

## **Robert R. Manning**

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## Robert R. Manning

**Could you please tell us your name and spell it?**

Robert R. Manning (*he spells it out*)

**How long have you lived in Olathe?**

80 years

**And why did you move here?**

Cause I didn't have any choice. My dad brought me.

**And why did he do that?**

My dad became the court reporter for Johnson County and so he had a job here. We moved here.

**Where did you move from?**

Oh...I was born in Clearlake, Iowa and then we went to New York City, and then we came back to Kansas City, and then out to Jetmore, Kansas and then here. (*He laughs*)

**And what was it like growing up?**

Growing up? It was just wonderful. A...I lived on west Park Street right by the creek. And a...there weren't very many kids in my neighborhood, but I could go all over town clear up to the east end to Frisco tracks. And any place in town. And a...I'd go home for lunch. Sometimes I didn't go home for lunch, so I'd call my mother and say too far away. But my point is that we had liberty to go anywhere we wanted to without any...no troubles.

**How old were you?**

Well I started here at seven in the second grade. And a...I lived on west Park until I was 11. And then I moved into the country.

**What school did you go to?**

I went to Central School. At a...they had two...three...three grade schools. Had Central, Washington, out there where Dillon's is and a...Lincoln. And Lincoln was an all-Black school. And a... (*He starts to cry*)...That was bad. A... (*His voice breaks up*)....we finally tore that school down. (*He continues to cry and his voice breaks up*) It was so sad to separate them, black kids

from the whites... *(His voice breaks again)*...they didn't have any choice...sorry. *(He sobs and covers his face with his hands)*.

**Did you have racism?**

No we didn't have racism at all. As they used to say, "The Blacks, the Negroes kept their place". In other words, they had the whole north end of town was Black. And the rest of the town was...three fourths of it was White. And I went through the Black district right by the grade school every day to it to our house when I got a little older. And a...gosh, I'd stop and play football with the Black kids...we mixed...didn't make any difference. They wouldn't let them go to school with us. *(He starts to break down and cry again)*

**Where did you live in the country when you moved?**

Well a...on Spruce Street the end of Spruce Street and 7 Highway. There's a light there. And the city has shops up above...well our house is where the shops are and it burned. A... *(He laughs)* some kids were driving around the town the countryside shooting Roman Candles at the houses and they apparently...we must have had leaves in a guttering or something and ignited our house. They came out...we were out of the city limits and still the fire department came out and they used their...we had a well and a cistern and they had water in a tank and they used it all and put the fire out. The fire chief and my mother and dad and somebody else was sitting out on the side I think they were drinking a cold one tell you the truth. And a...they...a...my mother... *(He starts to cry)*...suddenly realized the house was on fire again and they couldn't stop it. It burnt clear to the ground.

**What year was that?**

1940

**How old were you at the time?**

Twenty. I was working for Red Path Harvester Company here in Olathe during the summer. And a...there were two or three other men...three men...I was just a kid working and I made \$12.38 a week. *(He laughs)* And a...three guys had families and they must have gotten more than 15 bucks a week.

**Was that a lot of money back then?**

Well it was enough to feed...feed yourself, cloth yourself this was the heart of the depression, or close to it.

**What did you do...you said Harvesters...?**

I took typing and shorthand in high school and so I worked for this Harvester Company. It was small, very small. And I did his book work and did his typing and stuff for him. And then I worked in the shop too. Big money. *(He laughs)* But you know everything was cheaper then too. I want to tell you something how cheap things are you guys are young enough today and all.

My first date with Katie, I walked from the farm to her house down on South Water Street and picked her up, took her up to the picture show—is what we called them *(he laughs and says)* the picture show was 10 cents apiece. After the show, we walked across to the soda shop and had a nickel coke a piece. I had a 30 cent date. Great date! *(He laughs)* Give some idea what things costs then. Everything was cheap. I want to tell you something about you girls too. A...did you ever hear of sack cloth? Sack cloth during the depression was used in flour and sugar sacks and stuff and some of the mothers would take those sacks and take them apart make dresses out of them. And then dye the cloth to where it wasn't white. And you could tell the girls had sack cloth clothing. Very poor. *(He holds back tears)*

**Did the depression hit very hard in Olathe?**

Yea, pretty much everywhere. When you graduated from Olathe High School almost everybody left. Went somewhere else to get a job...a...mostly California and Arizona. There weren't any jobs here.

