust down. *[and they were slippery, too – Jill]*

Then you had a jar to push for your water. And you had to go across the road a pail of water every day. You'd have nice fresh water in the afternoon.

Did they have a crock for the water? [John]

Yes, it was a crock.

Did it have blue rings on it? [John]

Yes it had rings on it.

I've got one at the store. And did it have a little spout on it? [John] (John had an antique store in Brewerton at the time) [John]

Yes, it had a little doo-hicky at the bottom and you'd have your own cup and that was it.

Friday afternoon we'd have a spelling bee and we'd get in a line and when you'd spell and spell right, you'd go to the head. And when you spelled wrong, you'd go to the bottom.

And then we got in chemical toilets, and that was quite feature. That really took our room, there was a little room just as you came in where you could put your clothes in. And it's right down here, you can see it. There's an addition on it, but the bigger part was the school. We'd have a place to put our coats in the winter.

Was it on Kocher Road down there? [John]

No, no, no, it's just down next door to us. There was ½ acre taken off this farm that was donated for that.

And my father was a trustee. There was only a little boy in first or second grade, and so there was no girls at all, and so I said "Can I be janitor?" And he said no, me being trustee, they'll be sore.

But in the end he did break down and he gave it to me, so he took me down and he let me have it. And so, I had to get paid. I got fifteen dollars a year! Now get this, I got \$15 and year and I'd get \$7.50 in January and in June I'd get another \$7.50 and that was it.

And then with this chemical toilet. My father was trustee then, so Uncle Fred and him went down a dug holes and a cesspool and then there was a toilet put in. One on one end for the boys and one on the other end for the girls and there were two doors and then there was a small clothes closet and there was a stirrer and you had to stir it up every day. Smelled like hell.

That was your job, too?[Jill]

Well sure, and you put this chemical stuff in every once in a while, but you couldn't really get away from the fumes no matter what you'd do.

But it was still an improvement over the one out back. [Jill]

Yes, you didn't have to dress up and go out. So there you are.

And then we'd have a 15 minute period after [lunch] – recess.

Well, we used to slide down hill from here down to the barn. So we'd get up and put our hat and coat on and run like hell and have a couple of slides down and then it was time to go back and we'd have to go back and we'd run like hell to get back before the bell. The teacher'd ring the bell and you had to be back in class. That was it.

What did you do in the summer when it was recess? What kind of games did you play?[Jill]

Oh, nothing too special, I guess we had a few little games. I remember Loll used to.. the boy next door – Mutt Malorne, Gerald. Him and Lollie were fighting all the time and they'd call her names and then there was one named Sherman, and she'd get so mad at him and she'd go right after him with a stick, ya know.

One day, just to get even with him. This Mutt worked up here to Whitlock's with his chickens and so on and he was coming down from there one afternoon and Loll was waiting for him to come down on his bicycle and she halts him and gives him this package. And what do you suppose she had in it? Horseshit.

What was he supposed to do with it?

Well, it was just to get even with him ... "Horseshit to you."

He got through Normal School. Got to be a teacher and he said "Well I went down and got my diploma in the morning and I went up and shoveled horseshit for Whitlock all afternoon. No, not horseshit, chicken shit. They had chickens, they sold chickens and pigs and so forth.

And that was our lives.

Haying

You said one time that you used to work in the haying [Jill]

Well, certainly! I used to help with the haying every time.

You like that better than house work? [Jill]

Well, it wasn't a case of housework; we'd generally get in on that, too. But that had to be done, too. Dad was lying in bed dying of cancer and Uncle Fred was trying to do what he could do. And then, before, when Pop was still able to crawl around, why, I'd get on the load and they'd get one on each side and they'd pitch it on and then I'd put the fork of hay about where it should be. First you'd put some in the middle and then you'd get the sides built up and then you'd put more in the middle to bind it and then you put another row of hay until you've got enough and then you'd bind it on top. I never lost a load of hay.

So you got pretty good at it [Jill]

Yeah, and one time after I was married and I was living here and it was going to rain and the boys were rushing and the thunder was coming and it was going to rain, so I went down and got in the wagon and Fred said, what are you doing? Well, I said, 'I'm going with you.' And he said, 'well, you're not, you don't know anything about it' I said, 'Well, you come along and I'll show you. I knew before you were even born.'

So I said, you get over there and you get over there, and you throw it in the middle and then we'll get that filled up and then I'll show you where to put it. So I built it round and they said, 'well, gee, maybe you do know what you're doing.' I said, I certainly did, I've never lost a load of hay yet.'

