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## Interview with Orene (Meredith) Vincent (MSS 707)

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3/24/12

Transcript of Interview of Orene Vincent

Home of Orene Vincent

LeSieur: Okay, let me get this started. Okay so now we're recording I'm going to sit that down right that. I'm sitting here with Mrs. Orene Vincent. It is 6:45 on April the 2<sup>nd</sup> we're going to talk about Kyrocks, so...

Vincent: Alright.

LeSieur: I'm just kind of looking over my notes here. Okay, so we'll start off with, just tell me, generally, how are you affiliated with Kyrocks?

Vincent: Well, I graduated from high school down there. I went to high school four years at Kyrocks.

LeSieur: Now was that the new school up here?

Vincent: No, it was the old one down and under the hill. We had two schools down there. We had the grade school and the high school.

LeSieur: Okay, now I've heard people refer to that school that you went to as I think you said, down the hill, right?

Vincent: Yeah, it was down and under the hill.

LeSieur: Yeah, another person I interviewed called that school down the hill.

Vincent: Down and under. This one's up here at Sweeden and that one's down and under the hill.

LeSieur: Okay, alright. What year did you graduate from Kyrocks?

Vincent: '48.

LeSieur: '48, okay. Now Matt also told me that you, he said that you weren't a regular member of the church up there, but you did go to services up there?

Vincent: Yeah, it was Methodist.

LeSieur: Tell me about when, when would you go to church there?

Vincent: Well, see they had Methodist church up there twice a week, and the older kids would go up there, see brother Moody and Mrs. Della Logan, she, they got married and he carried a lantern and would go up there and to church and our baccalaureate was the last one that they had there because the church fell down.

LeSieur: Okay, I get ya. Okay, and it fell down then about what, it was in the fifties, am I right?

Vincent: Yeah, it just fell down.

LeSieur: So when did people stop going to church there?

Vincent: Well, when the church, it just fell down and they built a new up to, Kyrocks, up on the hill, they built a new church up there. The old people left. See when they closed the plant down down there everybody had to go to here and there to get them a job, they moved here and they moved there and they sold all of this land here and my husband and his dad bought 365 acres for \$15 and acre. We bought it from Sweeden from here where my house is here right here at this fence row to Lindseyville all but there's a little frontage over here. And they bought the land and Kyrocks moved up after they closed up down there, they moved up to Sweeden here and they would bring the stuff back here backwards and forth and they would haul it all the way to wherever they took it to be unloaded at, Rocky Hill.

LeSieur: You talked about when they moved up here to Sweeden, that was probably in what, fifty, the fifties do you think, the late forties?

Vincent: That was in about '49 I guess, I don't remember exactly, but it was about '49.

LeSieur: Now the plant in Sweeden, was it just right here off the road?

Vincent: Yeah, it was just right here, where the fire dept. is at.

LeSieur: So you all bought this land from Kyrocks, or was it...

Vincent: Yeah, from the asphalt company, yeah, they sold it. And the people that owned it run Kyrocks was from New York. And they worked people for not much money at all down there and they, I think the tax people got after them and they closed it down and went back to New York.

LeSieur: Got ya. Alright, well, lets get back to the church.

Vincent: It was a Methodist church.

LeSieur: Were did you, I'm assuming you went to church regularly somewhere else at the time, right?

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: Where was that?

Vincent: Well, I come to Sweeden. We come to Sweeden because we moved here and we had a business down here, the little white place down here. That's where my husband had and his daddy had a business and we moved down there. And I went to Sweeden. I taught Sunday school there for 25 years, at Sweeden.

LeSieur: So what would have been probably, when would have been the earliest, I mean did you go to the church, I'm talking about, the Kyrock church....

Vincent: No it fell down.

LeSieur: Well no I mean before that, did you go anywhere regularly?

Vincent: No before I went down there, see, that was when we went to school down there. You know and they'd have meetings down there, and we'd all go up there, 'cause we didn't have no place to go and we all went, the girls went, the boys went and that's why we all went.

LeSieur: Okay, I see. So you weren't around when the church was built?

Vincent: No, lord, it was there many a years, it was there when the company was there, years and years ago, because the people that come in here was Methodist and so they built a church and they built the plants and they built houses. That was full of houses all the way around and people lived in the houses. Now, I don't remember that, but my husband did and he lived there. And they had houses down there and they furnished them a place to live of the winter and the summer and they worked of the summer and then of the winter they had a commissary down there and they'd go get their groceries and they charged them. They called it script. And they charged their groceries and they went back to work and they worked and paid them off.

LeSieur: Okay cool. I lost my train of thought, give me just a second here.

Vincent: Well now Suzy wrote a book on, her daddy helped her write a book on it, and its over there in the library on Kyrock.

LeSieur: Yeah, Matt was actually telling me about that.

Vincent: Yeah, see, Truman was raised down there. He's borned and raised down at Kyrock.

