Interview with Harold John Kraut

Interview Date: August 27, 2015
Interviewer: Pete Harbison

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Harbison: My name is Pete Harbison. It is August 27, 2015, and I am interviewing Mr. Harold John Kraut. This interview is part of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library's *Veterans Remember*, as well as its *Family Memories*, Oral History projects. We are going to start off with this question. Mr. Kraut, when and where were you born?

Kraut: What?

Harbison: When and where were you born?

Kraut: I was born on May 24, 1913. I was born on a farm, north of here, which I still own—I didn't inherit it either; I bought it—and in a log house, three-room log house.

This home was built in 1905 by Albert Herman Kraut. Harold was born in this home in 1913.

Harbison: Would that be considered Batchtown?

Kraut: Gilead.

Harbison: Gilead in Calhoun County?

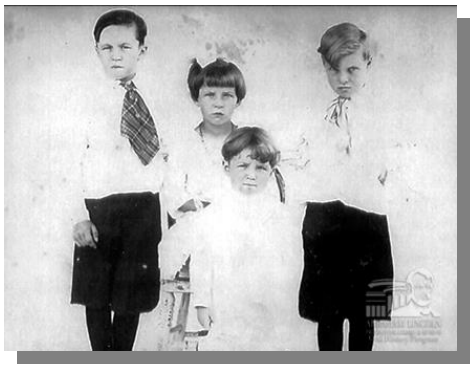
Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: Did you have any brothers and sisters?

Kraut: I had two brothers and one sister.

Harbison: And your parents, can you tell me a little bit about your mom and dad?

Kraut: My dad's name was Herman, and my mom's name was Florence.



The Kraut children were photographed in early 1920's. From left to right are Charles Levi, Irene Nevada, Herman Edward, and Harold John "Boge."

Harbison: Florence?

Kraut: And…

Harbison: What did he do for a living?

Kraut: They farmed and raised [an] orchard. He was born in Calhoun, here in Gilead Precinct too. My mother was born in East St. Louis.

Harold's parents, Herman and Florence Kraut, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on the farm in 1955.

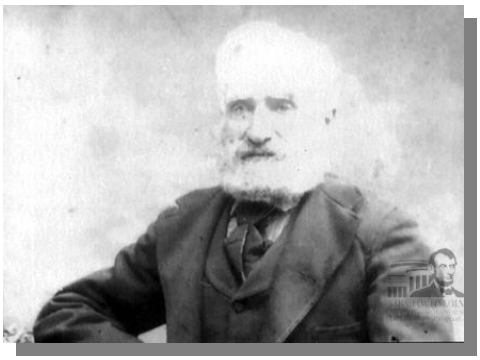
Harbison: Who was the first Kraut to live in Calhoun County?

Kraut: The first Kraut that lived in Calhoun County was John Kraut, who came over from Germany, lived in Wisconsin and eventually worked his way down here.

Harbison: What year would he have arrived in Calhoun County?

Kraut: Gee, I wouldn't know that…

Harbison: The 1880's probably? This was your grandfather, correct?



Grandfather John Kraut, 1834-1904, was born in Germany.

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: We can ask June [Kraut's daughter] if she knows it, approximately. So your grandfather was the first Kraut in Calhoun County. Did he farm too?

Kraut: Yeah, he had a farm that's forty-five acres over…

Harbison: Okay, and that…

Kraut: Well, my grandson…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) So then your father farmed that same land, or did he have different land?

Kraut: No, he bought the first forty acres, and then he bought fifty acres along the side of it, up there, which we still own.

Harbison: Let's just talk about your school a little bit. You did go to school here in Calhoun County?

One year old Harold "Boge" Kraut, born on May 24, 1913, acquired the nickname "Boge" at a very early age.

Kraut: I went to Gilead School. That was just a little room, one-room school, with one teacher and seven grades. One year they had seventh grade, and the next year they had eighth grade. So, if you happened to hit the wrong year, you went from sixth to eighth (Harbison laughs) and back to seventh.

Then I went to high school. When I went to Gilead, it was about a mile from my house to Gilead School. Nevertheless, we always walked. It didn't amount to nothing, but (clears throat) it was all uphill, going and coming (laughs).

Harbison: You didn't get to go downhill? (both laugh)

Kraut: Then I went to high school. We didn't have any way of going to high school with an automobile because we didn't have no automobile. So I rode a horse to Hardin. And contrary to what you might believe, I'll get up of a morning and go out and feed the horse and saddle him up. I'll put a sack of corn on the saddle, so he'd have something for dinner. Then I'd go back in, clean up and go to school—back then, I just wore overalls to high school—get to school, and I had to put the horse up.

Albert Etley had a stable, there in Hardin. He made apple barrels and hauled them out, and he had teams of horses that he kept in that, during the apple season. Well, when the apple season was over, why the stable was empty, so I had a place to put my horse.

At dinner time, when [we] got out for dinner, why, I [would] run down and fed my horse at dinner time and then come back. It was only about block and half maybe. Just visualize getting on a horse, and it's snowing or raining or sleet or ice. We had the horse rough shod in the fall, which was, the caulks on the shoes were spikes instead of the normal blunt ones. They were spikes, which kept him from sliding so much. He slid anyway, but (laughs)…

Harbison: How many miles was it from your place to…

Kraut: Seven.

Harbison: Seven miles to the school?

Kraut: Uh-huh.

Harbison: Did people name their horses back then?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: Did you have a name for your horse back then?

Kraut: Prince.

Harbison: Prince?

Kraut: Was the name for my horse, yeah.

Harbison: I understand you have a nickname.

Kraut: Me, it's Boge.

Harbison: How do you spell that, B-o-g-e?

Kraut: Uh-huh.

Harbison: Did you like school?

Kraut: Fine. I wasn't very good, but I… (laughs)

Harbison: Did a lot of other kids ride their horses to school?

Kraut: Oh, no. I was the only one.

Harbison: Were kids from Hardin considered city kids?

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: So you were a country boy?

Kraut: I was a country kid.

Harbison: A country kid.

Kraut: There was a few that come from the (clears throat)...down the road, towards Batchtown. One of them kids had a, an automobile, and they rode to school in the automobile. I used to race them (both laugh) back down the road, to where I turned in.

Harbison: Did you graduate from high school?

Kraut: Uh-huh.

Harbison: What year would that have been?

Kraut: Thirty-one (June, in the background, says, "'31"). I graduated from high school.

Harbison: Yeah, eighteen years old.

Kraut: Nineteen thirty-one.