Professional farmer [John]

I probably raked hay, probably 35 to 40 acres every summer. Because they had this farm and then they rented a farm up the road, David Deans. There was four great big meadows up there. Most of it they had in hay. I think they planted one field up there one time, but mostly they'd have hay and oats sometimes they had new planting.

Oh, I knew how to farm. But Lollie and BeeBee got in on the milking. I never did much milking because I just couldn't seem to get my hands to go just right, I said, but they thought it was just an excuse. I just couldn't seem to be pulling those tits and squeezing milk out.

Frogs Legs

Now, Frances talked about following the hay rake and catching frogs.

Lollie would kill them and cut their pants off and skin them and we'd have frogs legs, and boy, were they ever good.

Frances said you'd slap them on the step and kill them and then they'd cut their legs off – just above, so they were still joined and that would be frogs legs. [Jill]

Talking about getting frogs legs, I'm telling you.

I can't imagine mom doing that, and she said she couldn't imagine herself doing it. Every time she told about it, she'd giggle [John and Jill]

Well, we were all in it.

Land along the Lake shore

Lookit, I was down to Laings and I see a place down there that was supposed to have bought off the Smith farm and now they only wanted \$80,000 for it.

They must have made some improvements, because they only bought it for \$500 [John]

It wasn't anything spectacular. I was up in the line by the lake

They bought the lot for \$500. That's what she sold them for. \$500 a piece

Well that's what I understand. But I was told that someone got one for \$200. Frances needed the money to get by with those kids, I'm telling you. It wasn't easy.

The Derosie Homestead

When you first lived here, somebody was saying that there were rings on the wall. For hanging beds or something? Back when this was an old inn [Jill]

There was slats. Well, you see this was a wayside tavern. These two rooms were the ballroom.

Is that why it has the rounded corners? [Jill]

Yup. and, you know, they paper beautiful! Why, I had somebody come in and paper in here and she said, "oh dear, I don't know what I'll do with those rounded corners." And I said, "You won't do anything, you'll just keep right on going."

And then there was a big archway here. Four great big heavy curtains were on there.

When was this wall put up? Has it always been here?[Jill]

No, no. It was after... My mother then... There was tourists. You'd get a dollar a bed or something, not much. Now they get \$50. She took in tourists. She wanted to make two rooms of it, so she had that partition put in. Well, that was two wallboards set half-way and you'd always have a crack. Every time you'd paper, no matter what. You know, you'd get this side straightened out and then you'd get the other one straightened out and you'd have new paper and it'd crack right across it.

And so Robert, he was just a kid, I don't think he was over 12 or 13 and he was sweating it out over Christmas vacation, to put in that wall in. He put that wall in.

So it's a different wall that he put in. [Jill]

There was wallboard, I told you. I don't know if you call it wallboard. There were two kinds of boards they used to use and then you'd fill it all in with putty or something.

Plaster and lath? [John]

I don't what it was. And then there was a crack...

When was it that your mother was having people stay here? [Jill] (Anna May didn't know)

When was this place built? [John]

I don't exactly know, maybe 1840. Ann Marie was supposed to have papers on that. She's a little historical now. She might know more about it than I do.

Has she been collecting information about this farm? [Jill]

I don't know about the farm. She was, at one time looking into it.

Genealogy? [John]

Yeah. No. I guess that's what she wants to move out into. Something like that.

History. She wants to study history. [Jill]

She's still running up here to college, you know, at night.

That's what Anna was saying. [Jill]

One night a week!

Ann Marie? Where does she live now? [John]

In Lodi.

Anna says it's a two-hour drive [Jill]

I want to tell you it's a three solid three-hour drive. Anna might tell you less, but I say it's a three-hour drive.

Six hours drive a day? Just to go to school out here? [John]

Well, she works. She works some kind of a chemistry deal at Babcock poultry farm and I'm not sure where that is, I think Ithaca – way, but I'm not sure. And then she comes up here and gets here at quarter of six and gets out at quarter of nine or quarter after nine, and goes back home.

She hasn't been up here since summer time, I don't think. She's hoping to have a day or two. She's studying for her mid-terms now. So...

Did Frances say that when you were kids you would stay over on one side of the house in the summer time and in the winter, you'd have this side closed up? [Jill]

Well, yes. We had a Kalamazoo furnace. It was coal we had then. You could afford to buy coal then, now you can't reach it.

