

Mr. and Mrs. Haskins

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Mr. and Mrs. Haskin [Harley and Geraldine]

You were born here right Mr. Haskin?

Mr. Haskin: I was born on a farm between Olathe and Lenexa.

What was it like growing up in Olathe...growing up around Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well as a farm boy we didn't get to Olathe more than about once a week. We'd come in a...my mother would a...drive a...one horse buggy and a...she would...we kids would come in for shopping. And a...there were five of us siblings in our family so we were hanging out all sides of that buggy. And it took us an hour to get to Olathe with a slow horse.

What kinds of things did you do for fun when you were growing up in Olathe?

Mrs. Haskin: Pull cotton weeds you told me. *(She laughs)*

Mr. Haskin: Our farm was just general farming. We had a...livestock, raised crops, wheat and corn, and oats and hay and livestock. Later on my brother specialized and began dairyman. But a...in our early days, why it was just general farming.

When did you come to Olathe Mrs. Haskin?

Mrs. Haskin: In 1934 when we were married. Course I came earlier...well I came to Olathe.

How did you two meet?

Mrs. Haskin: Baker University

So is that where you both attended college?

Mr. & Mrs. Haskin: Yes.

What were you guys studying?

Mr. Haskin: Well, I got a major in economics and journalism and a just a general course.

What did you both do for a living?

Mrs. Haskin: After we were married?

Mr. Haskin: Well I was employed at Patrons Insurance Company. Got that job...this was during the depression. And to have any job at all was a good deal a lot of people didn't have. And a...I started working there the day after I got out of school. And so...it was a small insurance

company that a...provided insurance for the members of the Grange. Did you ever hear of 'The Grange'?

No, can you tell me a little bit about it?

Well 'The Grange' was a farm fraternity organization for farmers to initially to have a social group together and it was a national organization. And there are little groups of farmers around Olathe that had their community, they called them subordinate granges. In order to get their insurance reasonably...well they organized their own insurance company. And Olathe was the home office of that. And that's where I worked.

Mrs. Haskin: We used to have Grange suppers. They met up in the second floor of one of the old buildings it was so musty and the stairs creaked as you went up them. They had really good oyster stew and those Grange meeting...we went to the national Grange meeting, Harley and I did, and it was quite an organization but I think it's almost flattened out hasn't it?

Mr. Haskin: Well the Grange a...had really three really distinct business organization here in Olathe. The real name of the Grange was the Patrons of Husbandry. Patrons Bank and the Grange Store and Patrons Insurance and a...the change of economics and a...mergers and a...the Grange Store burned down. So none of those organizations are active now. But they were really very important to Olathe's economy.

Mrs. Haskin: Carver's Brothers Grocery took over that store and you could telephone for your groceries and they'd bring your groceries and put them on the table and if you weren't there they would put them in the refrigerator. And that was the way to shop. **(They laugh)** And it didn't cost an arm and a leg then either. Course we didn't have much money to pay for them anyway.

You were a teacher, right?

Mrs. Haskin: I had taught music in the Olathe Schools when Harley went overseas in the war. I had the...there were only three schools then, Washington, and Central and Lincoln, which was all Black, and junior high. And a...course it was during rationing gasoline, so I walked from place to place. And a...the Lincoln School was up here right now where that a there is a church there now or a community building. And as I walked the kids...those kids just loved music and as I walked under the viaducts they'd come running to me. Now I have movies of them come running to me. They wanted to stay in from recess for music. A lot of them did end up being national musicians, but I really enjoyed those kids. And then the Washington School and Central School and then in the junior high we gave operettas and things like that. And a...I had one student in junior high that was always kind of a troublemaker. Amelia Shears was the principal and she told me that he couldn't be in the operetta and I knew that he had a lot of talent and

maybe that would be something that he could really do. And so I told her that I would go out on a limb if she'd let him be in it, and she did. And a...at intermission some kids set off some firecrackers out in the back and she said if he hadn't been on the stage I would have accused him. But a...I think sometimes if you have faith in a kid and believe in them and he did go on to graduate with honors and so forth. I always felt that was a...one of the things I accomplished in music whether I taught them to sing or not. I didn't really have...I didn't have a music major but I had education and I really taught them how to love music I think more than I did...and just to sing and have fun.

