Homer Mack JR  
  
Was it hard to find the place? No, we're good thank you. We're right here, yea. Very comfortable. So, thanks for having us over today. Yes, so may I ask this question? What do you like about living in Meadville? I was born and raised here so i like it you know people get, I get along with the people ones I know so.. and then me and Bob and them, Keystone is real good too. Get you to your appointments if you need to go to an appointment. Yup. What do you like about the people? They're mostly, the ones I know are mostly friendly. You know everybody knows everybody around here so it's not really that big of a town but everybody knows everybody. Everybody gets along with everybody. So what would you describe Meadville, how would you describe Meadville? It's a friendly little town like a Mayberry.  Friendly nice people you know you have to ask any questions any directions you get the right person they just show you right where it is. That's a good example. May I ask, what are your favorite things to do in Meadville? Well since I've lost my sight I don't get around as much I used to. Me and my wife we go to meetings and stuff. So, she should be back pretty soon. But before I lost my sight I used to go play basketball, play softball. You know it's just stuff around with people, go to movies. Can I ask, how did you loose your sight? I had a disease called Sarcoidosis and it's because it came on my brain, it went to my brain and it took my eye sight, my optic nerve. I was able to see before, and then I think I've been blind about four years now. Oh my goodness. Yea. I just got married and it was going good everything and all the sudden it just took my sight so.. And you played basketball before that? Yea, basketball, baseball, football. Oh my goodness. You miss those now? Oh yea I definitely miss it.  Yea running around with the fellas. Now it's like you know I don't watch it on T.V. I listen to it. Yea. But I'm starting to get the hang of it you know. Just got to take it day by day the best I can. Sure. Did you mention transportation? Yea, they use like if I want to go to a meeting they'll call me up, they'll send somebody up, they'll call me and tell me what time they're gonna come and then they'll come up and get me. Okay. Is that Keystone or Cata? Keystone. Is that your phone? No, not mine. Okay, hold on. Reach your hand out. There ya go. Okay. Hello, hello, ah I missed it, they'll call back. Alright is it okay if I continue? Oh please, I'm sorry yes. No no no it's okay. You go ahead. Are there things that you would improve Meadville and how so? You was talking to me? What did you say? I said that, I'm gonna rephrase the question. How would you improve Meadville? Take the call. I'm sorry. No no it's okay. Hello, hello, now they ain't saying nothing. 00:00 How would I describe Meadville you said?  How would you improve Meadville? What would make it easier for you to live here? Oh, well being able to get around. I've been here all my life so I know most of the things, sites and people and you know I ride the Cata bus you know while I was before I was blind. I know where my stops are and everything so just getting around. When you say getting around you mean, do you mean transportation? No, well my wife has a car so with her and then the keystone line, like if I have to go down to Pittsburgh to see my relatives they'll give us a ride down there. You know charge us then we'll pay them to take us down there. Okay. So it be easier, she don't like to drive in the big cities anyways so it makes it much easier. That's very good. What is your top wish for Meadville? Top wish. I wish just everybody could get along you don't have that you know. Oh my goodness this phone. Yea, everybody could get along. Hello, hey babe. Oh okay I'm sitting here talking to Stephanie and them, not your daughter. Them people I told you was coming over. I told you that last night. You don't remember? Oh my goodness Charlotte. Well, I don't know can you come home?  Yes I did, okay, alright bye. She's on her way. Oh okay. But yea I just wish people, everybody could get along you know better, with me not having my sight I see how things can be and how you are treated so. Do you have a story about that when you heard something that kind of struck you and wish people would nicer to each other? No, not really. I can't say I really do. Cause I'm the type of person I get along with anybody you know. No I don't have no story about that. Just growing up her it was, it was fun. You know knowing everybody, share your friends, able to go over to their house you know eat lunch or whatever. Just Meadville is a nice little old town. Hey. HI. Oh that's my mother in law. How are you? Good. How are you? Good. That's my mother in law. Go outside, go outside. Not gonna bite my legs? No. Okay. There ya go buddy. Charlotte not here? No, she went to get our medicine. Huh? She went to get my medicine. Oh okay. She's on her way. Alright. Hi, come on girls let's go outside, come one go outside, come on. So when you were growing up here you said it was fun and you just go over to peoples houses. Was there enough to do? Yea, we found stuff to do. I would go up to Allegheny college, play up there and play basketball up there and stuff on their court. Now it's like you can't really do it, you don't have as much to do like you used to. Describe more, what do you mean by there's not