Interview with John and Ida Thurman

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Interviewer: Elizabeth Simmons

Simmons: My name is Elizabeth Simmons. Today is July 29, 2008, and we're in Hopkins Park in Kankakee County, Illinois. The people I'm interviewing today are John and Ida Thurman. This interview is being conducted as a part of the Illinois State Museum Oral History of Illinois Agriculture Project. Well, first of all, I'd like to say hi to both you and John, and I'd like to ask you a few questions about your background. John, we'll start with you. Where was your mother and father born at?

John Thurman: My mother was born in Cook County, in Chicago. And my father, he was born in Jackson, Mississippi.

Simmons: And where did they grow up at? Was it in those places, or...?

John Thurman: My mother, she mostly grew up out here. Because she stayed with her grandmother early on.

Simmons: Out here—you mean, like, right here in this area?

John Thurman: Yeah. Right. In this area.

Simmons: Okay.

John Thurman: And my father... he grew up in Jackson, Mississippi. He was in Madison, Canton—(laughter) He moved around a little, and then in the forties—

Simmons: Are those counties in Mississippi—

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: —or cities?

John Thurman: Counties.

Simmons: Okay.

John Thurman: Or Madison is also a city, too—yeah. And then in the forties, he moved up here.

Simmons: Okay. And Ida, where were your parents born at?

Ida Thurman: Rankin County.

Simmons: Rankin County?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: Where is that located?

Ida Thurman: It's in Mississippi.

Simmons: Is that near Jackson also?

Ida Thurman: Yes, it is.

Simmons: And growing up, where did they live?

Ida Thurman: They moved to Simpson County.

Simmons: Which is also in...

Ida Thurman: It's in Mississippi.

Simmons: Okay. And so both of your parents were born in the same place and grew up together and they married and they lived in Mississippi?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: Okay. And where were you born at?

Ida Thurman: I was born in Simpson County.

Simmons: In Simpson County also?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: So most of your kin are all from Simpson County, then?

Ida Thurman: Right.

Simmons: All right. And how did your family—or was it you that came up here to Illinois? How did you end up here in Illinois?

Ida Thurman: I married John, and then we moved here.

Simmons: Okay. Well, that's very interesting. So you were born and raised in Simpson County, and John, you were born and raised up here in the Chicago area, but then you had some family that came out here to Kankakee County. How did the two of you meet?

John Thurman: I was blessed that my father and mother—the adult son, at a certain age, because it was four of us—he decided that it was about marrying age. So he moved the whole family to Mississippi, and I met her going into school at Magee.

Simmons: I'll be darned. So Magee was the local high school?

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: So you two are high school sweethearts.

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: (laughter) Well, that's very nice. So y'all met and married in Mississippi, in Rankin County?

Ida Thurman: Simpson County.

John Thurman: Simpson. Mm-hmm.

Simmons: Simpson County. Okay. All right. And what year was that that you all were married in?

John Thurman: Seventy-seven.

Simmons: Nineteen seventy-seven?

Ida Thurman: Nineteen seventy-seven, yes.

Simmons: Okay. John, do you have other relatives, or are... you've mentioned that you've got three other brothers. What are their names?

John Thurman: Eldredge, William, and Robert.

Simmons: And your father's name is?

John Thurman: Roy.

Simmons: Okay. And where are you in the family? Are you the youngest, or oldest...?

John Thurman: I'm the seventh child.

Simmons: You're the seventh child?

John Thurman: Yeah.

Simmons: Okay. And Ida, how many are in your family?

Ida Thurman: I have two older sisters, and two older brothers. One of my brothers passed away early on, when I was a child. And then I have a younger brother.

Simmons: And where do you fall in that? Are you the youngest, or oldest...?

Ida Thurman: I'm the youngest daughter, so...?

Simmons: You're the youngest daughter. Okay. And also, who else is in your immediate family? You have grandmother, grandfathers... who all are in your family, immediately?

John Thurman: Well, I don't have any right now.

Simmons: They've all passed away?

John Thurman: Yes.

Ida Thurman: As well as my mom and my grandma.

Simmons: Okay.

Ida Thurman: And my dad.

Simmons: Ida, when you were young, did you live in town or on a farmplace, like here?

Ida Thurman: We lived—not as a farm place, but we visited frequently to my grandmother's house. I called her Big Mama; we all called her Big Mama. And when my mama would go to work—she worked in a restaurant—we would go through the woods. I know it sounds very interesting, but we did. We went through the woods and we went to Big Mama's house. And we stayed there during the daytime while Mama worked.

Simmons: So you actually spent all that time at Big Mama's house.

Ida Thurman: Uh-huh.

Simmons: And she lived in the country on a farmplace.

Ida Thurman: She lived on a farm. She was a sharecropper type, where she worked the farm doing cotton, peas, cucumbers, and things like that. And she was able to stay there because she worked the farm. We helped her with the cotton and the peas and cucumbers.

Simmons: Oh, so you had a lot of experience with those crops early on, then, as a girl?

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: Okay.

Ida Thurman: She also had a garden, her own personal garden, where she preserved food frozen in the freezer. And she would always have some type of livestock that she butchered in the farm. So we helped with that, too.

Simmons: So you definitely got your start early on, at Big Mama's house, then. Yeah. Now, John, you grew up closer in to the city of Chicago, is that right?

John Thurman: Yes. Actually, I was born in Chicago. I spent very little time there. My father didn't want to raise any of his kids in the city, because he hadn't got a chance to spend a certain amount of time there, and he knew it wasn't a good place to rear kids.

Simmons: What were some of the things about the city of Chicago? Because you did go there and stay, but what were some of the things he was concerned about? Or what did he like better about being out here in Kankakee County than Chicago?

John Thurman: He liked the closeness, because he—people being all stacked up together, it was a lot of tension and a lot of stress, and it just wasn't a relaxed atmosphere. And he wanted us to be raised where it was as relaxed as possible.

Simmons: So he felt that the country life was a lot better for a family.

John Thurman: Yes. He wanted us to get a chance to build our own traits, instead of picking up the stress and the strain that was around us.

Simmons: Now, Ida, we got a little bit of an idea of the chores you did helping Big Mama as a girl, because you were out helping her out in the fields with canning and butchering and all. But John, when you were a boy, what types of chores did you often do, you and your brothers?