Harbison: When I talked to you before, I thought it was pretty fascinating to listen to you talk about some of the jobs that you did when you were growing up. I know

that you didn't really have a big job at the ice-storing facility, but I find it fascinating that people used to store ice and how they did it and the fact that it would last, because it gets pretty doggone hot down here, in this part of Illinois.

Kraut: That was a big deal back then, and even some of the richer people, back [in] them days, went down [to] Bob Mars'. They had ice houses, and they put their own ice up.

Harbison: At their own house?

Kraut: Yeah, at their own house.

Harbison: When you were opening the gate at the ice facility, that's where people would come, buy ice, and then take it back to their kitchen or wherever…

Kraut: Later on they did, but most of the ice that they put up, they used at the store where they put it up, the general store, out there in the country. They used it to keep their things cool.

Harbison: So, it wasn't used for home consumption?

Kraut: (June speaks, "Probably not when he was twelve years old.") No, no.

Harbison: This would have been back in like 1920?

Kraut: (June speaks, "About '22. He said he was about twelve years old.")

Harbison: That's fascinating. Tell me, where they would take the ice from, probably off the… Did it come down the Illinois River?

Kraut: Well, no (laughs). They cut it off of the sloughs [cast off] from the lakes back in the…

Harbison: Locally, around here?

Kraut: Oh yeah. The store was here, and you just run down here to river. These were sloughs, lakes, if you want to call them that. When that ice got about like that, why they sawed her up in chunks, great big chunks.

Harbison: And stored. They stored it in sawdust, I believe you told me?

Kraut: Yeah. We could do that again, yeah.

Harbison: Here's a question for you. You have been around a little bit. Do you think that it use to get a lot colder, and there was more ice back when you were a little kid growing up? Over the years, have you noticed that you don't get the sloughs freezing the way they use to?

Kraut: (laughs) You're getting into the… I think it was maybe colder because you remember the colder.

Harbison: That's a possibility. Just in my lifetime, I kind of remember going sledding more when I was a little kid.

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: It seemed like there was more snow and ice.

Kraut: Yeah, there was; there was, but the climate has changed for a million years, so what we're changing now… I agree that we shouldn't be polluting the air, but I don't believe that the polluting has created what they call global warming, because we had this whole climate… The whole United States was covered with ice at one time, and we didn't even have a Model-T, (both laugh) so where did they get their…

Harbison: Yeah, when those glaciers came down, they kind of skirted around this area, didn't they?

Kraut: Yeah. But that's another oddity that you probably didn't know. Calhoun County was never glaciated—Why? I don't know—It slid down either side, I guess. But the rocks that you get out of Calhoun County was not glacial until…not that type of a stuff. You can go to Jersey County, and if you're tiling, you dig up rocks and stuff that come from Wisconsin.

Harbison: (laughs) That's right.

Kraut: But, if you're doing that in Calhoun, you don't.

Harbison: That's correct, which makes this place very unique. So, we talked a little bit about ice storing, which is something we don't have to do any longer. Now, I'm sure we do some wheat shocking, but not the way you used to do it. Could you tell me how you used to shock wheat?

Kraut: Well, you cut wheat with a binder. Originally they pulled the binder with horses, and the bullwheel on the binder was the wheel that had the chain on it that made the binder work.[1] If that slid, why the binder didn't go. Then, when I lived in the south end of the county—about 1938, I guess wasn't it, yeah 1938—they come out with a binder that had a power takeoff on, and I run one of them.

I worked for Johnny Kamp. He had a thrash machine. He bought one of them binders, and I went around and cut people's wheat for him with that. That was the first one that they had. He went around and thrashed it with the thrash machine, and I worked on, around the thrash machine, whatever [there] was to do.

1 A bullwheel is a large wheel on which a rope turns, such as in a chairlift or other ropeway. In this application, the bullwheel that is attached to the prime mover is called the drive bullwheel. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Bullwheel)

Harbison: Did you plow ground with horses?

Kraut: Oh, yeah. Yeah, when I was a kid, you plowed the ground and with a walking plow. And then you pulled a disc over it that was just a horse disc—it wasn't much wider than this kitchen table—and harrowed it. Then you marked it off with a marker. The marker was only a board. Well, it wasn't quite as wide as this table; forty-two inches is what it was. There was just two earners here and a tongue out here, and you marked it off like that. If you wanted to plow it both ways, you marked it off this way. That left you a square there, each… Then you come along with your corn planter hand jobber. Didn't you ever see one of them?

Harbison: No (laughs).

(June says, "You're not very old.")

Kraut: Well, (laughs) you held your thing apart that-a -way, and down at the end of it was like this. You held the pins apart up here; you jabbed that down, and then you shoved this together up here…

Harbison: So it was kind of V-shaped, and then you closed the top?

Kraut: Yeah, then, when you pulled it out, you stepped on that.

Harbison: And you had some corn in there, ready to grow?

Kraut: Yeah. By that time you were stepping on that one, and you were jabbing down the next one. I mean, bang, bang, bang, bang, bang.

Harbison: How many acres could a man or a woman plant in a day?

Kraut: Oh, I imagine three or four.

Harbison: That leads me to questions. When you started getting mechanized farm equipment, could you plant a lot more?

Kraut: Oh yeah. We wouldn't have got corn planters…

Harbison: Did that open up other areas of Calhoun County to agriculture that maybe weren't farmed before?

Kraut: Oh...

Harbison: Looking over, by the Mississippi River, you see some pretty big, good sized fields. I can't imagine that they would have been able to plant all that in corn.

Kraut: (laughs) Yeah, I don't know how they done it either, but we did it. That's the, thing that… How in the world did we… You got a fifteen, sixteen foot row corn planter now. Takes forty acres to turn it around. How could we do that with just, just like plowing. I plowed corn; this is a row of corn. I plowed corn with a double shovel, one horse, double shovel. [I] had two shovels on a thing, one ahead of the other, and I went down this row, come back up here, went

down that row, come back up here. Now, you had to go the whole thing down and the whole thing back to get one row.

Harbison: Wow.

Kraut: Believe me, you didn't get very much in a day's time. I mean, you couldn't run the horse and, to figure out how you could get that corn in, which they did… Most of the land was farmed then. Here in Calhoun, the hill ground mostly was in orchard. There wasn't much farming going on in the hill; there was some. I look at that bottom ground down there, and them guys, they pull into a field, and before I can turn around, they are pulling out. They already got her…

Harbison: (laughs) Doesn't seem fair?

Kraut: (laughs) No, it don't.