So, in the wintertime we'd huddle in on that side. There was Anna's bedroom and then the next room, we had two beds in it. Four of us slept in that. Then there was a room at the head of the stairs and the boys slept in that, or one of them slept in the little room that Uncle Fred had always used. And that was it!

And then in the summer we'd come to this side. This was an open space area you know know, you've been up there. Now there's an archway that's been filled in there. There was an open space and were four or five beds in there, maybe four. It's been fixed over a little bit.

Someone was saying that there were rings on the wall for extra beds when this was a tavern. [Jill]

There were cleats all up along the wall and I guess my mother got them all off. And they were set up there...

I heard my grandfather telling about, he was from Mille Roches which is it's buried now under the St. Lawrence River, and his father was a shoe cobbler, I guess ... and then as they (the children) came along, they slept in this great big room. And then once a year, they'd take all the beds down and they'd have this big dance and then before they went to bed they had to put these beds all up again.

So they'd have a dance upstairs? [Jill]

Not upstairs, in Mille Roches. They lived, I don't know...in Mille Roches, the St. Lawrence River would go through there, and the canal. You'd be coming down from Cornwall and then there was Mille Roches and then there was a turn and then you'd go on down- follow the river down, you see.

Now is that where..? [Jill]

My grandfather, Ira Derosie ... Ira Derosie came from there.

His father was from way down by Quebec farther. And he was married and his wife and his first baby... They were having yellow fever. The mother died and the baby died of yellow fever. They had to stay away from anybody. Well, He took his troubles way down the river in a boat and buried them on some island.

And then I guess he came up to Cornwall – to Mille Roches and he was a shoe cobbler. Used to make shoes!

That was Barb on the phone. I guess Anna called her ... [John]

Did you talk to Barb? That's good.

Yeah, I told her the stone wasn't back... (John was having the gravestone for his mother, Frances Derosie engraved. Frances had died August 28, 1992) [John]

Oh, she wanted to talk to you then.

She was quite upset a couple of weeks ago because the stone wasn't back yet. [John]

I've got to get in touch with Barb. I have to thank her for a card and picture that was taken down in Albany.

There were a bunch of pictures she was talking about that we have down at house there, that were taken on the farm. [John]

(Returning to the story)

So this is Ira whose wife and baby died, right? [Jill]

His father...

Oh, his father, OK. So then he remarried? [Jill]

He married again... and then he, well altogether, I think he had sixteen kids.

Wow! Oh yeah, we've got that. [Jill]

Now wait, wait. I guess he remarried again, because... seems that, he was a very strict Catholic and every Sunday, he'd walk from Mille Roche to Cornwall, it was 6 miles, one way. And he'd go to church. And then, there was Ira, Louis and maybe about 5 or 6, and the mother died!

And then he married again and, let me see, he married again, and the next woman was an Anglican.

How'd that go along with the Catholics? [Jill]

However, after he died, they all kind of followed through with the Anglican.

Now Lollie (Anna May's sister, Alice) has found one, I guess he's Will Derousie'sUncle Jim's descendant I remember him, and he was just a little lad, about like that (pointing to Jared) when I'd go over there. Just a little pair of over-halls on. (overalls).

He got married and he worked on the boats on the canal and he married a French girl and so he's got two or three kids and lived down around by Hamilton. And so, he's got a boy who's a priest. And Lollie's got in touch with him and they've been writing to him and getting quite a lot of - dope .. and one of the stories is that, one of the reasons why they turned Protestant is that in the Catholic church accused somebody of stealing something – one of the kids – which they hadn't, and so she pulled her kids out and sent them to the Anglicans, so they grew up Anglican.

You used to go visit them when I was a kid and on my vacations. And when I first went to work. I used to head for there and go visit relatives. And went all the way down the river. I'd hit Cornwall and then Mille Roches and then get into Morrisburg. That's where that Father Jack came from.

And you were driving a horse and wagon... [John]

Oh I could drive a horse and wagon. You ask Lollie about driving a horse wagon! She went to town one day and a car came along and hit into her back wheel and took the back wheel right off!

[laughter]

She was riding along and the back wheel was taken off by a car.

When you went to Canada, how'd you get there? [John]

Oh, I'd take a bus. Somebody'd drop me off in Maple View and I'd take a bus to Ogdensburg.

Well it was after 26, cause I graduated in 26. It was between '26 and when I went to Syracuse, and I went to Syracuse in '31.