You mentioned that...you went off to WWII...

Mr. Haskin: Correct.

Can you tell us a little bit about what Olathe was like during that time? Like what it looked like and kind of what people did?

Mrs. Haskin: Well of course, the men were mostly gone a lot and that's when the women started doing a lot of the men's jobs. And we had a house that we rented to a naval officer, you know the Navy Air Station was here so we rented our house to a Navy officer. And I roomed with a Mr. John Lyons and his two maiden daughters: Ardena and Mabel. And a...they were sort of pillars of Olathe at that time. She worked in the bank and a...I a...he dressed up like Santa Claus one time to take a...popcorn to the kids at Lincoln School. And a...he dressed all up...and we made 500 popcorn balls. Course there were only 500 students at that time in all the schools and junior high. So he came with his sack of popcorn balls dressed up like Santa Claus and I think they really thought I had an "in" with Santa Claus. **(They laugh)**

What did Olathe look like when you came back from...well where were you stationed?

Mr. Haskin: It looked awful good to me. **(He laughs)**

Mrs. Haskin: Me too! **(They laugh)**

Mr. Haskin: Well I was stationed in a...I wasn't really stationed anywhere...I mean after basic training you went overseas in Europe and a...then France...and Germany...after the war Czechoslovakia. But a...I came back to the same job that I had before I went to the war which was the...a...managing this insurance company.

If you want to go back a little earlier some memories I have...I told you about the coming to town in a buggy and a...we'd tie up our horse at the railing there on the east side of the square...the old...old red brick courthouse. Water the horse at the watering place the city provided on the northeast corner of the square. Then our family would go into the Grange Store which occupied the middle third of that block east of the courtyard. And a...actually the

Grange Store was kind of the forerunner of a...of the...Wal-Mart type store. Buy anything when you'd go to the Grange Store, they had a hardware section, grocery section, and a dry goods section. And in those days the Santa Fe Railroad divided the town, as is...course it's the same location the BNSF is now. In those days, a...most of the traffic, which was mostly horse drawn traffic crossed at Park Street and that was the only crossing that was justified a watchman there were no a...

Mrs. Haskin: bells and bars

Mr. Haskin: electric bars or gates. The guy by the name of Jack Crane when a steam engine bring a train through either a freight or a passenger why he'd go out and hold up his stop sign to stop the horses and buggies and an occasional automobile in those days. But a...that sort of divided the town. The town was a little cluster of businesses on Park and Cherry Streets and on a...a...Chestnut and a...the corner there where...corner of a...Cherry and Park Street was what I called...a...Olathe's Wall Street. Banks on three corners there at that time; First National Bank, Patron's Bank, my dad was president of Patrons Bank so that was the place I stopped. Strang car came down the hill and run down Park Street and all the kids from Lenexa and that area would come to high school on the a...ride the Strang Line.

They rode the train car in to come to school?

Mr. Haskin: That was the way most kids got to school. It would cost eight cents to ride the Strang car from Lackman to Olathe.

Mrs. Haskin: And the doctor...their doctor was...a...I guess he was on horse and buggy, Dr. Jones he would come out to the farm in his horse and buggy and a...they told one time about a...the horse...he went to sleep and the horse stopped for the train to cross the track. They would go out to the farm and do house calls which course they don't do any more in his horse and buggy. But they lived to be...well three of them lived to be 90 and his sister lived to be almost 100 so they must have had pretty good doctors. **(They laugh)** Even if he rode in a horse and buggy.

Mr. Haskin: Speaking of Dr. Jones, he was a surgeon and a general practioner. In those days there was no hospital here of course so everybody that really got sick had to go to a hospital in Kansas City. And that meant that a doctor would have to drive, by that time they had an automobiles, of course. But he would drive into the city and it made it very difficult for a family of people who were ill to visit their loved ones in the hospital. So a...when the new hospital was finally built the...a...surgical part of the hospital was dedicated to Dr. Jones who died about the time the hospital opened.