Harbison: It's just progress. Let's talk a little bit about the apple orchards. Did you work in apple orchards?

Kraut: I would say that 90 percent of the hill ground was in orchard at one time. When I bought this place, there was ninety acres of orchard on it.

Harold "Boge" Kraut as a young man working in the apple orchard in Calhoun County in the 1930s.

Harbison: What year did you buy this place?

Kraut: Nineteen forty…(June says, "seven") yeah,'47.

Harbison: Can you tell me a little bit about when they harvested, picked the apples. Were they shipped down to St. Louis primarily?

Kraut: To begin with, as a kid on the farm, over there at Grandma's and Grandpa's, and the other one that I got, up on the hill, you picked them, and you had a sorting table. You had a table like this, only it was rough made. There was a canvas on this side; that's where you dumped your apples. On either end of it, was a partition like that, and you dumped your apples in the middle.

They sorted them out. On the side here, there was a basket, and they sorted them out. They put the number ones over here and the number twos over here. The culls, they throwed underneath the sorting table, in a crate. They dumped these here in a barrel. But before they put them in the barrel, the barrel was like this. At the bottom of the barrel, they put the head of it in. They ringed that with apples, so that when you turned it over and you took the lid off of it, why it looked pretty. You filled that back up with apples, all the

way up, and then (clears throat) you done the same thing on this end. You filled it up. Then you put a header on here.

It had two iron rings that went down here, and there was two iron rings up here. They pushed down on this and made the top here. This was wood; they pushed down on this, into the barrel here. Then when they got that in there—there was little grooves around here—then they took a liner, what they called a liner, and a little stick, about that long and about that square. You put that in the groove around there and nailed it shut so that the lid couldn't come off then. Complicated. (laughs)

Harbison: How big were those barrels?

Kraut: How much?

Harbison: Yeah, how big, their volume?

Kraut: Three and a half, I think, bushel.

Harbison: ...would go in a barrel. You were preparing them for shipping, obviously.

Kraut: Yeah, uh-huh. Then you loaded her on a wagon and hauled her down to this boat…to the ship…to the landing.

Harbison: What landing was that?

Kraut: Willow Bar and…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) That's on the Mississippi River?

Kraut: Yeah, right down here.

Harbison: Right.

Kraut: …you rolled them off. I've hauled apples down there when I had to brace myself on…to tip a barrel over from the others. I mean, it was…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) When you say you hauled them, were you hauling them by truck?

Kraut: No, horses.

Harbison: Horses.

Kraut: All that was horses, we done. We didn't have no trucks at all then. We didn't have no trucks until 1926, and that wasn't much more than a pickup truck, but it was… But nobody who had them was using them for…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) So you were working for your father at this time?

Kraut: Yeah. Yeah, just worked at home.

Harbison: These apples then would go to market in St. Louis.

Kraut: Um-hmm.

Harbison: What kind of boat would they travel on down the Mississippi?

Kraut: Um-hmm.

Harbison: What kind of boat?

Kraut: What kind of boat? Well, in the fall, it was a steamboat, of course. That's all they had, nothing else.

Harbison: So they were paddlewheelers?

Kraut: Paddlewheeler behind, or two, and one on either side, but most of them that was on the river here was a paddle wheel behind it. That shoved barges, just like barges are shoved now. They picked up the apples on the barges sometimes because the boat couldn't handle that many, you know.

Harbison: So they pushed the barges?

Kraut: Um-hmm. Yep.

Harbison: I guess my question would be, why didn't you put them on the railroad?

Kraut: There was no railroad. (June laughs) We didn't have a railroad.

Harbison: Oh.

Kraut: There wasn't no railroad in Calhoun County. Well, there never was a railroad in Calhoun County.

Harbison: There still isn't?

Kraut: Then there still isn't. The only railroad they had was a tiny track, down at Winneburg, where they hauled brick and put on a barge, but that's a whole different story (laughs).

Harbison: In some of your notes I think I came across something about the "Hound Dog." Was that a light rail that went to Alton?

Kraut: Oh, the Hound Dog?

Grandmother Mariah, "Maria" Kraut, 1846-1942, originally hailed from Mascoutah, Illinois.

Harbison: Yeah.

Kraut: When I went to St. Louis, if I'm not riding the boat, why I went to Hardin and got in a… One time, me and Grandma would stay all night with Aunt Sophie; she run a hotel there. We get in a flatboat, just a skiff, only made of wood, pretty good size. It had an old chug, chug, chug, chug, chug engine in it. We went from Hardin down to Grafton in that. And then, when you got

to Grafton, they had that dinky that run from Alton up to Grafton.

Harbison: And what was that again, what kind of… It was boat?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: It was a boat?

Kraut: No, it was on railroad tracks.

Harbison: Oh, it was a light rail type thing?

Kraut: Yeah. It was just an old bus that they put rail wheels on, and they run it up there. The guy would sit there and just steer it, and there wasn't nothing on there (laughs). There was no steering to it on there (Harbison laughs). They'd get up at the other end, there at Grafton, and they had a round thing. They'd run it out there and turn it around, and back down the road she'd go.

Harbison: Did tourists used to come down to Grafton? Do you remember when people used to or first started coming to this area for tourism?

Kraut: For tourism?

Harbison: Yeah.

Kraut: Whew. (June says, "In Grafton, I used to come up on steamboats—right Daddy?—and down Chautauqua and Elsah, right?") Yeah, Chautauqua.[2] (June: "Chautauqua, yeah. They came on steamboats and maybe on the dinky too.") Chautauqua is still down there. It was a resort along the river that rich people…

Harbison: I want to talk about one more job. When I talked to you before, you indicated you also worked in a rock quarry. Was that a big industry in Calhoun County?

Kraut: Oh yes. Yeah, it was.

Harbison: Because in Jersey County, they wouldn't have too many rocks, would they?

Kraut: No, they didn't. At that time they didn't have any quarries in Jersey County. They do now; they got quite a few. But down there, the river run along the bluff, and the rock was right there. Everything was handy. The old man that I worked for, Mr. Herter, they just drilled back in the bluff, just made a tunnel. Well, they're still doing it down there in Alton.

Harbison: That industry maybe hasn't changed as much as some of the other ones?

2 New Piasa Chautauqua has existed on the banks of the Mississippi for more than 130 years. It started as a post-Civil war social experiment to bring people together to learn, love, and belong. It has been a source of recreation, education and community for families, some of which describe Chautauqua as a summer camp for families. (https://www.piasachautauqua.org/)

Kraut: No, except that better equipment. But no, basically the same thing.