much to do? Like getting out, getting out like we used to. You know there used to be baseball fields, we used to be able to go to play baseball all day. Okay. Stuff like that. How about up at the Rec complex? Yea, that's right up the street. Right up the street? Yea. Is that an opportunity for kids? Oh yea I guess it would be an opportunity I just ain't been up there in so long. Yea. You know they got swimming in the Rec and the ice skating rink and the roller, I think they got roller skating in the summer. No. They don't anymore. Oh they don't? Oh okay, see that's how long it's been since I been there. They have a skateboard ramp though. Oh do they? A skateboard park, yup. Yea a skateboard park. No baseball field but that would be nice. yea, there used to be one over that hill, where rat lake is. They call it rat lake. Are you from Meadville to? NO but I've been here about 12 years now. Oh okay. Yea you get a lot of opportunities if you know the right people. There's a lot of opportunities around here. Such as? As far as going to school, you know get a nice education, they got a good school system. Can you describe what type of things make Meadville feel like home? Just for me it would be my friends because I got a lot of friends and since I've been in this situation I ain't been around, I'm not able to get out and about as much as I used to it's hard for me to, well I can't see so. Guess what Homer? What's that? I hate to tell you this. Hi everybody nice to meet you I'm Homers wife 00:00 Hi Bob. Hi I'm Tiffany nice to meet. Hi, nice to meet you. Hi, I'm Stephanie. Hi Stephanie nice to meet you. You don't start your barking. I didn't know anybody was coming today. Yea, I told you. You forgot but I did tell you. I'll go back down town and get your scripts I wanted to see what was going on and you guys are?  We're from heart and Soul which is a grant the city got to talk to people about what they like about Meadville and what they want to see improve and then the city has committed to prioritize what we find in terms of their future spending and strategic development so we're just talking about Meadville. Wow, okay. You don't have to go , stay. Do you want to stay? I have a lot of errands I have to do. I thought you guys were from the Blind Association but I'll stay for a little bit. Well we met when we were at the picnic. Oh the picnic he went to, he did tell me somebody was coming over but he didn't tell me yesterday he told me the day he got back. Okay let me out her down. Is that a chipmunk? It's in the house, I thought I heard something. My cat brought a chipmunk in. What do we do, do they bite? I don't know if they bite or not but get him outside. I'm asking Barry to come over. Well now they can go and say chipmunks like to live in Meadville homes. That's the third, fourth chipmunk he's brought in. he brought two dead ones in that he killed. Oh dear. They say that if they love you they bring the animals to you, but we don't want them. Kitty kitty why'd you bring him in here? Stephanie, just so you know the cats bigger than the dogs. That's a nice looking cat oh my lord. A cry baby. Cry baby? Yea, he's always whining for something to eat. Hey Barry can you come over for a second? I need help to catch a chipmunk, alright thanks. What excitement right? Hello. I tried, I tried to tell ya. The chipmunk was so small it was cute but the cat. Okay I'm gonna get the broom and chase it out. Want me to put her outside/ yes, that's a good idea. My first year that I lived here I got a chipmunk in my place so I called my landlord and was like what do I do? He's like chase it out with a broom and I'm like that thing is fast. I couldn't catch it. Yea they are fast. Hows it going Barry? (Bunch of background talking 00:00 ) Oh my goodness the phones ringing. It's just Jennifer. (Phone call, voice recording, background talk 00:00 ) So do you guys go to all the peoples houses? We went to Brenda's house this morning talk to her and her husband. Stephanie was there and tomorrow we're going to see Audrey 00:00 Okay. Ye they meet them people you know The Blind Association, I had to go blind to meet them but they're very nice people. They are very nice people. Bob said he would give us an interview later this week so we're gonna go down to the Association office. Bob's a real nice guy. He has lots of stories. Yes he does, he could tell you some. Glad I met him. She's so bad these poor chipmunks. Cats usually are not house pets but they are but like I had a teacher, AP Bio teacher she said that you should never let cats outside because cats will kill animals, they bring in dead animals. Like I saw my friends cat brought in a dead rat. It's because they like to kill like they don't eat it they just kill it and then bring it home. That's why you shouldn't let cats unless it's a stray cat out but honestly you should just keep them inside the house because cats by the nature does that even though cats are good house pets. They have a scary nature, but I like cats except for they scratch. When I had a chipmunk in my house what actually finally happened was my cats cornered it like in my front closet like it screwed into the door (laughing background talking00:00) So I liked taped it in there like I taped the bottom of the door so he couldn't get out and like I built this wall from the front thing to my front door so that I could.. (Background screaming) Where did he go? Is it a he or a her? That way. I'm scared of him. You know what? I opened the door and he ran out. You wanna work him towards the living room. I was gonna throw a towel over him and pick him up. You don't want all that. (Laughing, trying to catch chipmunk, everyone talking 00:00 ) We want to work him towards the door. Okay, it's long he's only this big. Is he over there? Oh my gosh I'm scared of him. Which way did he go? He went back here. I'd let the dogs in but they'll go crazy. Yea, but they'll help. There he is he's going towards the door, let him go towards the door. That's how they got them out last time. Yup.  00:00 Where did you go?  