When, which hospital is this?

Mr. Haskin: Well the Olathe Community Hospital which was the forerunner of the present Olathe Medical Center.

Can you tell us where it was located?

Well it was located at the corner Cooper and Santa Fe Streets. And it's had three locations. In the '60's it out grew that location and moved to a...out a...east a...of I-35 there where the...a...where the...a...Air Control Tower is. And then when they out grew that they moved to their present location on 151st Street.

Where in Olathe did you guys live when a like around the 40's and 50's that time?

Mrs. Haskin: On the end of Chestnut Street. Well Chestnut Street...Chestnut Street it didn't even have paved roads. It was a dirt road. And a...it was clear out to the end of Chestnut Street. And a...when we were first married we lived on Water Street which was right next to Governor's Hodges; it's a big house there now and its still there and our little house is still there. And then we moved...we built a place out on...well we rebuilt his grandparents home out on the south edge of Chestnut. And a...rebuilt it...and then we moved from there into what's still there brick house on Cedar Street.

Do you remember along Park Street, I believe, was there a couple of theaters, there was at least one theater...like movie theaters? Was that right? It was along Park Street?

Mrs. Haskin: We went to the Saturday night...we went to the ten cent show every Saturday night and they were really good shows. And one time it had a small fire somebody put a cigarette in the wastebasket and the theater was closed down. **(They laugh)** But those were ten cent shows that was our Saturday nights at the theater.

Mr. Haskin: Later on there was a theater on Cherry Street across from the courthouse The Andrews Theater. But it was just a...just a...place for cheap movies. We went there...she said we went there...to the show frequently.

How many shows did you get to see for ten cents? Did they show two?

Mr. Haskin: No, we'd just go to one show that was a big deal. To go to one show...they didn't have a...they just had one screen so you didn't have any choice on movies.

Mrs. Haskin: And everybody did their love making standing up in those days. **(They laugh)** They were kind of clean movies.

Mr. Haskin: Well prior to the movie theaters the chief cultural opportunity was when the Chautauqua came to town. Chautauqua was a big tent location. It was a summer...it would be here about a week and then move somewhere else. And it had a...pretty high class entertainment. They'd bring in some good singers and I don't know if they ever had any opera, but it was a...Olathe's cultural opportunity.

Mrs. Haskin: We had opera in Topeka. Course when I lived in Holton we would go to Topeka for our shopping and concerts and things like that...like we go to Kansas City now. And a...you wouldn't even know their names; (inaudible) Kirsch, Schumann-Heink and Ken McCormick, I mean, they were well known opera stars, and we did hear them in Topeka.

Where did they do the Chautauqua here in Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well it was in the southwest part of town, which then...course the town didn't occupy much space in those days.

Mrs. Haskin: Well it was just a pasture.

Mr. Haskin: It was a big field out there out...southwest part of town.

Mrs. Haskin: A...we were talking about the streets. The cobblestone streets I think they preserved a little bit of that out there for memory.

Mr. Haskin: Brick street

Mrs. Haskin: Brick...brick streets. And a...Harley was president of the Chamber of Commerce at that time and he had a...his secretaries form a quartet and they went around all over the town singing this song. A...to the tune of *Casey would waltz with a strawberry blond*.

Mr. Haskin: Well I think you were guilty of being the composer of it.

Mrs. Haskin: Oh yes, I was the composer. It was something like a...I don't even remember the...

Mrs. Haskin: Promoting a bond issue to pay for canalizing the old brick streets which were so rough that a really it was a discouragement for anybody to drive through town if they could detour around it.

Mrs. Haskin: We think our town is the best to be found
 But they are passing us by
 We ask them to stop but they still go around
 And I'll tell you why, our streets are atrocious
 It's simply ferocious
 That's why we say with a sigh

No streets, no bonds, no streets, no streets no town
Let's not let her die.