Harbison: Breaks up rocks.

Kraut: Down there, they're leaving a block here and a block here and a block here and a block here, and they're taking that all out. That's supposed to hold it up for the rest of the world, but I don't know.

Harbison: The rock quarry you worked in, was it in Calhoun County?

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: South of here?

Kraut: South, yeah, south. (June says, "On the Mississippi River.")

Harbison: What were they doing with that rock?

Kraut: We were just breaking rock up, just any size that we could handle. They hauled it with an old Model-T truck and dumped it on a barge, and they took the barge down to the dam, at Alton. They had put that dam in, in Alton, and the engineers must have…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) What were they damming?

Kraut: The river.

Harbison: The Illinois River?

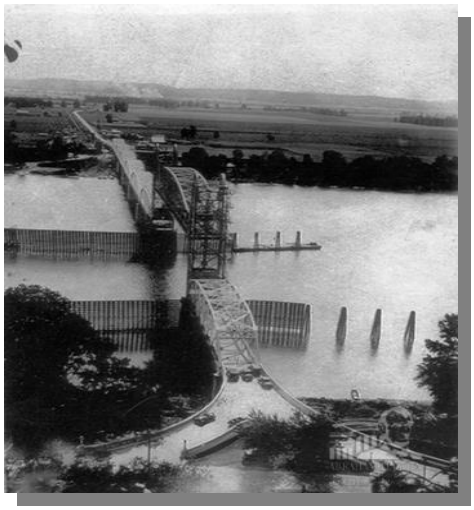
Kraut: No, the Mississippi.

Harbison: I'm sorry, the Mississippi. I'm sorry.

Kraut: And when water overflowed the dam, as it goes through, it's cut out, was eaten back.

Harbison: The bottom of the dam?

Kraut: Yeah, down here. When it fell down, it was eaten out here. So, we made them barges full of rock. They hauled them down there—we didn't do that, the steamboat did—and dumped it over the thing, so that the water had a place to hit rock instead of dirt.



The Hardin Bridge over the Illinois River (with lift up) opened in July, 1931. It allowed for much easier access to the St. Louis markets. Harold marks it as one of his most memorable moments. This is the original approach from Hardin, looking east.

Harbison: You would have been… Let's see, 1913, twenty-three plus eight. In 1931, you would have been eighteen years

old, and something big happened in Calhoun County. That was the grand opening of the bridge into Hardin. Do you remember the opening of the bridge? Were you here?

Kraut: Yeah, they let school out so we could go up and watch them put the span in. They had it built on barges, south of the…down river from the dam, just a little ways. And they built that lift span, and then they shoved them barges with tug boats and shoved it up there, shoved her in, let her down, and that was it. I mean…and hooked her up and…

Harbison: Did a lot of the local men here work on that project, or…

Kraut: Oh, I imagine. I was…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) You still would have been in high school?

Kraut: I was in high school.

Harbison: Yeah.

Kraut: But I'm sure they, a lot of the workers here, would have worked on it.

Harbison: I'm sure that a lot of local dignitaries were here for the whole…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) Oh yes, the whole kit and caboodle; you know that.

Harbison: The governor and…

Kraut: Yeah. Now days, if they was to have the governor come to a place like that, they'd have to change his clothes because that wouldn't look very good, if he [was] in a prison uniform.

Harbison: (laughs) You're saying something about Illinois governors.

Kraut: I didn't say nothing! (everyone laughs) You just… Your mind's working overtime, son (Harbison laughs).

Harbison: One other question, how did the bridge change things? At that time, did maybe some more people start coming to Calhoun County?

Kraut: That changed the whole setup. Then you had a way out. Then you could haul your livestock.

And, about that time, they started making trucks. They was about like our pickup truck is now. They consistently got bigger. But from the time the bridge was put in, that was about the end of the steamboat; that just about took that away. That's one of the changes in life.

Harbison: Yes. Transportation is just always…

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: And obviously the river transportation was very advantageous to living here and…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) But at the same time, during the war, there was virtually no river transportation.

Harbison: Why is that?

Kraut: I don't know. I mean, they wasn't hauling anything against…that was war material or whatever. The dams wasn't in in some places, and…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) Maybe it wasn't as reliable because…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) No, it just…

Harbison: You had a gas station in East St. Louis. Do you want to talk about a couple of jobs you had maybe in the later part of 1930s, before you got drafted?

Kraut: Uh-hmm.

Harbison: You worked down in East St. Louis at a meat packing plant?

Kraut: Yeah, at Armours.[3]

Harbison: At Armour?

Kraut: Packing, yeah.

Harbison: And what did you do for Armour?

Kraut: (clears throat) Got back in the ice business (Harbison laughs)

Harbison: But at that time, they had refrigerated ice?

Kraut: Yeah, they had refrigerator cars to keep the meat cool. They had a great big vat on either end of the car, railroad car, and they filled that up with ice. That's what I was doing, was walking back and forth up on top there, shoving a half of ton of ice. You had 1,000 pounds of ice on a track, and you took her down there and dumped her, went back and got you another load, went back and dumped her again.

Harbison: It sounds like hard work.

Kraut: No, it wasn't hard work.

Harbison: You weren't shoveling it; you were…

Kraut: No, I didn't have… I didn't have to do anything but just shove the thing down there and trip it and go back, see. Shove it down there, trip it and go back. It was kind of monotonous, but no, it wasn't that bad. Back in them days, you wasn't afraid of work.

Harbison: What about your gas station?

3 Founded in Chicago, in 1867, Armour & Company was an American company and was one of the five leading firms in the meat packing industry. It's St. Louis plant, abandoned for over 50 years, today stands in utter ruin. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Armour_and_Company)

Kraut: I had a gas station in East St. Louis at 53rd and Caseyville. I sold gas at eleven cents a gallon (both laugh), but that…

Harbison: Did you work on cars there too? Was it a full…?

Kraut: Well, no. I did, but not what you think. [If] it was somebody that I knew or something, but I didn't… No, I just had gas, oil and grease. Back in them days, you checked the oil, wiped the windshield off, and checked the tires and things. It wasn't like it is now.

Harbison Full service.

Kraut: You had your regular customers, you know.

Harbison: So, can you discuss where you were living and your job at the time that you were drafted? Were you married when you were drafted into World War II?