**So was it mostly a farming community then?**

I'd say so. They a...when I was a kid a...the square where the courthouse now was an old courthouse built there single. And it was a...on a square and each of the four corners would have two horse tanks with running water in them. And the farmers would come in and water their horses tie them up and do the shopping and so forth and so I say yeah, we were poor...very much a farming community. Very nice community.

**Talk about Harvesters, how long did you work there?**

Oh...I worked weekends and summers and a...probably two to three summers.

**Did you have any other jobs around Olathe?**

Yeah, I had a job all the time. I am trying to think of some jobs I might. I worked for farmers.

**What did you do for farmers?**

Shoveled the cow manure... *(He makes a movement like he is shoveling)* they wouldn't let me run the machinery... *(He laughs)*. That was one job. Just...they didn't pay much. I worked for the township for instance my brother and I, building...rebuilding a bridge that had washed out. And we got \$10 a week...worked five days a week, eight hours, two dollars a day. Good...that was good. Cause there were a lot of grown-ups that weren't doing much better. *(He laughs)*

**Could you tell us about your term as Mayor?**

Well we had a three man commission and they were men. Women never ran for office. A...and a...the three men commission would elect one to become the Mayor. Might last for a year, might last for two years. Then they decided we got big; we got to 10,000 and they decided that we needed better representation so they increased the commission to five. And I stayed on but I...they didn't re-elect me Mayor.

**Was the Mayor election just between the little commission or was it the entire town?**

Just the commission. And then they changed that to where it's an elected office.

**What year were you Mayor?**

I think it was '67. Something like there. I forgotten that date. What else?

**What did you do for fun in high school?**

*(He laughs)*...Well I played all sports. And a...we could go to Paola for swimming, we could go to Bonner Springs for swimming, and a...we played lots of sports...summer sports. Winter we did some skiing with barrel staves which we made into skis. Up at the...up at the...deaf school they had a nice hill. *(He laughs)*...Ice skated, swam down on what we called Ott's pond. That where most everybody learned to swim, that and Frisco lake.

**Where is Ott's Pond?**

And a...Ott's Pond...you go...it was on...between Loula Street and Cedar Street a...there is still a creek going through there...a drainage creek. And they damned it up and there was a mill there and they used that water to propel the machinery in the mill. But they allowed us to swim in there. That's where I learned to swim. Awful muddy. *(He laughs)*

**Did you ever go dancing?**

A...we...yes. My dad and mother both were in the music business until he became a court reporter. And a...he was a...they had a...they played dances Saturdays and Wednesdays and

a...they'd take my brother and me. So we were raised in dance halls. They had one out on...on...Bennett's on...on Santa Fe Street extended west. There's the foundation still out there. That was a great...great one. A...Paola, again...had a...had a...beautiful place, park, and Bonner Springs had theirs in a big park. And we would go to dances Fridays, Saturdays and Sundays. I was allowed to go with my big brother when I was probably 12, 13, 14 years old. My folks were used to being around that atmosphere, and my brother took care of me. **(He laughs and then tears up)**

**What did your dad do in the music business before he became a court reporter, where did he get work or where did he work?**

Well he started out as a...he was just an outstanding all around musician. He could play any instrument including a violin with the left hand. But, and so he did that...he would...he went through the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and that's as far as he went. He went back...he fell in love a girl that was back in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and he went back and took it again. You could do that...**(he laughs)** so he would run away from home at Carthage, Missouri and joined the circus oh...carnivals, travel around until he went broke and homesick and he'd call my dad...my grandpa and he'd get on the train and go get him and bring him back home. **(He laughs)** Spoiled him rotten. But so then he went in the Spanish American War he played trumpet in the Kansas...some kind of National Guard Organization that had a band. And they went to the Philippines. He was in the Philippines in the Army two years before he was old enough to join.

**How did he get in if he wasn't old enough to join?**

Well they didn't have...you sign up you can go. He didn't have to have a birth certificate or anything like that. **(He laughs)** Life was much more simple than it is now. Everything has to be done in paper...organized. **(He laughs)** But a...so my dad he a...contracted malaria in the Philippines during the war and a...he a...the cure for malaria was to go north and freeze it out. Only thing they knew about so he went to Clearlake, Iowa which is what...250 miles north of here. 100 miles north of Des Moines and its colder, and he was in the town band every town of any...of any decency including Olathe had a town band. And they played usually on Thursday night in the square or in an auditorium and they played Sundays. And a...my dad became in charge of the Clearlake band.

