

Sally: What was your best memory when growing up?

Richard: I have a lot of favorites. I remember trying to hop and catch the train into Millington. We all also had a lot of fun skiing and sledding.

Sally: What was one of your worst memories you wish to share with us?

Richard: I guess my worst memory was my brother's death. He drowned in Lake Michigan. On January 30th, there was a huge ice storm and he was standing on a pier when a huge wave hit the shore and sucked him in.

Sally: Sorry to hear that?

Sally: Since you've lived here, what are some of the changes that have occurred in Newark? I know there's a ton, but please share the most important.

Richard: The businesses all disappearing.

Sally: What do you find interesting or intriguing about Newark?

Richard: The history. Yes, I'd say I enjoy learning of the history. It's very interesting. Also my father ran the ford and chevy garage. Grand openings were neat. He left everything covered until most of the town showed up and then he would unveil everything. It was a big deal. The chevy and ford people didn't mix well.

Sally: Some people are still like that.

Richard: I think one of the downfalls of a small town like this came about because of credit cards. Because the farmers used to trade. I remember at the Peterson store the caned eggs. They also separated the cream with a cream separator. People would take in eggs and use the money from them to buy groceries for the week. Many people used the cream to fatten up their pigs.

Jeff: You mentioned the blacksmith shop earlier, can you elaborate on that?

Richard: It was built in 1844 by a German named Fletcher. He was 19 at the time. Fletcher's father was in the Revolutionary war. He wa _____
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Sally: Is it okay if we record this interview?

Richard: Certainly is.

Sally: What is your name?

Richard: Richard Cook.

Sally: What do you do for a living?

Richard: I am a retired teacher.

Sally: What is your highest level of education?

Richard Bachelor

Sally Keisler

Jeff Morel

Transcript

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Sally: Is it okay if we record this interview?

Richard: Certainly is.

Sally: What is your name?

Richard: Richard Cook.

Sally: What do you do for a living?

Richard: I am a retired teacher.

Sally: What is your highest level of education?

Richard Bachelor's degree. I graduated from the University of Illinois in 1953. I got my masters degree in 1960.

Sally: Where did you live as a child?

Richard: I was born here in Newark. I lived in the house where Ron Fruland lives. You know, the one out on townhouse right around the curve. Then when I was eight we moved to Liberty St. Then we left Newark and then returned.

Jeff: What are some of the schools that you taught at?

Richard: I worked for district # 218., for Shepard and Blue Island, and I don't remember the other one.

Sally: So you've lived in Newark pretty much your whole life?

Richard: I lived here for about 30 years and went away for 30 years and now I hope I am here for another 30 years.

Sally: Tell me of the community during your childhood?

Richard: It was much different then it is now! I can tell you of some of the things we did for fun. We used to skate on the old foundation of Hawthorne Church. When it burnt down the foundation was still there. We also used to go to drive-in's and watch old 8mm films. Wednesday and Saturday sometimes there were free movies in the park. We also used, where Dave Johnson lives now, his hill to sled. Newark used to have many more companies. There were three car agencies. Of course that was before route 71 went through here. There were two gas stations and two doctors in town. We also had three grocery stores and a meat market.

Ss a spy and things. First a barrel factory shop, and the last thing course there was a fire. It is said it Actually when it burned down, we inscription of C.H. Miller.

boatman. The blacksmith shop has been many where they used to make barrels, then a blacksmith I remember was a pizza place. Then of was started by one of the pizza ovens. found a dagger that had an

Sally: Do you recall any funny or exciting past experiences in Newark that you wish to share with us?

Richard: Nothing really funny. However the bank robbery was pretty exciting. However many folks claim that the bank robbery took place in Newark when it actually took place in Millington.

Sally: If you could change anything in Newark's past, what would you change? Why?

Richard: I would keep it the way it was. The business was oh so nice. We had very nice businesses. More businesses closer to home. We basically had all that we needed right here in our little town of Newark.

Jeff: What was so interesting about Newark railroad?

Richard: Well its first run took place on February 14, 1914. Its original plans were

to go all the way to Kankakee but ended up only extending from
Millington to Newark. The train basically served as a transporter for grain.
They used to call it "Dinky" because it could only hold two boxcars of
grain at a time. Parts of the track were burnt down. Some say it was
an accident but I still believe it was no accident. One said situation that I
recall about the "world's shortest railroad" is in the past people
would go up and down the tracks spraying diesel fuel to kill off the
weeds. Well one day a gentleman had just finished spraying when he
needed a cigarette. As soon as he struck the match it was already to
late. He went up in flames.

Jeff: Well Mr. Cook, we would just like to take this opportunity to thank you so
very much for volunteering your time and knowledge to assist us in our
assignment and to help further develop others knowledge about the town
once known as Georgetown which is now known as Newark

Richard: Your very welcome and I hope that I was of some help.

Sally: You were, thank you!

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