John Thurman: My main chore was feeding the hogs. We had a couple of cows, but mostly we had a lot of hogs. And we also took care of the garden, because my father—he worked for Kankakee Water Company, and he farmed. So we took a lot of what we were supposed to, and we'd take a lot of his slack up. And he gave us all a certain amount of land to raise our own garden on, so he wanted us early to realize from the—as he put it, from the garden to the table. You know?

Simmons: To see that you could—you could raise enough food and manage on your own.

John Thurman: Right. Right.

Simmons: So from when you were a boy, you had a lot of experiences directly with raising animals—hogs, in this case—and also with gardening and growing crops.

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: So those were your main chores that you had as a boy?

John Thurman: Well, but really the main-main was the garden. Because it took pretty much all summer long: once you plant, you're busy until it's harvest time. And then you're really, really busy. (laughter)

Simmons: Yeah, you've got to harvest and put up all that food for the winter.

John Thurman: Really busy. Yes.

Simmons: Now, who helped with putting up the food for the winter, John, when you were a boy? Was that something that you boys did, or did your parents or mother do that?

John Thurman: You know, funny thing—my father really did—anything that the girls knew, the boys should know, and anything the boys knew, the girls should know. So everybody had their hand in. And we all can cook, clean, and the girls could get out there and toss hay with the best of them.

Simmons: So he was pretty open-minded, your dad was.

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: Very interesting. Okay. And also, were you involved, Ida, with the church growing up?

Ida Thurman: Yes. Early on. I'm a member of Magee First Baptist Church. It was a family-type church.

Simmons: And is that in Rankin County, Mississippi?

Ida Thurman: It's in Simpson County.

Simmons: Simpson. I'm sorry.

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: I keep mixing up Simpson and Rankin.

Ida Thurman: That would be in Mississippi.

Simmons: And how did that affect your daily life or your family life, growing up—being a member of that church?

Ida Thurman: I just enjoy the close atmosphere of family members and the gatherings that we had, and it was just—it really grounded me, early on, to be the kind of person that I've grown to be, I would think.

Simmons: Did you have a—did you feel like it was an environment where, since everybody was friends or family, that you could just relax and be yourself? Is that what you—

Ida Thurman: Most definitely.

Simmons: Okay. So that was very important to you, in your growing up, to learning about how you were and what you were all about.

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: Yeah. Okay. And John, did your family have an involvement with the church, and if so, what did that do for your family's life?

John Thurman: My father, he tried going to different churches, but he really had this thing where he wanted to raise us exactly a certain way, so that we did most of ours at home. We'd read the Bible, and, you know, he'd go with the Word—we had Bible class and that type of thing. That way, he wanted us—he didn't want us following a man on earth, but wanted us following the Word of God.

Simmons: So actually, Bible study was very important to your family's life.

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: And you would have family gatherings on a regular basis where you'd all read the Bible.

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: And your parents or your father would conduct a Bible study with you and your brothers?

John Thurman: Yes, yes.

Simmons: And what about the holidays? How did your family, John, spend the holidays?

John Thurman: Holidays were an excuse to get together. (laughter)

Simmons: An excuse.

John Thurman: It didn't take much. And my father and mother would cook, and man, we just loved getting together. Because I had an older brother that had a—was by another mother, and so he stayed in Chicago, and on holidays he'd come out. Well, actually, any time he come out it became a holiday. And we used to love getting together and just meet and greet, and we'd love when the out-of-towners came into town, so any excuse to get together was a holiday—everything.

Simmons: And these gatherings mostly took place out here, in Kankakee County?

John Thurman: Yes. We were the country cousins.

Simmons: You were the country cousins. (laughter) And Ida, how was the holidays for your family?

Ida Thurman: I think it was pretty much the same. We would have gatherings on Sundays—Saturdays and Sundays, the family would get together, and we'd just sit on the porch and have conversations. I mean, it was really nice. And during the regular holidays as well.

Simmons: And was your church community a large part of your holidays?

Ida Thurman: Yes. Yes, it was.

Simmons: Now, since the two of you were high school sweethearts, Ida, what are some of the memories that you remember about the two of you when you were just in high school for holidays?

Ida Thurman: I remember holidays—the basketball games, you know, just—spending the time... just spending the time together, and doing the different events that schools were having.

Simmons: Do you have a favorite memory of the holidays when you and John were in high school together?

Ida Thurman: They're all great.

Simmons: (laughter)

Ida Thurman: They're all great.

Simmons: And John, what do you recall about that time?

John Thurman: The football games. We would stay over at school, because, you know, neither one of us ever had a ride home, so if you go home on the bus, you can't get back out. So we'd stay over.

Simmons: I see.

John Thurman: We all would have food. (laughter)

Ida Thurman: My mom worked at the school; she was a janitor at that time. So I was there and would more or less help her with the work, and after, you know, we were finished with the work, we would go to the game or what have you.

John Thurman: So that's where that actually family tradition got started. If I wanted to see her, we had to make sure all the work was done—to think, I just thought about that. (laughter) And, you know, we'd go to the park. And actually, I didn't really know her then. I knew a fellow that we both knew, and they mentioned that she always had food, and that's how I found out.

Simmons: (laughter)

John Thurman: And we just got to talking, and, you know, it started from there. The mistrust started. Often it seemed as though she didn't trust me. (laughter)

Ida Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: (laughter) She must have gotten over it by now.

John Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: Now, when y'all aren't working here or busy with your family responsibilities, John, what are some of the hobbies or interests that you have?

John Thurman: Well, I used to have hobbies. But pretty much since I've been married, any time I wasn't with my family or working to make a living for the family, I spend doing community service.

Simmons: And what type of activities do you really enjoy doing in the community?

John Thurman: Oh, man. Working at Garden for the Seniors. I've learned to spend time with the mayors and supervisors—whoever's in leadership roles to try to help them work the programs out—create programs. Because I learned early, just like I was saying we about we had to help her mother in order for her to have free time, it was the same thing with the kids. If they wanted to leave the yard or somebody had to come in and play, my kids always had chores, like I had. So they had to help them and offer them to get free time. So we built from that and realized that anything that our kids, we wanted them to be, the whole community had to be. So that's what got us started with community service.