So between 26 and 31. [John]

I went to Syracuse to work. I went to work here. I'd worked six months for Oswego Rand. And they got one of the first bookkeeping machines in the county, I guess. And there was supposed to be an old maid stenographer who was going to run it, but she didn't want any part of it. She was on it one day... and she didn't want any part of it. So they asked me if I wanted to learn, and of course, I was 17 and eager. I was going to lick the world, and so I learned. And then my boss died. And we had this little monkey over in the corner and he had always been a - writing up orders in the factory and he got himself around and became the office manager.

And the day that she was going to be buried, he didn't say anything about going to the funeral. So we all went to work and when it got time for the funeral, we got up and put our coats on and went to the funeral. Then we came back and he was taking over.

And then one day he came back and said I was ten cents off, and back then, when you were ten cents off, you found the ten cents! Now days they plug 'em. Maybe they plug ten dollars, or whatever.

So he came back and he said, "Miss Derousie, when do you expect to get those statements out?" "Well," I said, "I'll get them out just as soon as I find ten cents. I'm off ten cents." "Well, you know, there's nobody got any sympathy for those who make mistakes." I said, "I know, and I'm not looking for any sympathy, and I'll let you know very shortly." He hadn't even got set in his seat, when went down and said, "Well, they've gone out. I found my ten cents." And that was it!

Recorded October 1992

Transcribed by Jill Walch, May 2004

And then they got where they were slipping a little, and - all through my life, I've taught many girls how to run the bookkeeping machine. And there was this little Jeannie Reedy and she was making a couple of bucks less than I was, I don't know, that at that time it was about 9 or 10 dollars a week. And then he let me go. He fired me.

So, I was home two weeks but I did a little work down in a garage. Bookkeeping work, you know. So, I really wasn't out of work a day really. I had something, a little bit each day.

So then, a girlfriend ... There was a lawyer in town. A good lawyer, but he never had any money... and she was at (girl scouts?) and well he was over there in his office and he went over to her desk and he said, "Say, Blanche. Do you know any girl I can get? I need a girl around here." "Sure," she said. "I know Anna May, Anna May Derausie."

"All right, you send for her will you? Tell her to come in and see me". He knew the family. He lived up the road here. I think in that house where George Daley lived. Dorothy Derausie, he married, you know. They lived right up in Scriba. Well, so, anyway, I also got in touch with Syracuse and put in my name in for a job

Well, I think it was in the springtime, and I worked for the lawyer. He was always good to me. He had great respect. You know, they had all these dirty stories to tell. [Client stories that were not particularly 'nice']

One day he said, "I bet you know everything in that drawer... you probably go through them all when I'm not here." I said, "Nope, I don't touch anything when you're not here." And if he had any dirty story - which he did - to tell, he'd set there on Saturday and Sunday and type them up. Monday morning they'd be all stored away. So, anyways, that's the way it was.

Then along come fall, and I got a letter from Syracuse, asking me if I was interested in a bookkeeping job. He said, well he was going to court and he'd be gone two or three weeks to Pulaski. He had cases to take care of out there because they took care of some of them out there. I said to Mom, well, I don't know what to do. I know he's going away and he's depending on me. What happened is that ... I didn't get my pay every week. I got it when he got it. It just happened that I got two hundred dollars that week...

He must have saved up a long time to get it up to \$200. [John]

Well, yes. I don't know what I was getting - maybe \$15 [a week]

Well she said take the letter to him and let him read it. He said, "Well dammit!" he said, "you better not let that go by. You're not getting your money steady here and if you got a good chance like that, you'd better take it." "Now," he said. "I've got to go to Pulaski, there's nothing I can do about that, but if we can't do anything else, just close the damned place til I come back and then I'll open it."

"But" he said, "See here. You tell them, they'll give you \$75 a month, but you tell them that if you're worth \$75 a month, you're worth a hundred. You just tell them". Well, there he's standing right beside me and I'm using his telephone, so what could I do and what could I say? So I did.

So, did they give you the hundred? [Jill]

They said well, we'll try you for three months and then we will let you know. We'll give you the hundred,[if you work out for us.]

End of tape...

Working in Syracuse

I said to myself, 'What the hell have they got me for?' They had that girl there and seemed to be very good. She was a nervous little creature, but she was very good. What did they want me for?

Then she proceeded to type the numbers in the machine. The girls go the runs ready for you. You'd have so many policies to run through with insurance and all and then they went out to the agents. So all right, That went on about 2 or 3 weeks and I went out to lunch and when I came back one of the girls said, say fired? My lord, I said, Fired for what? I don't know, she said. They called her in and fired her, she's gone. After that, I was told that I was the head girl, and I was.