He's back there. Behind the, he's stuck in the... Wrong way. You almost got him. Okay go over there to the corner. I was trying to steer him the other direction. What an excitement. It is really, it's really fast. This is all your fault, now your leaving. Why does he bring these in the house. That way. Mom I'm gonna let Jasmine in. Let them both in. No. Jaz and Chloe. Let's bring the cat over. Come on Jaz. Can we open the door? He's up in here like. He's in it? But it's open. Don't let Bre in. Come here guys come here. Come here, Jaz. Jasmine. Jaz. Put Chloe back there. Come here Jasmine, look. Back here Jaz. Smell. Go back there. Smell. They smell it. Back here, back here. Come on, get it girl, get it. Get it Jasmine. That's what they do their Jack Russel's that's what they do. Get it Jasmine, get it. She sees it. She's after it. Maybe she'll I got the door open. I'm gonna slide this out some more. Okay. Get is Jaz, Chloe. Get it, get it chlo. There it goes. Get it, get it, get it girls. They're on a mission now. Get it outside, go, go. Where did it go? I think it went underneath the couch. Get it girls. Is it under here? Yup. It's underneath the couch. It's underneath the couch yea. Crap. Get it girls. Get it. Get it Chloe go in there and get it out. There it is, there it is. Get it, get it. Get it Jasmine, get it. See if you can get your broom under there and sweep in the back. You need me to get up? No babe. I think it's underneath. Now you guys can write a little story. Jasmine come here. Go, go guys. Oh it didn't go in my heating duct did it? No I don't think so. Jasmine come here. Jasmine. No that's to small. Jasmine. Jasmine, Jasmine. Get it Jaz. Jasmine. It's under he couch. Jasmine it's over here. Jasmine. Chloe. Got get it. Go get it Chloe. Go get it. Get it. I could of got up. Oh do I gotta sweep back here! Wow, wow, wow. It's under here, they know it. They smell it. See she knows it's over there. Oh look at the dog hair. Please don't let it go up inside my couch. It's underneath the couch hiding. I hope. It's under the couch and didn't go up inside my couch. This cat I'm telling you. Look at the hair back here. Brought in rabbits, chipmunks. I think he's right under here. Oh my gosh. He's under there. He's right here. He ran out? He's back over there. Get it Jasmine. It's over there, it's over. (00:00  Everyone talking) Oh here it is. Over there, over there. Get it girls, get it, get it, it's under there. Get it, get it, get it. There it is! This is horrible. Oh my gosh. It went back under the couch didn't it? He's gonna run back out under the couch. Barry let's slide it back one more time. Oh there he is. Where? Right here. Oh you little rat. I heard it. You little bugger. Get it Jaz, get it Jaz. Get the chipmunk. This cat I'm telling you. You gotta leave that back door open. He's gonna become a farm cat here pretty soon. He brought, and Homers blind. He brought a rabbit in here. He brought a big rabbit in the house. 00:00 ours and I said Homer thank god, and he took it upstairs and I said thank god he didn't put it in the bed you would just be rubbing away thinking it was our dog. Can we get Homer to that chair? I'm gonna tip the couch. Hang on. Hang on Homer. Isn't this exciting? Thanks for letting us in your home. Okay. Get him girls. Get him, get him! Get him girls. I don't even know where he's at? They getting their exercise. Where did he go? Please. He's in here. Is he? He's in here. You saw it? Nope they're sniffing out here. No maybe not. No he's under here somewhere. Oh i think he's up.. Oh my gosh he's in my couch. In your couch? Yes. Get it Chloe. Keep it up Barry. Get it, get it Chloe. Oh my god. He went up in there. Yes, he's in my couch what do I do? Watch out guys. Get it Jaz, get it, get. There he is, he went back over there. There he is! You stepped on it. I didn't want to kill it, but I was wanting to stop it. Bre got it. She killed it. Who did, Bre? Yea. I think I wounded it. Oh lord. It's mouth is open it might still be. Yea. It was open. My god. Good job. Watch out guys. Come on in here. Good job girls! That was excitement for the day. I am so sorry for the excitement. Don't forget to put that little piece in why we love Meadville. Or should I say I love the people that come around and ask you if you love Meadville because they helped me get the chipmunk out of my house. Oh my gosh! Thanks Barry. I was trying to make your way mom. We even found a bone they hid in the couch. Did you really? Okay, back up, turn around, back up, come over this way a little bit, this way, yea. Good girl, good girl, good girl. Over a little more. There ya go. Okay. Put this house back where it was. Now this is awesome about Meadville. 