And a... **(He laughs)** he a...did you notice that Olathe East put on the Music Man this year? Ok, what was the name of the guy wrote that? Meredith Wilson...Meredith Wilson was Mason City, Iowa is eight miles east of Clearlake, Iowa when my dad was there. And a...where I was born and so...they interviewed Meredith Wilson after Music Man was made and asked him a couple...who...who...were the two most influential people in your life and he said my second

grade teacher and little Jimmy Manning. Which was my dad, who gave me... **(He starts to cry and says)**...my first job in the music business.

**That has to be something that makes you very proud that your father helped make that big of a difference?**

Yeah. Well he...that is how he met my mother. He needed a pianist in his band **(he laughs)** they played dances too see. He needed a pianist and she could play the piano. One thing led to another and two sons came out of that union.

**How did you meet your wife?**

We used to have a traveling...roller skating rink. They would put up a tent there on Kansas City Road and a...they a...they had hard wood floors were beautiful. And they played a lot of waltzes. And a...usually you get a partner and skate to the waltz. The boy skate all around the girl show off and everything. And I saw Katie up there with four or five girls and I just went over and asked her if she would skate with me. And we skated four or five times that night a...and a...three nights later I called her and asked her if she wanted to go to the picture show. **(He laughs)**

**How old were you at the time?**

Oh...I must have been...well I was a freshman in college. Just going into college.

**Where was your college at?**

Rockhurst College in Kansas City. I was a...I got a basketball scholarship to go there. When they had a good ball club. Katie went to Washburn. And a...we split up and a...after a couple of years. And a...my dad was crazy about Katie and he wasn't too crazy about the life I was living, running around raising hell. So he said to me... **(He laughs)** Bob would you go up to Topeka with me tomorrow and I said sure. I didn't have anything to do. We got up there to the main drag in Topeka and he said now see that green building over there he says I'll be there all day long and you pick me up at 5:00. He said why don't you take the car and go out and see Katie? **(He starts to cry trying to tell the rest of the story)**... And so I did and a...I stopped at her sorority house and who in the heck answered the door? The only person in the house was Katie. She answered the door. **(He starts to cry)**...So we a...we hung around at Gage Park and had lunch and spent the day and I went back at 5:00 and picked up my dad and he didn't have a single thing to do all day. **(He laughs)** He just wanted me **(he tears up)** to get back with Katie. That was his way of doing it. It worked. Then I went into the war right away after that...pretty close to it.

### **What did you do in the war?**

Little as possible. *(People in the back ground laugh)* Mostly...I was a sailor. I went in...I was on a battle ship. On convoy duty England. When...when a...Pearl Harbor was attacked and then...then I was on the Captain's Office. Captain Showman and a...a...sailor came into the office and asked me if I would type him up a recommendation to flight training. So...so I did and I took it back to the Captain and he said you know this sailor and I said no but he's got the qualifications of college and so forth and looks alright. So he signed it. I went back to the office and I said to myself, hell that was easy. So I *(he laughs)* typed myself up a recommendation took it back and Captain said, *(he laughs)* do you know what you are doing and I said, no *(he laughs)* but I want to do better than I am doing now. So he signed it. And we were out to sea for six weeks, I think it was, and I finally got some mail and there was my orders to flight training. And I finished up as a pilot in the Navy. Four years, two months and 11 days in the Navy.

### **So what kind of stuff did you do as a pilot?**

I was mostly an instructor. I had flew a sea plane...single engine sea plane first, and then they made me an instructor of a...of a...instrument flying...flight training. And that's...and then...it '40...'43...let's see...yeah '43 then a...Katie and I got married. Lived down in Corpus Christi the rest of the war. Had one child there.

### **What brought you back to Olathe?**

Oh...I had made a promise to myself if I ever left Olathe *(he laughs)* if I could ever get back to Olathe I would never leave it *(he tears up)*.

### **Why did you make that decision?**

Because I loved it. I loved the town, and all my memories were good about childhood. I couldn't find any fault in it...just I loved Olathe that's...it was a great place to grow up. And a...that's why we moved out here. We sold our place on west Park Street and a...since this is part of Olathe well we moved out here instead of going...we would have never left Park Street if we hadn't.

### **What was it like raising your family here and having your kids grow up in the same town you grew up in?**

Katie, of course, stayed home and we had seven. She stayed home and was there when they came home from school and...I worked. And I worked at a bank for 18 years. It no longer exists now.