Then they got a new bookkeeping; machine and had a girl come in from Skaneateles, and I had to teach her. So then we had another girl to work out runs for her. Then there was talk of another machine. We just didn't have machines enough. In those days you waited and waited. So I guess you'll have to come to work at seven o'clock and work until.. I don't know... twelve thirty or something, I guess. You only got a half hour for lunch. We'd come back at one and work to about 9 or 10 at night and then your shift was off. And that is what we did! If there was any complaints, I got them. For bailin' out, I got them.

How long did you work in Syracuse?

I went there in Dec and quit in June. I was there for almost 15 year.

You must know Syracuse pretty well then.

First I lived at he Catholic girls club. I lived there and I had a room and then this girl and myself got some rooms in the famous Snowdon. They say today it is terrible ... absolutely terrible.

Then, when that was first built there was about 16 quarters there and it was a beautiful there. What they didn't have was the elite that live there now. The girls cut some stories out of the paper about a year ago. BeeBee was having a fit. I didn't know she ever lived there, but she did.

When did you move back to Oswego?

Well, Mickey got married, [Mickey was the girl that lived with me] Mickey and her husband were forever remodeling houses and he fixed this apartment over in their house. It was in back and it had a little kitchen, a living room a bedroom little bathroom and a closet and another closet out in a shed-like and then BeeBee and Helen came a long there were three of there, Then BeeBee got married and Helen left and Helen wanted me to get someone and I said 'No, Helen, I'm going to make my own dirt and clean my own dirt and not be bothered with others.' Then Mickey left there and then I had no heat there, the people out front – well she was nice, but he wasn't too dependable. She set up every night waiting to get him to work at eleven o'clock and I was working nights a lot, and I'd come home and want to get around and get something to eat and go 5to bed and she'd come and set until 10:30 until it was time to get him off. And then, there ya are...

Ira Derousie Came from Canada

Why did Ira Derousie end up down here from

Came through on stagecoach. Stayed here all night.

Why did he come down here, though?

I guess they were all trying to get out of Canada and get a job, you know, they were all young men trying to get started. He did carriage work. Her was very good at carriage work. I don't know if he ever shod many shoes or not. Uncle Fred and Uncle Al got into that. They carried out horseshoeing and carriage making down on West First Street just off of Bridge Street.

He went bankrupt, didn't he?

That's what they say. I guess that's what happened.

Didn't we find some papers that said that? That's why his wife owned the farm.

Ann Marie has that same story. He gambled on horses too much. He liked horses and I guess he gambled too much, and that's what happened.

So he came on the stagecoach and stayed here. Is that why he wanted to buy it when it came up for sale?

I guess they wanted to get out of town. They were out the River Road and they just destroyed that house. This side of the Cemetery. They just knocked that down. Where Mitchell has an estate up there. I think it's his daughter or son. I

When Pop was about 6 years old, they moved out here. And at that time if you were Catholic, you weren't very nice. Way back in your mother's time. Your mother went many, many places and never got a job. Because she was a Catholic.

There's a little Polish girl trying to die over there on Kocher Road, Blanch Kuhl, she's 82, and the other day I got to see her and she was telling me that she got a job and that the next door neighbor told me that I'd never get a job because she was Polish and she was Catholic. Finally she did get a job.

You were Catholic and you were able to get a job.

It was mostly the teacher as much as anything. I was just lucky that I did have a good boss there at Oswego Land

Francis never did teach, did she?

She did her practice teaching I don't remember where now, to tell you the truth, out out at the college they told about some jobs and then Freddie [her brother] brought her all over and then as soon as they asked the Catholic, she didn't get the job.

At that time it was very hard to get a job. Especially for women. My mother got a teaching job in 1931 and taught for about five years, but when she got married, she lost her job because it was during the Depresstion. When a woman got married, she had a husband to take care of her, so they wanted to keep the teaching jobs for people who really needed to work. - Jill

Then a nun got sick down at Holy Name Academy and the girls were down there and they wrote and wanted to know if she wanted to come and teach and she got her room and board. I don't remember if she got any nippins, but if she did, it was just nippins [just a few pennies] and then I guess the next year she got married.

Where was this Holy Name?

In Albany.

So she lived in Albany for a year?

That started about in October and when the nun got sick and they had a class without a teacher. She taught about three quarters of a year. And that was it.

And then she got married and then had kids.

Yeah and then Johnny arrived and she was in big trouble ... and ...so there you are.

I tell you, we had a battle, all the way through every one of us. But I don't think it hurt any of us.