Kraut: I was living up at Gilead, up the hollow from Gilead (coughs), a little farm up there, and was drafted off that. I was also, at that time, living on that farm. I had a job in Alton, hauling brick, tile, and I hauled brick and tile with a truck to—what was that, Table Grove? (consults with June) Yeah, up to Table Grove, where they built a prisoner camp up there, and me and two other guys was all eligible to go to the service. We always was kidding one another as to which one would get to (laughs) go first. But, I don't believe the other two ever ended up in the service. I did.

Harbison: So, you were married at the time?

Kraut: Uh-hmm, had four kids.

Harbison: Oh, when you were drafted you had four kids?

Kraut: Uh-hmm.

Harbison: Oh my. Tell me a little bit about your first days in the service: Where did you go to boot camp? What kind of training did you have?

Kraut: It was three days before Christmas, and I went to Great Lakes Naval Training Station. That was boot camp. That's as near as I come to dying, I guess.

Harbison: At boot camp?

Kraut: Yeah, two days before Christmas, I was gone for Christmas from home. After I got out of boot camp… Well, during boot camp, they was supposed to toughen you up. I was tougher when I went in than I was when I come out of boot camp. I was tough when I went in. I was doing everything, from busting rock and toting wheat shocks. And when we got out of boot camp though…

When you went in… Well, the first thing when you went in, you had to walk to a desk, and the guy asked you which branch of service you wanted. [He] was an Army officer. So the guys—we was all in a pool there—they said, "Don't say Navy, or he'll put you in the Army." I said, "He'll go put you

in the Army anyway." (laughs) Makes no difference to him. So, when I got there, I told him I wanted Navy. "Mark me down Navy."

When you marked them down Navy, then the Navy had a stricter examination than the Army did. You had to be better off in eyesight and things like that. Anyway, then they held us over, the few that was there. The one boy that was with me, he was small, and we come home then…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) You're on leave now?

Kraut: No, you wasn't quite in yet (laughs).When you did go back, and they put you through going up rope and shooting and diving off of the high-dive deal and... See, they told you how to jump off of a ship; you wanted to jump feet first, or you don't hit your head on something. In there, they taught you how to box.

There was a boy or a man, a man that was a Golden Glove boxer, and I said to him, I said, "I want to box with you."[4] He said, "What do you want to box with me for?" I said, "You know where you're hitting." (laughs) I said, "Them other guys ain't going to know enough." Me and him boxed, and he said, "Just hammer [the] hell out of me." All I was doing was hitting his gloves. I [was] just plowing away (laughs). We made her look good anyway.

Harold Kraut in his U.S. Navy uniform, following his enlistment in 1943. "Boge" was assigned to the mine sweeper/sub chaser USS Invade on station, off the East Coast of the United States.

Harbison: That was part of your training?

Kraut: Yeah. Then you went out on the rifle range. I laid down there and put that sling on, and [it] was like putting my rifle in a vice, and I hit her every time. Of course I was used to that; that wasn't nothing; they're used to hunting.

Harbison: You did hunt when you were a kid?

Kraut: Yeah, yeah.

Harbison: What did you hunt?

Kraut: Coons and… Well, you hunted squirrels and rabbits and quail. Then, for hides, you hunted 'possums and coons and mink.

Harbison: So you were an experienced shooter, compared maybe to the city guys?

Kraut: Yeah, yeah.

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4 The Golden Gloves is the name given to annual competitions for amateur boxing in the United States, where a small pair of golden boxing gloves are awarded. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Golden_Gloves#:~:text=The%20Golden%20Gloves%20is%20the,golden%20boxing%20gloves%20are%20awarded.)

Harbison: After boot camp and your training, you were assigned to serve aboard…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) No, I was… After boot camp, I went to Navy Pier, went through an engineering school at Navy Pier.[5]

Harbison: And you went to…

Kraut: From Navy Pier, I went to the Norfolk [Virginia] Naval Yards.

Harbison: What did you do there?

Kraut: Went through more schooling for the… When I left there, I went to Little Creek.[6] Little Creek was some more schooling, but it was specifically on mine sweepers, the ship that I was going to get on. After I left Little Creek, we went to Savannah, Georgia [Hunter Army Airfield] and picked up a brand new ship. Then we swept from along the coast, from Florida to Maine. Our home port though was… The Convoy Escort Piers [Destroyer Piers Naval Station] at Norfolk is where our home port was.

Harbison: What was it like being at sea? Did you like the job you were assigned to do?

Kraut: I didn't mind the job. I was just sick all the time.

Harbison: Seasick?

Kraut: Seasick. But the job… When I went aboard ship, the chief appointed me as the engineer storekeeper. Why, I don't know. He never did explain to me (laughs). He was a nice guy. He wanted me to be the engineer storekeeper. We had a storeroom—we had everything in there that you would need for the ship, for repairs and things—that was locked; I had the only key. So, if somebody wanted a piece during my sleeping time, why I had to get up and open it up and get it and then close it up and go back to bed. About that time, somebody else wanted something. So that's the way that went (both laugh).

Harbison: Was the ship built pretty… It was brand new so…

Kraut: It was brand new.

Harbison: Was it pretty well built?

Kraut: Oh, yeah.

Harbison: How many men were aboard?

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5 Navy Pier is a 3,300-foot-long pier on the shoreline of Lake Michigan, located in the Streeterville neighborhood of the Near North Side community area in Chicago, Illinois. In 1941, during World War II, the pier became a training center for the United States Navy; about 10,000 people worked, trained and lived there. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Navy_Pier)

6 Joint Expeditionary Base–Little Creek (JEB–LC), formerly known as Naval Amphibious Base Little Creek and commonly called simply Little Creek, is the major operating base for the Amphibious Forces in the United States Navy's Atlantic Fleet. (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Joint_Expeditionary_Base%E2%80%93Little_Creek)

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: How many men were aboard? It was the USS Impact, correct? (June corrects, "Invade.") Invade, I'm sorry.

Kraut: Yeah, yeah, Invade.

Harbison: How many sailors were there?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: How many sailors were on the ship?

Kraut: I think there was about 100. I don't remember for sure but around 100.

Harbison: Actually, I do have the list of some of your shipmates. Did you happen to meet any guys that you became really close friends with?

Kraut: Oh yes, but they're all dead now.

Harbison: I saw there was somebody from Jerseyville on your ship.

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: I thought there was somebody from Jerseyville?

Kraut: No, un-huh. There wasn't anybody from Jerseyville. The only person I saw from home… I was in the Norfolk Naval Yard. I went to church, and I was kneeling down in church—I probably wasn't praying (laughs)—and somebody walked past the pew where I was. I didn't get to see him in the front, but as he walked on down, three or four pews, I knew who he was, by just his walk. I mean I known, and you would've known too. He knelt down, and I got up and moved down there alongside of him. I thought he'd faint (both laugh).