00:00 bring your rollie chair over. Here come on over. You sit down. That, that's okay. We don't want you to leave. Okay are you on any questions or.. We had asked what makes Meadville feel like home. I've lived here all my life, that's why it feels like home. I told them, there's a lot of friendly people around here. It's just a nice, quite, calm town. This is the best place to raise your children. I told them like Mayberry. It really is. How so to raise your children, because I heard all the kids said there's not much to do out there. There isn't much that's one thing Meadville needs to do. Is they need to get something for our tens, our pre teen adults. Keep them off the streets. There's nothing for them to do to keep them off the streets. I can remember when I was younger they had Y teams, they had arcade places, they had.. The park used to be open in the summer. They used to have summer parks. Children go to the summer park and do crafts and play games. They don't have that, Meadville don't have any of that anymore. Nothing. College kids used to even go to the parks and they did a lot of crafts and stuff with the kids. I think the only thing exciting they have now is the churches get together. They have a little carnival down.. On Elm street. On Elm street. Yea. And that's more like they do school supplies stuff for the children, the needy children. And then they do a little carnival along with it. I think that's the only exciting thing Meadville has for our children. The Rec complex but what about the children that are poor, their families are poor. How can they go and enjoy all the activities at the Rec complex? They have skating, roller skating, the pool, what are those skates called? Ice skates? No, the big long wood things. Skateboards. They have skateboarding up there but you've got to have this in order to be able to get in and enjoy that. You know I think Meadville needs to concentrate more on our children. I've probably been blind about four years. About five years. Five years/ Yea. And you know I used to go up to the basketball courts in college and you know play basketball, baseball. Used to have baseball fields, softball. They wonder why the crime rates getting high in Meadville and it is. I mean I can remember when I was fifteen years old and I had a curfew and it was safe to be out. Go to the movies, walk downtown with my friends. You used to be able to leave your doors open, you know? I mean we were a close community and now it's like there's... I told them it was like Mayberry. Yea, yea, almost like Mayberry, but now you've got a lot of people moving into Meadville. A lot of Erie thugs shall I say come up here and so there for.. Think they can get away with everything. Robbing homes, drug trafficking you know but that's normal in any community but I just think Meadville needs stuff for our children. You never thought about drugs though in Meadville No. Way back because they used to they don't do that but now they're out there on the streets trying to bring people in. I think that's the only complaint I have of Meadville because the hospitality is very nice here in Meadville. Meadville is beautiful. Get along with a lot of people. Right, I think that's the main thing I don't like about Meadville. A long long time ago they had a segregation but now that they broke up the segregation and now they're hand in hand you know they don't there's nothing wrong with the black and the white now because there's no racial discrimination there where before years back there was. A lot of times like back in the 60s.. But that was everywhere. That wasn't just Meadville. Meadville had it though. Yea. But then they got rid of it. I think that's my chief complaint of Meadville, other than that I love Meadville. I don't think I would ever move away, maybe if Homer and I got old and we might want to travel somewhere, maybe try a southern state. If the funds ever became available for us but to want to move somewhere no. I love Meadville. It's my hometown. Yea I wouldn't want to, you know all the grand kids get they education here. Yea. There's just nothing for children here, nothing. Okay. Nothing at all. I think that would be the biggest thing I want Meadville to work on is something for our children. Activities and support. Yea. I mean my god they used to have in the summer time you could go to any park. You could go to Roche Park, you could go up there to Shady Brooke, Heidi-cooper, parks up by the school, a lot of parks and there ain't hardly any parks anymore and they like I said Allegheny had a lot of their students that would open up the parks and they would just have crafts and games and I used to have to go drag my children home because they would be up there they didn't wanna come home you know? That's my I think that's my biggest problem. But the Allegheny students had things crafts or whatever that they could participate in. Yea, I think Allegheny has done. Allegheny students has done a lot for our children. Like that ramp. Per say that ramp, Allegheny students came down and built that ramp for my husband. Wow. If it wasn't for them building that ramp it took us a good twenty minutes to get Homer out of this house. He was seriously ill then and his mobility wasn't good. They had a place it was called, what was that organization called? I can't recall it. They help the handicap and the elderly if an elder needed a roof done. The Allegheny students did that