Ida Thurman: And realizing that even though we are from a farm, we realize that not all people want to farm or are interested in farming, so we did some looking around to see what their interest was and encouraged them in the way that they want to go.

John Thurman: Right.

Ida Thurman: And at the same time, ensuring that it was constructive events and activities that they were doing.

Simmons: So you have a lot of young people in the community, some of whom have the opportunity and the interest in farming, but then you have other young people leaving the community because perhaps they don't see that there's anything here for them.

John Thurman: Right.

Ida Thurman: Right.

Simmons: And so it sounds like, if I understand, one of the activities that you've been really involved with is giving the youth other opportunities or giving them other ways of looking at things.

Ida Thurman: Other ways of looking at things, and developing their skills, as well.

Simmons: And then of course you'd like to keep them all here in the community, I imagine.

Ida Thurman: Sure.

John Thurman: Yeah. Well, you know, that's kind of the ultimate goal, but we feel like in order to keep them, you've got to first let them go. And what I mean by that is, give them a chance to grow into who they are, like my father did with us. You know, and so we couldn't hold nobody else's kid, or even think about that. You know, first let them grow into what they is, and hopefully there's enough magnetism left here, you know, whether they never leave or they at least come back and help build it for the next generation.

Simmons: Yeah. Really good. Well, those are some really lofty goals. What in particular, Ida, do you do when you're not really busy with your family and with your farm responsibilities? Do you like to knit or sew, or are there any particular hobbies that you have?

Ida Thurman: I like to sew.

Simmons: You like to sew?

Ida Thurman: I like to cook. I also spend lots of time working on the newsletter—the community newsletter.

John Thurman: Mmm. True.

Ida Thurman: Which is something new for me for the last—what? Three to five years, maybe. But I like it, because it's about sharing information. So I, you know, focus on that a lot.

Simmons: And was there a particular time in which, Ida, that you and John, after you got married, that you were not living here in the Kankakee County area?

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: And what was that like, and what were you doing at that time?

Ida Thurman: We lived in Mississippi. Very interesting farming, because we realized early on that food that we know where it comes from, it's healthy for our children. So we wanted to purchase land, and we tried to there. We couldn't find any land there, so we really didn't know what to do from that. And with the guidance of John's dad, we found land here. So it was an uphill battle to get here. The family was separated for quite a few years as the menfolk went off to find the land, and protect whatever resources they got once they found it, Okay. So we stayed home, and they provided a way for us here. So right down the street, my husband bought a green house. But because of the fires here, the house got burned down—I think it was in '95. We was just about to move in; we'd done some reconstruction in it, and we was just about to move in. A big fire came through and burned the house down. So that delayed things a little bit for us. But it took a couple more years—you know, '98 is when we finally got an opportunity to move here. At the encouragement of our father-in-law, again, who said that it's best for young people to be in the country, where they can learn responsibilities. So you give them chores and all sorts of stuff, which we did. And we think that they're healthy, sound young people with great work ethics.

Simmons: And back to the fires—can you explain what was—did you know what caused the fires? The fires around here?

John Thurman: Oh, wow. What we know for sure is there was usually a fire every summer, at least one. But in '95, the particular year when we lost our home, they were fires started in Four Corners.

Simmons: Were these fires caused by something natural, like lightning, or were they arson, or... What was the cause of these fires?

John Thurman: We'll never know. Nobody really looked into it that we knew of. But we do know that it happened just about every year. Some years we'd lose people's homes; some people lost their lives.

Ida Thurman: Equipment.

John Thurman: Oh, yeah. I always lose the equipment, because, I mean, if you farm—I guess when most people think of a farm they think of a big house with a

great big barn and all the equipment is inside of it. Well, here, there's no big house and there's no big barn, but you still have the equipment, which would be away from the house, usually. And weeds grow up around it—I mean, once you set everything aside, I mean, the weeds grow up, okay. So at the wrong time of year, if you get a fire, whatever's in the weeds goes up with the weeds, so.

Simmons: And is that a pretty typical thing where you came from in Mississippi, where people leave their extra equipment out on their land in different places?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: And so that's something that you're very comfortable with, but unfortunately sometimes if there's a fire, then of course the equipment gets burned?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

John Thurman: Right. I mean, fires were never a problem in Mississippi.

Ida Thurman: Right.

John Thurman: You know. And I never knew a fire, you know? And just here—the only place I know about where there's fires this frequent is Simpson County—I mean, not Simpson County, but right here, good old Hopkins Park in Pembroke. Yeah.

Simmons: And so this is the place where this seems to happen most often.

John Thurman: Right. Right. So there's a lot of faults and no proof.

Simmons: I see. Now, John, you were raised up here in Illinois, and then as a young teenager, you went down to Simpson County, which is where your kin are from—your father and all. What were some of the differences or similarities that you noticed between life here in Kankakee County and down in Simpson County, Mississippi?

John Thurman: Well, here, people are pretty distant. We were blessed out here—when we moved out here, they are more laidback country people. Which most of them—which was funny, they would be either from the city or from the South, so I had a close relationship with just a few people, because my father didn't allow us just to go, okay. He had to know. And pretty much to see them, you had to be doing a chore there. And so that would limit when we could go, you know, unless we wanted to get a whipping, and I never was into that.

Ida Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: And did you experience any challenges or other things that you had to overcome when you came from Illinois to Simpson County?

John Thurman: Oh, wow. Now, that—I mean, even though the South is a breath of fresh air, at the same time, when we first met these people that are prejudiced. You know? With the—I mean, maybe I shouldn't say it this way, but it's the way I seen it. The good thing about being in the South is you know they're prejudiced. They don't mind letting you know. They got all their emblems, and so it's not a hidden thing. You know where not to be, you know what time not to be there. Whereas here, I found out once I got back, there's prejudice here, but you won't never see it. All you'll ever see is a smile. But at the same time, there's some places they don't want you, some places you better not be, and I don't know—no small town outside of Pembroke, they really don't want anybody in there after a certain time of the day. And that's where we definitely spend our money, but once we spend our money, it's for us to go home. If you hang around—even now, if you hang around at all, you will be stopped, and you will have a problem.