Harbison: Who was it?

Kraut: Frank McDonald. He's dead now too, but…

Harbison: He was from here?

Kraut: Yeah. He and I went to school together, high school. A lot of things happen in your lifetime that's just coincidental.

Harbison: Yeah. He was also in the Navy?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: He was also in the Navy, Mr. McDonald?

Kraut: Yeah, he was, yeah.

Harbison: He was in the Navy.

Kraut: Yeah, he told you how the things was though. He was a motor machinist first class; I was a third class. He had never been onboard ship. All he was doing was putting engines in PT [Patrol Torpedo] boats. That was his job, see. He'd never been on a ship. Frank says, "Boat. I don't know nothing about the ship." And he was going to get shipped. I said, "Well, we'll just go to mine, and I'll teach." So we went. That was on a Sunday, and we went to my ship. It was on the pier there.

I showed him the engine room and all I could teach him for the pipes and stuff and what he'd know. One of the most difficult jobs that you had—it wasn't necessarily difficult, but it was difficult to get done—was making water out of…fresh water out of sea water. You could just turn that valve that much and mess up the whole works, and you'd have to start again on that. That was really…

Harbison: Did you learn how to do that?

Kraut: Yeah, that's one of the things I did. Me and the chief was the only ones that knew how, on the ship.

Harbison: Did you like some of the men that you served under, the chief and the commanding officer?

Kraut: We had the chief, motor machinist mate was… He knew what he was doing. He was a hell of a good guy. He wouldn't go ashore because he drank. He said, "If I go ashore, I'll get drunk and mess up." So he wouldn't go ashore. The warrant officer that we had was an old man that had spent all his time on a steamship, and he didn't know straight up from sideways on our ship.

Harbison: So he was a career Navy man?

Kraut: Yep, and he had the job. He knew I come from a farm, and he was always talking to me about he was gonna… When he got out, he was going to go to Iowa and raise Morgan horses. I could talk horses with him. I got along with all the… I didn't have no problem.

Harbison: Did you ever go on leave?

Kraut: One time I got—what was it?—three days or something, spent 90 percent of my time coming and going (Harbison laughs).

Harbison: So you came back home here, to Calhoun?

Kraut: I don't know. Yeah, I guess we did, didn't we? (June says, "I don't know if I know all that story or not.")

Harbison: I think some of it's in the service record. Do you recall anything… What was the food like?

Kraut: Food? Good.

Harbison: How did you stay in touch with your family?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: How did you stay in touch with your family? Did you write letters or…

Kraut: Oh yeah, but if you wrote a letter, they'd read it before they shipped them. And I, as the storekeeper, the engineer storekeeper, I had to make out the inventory, invoices, to get parts for the ship, whatever it was. In order to do that, I spent some time in the wardroom, which the ordinary sailor didn't get in there, just the officers. But beings they didn't pay no attention to me (laughs)… [It] used to make me mad; them guys would read them letters—they had to read them before they could send them—and they'd laugh at what some of them boys would write to their girlfriends. I thought… [It] wasn't good what I thought (Harbison laughs).

Harbison: I guess I have to ask you… Your last name is Kraut, and I know that that's what some Americans referred to Germans as. Did anybody ever give you a hard time about your name?

Kraut: Never, ever, **ever**. Nope.

Harbison: My mom's maiden name was Otto, which is very, very German. Do you recall any particular humorous or unusual events? Did any of the guys ever pull pranks on each other or do anything like that? I'm sure they did. These are young men.

Kraut: (laughs) Used to go, you had a billet button, 9429339.

Harbison: And what was a billet button? Explain that.

Kraut: Well, billet button is where your bed was and where you…plus the fact that you had to have that [button] on there when you went to eat. If you didn't have a billet button on you, why they didn't know where in the hell you come from. Going down the line, why you just—line from here to the bottom of the holler down there—you'd bump guys, and then you'd steal his purse while he was… You'd be surprised how I could, back then, take your purse right out of your pocket, and you'd never even know it. You'd get joshing around, you know. We'd steal a guy's billet button, and he'd get up there, and the server would say, "Where's your billet button?" and (laughs) the guy would say, "Which one of you son-of-bitches…?" (Harbison laughs)

Harbison: Can you describe the reunion with your family when you came back home? Did you feel glad to be back here in Calhoun County?

Kraut: Oh, boy. The reunion when I come back home? I got up the next morning, hitched up the team, Pop's horses, and started plowing, putting in some corn.

Harbison: On good, old firm earth.

Kraut: I didn't waste no time.

Harbison: Right back to doing what you love to do. So you bought the place that we're sitting in right now, in 1947, along with how many acres? Did you say ninety? (June states, "He's got 144 here.") Oh, 144 here.

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: When we talked earlier, you told me that, after doing some farming when you got back to Calhoun, you also worked for the federal government? What agency was it for? Was it the Soil Conservation Service or…?

Kraut: When I come back from service… I don't know why, but I guess I was always interested in conservation. [I] didn't know what it was even, then, because we cleaned off a hillside, me and Pop, for more pasture on the place where we lived, and I made him leave all the walnut trees. I wouldn't let him cut down the walnut trees like that. Later on, about forty years later, I sold the timber off of them.

I was interested in soil conservation, and I circulated a petition in Calhoun to get enough signers to say that we wanted this service in Calhoun. And we got a soil conservationist who had been in the Army, had been an officer in the Army. He was used to saying, "This is the way it is, and that's it." He was Army. That didn't work with soil conservation. But, anyway, he was the soil conservationist, probably two years or so. He and I got along real good, but he retired, and a friend of mine got the job in the office over here.

I had hauled apples to Wentzville or Worden, rather. I hurt my back, and I had to go to the veterans hospital, had my back operated on, and I couldn't do anything. So the guy that was doing the conservation work here, Ray Johnson, he said, "Would you help me check out the ponds and things?" You had to check them out so that they… Well, Ray, instead of checking them out when he okayed them, he just wrote it on his thumbnail, and when he washed his hands, why that was gone. So I said, yeah, I might. I'd help him. I didn't have nothing heavy to carry, just the rod, that's all. I guess it might have been four or five… I guess about four months maybe, and he got killed there in an automobile accident. That dumped the whole thing on me. [It was like] I just dumped that on you, and you didn't even know which end of the surveying instruments to look into.

Harbison: Now you were the head guy?