(They all laugh together and clap)

Mrs. Haskin: We should have a new quartet sing that for the centennial. ***(They all laugh)***

Mr. Haskin: I don't think...I think only one of the quartet is surviving she might have to sign a solo if she could hobble up here. ***(Mrs. Haskin laughs)***

Mrs. Haskin: Well I could hobble up there and just quote it. ***(Everyone laughs)***

I know you have had several occupations, what were some of your other occupations in Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: You mean that I was involved in? I was just...well after the war I came back to Patrons Insurance and a...I had gone to law school and a...had been admitted to the bar but I hadn't practiced law. And a...I remember the day that Judge Rovers and Dr. Stewart, who were big shot Republicans at that time, came into my office at Patrons Insurance and asked me if I would run for Probate Judge. So I did that and I was elected so that was the end of my working for Patrons but although, I remained on the board actually for 60 some years. ***(He laughs)*** But, a...but that's a...speaking of occupations being a probate judge for six years was a...my second occupation I guess you'd say. And then...then I didn't run for another term and started practicing law and had my own law firm. So that's the extent of my different occupations.

Mrs. Haskin: Our son, Mike, is the sole...he still in the law firm and is a...the firm he started years ago. I started to say that his law background helped him in the service too because he finally became Master Sergeant of Intelligence and so they didn't have to...they were in headquarters. We went back there one time to where he was stationed and they had the Germans bottled up at ***(she says the name of the town)*** and that was there job to keep them bottled up there. But a...I think that his law background did help him get into the intelligence and be Master Sergeant.

Mr. Haskin: I got into the intelligence because I could type. It wasn't anything intelligent about it. ***(They laugh)***

Mrs. Haskin: He will run himself down all the time so pay no attention. ***(They all laugh)***

Where was your law firm located in Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well various places. My first office was briefly in the First National Bank because I was waiting for a...the...building which was the green building at the corner of Cherry and Kansas...corner of a...Kansas and a...Park. There was a drug store there and they were the second, the upstairs of that building was being remodeled for Patrons Insurance to move in there and I had an office in that building. Then later on we moved into the Patrons Bank building which is now the Olathe City Hall and that was our office for a number of years; actually until just before I retired.

During like the 60's, 70's and 80's through that kind of time period, what were some of the major changes in Olathe that you saw?

Mr. Haskin: I'm not very good on dates so a...

Mrs. Haskin: We built the hospital. We built the library. The library was just a little...well it wasn't much bigger than this room really. A...and then we...a...built a library and then the...churches all we just...Methodist Church just a brick building which is now the parking lot there. But we built a church...Presbyterian's built a church...the Christian Church...so there were churches built. And there were a...the hospital, the library...everything was pretty well dated during those years. The hospital had a fund drive, which you might like to tell about that...you know more about that than I do.

Mr. Haskin: Well with no hospital in Olathe with the distance it traveling it was important for us to have a hospital. Hospital really...first a...first thing about a hospital was a farmer by the name of a...a...Mr. Moore. I can't even think of his first name, who lived in Lenexa left in his will that his farm should be sold and the proceeds given to the city of Olathe to establish a hospital. Farm sold for \$17,000 and that money was just kept and nothing done with it. Finally they bought an old house on east Loula and a thought it would be a...used for a healthcare. That didn't amount to much. An organization of the nurses got interested in having a hospital here and they were very active and very enthusiastic about promoting a hospital. And a...Dr. Jones, who we mentioned had a nurse with a name of Margaret Deshler. She and Doris Lane another nurse who is still living here in Olathe a...canvassed the town and very enthusiastically promoted a hospital. And an American Legion got behind the idea of hospital...Morris Hubbard introduced a resolution the Legion should support building a hospital. We had a board and incorporated for the hospital but nothing much happened until a...I think it was in early 50's a...after several failures for anything to get done. The nurses again revived the idea of a hospital and a...and a...had to...rummage sales and people...had lemonade stands everything from kids

doing that to my brothers and their wives who were farmers brought in 30 dozen eggs at one time. Everything that the community could do in the way of raising funds they did and finally raised about \$175,000. Our goal was \$225,000 which we had to have to start a hospital.