Simmons: I see. Now do you feel, compared to here, that when your time in Simpson County was—that people in general respected people's property? You know, I'm thinking about the fires: you said that it was typical to leave your equipment out, and you didn't have that situation. Do you feel that there was more or less respect for people down in Simpson County? Or with yours?

John Thurman: People down South are more respectful, period. And the people that were here that my father allowed us to be around, they were from the South. So once people knew us here, once we were planted here long enough that they had respect for my father, then okay. We didn't really have a problem, other than the wildfires, okay. But down South, there was a respect for equipment and people, period. So that wasn't something that we had to earn again: it was just something that was. I mean, even—the only real problem was, like I said, the prejudice. It took us some getting used to that.

Simmons: But people recognized that if you owned a piece of land or owned a piece of equipment, that that belonged to you—

John Thurman: Right.

Simmons: —and they'd leave it?

John Thurman: Right, right.

Simmons: I see.

John Thurman: It'd stay where you put it.

Simmons: I see. Now, Ida, you grew up down South in Rankin County in Mississippi—in Simpson County. I'm sorry. I keep making that mistake.

And how are—what are the experience for you to come up to the North for the first time and actually settle down and live here?

Ida Thurman: It was totally different. You know? It was really totally different. I'm from—it's a small town, small area; people pretty much know everyone, speaking and all of that—are really good to each other. But when I first moved up here, it was like I didn't know anyone; I got lost a few times. It was scary for me; it was totally different. But I managed, and I'm grateful. But it was totally, totally different.

Simmons: So a very different experience. Now, I imagine in your hometown, maybe people have known each other for generations, if not for a hundred years.

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: The families had all known each other.

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: So that was a very different experience. You came here and everyone was unfamiliar to you.

Ida Thurman: Right.

Simmons: And how was the winters up here?

Ida Thurman: They're cold. They're freezing. But they're okay. I mean, you prepare for them. We're farmers. We expect—and we're in the North. So we expect it to be cold and snow everywhere. And sometimes, early on when we first got here, it was difficult to leave in and out of these roads. My husband and my sons got stuck right around the curve, after someone else had gotten stuck and they had to bend in their car. In order to get through the narrow pass, they would have to go around, and as they tried to go around the car, they got stuck, so they had to dig themselves out around the car just to come on home.

Simmons: I see.

Ida Thurman: So it's pretty cold.

Simmons: Now, I've been in Mississippi a few times myself, and I know in the country, a lot of the roads are dirt also. What was the difference between driving around up here in Kankakee County and Mississippi? Was there something about the weather that made it different?

Ida Thurman: I think so. When it was ice—any ice, people would just stay home.

John Thurman: Down south, right.

Ida Thurman: Down south. That was the most dangerous time for us down south. We stayed home. We knew that it was dangerous down there, and we didn't get that much—we didn't get any snow. Mostly we was affected by the ice.

Simmons: But now up here, we're so used to having cold weather so many months of the year—

Ida Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: —you feel like people probably are more out and about.

Ida Thurman: They are. They are. It doesn't stop anyone. I mean—and now that they clean the roads really well, the school system has not shut down or anything like that. People go to jobs and all that kind of thing.

Simmons: Okay. All right. Well, I'd also like to ask you one last question about—when were your early years here, once you got your place and set up? You mentioned a little bit about it. How did—I know that, John, your family already had their foothold in this area, but how is it for the two of you as a married couple just starting out once you finally got your place and you were putting in your fences and getting your crops ready and bringing in your stock? How was that the first year or three?

John Thurman: It was pretty rough. Like I say, with people, even though they knew my father here, and I was considered my father's son, that made it a little bit better. But things are just hard around here, period. I mean, it's just almost impossible for a person to get started in farming that came from farming. I mean, you don't have a boatload of money. If you're a retiree from the city, well, you're usually leaving a house; you have a retirement pay, you have all this. So when you leave that house, you're also selling it so. You come here, you have ____(??) not to put it in a bank. Okay? So you get instant access. You may get the best land, the best house; you're building the house you want. Okay? But if you don't have that—if you don't come from that; if you come from a family with small-income, subsistent—that's a new word we learned, subsistent farmers. (laughter) I hate that name. (laughter) Then you don't—what you need to have is what you done tried to create and maintain a business on the farming for it actually to work as a business. And like I say, businesses only exist over time as they get infusions of money. I mean, nobody's so bright that they don't need a loan every now and then. The expansion to maintain: you have a bad year to hold you over. Okay, well, if you're a subsistence farmer, that's a joke. Because you ain't got none of that coming. Okay?

Simmons: Okay. Let me clarify that point. So subsistence farming—would you agree with this explanation of it? My understanding is that that's a very traditional form of farming that has been practiced for generations and generations—

where a family has a place, and they raise enough to take care of themselves, and a little extra that they sell for cash or—

John Thurman: Right, right.

Simmons: —trade for other things they need. Would you say that describes your family?

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: Okay. And then, in terms of money, you're mentioning sometimes a small farmer like yourself needs a little loan, and also you've mentioned how there were some challenges when you first started. Where was your source of money when you needed a loan? How did that work out for you?

John Thurman: Well, early on, my father—like I said, he had been here so long and had helped so many people that they would see us struggling and they would help us. I did so many things in order to feed us when I first got here. I used to have a bread route, and they'd call me the sweet man, because when I came through, they knew I had the sweets. And so everybody would come out running. Well, I met quite a few people that way, and they would consider—they would adopt us. And so that means that we would go to all of their family functions, because we was away—she was away from her family, and it turned out that everybody I knew was for some reason from the South, too. And so they'd know that we would like to be down there, so we was invited to all their family functions. And my family is so stretched out—I mean, we have people in Atlanta, Mississippi, even now—Chicago, Gary, you know, and Ohio. And I probably could keep going, but it would take too long.

Simmons: So those people would be available at different times to loan you small amounts of money?

John Thurman: Yes. I mean, I wouldn't have to ask. Once they seemed to struggle, they would do what they could do. I mean—but that's not like going to the bank. You go to the bank, you go there for what you actually need. Okay.

Simmons: I see. So it was an informal system of borrowing and lending money and maybe bartering and trading for things as well?

John Thurman: Trade, barter, and plenty of trade.

Simmons: And tell me... you did tell me before a story about how when your father first was out of the service—he's a veteran of World War II?

John Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: And how he first came out here. If I recall correctly, there's a neighbor lady who owned land—maybe even this piece we're sitting on right now—and she wanted to sell it. And did she provide him for the same type of financing?

John Thurman: Yes. Yes. He had known her for quite a few years. My mother wasn't too happy about that idea, but she let him work her land, okay. And her name was Peaches. And so that's how he got his start. And then he knew this Allan, who owned this place—yeah, that we own now. And so she then had this first acre. I mean, not have, but she let him buy it from her.

Simmons: So in time, she arranged for him to finance it—

John Thurman: Right.

Simmons: —so that through work, he could buy the land from her.

John Thurman: Right. And so he... he started—he was a builder. You know.

Simmons: So as far as some of your early challenges when you were first married, and (inaudible) your working—it sounds like aside from the usual concerns of getting yourself started and getting your stock and your crops and all going, you also had the need for small loans. And what are some of the other challenges that you recall from your first few years?

John Thurman: Equipment. Even some of the best ideas are kind of hard to achieve if you don't have a certain kind of equipment. The only blessing we had was that there were a lot of us. So we could do what people thought couldn't be done, because when we started a job, we just did it. Yeah.

Simmons: So with a lot of labor and hands to help—

John Thurman: Yeah.

Simmons: —you just worked your way through it.

John Thurman: Yeah. Actually, we worked our way through the neighborhood. And so I got to be known as the fellow with all the kids.

Simmons: (laughter) Yeah.

John Thurman: You know, so if you've got a job and you want it done, I'm here. Other than being the sweet man and the bread man, I also became the meat man, because once I started processing my meat, I did it legally in a processing facility, USDA-certified, and I had a license, which I've still got. And so I was able to sell processed meat. So I had a lot of hams, you might say. A lot of calves. We had a lot of calves.

Ida Thurman: In ’99—’98, ’99—we did some research along with USDA in an effort for them to help the minority farmers. The research was done on helpful ways to help small farms be more sustainable. We went to (distortion on tape) church to—

John Thurman: Ohio.

Ida Thurman: Ohio and Minnesota and found this new way—they’re calling it free-range poultry. With the help of the Catholic—

John Thurman: Campaign for Human Development.

Ida Thurman: —Campaign for Human Development, Catholic Community Churches, we got assistance to do the research here on this farm. We had a field day here and all of that.

John Thurman: Yeah. Some of the buildings are still there. It was a chicken house.

Ida Thurman: So we were really excited about that. It was really helpful for us. And as he mentioned, processing the poultry at the licensed facility—through that effort, we were able to find that licensed facility there in Arthur, Illinois.

John Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Ida Thurman: So I just wanted to mention the fact that, you know, early on, in maybe ’95—no, ’98—

John Thurman: Later on.

Ida Thurman: —later on in ’98, we did get assistance from the Catholic community, who believed in us. And I really do appreciate that, and also help with international... As you see the cows in the back, we are members of Pembroke Farm and Family. It is a—we are project partners with Heifer International. They have made it possible for us to raise—have cattle on our property. And the idea is that we’re given a bred heifer, and that bred heifer would then have the baby, and we would give the baby to some other family, we would keep the cow.

John Thurman: As a bred heifer.

Ida Thurman: As a bred heifer.

John Thurman: So it’s living on.

Ida Thurman: We would keep the female, the original placement, and another family would accept the bred heifer—the baby. Once it’s bred.

Simmons: That’s a great way to give each other _____(??).

Ida Thurman: Okay? So we're really excited about that program, and we're so grateful to have that in the community.

John Thurman: Right. So it is—when my father come here, he didn't—it might have existed, but he didn't know anything about those kind of things. So then, in the next generation, through the struggle, we learned a lot of things. We've worked some with USDA; we've got a USDA grant. We've learned that they're not quite forgiving.

Ida Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: You wanted to work with people.

John Thurman: But they were there. And we did a lot of work with them. This high-tensile perimeter fence, I learned how to do that working with them.

Ida Thurman: And so did I.

John Thurman: Oh, yeah. Ah, yes. I can send them anywhere, and they can put it in for anybody.

Simmons: So that's actually a kind of a source of income, if they want to do a fencing business thing.

John Thurman: Yes, yes.

Simmons: Because they can do high-tensile fencing.

John Thurman: Right. And then we went to different schooling—like they have pasture walks. We learn different things, so we have something to set up pastures. We've got—we were just blessed with a lot of things. I have to say, in '99, USDA was a blessing to us. Also, we learned about Voyage(??). Voyage is—it needs to be everywhere. And everybody needs to make sure that their state funds it. But they like to lost all their funding this year. And like she said, the Catholic Campaign for Human Development; Heifer International—those are all things that we consider blessings from the Lord, because they came in just in time to save otherwise a pretty bleak situation. But when they didn't really—you know, maybe learn a new way to do nothing, but we learned a new name for what we were already doing, and we've had to use that to say, "Okay, we're doing free-range." Well, we always did it free-range. I mean, we wouldn't put a chicken in a tight spot and expect to actually eat that afterwards. So we had no problem with the concept, so it was right up our alley, you might say. So we had no problem. But those—well-dressed(??) medals from different organizations.

Ida Thurman: And again, this year, I was telling you earlier today, we were also blessed to have two summer visitors.

John Thurman: Four.

Ida Thurman: I'm sorry, four.

John Thurman: Four.

Ida Thurman: No, we had two summer visitors that work with the Organization and Communication Committee.

John Thurman: Right.

Ida Thurman: And we have four youth summer—

John Thurman: To work it.

Ida Thurman: —youth workers.

Simmons: Are those your kids, or are they also people that are just having a farm experience? Tell me more about that.

Ida Thurman: I think this is the third year that there is a summer youth works program in the community, where young people have opportunity to do work for like eight weeks or so during the summer. And these young people range in age from thirteen to twenty-two. And they do community service activities: they do beautification and... okay, beautification.

John Thurman: And work experience.

Ida Thurman: Yeah, in our area, and gain work experience. So we're blessed to have four that work on the farm here. They have just recently torn down a fence that has been up for like ten years; they have created a new fence, an electrical fence, just down the street. Where we'll soon be moving them to Cattleton.

Simmons: That's a very good experience. Now, I presume that most of these young people come from more urban areas?