Kraut: Yeah, I was the head guy, only I wasn't. (both laugh) (June adds, "No formal training for it.") Then I worked, doing that, until… I used my own car because I wrecked the pickup. I used my own car, my own gas, because I couldn't buy gas in a private car at the filling station that was government. Finally, one day I said to Mom, "If I'm going to work for them, I just might as well get paid."

So the area conservationist came over and went out with me. We toured the county and talked about things. He said they'd hire me. I said, "If I go to a meeting and I think something, I've got to say it; I've got to…" He

said, “That’s perfectly alright.” He said, “My words are the last word though. You know that.” I said, “I know that, but if you’re doing something I don’t think is right, I’ve got to say it.” So we got along right well.

He transferred out to Arizona, and they had… The county he was in, they’d sold ten acres or twenty acres to people. They had oranges or grapefruit or whatever is on them. Then a company took care of the whole, maybe fifteen or twenty or 100 of them. I went out there, and his aide come in—the same thing that I was back here—he said to the guy, he said, “I want you to meet the senator from back (laughs) in Illinois.” That’s the kind of a guy he was.

Harbison: He was BSing.

Kraut: The guy, he shook hands with me. I said, “What I came in for, I want you to do a spring development for me, in the desert.” (both laugh) That’s how crazy the guy was. He was really…

Harbison: Sounds like a good boss.

Kraut: Yeah, he was, yeah.

Harbison: When I did a little research, I learned there is something called the Soil Conservation Service, which was under the USDA, U. S. Department of Agriculture. Is that who you work for?

Kraut: Uh-huh.

Harbison: Soil Conservation.

Kraut: The Soil Conservation Service [SCS].

Harbison: What other jobs did you do, here in Calhoun County, for the SCS?

Kraut: Well, I done all of them. Other than the SCS? I…

Harbison: No, I mean for SCS.

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: For them.

Kraut: For them? Well, you had to… You come into the office, sign up for… You wanted a pond, and I had to go out there and survey it out. You get a contractor, and I got a… Now the beauty part of that was is I could guarantee you… You wanted a pond, and I showed you what you could have. A lot of times, you wanted a pond that was impossible almost to build one there. So I would say to you, “That’s a good place, but let’s see if we can find some place that you [could] build one cheaper.” Whenever you say cheaper, why… I didn’t argue with them. I just… Then, if I could find something that was decent to build, I’d build it there. Always, when I left, I always said, “I think

you picked a real good place for your pond." (Harbison laughs) You know, I still love it.

Harbison: You've got to sweeten them up a little bit sometime.

Kraut: Yeah, yeah.

Harbison: Well, Calhoun County is unique with its topography. I'm assuming that there are some problems with erosion in a place that's…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) Oh, Calhoun County is nothing but erosion, except for what little bottom ground you got; why, all of it is steep and…

Harbison: Did you recommend crop rotation type of things or…

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: Did you do crop rotation issues?

Kraut: Oh, you [use] strip cropping, terracing, tile outlet terraces. I used to have this stripped… You had a strip of grass about 100 feet wide and then a strip of corn, then a strip of grass, then a strip of corn, all the way to the bottom of the hill. That way, no erosion, because by the time the water had got going on that strip, it hit the grass, and that was the end of it. They don't never do that anymore. In fact, the matter is the Soil Conservation Service don't do anything anymore. They…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) When you recommended things to farmers, for the most part (both talking at same time), they listened?

Kraut: Sure, sure, you went out there and talked to them. The service, they thought that the farmer was going to come into the office over there and knock a door down to get in. Well, that's wrong. I mean, if you're an automobile salesman or whatever. I done more conservation work or picked up jobs, in Gib Klendenny's store, up there. He had a little coffee counter where the farmer went. I didn't sit there the whole time, but I'd stop in and have a cup of coffee, and whoever was there, I'd talk to him. Well, "This guy's doing that. Can I do this?" And if you looked busy, why, you was busy.

Harbison: We talked a little bit about how, at the end of your career, they were doing some things like reintroducing what used to be native species, wild turkeys, and white-tailed deer. Was the SCS involved in some of that?

Kraut: Ray Johnson started the deal, and [it] was fifteen years before we got Illinois to listen to us. I was hauling apples over to Warren, and Missouri had reintroduced the wild turkeys over there. The farmers, as they came in and talked to us, they was talking about the wild turkeys and being reintroduced, finding their nests and things like that. So Ray, he wanted the Wildlife Department in Illinois, which wasn't worth a damn, pardon me… We tried and tried and tried to get them.

One day, in order to get them to come, we had to have everybody in that section, where we was going to turn them loose, all the way from Batchtown. You know, where Batchtown is, clean above Hardin. We had to have every landowner and absentee landowner sign an affidavit that they would protect them. My…

Harbison: By protecting, you mean not…

Kraut: … secretary, done most of that. I mean contacting them, except for personal contact with us. How deceitful, and how you can get screwed and not know it. They sent a guy. I took him and showed him where they said it ain't wild enough—well, hell, it was. The first place they had put the turkeys [was] in Shawnee National Forest. Turkeys don't want national forests. They want open and shut land. That's just natural.

Harbison: Was it the Department of Conservation in Illinois making these decisions?

Kraut: Yeah, yeah.

Harbison: That's why you said they weren't worth a damn.

Kraut: So they sent a guy. They said it ain't wild enough; they'll just revert back to tame and come into the houses and just be tame. So I started in down there, up from Batchtown, up the ridge. We left the pickup, and I started down across them hollers until I got up here, almost to Doug Hill. I turned and went back, because you never seen a house in the whole works. I never went where there was any houses (Harbison laughs). Now, I asked him, "Do you think that's enough?" You know, wild enough. Well, I wasn't a good little boy most of the time (Harbison laughs).

Harbison: You're getting the job done.

Kraut: Yeah, yeah. But we got the turkeys; we got five of them.

Harbison: What year would this have been, do you remember?

Kraut: Seventy-five, wasn't it? (June responds, "That's when you retired. Did you do it right before you retired?") Yeah, uh-huh. I got pictures of us turning them loose.

Then the guy, the wildlife biologist for our area in Illinois, didn't even bother to come, because it was Saturday, and that was his day off. Three years after we turned them loose, they had a season on them.

Harbison: Three years later they had a hunting season?

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: So they were multiplying…

Kraut: (interrupts Harbison) They multiplied, but then …

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) They liked Calhoun County.