Mrs. Haskin: We have a picture of Harley on a ladder with a thermometer just about to the top. He got together...there was the city hotel here, it was a hotel where he invited the people...as he said the town was divided: the banks, Republicans and Democrats, banks, newspapers, everything. So both factions were invited to that dinner and neither one of them wanted...well it was sort of...pledging to the hospital and that was kind of the beginning then of a big drive to get both factions of town united and they were united then in building the hospital.

What other changes have you seen in Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well I think one of the important changes is that a...instead of having a downtown section which was the whole town why we have these shopping centers all around and big stores like Wal Mart, the grocery stores and everything was concentrated in this one little group of stores around the courthouse in those earlier days.

Mrs. Haskin: When our kids were in school here a...Custer's Hamburger joint was the social gathering place and they worked there and then you've probably heard the big excitement was to drag the "Fe" race the cars up and down Santa Fe. And a...that was...

Where was Custer's located?

Mrs. Haskin: It's about where...on Santa Fe...about three or four, it wasn't too far east of main downtown. And the kids got jobs there and our daughter was a car hop but that was just kind of the gathering place for the kids and the big excitement was to drag the "Fe". I expect you've heard about that.

But a...I don't think there weren't the problems...course when we were in school there were no drug or alcohol problems maybe we had one kid...the straight kids were the popular kids. And then even when our kids were in school I think you kids today have a lot more problems with a...it's not your fault really a lot of it. But you are good kids I want you to know we think...you kids right here are going to be the ones that carry on this to make this a good town. Got a lot of faith kids like you and teachers like we have today. There are still good people around.

Can you tell us a little bit about Urban Renewal and how that changed Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well I know it was not popular. What they did really didn't improve downtown very much.

Mrs. Haskin: They tore down things that really didn't need to be torn down.

Mr. Haskin: They had a fountain at the corner of Cherry and Park Street and it was a disaster. Usually somebody put some colored dye in the water or soap suds or something like that. The west side of the courthouse square was completely changed by Urban Renewal except for City Hall which was there on the corner where the jail is now. And I don't remember anything about the details of the financing of it but I know it was a government program that a...I expected...I expect the reason I thought it wasn't popular was I was a Republican and it was introduced by some Democratic Administration. **(They laugh)**

Mrs. Haskin: We had a...I think the women were the ones that sort of started the culture we had a lot of study clubs. There was ladies reading circle and they celebrated their 100th anniversary about four or five years ago I guess. And we put on quite a drama of the reenacted when the Mahaffie's and people who were the founders of...when women really weren't seen or heard much of and then there was the (unintelligible) club, and culture class, and kappa upsilon, and (unintelligible) I think. And these clubs really did do a lot of cultural things and brought a little culture into the town I think. And there was a lot of society among the women in those days. They would have bridge parties and they would put them on at the city hotel...a luncheon and everybody tried to outdo the other one at the parties and they'd have prizes and everything. Then they'd be obligated and this group would have another party. And so that was kind of the starting of the social life. **(She laughs)**

I am really intrigued by the Republican/Democrat division. It was really quite extreme.

Mrs. Haskin: It was, but it was...I think the hospital...the drive for the hospital is what is really brought them together.

Was the Republican/Democrat was it just like emotional like you would have two Democrats/Republicans be neighbors and they wouldn't get along or was the split geographically?

Mr. Haskin: John Breyfogle Sr. was the big influence in the Republican Party. He was a...although he lived in Olathe his business opportunities were all around Overland Park.