The Fancy Pants

And I'll tell you the kids of today, they need their damned little butts warmed and they don't get it.

[to Jill] I bet there's times you want to turn up right there in school.

How many times a day? Probably many times a day.

I remember one time the kids said to Ricky, what would you do if your kids struck. What would I do? I'd go to the door and I'd open the door and I'd let them go. That's all you can do. You don't dare touch a kid – especially a man. Oh, God Almighty. – in school. They'd say he's molesting them. I don't know what the nI tell you, this next generation is going to be terrible.

Well they're not used to having to work.

That's what I think about Rick's kids, I thought he was keeping them interested, you know... that David will go with Karen and help her get wood and everything. I thought Rick had him right under his thumb and I think he slipped with Michael.

I'm sure Michael was a little rough to begin with. I'm sure they did the best they could with him, but he had a rough life to begin with.

It's too bad, because now he'll have to pay for it. I said there was no little kid who landed his ass in a tub of butter.

He's in a reform school?

He stole a car that's what I heard. It's too bad, and going on a cruise every year...

Why would he do that? Steal a car?

I don't know.

I don't think he went on the Christmas trip. No he didn't.

See that all happened and none of us knew anything about it.

Well, I had heard some things from kids at school, but I didn't think it was my place to tell people about it.

I came right out and asked Rick about it, and he said there's sadness in the family for three years and I don't even want to talk about it.

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I talked to Karen and she said that it isn't a secret, but they don't want to make a big thing about it. When she had told me and she told me all the story and she told me it's not a secret, then I could tell people, but I didn't want to tell people based on what I'd heard from kid gossip.

Well that's too bad. I feel sorry for the kid, but I feel bad for the other son of theirs [David] who watched it all. And it was sad. And then he said "We're too old to get into any more", but they adopted them and it's there responsibility there, I think

They are still responsible for him, they are responsible for him, but he won't speak to them. Won't have anything to do with them. That's what Karen said. He's just mad at the world.[Jill}

They were too damned good to him.

That had lot more to do with it than you think I remember going over to the house and there were more rooms full of toys.[John]

Did you go to that shower for Etta May? Did you notice that they come and they put our clothes away real nice and they had these fancy pants on – I've never seen them on anyone else – they had these fancy pants and then the next thing I knew, Michael another pair of these fancy pants, the same thing. And then David came along with another pair of fancy pants, and then when we went to say goodbye, Michael had on another pair of fancy pants.

Was this all in the same day?

All in the same day. So I set down and knocked off a letter to Aggie there and there's mistakes in there, but she has to take it as it is, you know, so I told her all about the shower and how all of us went and how Michael and David took an put the clothes away and Rick said, "Now take note when you take the coats, because in a little while you're going to have to give them back to them, and you've got to give the right coat to the right person. And if you don't, make sure you give them one a little better than the one they came with, not cheaper". I got a kick out of that.

And then I told her all about the fancy pants and I said maybe you might racing the halls with those fancy pants. You never know what the sisters will be wearing, too. She got the biggest kick out of that.

Well there was a cruise coming up, so I suppose they had all new clothes for that.

I remember all the toys they had. Toys everywhere, and the computers. Everyone had a computer. It's too early for that stuff. I think you can do too much. [John]

Well yes. There is such a thing as too much. That's the trouble today. You can't get through a house. There's so much truck, that you can't get through.

We've got too much junk, too, but it's all from garage sales. Too much junk! [John]
You've got truck too. I think probably you've got a long ways to go, kid?

I don't pay retail for anything. I'm the original cheap bastard? [John]

I suppose we've got to get headed home. [Jill}

The crock pot is probably bubbling away {John]

And I've still got laundry to do.[Jill]

You've got laundry to do yet tonight? [John]

Well that's what we do on the weekends. We do laundry. Some people will do laundry every single day, but I just do it on the weekends. I just take the laundry and divide it up in 4 or 5 loads and do it on Saturday and what doesn't get done, I finish on Sunday. [Jill]

You kids, when you're working all week, you got to get everything in. Now, I try not to do too much in a day. Now those there, those curtains I've got to dampen tonight and then I'll iron them tomorrow. And then I'll do the flounces. And next week I'll have a girl come to clean and she can put them up. Thanks for straightening them, Johnny.

Are they starched? They're a little stiff. [John]

Well, I tell you. I starched them and they were too stiff, so I put them through the water once and dried them and they were still too stiff, and I put them through the water twice and they were still too stiff, but I finished them anyway.

End of tape...