

Erik Johnson interviewed with
Harold Johnson

me - This is Erik Johnson. I am interviewing Harold Johnson on his well when he went to school and his farm and stuff

me - When were you born?

HJ - I was born August the 6th 1907

me - Where were you born?

HJ - In Greenwood

me - on the farm?

HJ - yah

me - Where did you go to school?

HJ - I went to school in Greenwood through the eighth

grade. Do you want to continue to ask how far?

That school was only about a $\frac{1}{4}$ mile from the farm.

Of course didn't have no problem just about everybody had to walk to that school there was no transportation of any kind until later year.

me - How many rooms were there?

HJ - One

me - How did they heat the school?

HJ - They had eh they started out with a blast stove but then they finally got a bigger heater which wood though always wood.

me - How many teachers were there?

HJ - one

me - How many kids were in your class?

HJ - Well never more than 15.

me - What time did school start? you already answered that what time did school start?

HJ - ah I'll answer that question there I went through the fifth grade in this school and then they closed

HJ - and built a school down near the highway
 ahh which would be U.S. old U.S. 41 and ahh,

I went there in fact they didn't finish the school
 until January so I only went a half a year in sixth grade
 and then the folks decided I ~~wouldn't~~ be going
 into highschool so I went in the sixth grade another
 whole year 6, 7 and 8 grade and I was only one in the class
 so I had to know all the answers (laugh)

me - Was there an outhouse at the school?

HJ - sure There was ahhh couple of them one for the girls
 and one for the boys (laugh) somebody cut a hole in between "

(laugh)

me - How long did your brothers and sisters go to school?

HJ - Well, I think Leaf he probably went through ahh the ahh
 I doubt if he went through the sixth or seventh grade and ahh
 Ggda may have gone through the eighth grade ahh I'm not
 sure. I'm not sure at all

me - Where did you grow up on the farm?

HJ - Yahn I grew ahh well I lived there for thirty years

me - What kind of crops did you grow there?

HJ - Well ahh hay was one of the main crops because
 we had ahh dairy cattle and in order to keep them and the
 horses we had to have alot of hay

me - ~~What~~ kind of animals did you have there?

HJ - Well we had ahh we had Jersey Well the other as far
 as other crops we always raised oats, barley, wheat, we had ahh
 we had our own flower ground with the wheat, and ahh I
 suppose we raised potatoes and sold potatoes and there was
 garden stuff as far as that and thats ahh Thats probably
 the extent of it as far as crops go

me - What kind of animals did you have?

HJ - we had ahh ^{well} too start we had dairy cattle but then we ahh rented Jersey cattle cause they ahh had rich cream and we always made ahh had ahh fresh cream and butter and we also had chickens

me - Did you churn your own butter?

HJ - Yuhh we well first of all we had ahh to spend hours and hours in the day for turning the old barrel chain ahh churn there and ahh there were times when the butter wouldn't crack like they call it it wouldn't break up and form butter

me - Did you make your own cheese?

HJ - ahh we made very little cheese my mother used to make a cheese ahh the only cheese we ever made from the first milk of the cows after they had calved it was ahh soft cheese it was ahh good ~~haven't~~ had it for ages

me - did you use gas lamps for light?

HJ - Well we had kerosine lamps to start with and then we went into gasoline lamps and in 1930 we put in the electricity run electricity up there and after that we had electric lights

me - did you have indoor plumbing?

HJ - yuhh about we put in our plumbing after 1930 I know I put in a bathroom we also had the water for the animals on

me - what kind of transportation did you have?

HJ - well first off it was horse and buggy they used to call it a spring wagon sometimes on horse would be used

me - could you go through

HJ - wait a minute now then in 1916 my father bought a model T Ford it ahh had side curtains on and ahh the ahh my brother bought a Dodge ~~after~~ that

me - could you go through your daily schedule on an ordinary day on the farm?

HJ - as a growing up boy or as an adult

me - as a boy

HJ - well that would be ~~ohh~~ when I went to school of course I didn't do to much but whenever it was a working day like saturday and other days when I was off of school in the winter time you had to clean the barn then wash the cows down and milk them get the milk in and separate it that was also turned by hand to start with and then ahh after that it was well when their were crops growing you had to get out and weed the garden I remember my mother telling me that Gyda and Leif couldn't go to the circus if they didn't get all the weeds dug (laugh) then after that of course well in the winter time it was ahh cut wood pile wood I did plenty of that and ahh ahh whenever we had to go out and pick rocks whenever we were getting ready to plant follow the conveyor pick rocks and put them in a pail and dump them on the field and we had to rake hay and get the crops in when the proper time was it all took up a good part of the day and in the evening again we had go through the same cycle as far as the cows go also ground noon time we had to water the cows we had to carry the water but then we got the water in the barn and it wasn't very far

me - who were your closest neighbors?

HJ - well the closest one was a $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile the others were John Carlson then there was another fellow who lived up the section house Frank Carlton and that was about the closest neighbors we had well up the other way later on the Rushy family that lived there Fred Rushy they had a couple of boys

HJ - otherwise we were pretty much alone in fact I ahh as a boy I had to make my own toys I made a model mine at one time ahh I went out Barnes Hecker and just looked at it then I went home and made it

me - what time did you get up in the morning and go to bed?
HJ - Ohh Gee I was up by seven ready to get out in the fields by nine of course

when radio came out which was back in 1923 then we probably set up a little later cause some nights you didn't get anything till late other times you'd even get it in the day time it was very seldom

me - when did you move out on your own?
HJ - You mean when I left the farm when I got married that was in 1937 also before that I took a course in architectural drafting correspondence cours in architectural drafting I spent one winter in Chicago but I never did get into it a job as a architectural I was lucky that the people I boarded with found me a job I stayed there until spring then I came back again

me - Could you tell me when you started building your sawmill?
HJ - Well it was about five years ago that I started with it

me - How long did it take you?
HJ - I worked a good part of the winter replacing all the timbers and that and then in the spring I poured cement and so forth I'd say as a guess at least six months

me - Where did you get the parts?
HJ - I got the main parts they were laying in the woods north of Neogaunee we had some of the parts my father and the neighbors found some down where the gulf club is know luckily they kept them

me - did you have any help
HJ - The boys helped me