Ida Thurman: Within the area. Hopkins Park.

Simmons: Okay. So this is part of the local initiative that you went through earlier.

John Thurman: It's a local initiative.

Ida Thurman: Yes. Sun River Terrace, maybe. Momence, maybe.

Simmons: Okay. Very good. All right. Well, then, I think that probably we would like to get a good look at your place, and maybe you can walk around and show me a bit more of it.

(End of Tape)

(Resumes Interview Outdoors)

Ida Thurman: Okay.

John Thurman: Three, two, one.

Simmons: We're here on the farm in Kankakee County in Pembroke township of John and Ida Thurman, and it looks like we're getting ready to move their cattle from one field to another. The family's all gathered around to help move the cattle so that they stay in the path where they'd like them to go. So in just a moment here, we should be seeing some cows coming up the road.

Interview with John and Ida Thurman

AIS-V-L-2008-047
Interview #2: July 29, 2008
Interviewer: Elizabeth Simmons

Simmons: We're here on the farm in Kankakee County in Pembroke township of John and Ida Thurman, and it looks like we're getting ready to move their cattle from one field to another. The family's all gathered around to help move the cattle so that they stay in the path where they'd like them to go. So in just a moment here, we should be seeing some cows coming up the road.

Ida Thurman: Mookie? Mookie?(??)

Simmons: That's the head cow.

Ida Thurman: Here, ___(??), here.

[shushing noises; background noise]

Ida Thurman: Ha! Come on.

[background noise, breathing]

Simmons: Wow.

Ida Thurman: Yeah.

Simmons: All righty. You caught your breath after all of that?

Ida Thurman: (laughter) Wow. That was interesting. So that's moving the cattle through there.

Simmons: Now, can you tell me a little bit more about moving the cows? They were down in one pasture where we were, and now you're moving them up here because...?

Ida Thurman: We consider that the chicken farm, so when it gets tall and the chickens that we normally have there finish eating it down as far as they can, we put the cattle there. So we move them here. As you can see, this one's got a quite a bit of foliage, so we let them stay here for maybe a week or two, and then we put them back in the back where we're mending fences back there right now.

Simmons: So you're rotating them for grazing.

Ida Thurman: Right. (laughter)

Simmons: Okay. All right.

John Thurman: Three, two, one. Go.

Simmons: All righty, we've got that job done.

Ida Thurman: (laughter)

Simmons: And got our breath back. It's a lot of work running around for a few minutes chasing after a bunch of cows. I'm looking out at your land, which is behind you, and then even the road along beside you. I notice that you've got gravel on this road, and there's been some improvements here. I'm wondering how that's affected your land values, and have you been able to expand, and how are prices in terms of the land?

Ida Thurman: When we first moved here, the land was very cheap—maybe five, six hundred dollars per acre. And over the course of years, it has recently gone up to as much as—recently $2,500 an acre, and it's increasing. They _____(??) over there—about two years ago, we got this gravel put on the road, which is quite helpful, because [distortion on tape] People get stuck in the mud, so it's been a great improvement, but at the same time as the property value is going up, the taxes are going up.

Simmons: So while your land's increasing, you're getting improvements to your local area and the township here, but then you're also seeing an increase in taxes. How is that affecting you for your bottom line, in terms of raising your stock and marketing them?

Ida Thurman: We pride ourselves on just attempting to hold on to what land we have. We look to expand: as you see, we have cattle, and the ideal is to fence in a large area so they can primarily feed off the land. That's our sustainability component, where we move animals from paddock to paddock. It's very difficult to expand for that reason.

Simmons: I see. And I get the impression, Ida, that you own pretty much all the acres. Do you rent any acres, or do you strive to own all your land?

Ida Thurman: We went, at this point, two ____(??) spots. We also barter land. And with that, we raise our vegetables. We barter for hay production, which I said earlier today, they had just brought in the hay, and we're putting it in our little self-made barn, and we'll use the hay for the winter for the cattle.

Simmons: So you've got a combination of land that you own, land that you rent, and then that you barter for.

Ida Thurman: Barter. Yeah.

Simmons: Okay. Also, I was wondering about the organic farming. How does that fit with your ideas and with your program of running your farm business?

Ida Thurman: We have always raised livestock and vegetables organically, though we didn't know the name was "organic." But it's just a way of life for me. And we just think of it as the cleanest way to raise our vegetables: we know what's going into it. We know what's going into the hay and into the grasses that are on our farm. And we just think it's a benefit to know what's going into our body.

Simmons: Okay. And how does that affect your bottom line, that you're organic farming rather than more traditional farming, where they're using a lot of chemicals and fertilizers and so forth?

Ida Thurman: The thing about what we do is we don't get the high end that others get, because we raise organic. We sell our vegetables just reasonable, so that it's affordable. [distortion on tape]

Simmons: Great. And tell me about the demand that you have. Is there—at the marketplace, since you're raising organic, there's been a trend in the country nationwide where people are wanting these products, and they're adding value to the farmer. What type of experiences have you had with organic in terms of coming to the market?

Ida Thurman: It's in high demand. Everywhere we go, people are asking, you know, where we're going to be at so that they can participate. They consider us their farmer, so it's a demand for good, wholesome food.

Simmons: Yes.

Ida Thurman: But we really don't put it out there to be organic. We are sustainable. You know? We're natural. We raise—and we explain: we take our time to explain to our customers how we raise our foods, you know, and they really appreciate that. There's a demand for it. You know, "organic" that I hear about—it's a demand for it, and that's a good thing, because we're so close... I mean, we are organic, but we're not certified organic, and we don't have the certificates and things like that. But once we explain to them how we do what we do on our farm, they really appreciate our care.

Simmons: So do you occasionally have visitors, potential customers who come out and have a look at your place?

Ida Thurman: Oh, yes. We have people that come out and buy the chicken, the poultry, and the goats. We have had farm tours, and we're gearing up to have farm tours again.

Simmons: And who are some of your typical customers who'd come on out and want to see your chicken and goats?

Ida Thurman: The African community. Asians come out and buy the chickens. And just the seniors who are—they live in the city at this point and remember what it was like for them growing up on a farm, so they enjoy coming out.

Simmons: And those people live in the city of Chicago?

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: And about how far are we located from Chicago?