**What was the name of the bank?**

Patrons Cooperative Bank. It was a farmer's grange bank.... organized by them. And there was the First National Bank on one corner and Patrons Bank was on the other corner. I worked there 18 years and I did a lot of things on the side. Building houses and a...subdivisions. Finally after 18 years I found out that I was making more money out on the side than I was in the bank. So I just quit went into business by myself.

**You raised your family.....where did you guys live?**

West Park.

**On West Park?**

We did...we were on South Troost there for a little while...a year or two. And a...then we built this house on west Park.

**Is your house still standing?**

Oh yeah, it's quite nice. It's a...it's a...do you know where Troost Street is? Well as you come going north on Troost and you hit Park Street you drive right into our driveway. That's the house.

**What did the house look like?**

It was a three bedroom house. We had a rec room downstairs in which a...I built a couple of rooms...and a...had a bed that would disappear into the wall. Mom and I would pull it out at night and a...the kids slept upstairs. Girls had...we had three girls and they had their own private bath and their own bedroom and the other boys took two at a time. It worked out real good. We had a tennis court and a...big patio in back and we had Sunday tennis matches. Had lots of fun.

**Did you have any worries raising kids in Olathe during that time?**

Nope.

**What schools did your children attend?**

Central...yeah...and then the junior high it was the corner of Water Street and Loula. There's a...I think a shop or something is there a shop...and then that was our high school. And that was their high school.

**What were some of the difference when you grew up compared to when your kids grew up?**

Cars. Running around. Maybe the biggest difference. Soon as they got old enough they wanted to a...have a car or have one of our cars. They were gone all the time. And a...got a little trouble. Mom and I were sitting down in the rec room one night and a...with a couple of the kids and a...the doorbell rang and I went up to the door there was a cop there and he said do you know where your son Tom is? That's Tom of Manning Construction *(he laughs)* and I said yeah, he is downstairs. He says, tell him I don't want to see him...his car on the streets anymore tonight. *(He laughs)* They had come home and a...come around to the back door and came in he and Richard Perrin.

**Did you say Richard Perrin?**

Yeah.

**We interviewed Mr. Joe Perrin.**

Joe Perrin was a...he tried to date my oldest daughter. Joe the judge up in Topeka?

**Yes**

Yeah, nice guy. Real nice guy. He tried to date our daughter, Suzanne, but she didn't want to date him. So she didn't. But we were very close to the parents the whole family. *(He laughs and says you were giggling on that apparently talking to his wife)*

**So he just came home and said ok your son is doing this instead of now days they would get in trouble or get tickets written. The cops around Olathe just knew the families.**

Yeah. Yeah, the whole football team or practically a...somebody discovered a farm house out south east of Olathe. And a...it was vacant and a...had a car in the barn and a...they would go out there and a...get the car and run all over heck...south part of the country and a...what they did in the house I don't know but they were all boys. And a...they a...they caught them and I had to go up to the sheriff's office and a...I told Jim Wheeler was the county attorney and the judge or the sheriff was there and I told Patrick was our oldest boy that was the one...I said Pat you've never lied to me so I want you to lie to these people *(he laughs)* So they said Mr. Manning would mind leaving so I did. And so they interrogated him. That was it. There was no punishment no nothing. Just boys will be boys.

**When did your kids go to high school here? What years?**

Gosh that's kind of tough. Pat's, my oldest boy, is 62.

### **So about 45 years ago?**

45 years ago, mmm huh.

### **Did they all go to Olathe High School?**

Mmm huh. One of them, Tom, went to Rockhurst one year. He and Richard Perrin...drove back and forth. But that was just one year. I think all the rest of them went here. Good school. I mean I am serious...I am sold on Olathe. *(He laughs)*

### **Do you remember anything about Urban Renewal?**

Yeah, a...I was disappointed that they put my name on the plackets on the front of First National Bank as one who was brought Urban Renewal to Olathe. It didn't do any good in Olathe. No appreciable good. I don't know whether it did good anyplace else, but a...there was no obvious results from Urban Renewal. They "jacked" around downtown for a little while trying to do things like a...street lighting maybe or something of that nature, but it didn't...it didn't do...