Overland Park wasn't even incorporated as a city at that time. In the Breyfogle camp my dad was a Republican and he was a member of this group and he was president of the Patrons Bank. A...the Democrats were headed by the Hodge's Brothers, a...George Hodges who had been governor and Frank Hodges and their business primarily was lumber, they had a lumber yards scattered over all the little towns in Johnson County. And they were very well to do. They had the First National Bank and John Breyfogle had the Patrons Bank. The...a...Olathe Mirror was the Republican Newspaper and the Olathe Democrat was obviously the Democratic paper. Even the lumber yard, the Hodge's Lumber Yard, there was a Lanter Lumber Company that a... (*Republican*) was the other side of the picture.

But a...it was pretty bitter sometimes. This is during the depression years, the banks...there were banks closing all over the county and I remember my dad went through hell in that period because to keep the bank open. He sacrificed actually his own fortune and his health...in and the Patrons Bank did survive. But a there was always the feeling that the Hodge's were trying to take over that bank and a...I am sure the Hodge's felt the same way about the way a...Breyfogle group was operating. A...but some how or another I was a...kind of a neutral position and that's why they a...I think that's why they ask me to head this final hospital drive. So we got the banks together each bank gave \$5,000 to head this final financial drive. And it got to be kind of a competitive thing between the different businesses. Everyone want to be seen and heard. And some people were a little bit more vocal than they were fiscal. Some them didn't come through with pledges, but a...that was a problem. But there was a very definite change of...change of attitude in Olathe when the hospital was built here.

What would you say has been the most significant change in Olathe that you guys have lived through?

Mr. Haskin: Well...I don't know how to characterize that a...it has ceased to be a community of...well its relationship to the farming community I'd say is the biggest change. It's a natural development as Olathe has expanded in population and area with farming economy around here has dwindled so there are relatively few farmers in the area and at the same time farming has changed because of mechanization. Farmers have to have more land, so there are fewer farmers and bigger farms, but I think Olathe has become a...well, it's become a city where as it was a hometown.

Mrs. Haskin: I think the schools have had a lot to do with the growth. I think the excellence in Olathe Schools has really brought people here. A lot of people have come to Olathe because of our school system. And I think the people of Olathe have been very loyal on bond issues, I mean its amazing how they voted these bonds carried time and time again. And I think the people

realize that somebody a...sacrificed to make schools for our kids. And even though we don't have kids in school, we still owe it to the kids that are in school now to have good schools because if we have good education...good schools are going to have less crime. And I think our school system here are very well known and I know...personally I know a lot of people who moved here to the Olathe community just have their kids in Olathe Schools. So I think that's been one of the major things that's happened. And you all have helped make this happen and I think you can be really proud of our schools and our library too. I mean from the one little one room library to the fine libraries we have.

Mr. Haskin: It's not just that the individual families that wanted to come to where there are good schools a lot of the corporate locations have come here because of the schools; they know that their employees will be looking for a good school systems.

Mrs. Haskin: I think the Delco Battery, of course the college has brought a lot of people and culture and has improved our community a lot. The Nazarene College...

Mr. Haskin: University now.

Mrs. Haskin: Oh yeah, University now. I sing in this inter-generational choir where we were with Olathe East first and then with the Nazarene College and associated with those kids even traveled to Europe and had toured Europe. Associating with these kids in the high school and in the college I just feel good about our young people and a...about Olathe, its location. We are far enough from the city we still have all the privileges of the city. We can go to the ball games and the big concerts we have all the advantages of the city but yet we are just far enough away that we can have own little big town now it was a little one.

Is there anything you guys would like to talk about that we haven't covered yet?

Mrs. Haskin: I think we are running out of steam. I think we ought to quit.

Could I ask, did you all go into your life as a child on the farm? Did you talk about that? I mean I would be interested if you could tell us, if you want to, what was it like growing up on a farm as little boy? What did you do? How did you get to school? What kind of chores did you have to do?