Ida Thurman: Depending on what part you're going to, I would say sixty-five, maybe more miles.

Simmons: So by car maybe about an hour's drive?

Ida Thurman: An hour and forty-five minutes.

Simmons: Yeah. So you've got a lot of interest in organics in general, and then you've got a niche group that's particularly interested in your goats and in your chickens.

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: Did you say you also raise meat rabbits on your place?

Ida Thurman: Yes. Our daughter Veronica has now claimed responsibility for those. She monitors many of those—the goats. I mean, the rabbits. Yeah.

Simmons: Okay. And what kind of a market do you have for your rabbits?

Ida Thurman: At this point, we're developing a market for those.

Simmons: Yeah. Your daughter Veronica is in charge of the rabbits?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: And she's thinking—give me some ideas about—what are her marketing plans?

Ida Thurman: She is educating people about how to raise them, first and foremost. And then her plan is to find a place to market them. We process them. We used to go down to Arthur, Illinois, to the future Illinois processing facility, but we've come to find out that they don't process birds anymore. I mean, rabbits. So we're hoping that once she gets her production up, she can just send them straight out.

Simmons: So you'd like to do some direct marketing in that.

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: Can you tell me a little bit—you mentioned that there are people that come out to your farm and have a look, and then certainly local communities are familiar with you, since you live here. Where are some other places that you regularly market your products?

Ida Thurman: We are part of a group called Pembroke Farm and Family. As a group, we market produce in Kankakee, Country Club Hills, the Austin community—

Simmons: Is that in Chicago, the Austin community?

Ida Thurman: In Chicago. Mm-hmm.

Simmons: That's a neighborhood in Chicago?

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm. And recently, in the spring, we were talking about going to Englewood. And there are other markets there that had invited us to come, so we're looking forward to participating in all the markets that we can as a group. There's about sixteen of us.

Simmons: Okay. So it sounds like these are farmer's markets?

Ida Thurman: Yes, they are farmer's markets.

Simmons: Okay. And so about how many days a week are you on the road marketing, say, during the summer months?

Ida Thurman: I would say four. Four... yeah. Because we have different communities. And different groups go—different families from our family (??) go at different times. And we're also in the process of developing a farmer's market right here in Hopkins Park. So we're looking forward to that as well. And that will be on a Friday.

Simmons: And in addition to the particular group that you belong to here in Pembroke, are there other organizations, farmer organizations, _____(??) that you belong to or are involved with in Kankakee County?

Ida Thurman: We were real proud of—University of Illinois, which is in Kankakee County—we are on the council of the Extension, and we really feel good about that, because it allows us the opportunity to promote Extension and this program.

Simmons: And tell me a little bit more. What's Extension, for those of us that are kind of unfamiliar with it?

Ida Thurman: Extension is connected with University of Illinois out of Champaign-Urbana. Where different programs are offered, from economic development to positive youth development and 4-H. It's just a variety of different programs that are being offered. They have participation in the fair; they have home economics and... let's see.

Simmons: Do they also cover things like budgeting and farm and family finances?

Ida Thurman: Sure. Right.

Simmons: So it offers a lot of support, it sounds like. And you're on the board of that organization?

Ida Thurman: We're on the extension council, yes.

Simmons: What is the extension council, and what do you exactly do with that?

Ida Thurman: We have meetings to go over the budget of extension and give our suggestions, if we have some. Just to keep—to say that we're part of the community, we're part of the extension, and we look at things that they're doing and all the programming and make sure that these programs are sufficient for the community. The entire Kankakee County.

Simmons: And how much value do you feel that you've gained over the years from your participation with Cooperative Extension?

Ida Thurman: Oh, I've learned so much. I just can't express how much I've learned since I've been a part of this. Before I came here, you know, being from the South, I didn't have that many opportunities just to get in and be so close to how things work. But here, you know, there's the opportunity. And if you would like to be in extension, a part of the council, anyone can be a part of this council. Just go to the extension and let them know that you're interested, and when the time comes up for new council members, they'll let you know, you know, how you can become a part of it. But it's really an exciting, interesting thing to learn about how it's—agrotourism and... That's another thing. We're part of the agrotourism component, where we're looking to have a barn ___(??) tour. Where people would be—barns that are fifty years or older, there would be a tour to come around and look at these barns and learn a little history about it. So being a part of this University of

Illinois Extension is really educational. You find out how things work, and you can help by utilizing your own...

Simmons: So that's even another way that you can add value to your place, is by agri-tourism.

Ida Thurman: Yes, yeah.

Simmons: And so in addition to potential customers coming out, you've got people coming who'd just like to see rural lifestyles.

Ida Thurman: Right, right.

Simmons: And what's been your experience so far with agri-tourism?

Ida Thurman: I think it's great. I think it's a great way to promote farming. Like I say, we've had a few tours; we're getting things together so that we can even do more. It's just a wonder to see young people and old alike coming out to see what's on your farm, to participate—to see animals just running around. It's really exciting to see the laughter and the joy of the young people, and sometimes the stench (laughter) that they complain about and all those different kinds of things. It's all good, though, because it's a part of nature.

Simmons: Okay. And then tell me a little bit for us novices who have never raised cattle in an organic, more traditional fashion: so many of us today rely on feedlots, and that's our agriculture experience. What's a brief overview of your year with your cattle? Do you buy feed ___(??)? You mentioned a very interesting program where you donate a bred heifer to someone?

Ida Thurman: Yeah.

Simmons: How does that work for you, the whole year's cycle?

Ida Thurman: We have a placement heifer. She's bred. It stays on the farm. It comes to the farm; it stays on the farm. She has her baby—her cow, calf. This is a heifer that we're raising on the farm. We utilize the bull to breed her. Then when we're sure that she's bred, that female will be placed with another farm-family community. We then are allowed to keep the heifer—the placement—the first placement. We keep her, and then from that, then I pass on, so the other families would get the cattle as we just talked about—I just talked about. But she's ours, and they all have the opportunity to raise it in the same way, and pass it on out.

Simmons: So it's a pass-one-on kind of situation.

Ida Thurman: (laughter) Yes, it is.

Simmons: Where everybody ends up in the end with an extra cow that they didn't have in the beginning.

Ida Thurman: Right.