I tell you what you all know about...you've heard about the depression, The Great Depression, they keep talking about. Well that started in 1929 and a...and a lot of people...historians for a while were giving Roosevelt credit for stopping the...a...the depression but, the depression went on all through the war and it didn't subside you might say until...til after the boys start coming home from the service. A...the government started a...a...program...GI Bill of Rights and a...what that did...they could buy a house a soldier or sailor could buy a house...nothing down a...30 year loan 4% interest. And so they a...that was one of my jobs in the bank and so they...everybody was anxious to get married when they came home a...the girls had written and a...kept in touch with them so *(he laughs)* they wanted to get married as soon as they got home and they did.

Well, where are they going to live? They bought these little houses. I sold 13 houses. I sat on them for two Sundays, I sold 13 houses for between five to six thousand dollars a house. There were no garage, but there were two bedrooms and a...they are out on north Chestnut Street. My point is when you...when these soldiers and sailors would come home and get married and they'd have to have a place to live. They...so people started building houses for them. And when you have a house built what do you need? You need a refrigerator, a stove, furniture...you have to buy all that stuff. And when they started buying all of that then the manufacturers...jobs were plentiful immediately for all everything that goes into a house. And a...to me....I was in the process of making these loans at the bank. And a...far as I am concerned that's when the depression stopped.

**So would you say all the soldiers coming back from the war and everything here in Olathe, do you think that made it grow bigger?**

Mmm huh...yeah. One thing that made Olathe grow was...ever hear of Navy Hill? Well it's up on east Cedar Street. A...there were about a what....maybe 30 maybe 40 duplexes built for to take care of these people out at the Naval Air Station. They were married and they became Olathe citizens. And a...that Naval Air Station did a tremendous amount....

**Do you know why they built that here?**

Yes, because they thought the weather had more flying days than most any other place. And that's probably true. They built it over in Gardner because they got the ground there and it was flat, level. And a...Gardner is right...borders it. But they didn't...the Gardner people were upset for years, because they didn't call it the Gardner Navy Air Station. And the only reason they called it Olathe Naval Air Station is because we had a first class post office and Gardner didn't.

**Is that why a lot of families from the Naval Station lived in Olathe instead of Gardner?**

Gardner...Gardner had a stick that they didn't want to grow. They liked what they had. The bank...the Farmers Bank there was not progressive. The people of Gardner I knew most of them they just like it the way it was and they didn't want to grow. *(He laughs)* We built the first apartment complex in Olathe I think. Oh...it's down at the...the...a...what do we call it...oh...down on Harrison Street. Shamrock...Sheridan...Sheridan Village...you know where the Methodist Church used to be...right next to it. No, it wasn't Sheridan Terrace...I think they were the first apartments built as a complex...there was 80 of them there. Are you having trouble finding the name...

**No I used to live on Sheridan Street in a house right down the street from those apartments. I didn't know those were the first apartments.**

I can't think of any others that was ahead of us.

**What do you think is the best thing that happened to Olathe? Can you think of anything in particular?**

Why I would say highway I-35 one of them. That opened up the whole east end...that was all farm land east of I-35. Mur-Len Road, you know where Mur Len Road is well Mur-Len was named after DeMurrell and Helen Crump. They had a 40 acre ranch there that they raised cattle...er...horses and stuff. And that is how it got that name. That was just farm. Well when I-35 opened up we had to have access to the other side and do it while they were building I-35. And that was one thing that really jumped Olathe. A...my years as mayor probably helped...no I was just teasing. *(he laughs)* What else?

**Can you tell us a little more about when you were Mayor and when was it? What were some of the issues while you were in office?**

There weren't enough important issues to talk about. Nothing...as far as I am concerned the four years I was on the commission and Mayor was a...we didn't do anything. We didn't solve any problems...just let things go as they were.

**And when were you in office, how many years on that?**

Sir?

**When were you elected?**

Oh...gosh I wished you hadn't asked that...I think I was Mayor in 1967 but I am not sure.

**Can you tell us a little about the civil rights movement in Olathe during the '60's?**

Yeah, that's why I told you about...glad you brought that up because that's why...a...I think Don Ashlock was the instigator of just...tearing down Lincoln School. I told you it was an all-Black school. Instead of giving...he just said...we are just tearing it down. You people can send your children to any school in Olathe that you want. We're not telling you where you have to go. So they tore it down. *(His voice starts to break up as he tries to talk)* They had their little gymnasium and everything. I used to play basketball down there. It was a nice little school, but it was segregated. So instead of just arguing about it, the powers that be, just tore it down.