Kraut: … but they done real good, but they wasn't a hunting deal. You had to… Dave, he called me up—that was the wild life biologist—he said, "Can I hunt turkey on you?" Well, when we turned the turkeys loose, they was just [went] a half mile out here, on the ridge from here. He thought they…if there's any around… I said, "Absolutely not." I said,"I don't believe that they should have a season on them." I said, "If you want to hunt them," I said, "You can hunt up there at Red's Landing; that's the State of Illinois' land." He said, "There ain't any up there." I said, "I know there ain't any up there, but you can hunt anyway." (all laugh) (June, "Shame on you.")

Harbison: Did he think you were funny?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: Did he laugh at your joke?

Kraut: He's an idiot. He was so dense that you couldn't…

Harbison: He wouldn't even get it probably, sad.

Kraut: No (talking over Harbison).

Harbison: That's interesting, because only three years after the reintroduction, they proposed that they could start harvesting…

Kraut: They did start harvesting them, and they've harvested them ever since. This is something that [they] was really interested in, was getting them, along with the conservation.

After they done so well in Calhoun, then the State of Illinois, now mind you, started putting them in other counties, which they could have done ages ago but just had that little boost, I guess, to get them started. You've got turkeys in every county in the State of Illinois, I guess, except Chicago.

Harbison: It's just been hugely successful.

Kraut: Oh, yes! It was…

Harbison: Big industry?

Kraut: Yeah. The licenses that...and the equipment and things that was sold. If you went on down the line…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) How many were introduced that first year? Do you remember how many pairs or how many turkeys?

Kraut: How many turkeys did we turn loose?

Harbison: Yeah.

Kraut: We turned loose seven one Saturday and five the next.

Harbison: Wow.

Kraut: And that was all.

Harbison: That's all; that's amazing. (June, "What?") I guess they liked each other (everyone laughs).

Kraut: But they done… It's unbelievable, just… I still don't believe it, but I know it.

Harbison: And the whitetail deer, which weren't around when you were a kid, now they're…

Kraut: Yeah, they're all over. But when I was a boy, there wasn't any.

Harbison: Which leads me to a couple more questions. What do you think is the biggest change you've seen in Calhoun County, in your 102 years here?

Kraut: The biggest gain…

Harbison: Change.

Kraut: Change?

Harbison: Cars, mechanization… I mean, Calhoun County to me, still looks like time hasn't had a huge…

Kraut: Yeah, you're right there. (June says, "We're working hard on keeping it that way.")

Harbison: That's why I like it. There's not that many roads… The bridge was obviously a big deal, but that was 1931…

Kraut: The biggest deal that ever happened in Calhoun County was the bridge. That [is] way out [in] the lead of…

Harbison: I think we talked before, that some of the areas near the rivers did have electricity, that they were stringing across the river.

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison But up here in the ridge, it didn't get electrified until 1949?

Kraut: That year, all over, yeah. (June says, "The whole town, yeah.")

Harbison: But some of the places, like Hardin, had electricity…

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison …way before.

Kraut: CIPS [Central Illinois Public Service company]. But we had Rural Electric, and Rural Electric is different than CIPS. (June says, "It's now Ameren.") That's Ameren, yeah.

Harbison: Because you served in the war, I am going to ask you one more question about that and then just kind of a general question. Do you think that our sacrifices that we had to make in past wars—World War II, Korea, Vietnam, Gulf War I—have been justified?

Kraut: Well…

Harbison: (interrupts Kraut) What do we need to remember, maybe, about people that have served, like yourself?

Kraut: We had no… I don't remember very much about World War I.

Harbison: You were alive though?

Kraut: Yeah, uh-huh. I could remember going around with my mom and collecting for the Red Cross. I was just a little bitty kid. But you didn't have a choice, World War II; they was coming, and you was going. That they had that, and we said that's the end of all wars, World War II was. That was going to end the thing. How wrong could we be? You and I was just kids, but (June laughs)… I don't know; it's like our wars that we're in, over there, now. I don't think you're ever going to settle that, us. I think we just might as well pack our bags and come on home.

Harbison: One last question. Have you got any advice or wisdom that you'd like to pass on to future generations, if somebody might be listening to this interview, ten, twenty years from now? (both laugh)

Kraut: Well, if I was going to pass on any information for you, I'd say get rid of them damn cell phones (both laugh), and get real. No, there really isn't any way, shape, or form. You got a lot of the experts that can figure out what's going to happen. It never happens. And…

Harbison: Expect the unexpected.

Kraut: We was out West, and they had a earthquake in Montana, whole mountain went off into the canyon. They had a lake in the canyon, up a ways; [it] had nothing to do the earthquake. They had a campground below the lake, like all of them. Like I told my wife, they was stupid when they put the damned campground below the lakes. But that's where they was, and they are, now. That earthquake filled that canyon up and covered all them people up, just the whole campground, just… There was a rock from the south side, ended up on the north side of the… [It] was as big as this house, and it slid across there somehow and up the other side. So, there's no way of telling what's going to happen next.

But you can go back and talk to the guys you're working with, and ask them guys who is fueling the furnace, and what are they using for fuel underneath us, because it's hot underneath you; you know that. It's boiling down there. Now, what are they using for fuel, and who's doing it? I bet you ain't got anybody in your offices that can tell you.

Harbison: I'm going to sign off here, but I just want to say one other thing. You had a love for traveling?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: You had a love for traveling?

Kraut: Yeah.

Harbison: You went to all fifty states. You went to Mexico; you went to Alaska twice. The last time, how old were you when you went to Alaska?

Kraut: Huh?

Harbison: How old were you when you went to Alaska, your last trip?

Kraut: Eighty years old. I was 80, and Mom was 75 when we went the last time.

Harbison: Do you think it's important for people to travel and see different parts of the country?

Harold "Boge" Kraut, wife Helen, and their children. Front row: James, Deborah, June and John. Back row: Linda, Sue, and Mike.

Kraut: Yeah, yeah. People should travel, but when they travel, they should **see** as they travel. They shouldn't stop at the Corn Palace (Harbison laughs), Mid-America or Wall Drug Store, and gyp joints. But you can see nature, and it's got all of that skinned a country block. You stop and think, The Big Horn Mountains runs through here; Big Horn Canyon runs down through here. Have you ever been out there?

Harbison: No, I haven't.

Kraut: You should go. The… What's that there?

Harbison: It's just an envelope. I'm going to have you show me this, but I would just take your final bit of advice and say that you've made me think about traveling and seeing the United States. So, I am taking that as some of the advice or wisdom that you would pass on to future generations.

Kraut: In the Big Horns…

(end of transcript)