Simmons: And then talk a little bit more, if you will, either about your farm cycle—because I don't see any feedlots—

Ida Thurman: Okay.

Simmons: —and I don't see any silos or silage or anything like that on your place. How do you feed your cattle? Do you sell them all to market, or do you always keep some on the place...?

Ida Thurman: Because this is new in the program, we move our cattle from paddock to paddock. We don't have a feedlot; we just move them around. And market time—we're just trying to build up at this point. Following the buildup, then we'll sell them at the markets, halves and things like that.

Simmons: So you're working to increase your—the number of head you have.

Ida Thurman: Sure.

Simmons: All right. And because you're organic, I would imagine that not having a feedlot, you don't have all that extra equipment and structures, since you don't need that. And I would imagine that would really help your bottom line.

Ida Thurman: Right. The thing is, we are not bothering to get hay cut, and even though it would be more convenient at this point to have our own equipment, we have found ways to move around that, and we do get the hay cut and brought here. And this way we know what the cattle are eating in this hay, and it lasts throughout the year—the wintertime.

Simmons: Do you need to routinely—during the warm, growing months, do you find that you need to routinely supplement your pasture with hay, or do you have enough grass for your cattle?

Ida Thurman: We utilize the hay that, you know—if they run out, if they run out in the paddock, we may supplement them, yes. Because we don't want them to run out. (laughter)

Simmons: (laughter)

Ida Thurman: But we do—we try very hard to know where we're getting our hay from at all times.

Simmons: And so primarily you're hoping to have enough hay to over-winter.

Ida Thurman: Yes.

Simmons: Uh-huh. And so some other things I've been wondering about since I came out here today, Ida: I was wondering a little bit about... more about disease control. Do you have a lot of problems with diseases with your livestock?

Ida Thurman: No, actually, we don't. We're blessed. We don't have that many diseases. We keep them moving around. Less buildup on different, you know, paddocks. So that's the ideal: to keep things moving around so that you don't have a buildup and you don't have a problem. So that's what we do.

Simmons: Well, that's very interesting. And it does seem like it's a very efficient and very economical way to raise beef. How about the taste of the beef when they're raised just on grass?

Ida Thurman: Well, the beef is more or less—a little firmer than what you would expect, more bite. Yeah. So... But it works out, because we know that these animals are getting grass, you know, and that's what we want. Grass-fed. So we're okay with it, and we just hope that our customers, once we start marketing, they'll be okay with it too.

Simmons: Yeah, and I know that, again, there is a trend in this country of going towards more grass-fed, because the cost of feeds and other things are skyrocketing.

Ida Thurman: Mmm.

Simmons: So it sounds like you're a part of that trend. So a last few things I'm wondering about that we just touched on earlier was the impact of the rural co-ops. You talked a little bit about your involvement with the Pembroke Farmers' Group that you have—

Ida Thurman: Mm-hmm.

Simmons: —and then also with Cooperative Extension. Are there any other groups that you've been involved with, and what's been the effect on those groups in terms of the whole community, from your point of view?

Ida Thurman: We are part of another organization called the Communication Outreach Committee of Pembroke ____(??). This group is so important to me because it's a collaborative of all that make up the community. Where it's the businesses, the churches, the regular people; everyone can come together and realize that we are all working together for this community, whether we create the farmer's market in our local area, whether we create youth groups—and again, I say 4-H. We brought 4-H into this organization because 4-H is about everyone. It's an opportunity for us to be adult volunteers within this community, and in order for us to get the word out more about this opportunity for young people, we say, "Communication

Outreach Community, would you adopt this program as one of yours?" And we're offering it to our young people in the community. We also get—attempt to get businesses in the community to work together to realize that, you know, the farmer's markets are the first step. So we all work together, and we're promoting this one entity. We're working together to do that, now. With the local crafters and local organizations who want to sell bakeries, whatever, to set up at this farmer's market—that's just our first step. Now, where do we go from here to realize that this is an important part of our economic development and we should all work together to expand them and move forward?

Simmons: And what about state and federal legislation? What effect has that had on your efforts to organize and develop your markets and your local community for economic development? Are you aware of anything like that?

Ida Thurman: I'm just aware that—I know that we are a part of—we go to meetings. And that's the best thing that I could say for anyone. When meetings are held in your area, go to the meetings and see firsthand what's going on, because your input is important. You may have something to bring to the table. There is a Teen Illinois component here—a student committee component. And going to the meetings, we hear a lot of the different things that can happen that are coming to the community. So I just would say that in building economic development or doing anything with the community, attend meetings so that you can learn firsthand what's going on and possibly how you can help build your own community.

Simmons: Now, in terms of legislation, for example, I'm thinking about recently, the Illinois legislature outlaws processing of horses in this state. So people who have horses that they might want to send up into (Cobb??) County for processing, they have no place to do that now. They either have to send them out of state, or they're just stuck with them. Have you had anything like that that you're aware of, any type of legislation that's affected your farm directly, or the way you do business? Or perhaps some health regulations have been instituted?

Ida Thurman: What I can say about that is the poultry processing. In '99, there was a limit on how many poultry you could—chickens you could process on you farm. That number was increased to 5,000, and that was really beneficial for small family farms. Yeah.

Simmons: And then last of all, I'd like to ask you about your ideas about the role of education in agriculture. How—how has education and agriculture helped your family personally, and in general, for people who are involved in agriculture? How important do you think education is?

Ida Thurman: As my husband was saying earlier, by going to different conferences and getting further education at the university that Extension offers, it allows farmers an opportunity to realize what you're doing counts. Lots of them don't realize that we are utilizing those organic practices, but it's everyday life for us. So we don't think anything of it. But when you go to different educational components, you learn that what you do on your farm is important and it is needed. So I think that education is very important.

Simmons: So for young people, would you recommend that they get some type of education, whether through Cooperative Extension or even maybe through the community college, if they're looking at farming?

Ida Thurman: Oh, definitely. Definitely.

Simmons: And how about farm finances? Has that education made you more aware of different ways that you can handle the finances related to your farm business?

Ida Thurman: It's been helpful as well. It sure has.

Simmons: Well, thank you very much, Ida, and I thank your family for having us out for an interview today and looking over your place.

Ida Thurman: Thank you.

(end of interview)