Mr. Haskin: Ok, we lived on Lackman Road at about 107th Street. We lived on a dirt road and in fact there will no paved roads in the rural areas around here. We walked to school the preverbal mile. I go back, my grand dad came out here in 1865 and settled at that location and a...he acquired quite a little land and this is where the JC Penney warehouse is now located. That is where we lived...that is where our home place. Ok, we'd walk from Lackman over to

Mount Zion Country School which had about a...anywhere from a dozen to twenty kids in it from the surrounding farms. And a...course it had all the grades...all the elementary grades from a...no kindergarten but first grade to through eighth grade. And a...taught by one teacher usually a girl out of...just out of high school. And a...her salary would be what? A...I would say probably, maybe \$50 a month...a...I don't think it would be \$50 a month. She would drive her horse...I don't think we ever had a teacher in my time rode a horseback but she'd drive a horse and rig of some sort.

And our school was the same school building that my dad had gone to a generation before and it was a building that was 30 x 20 feet in size and a...it had a...school desks in rows. My desk had a...Mississippi River carved in it by some kid that had had a sharp pocket knife and a...river and tributaries pretty good geography lesson. *(They laugh)* There was a break in the wainscoting where my dad had been a...had been a...tossed some disciplinary procedure and his boot had hit this wainscoting and broken a hole in it. *(They laugh)* We had a...one stove of course we'd gather around when it got real cold. A...the teacher would have a...different classes come up front and sit in the front seats to recite and the rest of us supposed to be a...studying our own lessons. But, a...I am still a promoter for that type of education. I think it was pretty good deal. I could sit and there when I was a third grader and hear the eighth graders go through their lessons and I picked up a little knowledge that way I think.

Recess was...recess and noon hour were the most important part of the school...we'd go out and play different games "Andy Over", throw a ball of some sort over the school building and half the student body on each side of the school. When the ball came down we'd grab the ball and run around and try and catch the kids on the other side of the school. Played baseball...had only one ball and I remember a...when our ball came apart and the string started coming out through the cover but a...when I see a...the athletics events now with a...with unnumbered basketballs, footballs available I remember the days we were lucky if we had one good ball.

Mrs. Haskin: I don't think we want to go back to those days but I think they were a good foundation.

Mr. Haskin: No, we've sacrificed some days to a...to regain others. A...I don't know whether I have answered any of your questions...

You said your grandfather came here in 1865, did you know him? Was he alive while...?

Mr. Haskin: He was, but I was four years old when he died. My grandmother lived several years after that

Where did they come from?

Mr. Haskin: From a...from Indiana, he was a school teacher in Indiana. And a...he and my...my grandmother was ten years younger than he, and they...he was her teacher at one point. And a...then they both went to well, Valparaiso College in Indiana before they...he came out here and established a home and built a log cabin, well he didn't built it, he bought it from an Indian. And moved it all the place and that's where he brought his bride three years after he started here. And a...he raised a family of three children there in a one room cabin and sent them all to school, all of them to college; my dad, and his brother, my uncle (after whom I was named) both went to law school, and a...they were bankers, not lawyers. We could tell lots of stories.

We would listen to any you'd want to tell.

What would you envision for the future of Olathe?

Mr. Haskin: Well, I remember when Chauncey Little, who was one of the early lawyers here, made the outlandish prediction that someday there would be houses all the way between Kansas City and Olathe. And that's about happened, I have no idea what could happen in the next 50 years.

Mrs. Haskin: Maybe you will go to mars. I'll put a little plug in here, our nephew, Larry Haskin died when he was just 70 years old. But he worked for NASA and he was working on the rover that is to go to Mars in 2007, so NASA and Washington University, where he was a teacher, has named a ridge on Mars, "Haskin Ridge". So maybe you all can go to Mars and walk on Haskin Ridge. There is a Haskin Street in Lenexa, so we've gone from little horse drawn Lenexa to Mars. So if we've made that much difference by...who knows what you all will be doing. You probably will be going to Mars.

Mr. Haskin: Well, I hope the future holds some kind of a...rail service to downtown Kansas City from Olathe...

Mrs. Haskin: They'll have to with gasoline...

Mr. Haskin: And obviously I-35 is getting too congested, and so that's one change that I hope will occur. I have no idea what other...

Thank you for sharing your stories with us, can we get a group photo?