**Well how did that affect Olathe?**

Well it didn't affect them...it didn't affect them. That was totally accepted. They just dissimilated and there was no problem. It didn't affect Olathe. If you know what I mean.

**And when did that happen? When did they tear down Lincoln School?**

Gosh, I can't help you on that. I think Don Ashlock said tear it down but I am not sure.

**Do you remember Old Settlers Day celebration?**

Oh man, yes. Man that was so much fun.

**What were some of the things in the past...most of these kids know what we do now...what was it like years and years ago?**

Similarly, except on a small scale. We had band concerts...that's not Old Settlers, but we had band concerts every Thursday in the park. Every Thursday and Sunday. Little kids would race all over the square in the alleys and I did a lot of that myself.

**Did your dad pick the band?**

My dad and a guy by the name of Frank White who was a butcher a...same age in their 50's or 60's. There was a guy by the name of Ott who has a...Ott's boys and girls band. They practice up in the old courthouse. They had the band room up there. And a...my dad and Frank White they asked them to join them when they went on their parades and stuff. And here's 50 and 60 year old guys only ones among the young kids. So dad finally got embarrassed about it and quit. **(He laughs)**

**How many kids used to be in that band?**

30 to 40

**Did you have to try out?**

They had...no...no...they...well yeah you...if you couldn't play...you couldn't play. But a...they...they were open to anybody.

**Did they travel around?**

Towns...everybody had something going on that they'd have a parade. And a **(he laughs)** Ott's Boys and Girls Band **(he laughs)** and my dad in his 60's. **(He laughs)**

**What is your favorite part of Olathe?**

Right here. **(He points downward)** This home. Kate and I we're in our 80's well into our 80's and a...we sit out on our deck watch the golfers go by. I had to quit playing golf. **(A bird clock is chiming)** That's a bird clock that is chiming with different birds. **(He laughs)** It'll be over in a minute. That's enough of that. It's just so lovely out here and quite we don't have noise. And a...there's lots of nice places in Olathe. I am just totally 100% sold on Olathe I really am. I don't think you can find a better place to live than Olathe, Kansas.

**What is your hope for the future for Olathe? Do you have anything you would like to see happen?**

I don't like it to get a hell of a lot bigger than it is now. I like it the way it is. I don't want any quarter of a million or a half million people. I think it would be...we'd have big city problems. I don't think we have big city problems now. Talking about the problems that go on over in the eastern part of Kansas City for instance...just constant trouble. We don't have it in Olathe. I don't want a neighborhood to grow up like that.

**Anything else you want to tell us?**

Probably, but I can't remember what it is. *(He laughs)*

**If you were taking your family out to eat where would you have gone to eat in Olathe? Was there a place you could go for a nice dinner?**

Oh, you mean...you mean...a long while ago. We would have had to go to the city, Kansas City to do it. The Golden Ox was in business then. I took a...I took all the kids when they got to be 12 boys and girls too. We'd take them out to dinner at their choice. And a...we went to city...Plaza...food in the Plaza...two or three restaurants. And a...girls loved it.

**Did you go to the city very often before I-35? I mean how often did you go?**

We went often...a lot of times. Let me tell you about...you know where Strang Line is? Strang Line was an inter-urban or a streetcar...that's all it was. And a...they had a couple of them, two or three of them. They would go from the...a...west side of the square....

**Were those places you used to eat?**

No I am just talking about the...a...the...a...Strang Line, Katie. One time...it was operated by local people, drivers. One time we...four of us got on it and went down for New Year's celebration at the auditorium. And a...they said they'd pick us up at 1:15 at a certain corner. And it would go downtown and go around the block and then reverse their track. Well, we weren't on time and this *(he laughs)* this Strang Line driver...he drove three times around the square waiting for us *(he laughs)*. And then he a...we had dates of course and he on the way home he turned the lights off for us *(he laughs)*.

**That's service then!**

Yeah, that's the Strang Line. *(He continues to laugh)* We used to grease the...going up Park Street we would grease the wheels or the tracks and a...watch the *(he laughs)* train try and get up those hills on grease *(he laughs)*. That was a fun deal. Halloween type thing. *(He laughs)* Otherwise we didn't have any fun in Olathe at all *(he laughs)*. You found somebody that really loves this town. Everything about it and I think the government that is running it is doing a bang up job. It's a progressive, a moving town. You've got things here that you can't get anywhere else. It is just something to be proud of. I think there was just a little over three thousand when I first came here.