LeSieur: Which community was he born in, do you know? Was it Ridgedale or Woodside?

Vincent: I theys, Woodside...

Wood: Its in that paper I gave you.

Vincent: I don't remember. He lived down in the camps, they called it the camps.

LeSieur: Going back to the church, just can you kind of tell me what it looked like.

Vincent: Well it was a little white church and it was built way up on the rock, way up on the rock. And they had steps that was fixed in the rock for you to...and we was the last on that had our baccalaureate there and brother Moody he was the just one that and he'd just almost fallen down and that was the last year and they just let it collapse and it fell down. And everybody went, they come to Sweeden or they went to the Kyrock up on the hill.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: And up on the hill they built a new church up there and they have a church and a graveyard up there. And Suzy was saved over there so we went to, over there to church and we went to Sweeden church and it was, they was thirty minutes in between them and it was time for up here for them to use the bathroom and get em a sandwich and we took her to both churches. (Phone ringing-Wood answers)

LeSieur: So besides just have your graduation ceremony there at the church, did you ever go to any services at the old church? I mean did you ever do any of the Sunday school services there or...

Vincent: No, it was Methodist and I was raised Baptist. (To Wood-Who was that Matt?)

Wood: Uncle Charles.

Vincent: Well, did you tell him I'd call him back?

LeSieur: I also need to say, this is just for the record, Matt Wood is also present, he is Mrs. Vincent's grandson.

Vincent: Yeah, he's my little grandson. Poor little undernourished person.

LeSieur: And Matt has actually interviewed you once and he also interviewed Truman. So I'm gonna need to look into those.

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: About when did you do that Matt, do you remember?

Wood: It would've been my sophomore year of college so it would've been about 2005-6 somewhere in there. Should be on the paper.

LeSieur: Okay, I'm just gonna ask you a few questions about the church again. As far as the staircase goes, I've heard, and you may not know the answer to this, and I've heard from several different people and nobody really remembers how many steps were there, do you ever remember counting the steps?

Vincent: No, no, they...see it was built way up on the hill, up on the hill, I mean up on the hill. And it was a rock there and the steps was a built up in it. Lord, they could've been 10 or they could've been 25, I don't remember.

LeSieur: You just remember a lot of steps?

Vincent: I know that when we graduated it was so rickety and everything it was dangerous but we was determined to have our...

LeSieur: To get up there?

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: Now inside the church, would they have used coal or did they have some sort of fireplace, or, do you remember?

Vincent: They used a stove.

LeSieur: They used a stove, okay, was it just like a coal burning stove, or?

Vincent: Yeah, that's what they used back in those days.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: But they did have electric lights in it. Now see, the old man that is owned Kyrack, the whatever his name was...

LeSieur: Mr. Carmichael?

Vincent: Carmichael, yeah. See he furnished everything. Now at Christmastime, now I don't remember this, but my husband said that they had a santa claus, one of the men that worked there, he was the santa claus and every child went to church and every child got candy and everything, he had fixed them a basket, every kid that was around got candy.

LeSieur: Well that was nice of them. One thing I've noticed there at the church, and this may be something that you may or may not remember, there was a lot of signatures probably around where the staircase was, do you remember any signatures on the rock?

Vincent: Yeah, I remember all as we went to high school know that it was on the rock and it was where the older boys had cut their names in and their initials in the rocks.

LeSieur: Was that something that everybody did or?

Vincent: I don't know that was before my time that was my husbands time, see he was older than I am.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: And they had cut their names in the rocks. Because back them days you had to make your own entertainment. You went to church, everybody gathered, and you went to have a place to go. Its awful to say that but you went to have a place to go.

LeSieur: Yeah.

Vincent: Because you didn't, they wasn't nothing for years til they come up here and built a theater they wasn't no place to go or nothing to do only go to church. And school and church is the only place you had to go.

LeSieur: Yeah, and socialize with people. I know some of these questions might seem kind of silly, but do you know about how many windows were in the church? I mean, there were windows...

Vincent: Yeah, there were windows, but no I don't remember that...

LeSieur: And it was just a one-room building, right?

Vincent: Yeah, it was just a one huge big room. That's all they had back in them days.

LeSieur: Okay. Alright, now here comes the fun part, we're gonna quiz you on your drawing. (Laughter).

Vincent: I can't draw.

LeSieur: Oh, I can't either. But this is something that they like us to do just to kind of get your perspective on what things looked like. So I'm gonna hand you this piece of paper and if you can just kind of draw, pretend like you're flying in an airplane just over where the church was and draw me just the best picture you can of where the steps were, where the church was, where the field in front of it is, ya know, just kind of how you remember it.

Vincent: Well, now, the, in the front of it was level. So I'll start down here. This was level. And back in here is where you would of the parking lot. And then all of these steps it goes up through here, I don't know how many they was, but they was a huge bunch of steps here and theys made of wood, on the rock. And then up here was the little church it was just a little white church (laughter) up here a little white church, up here, was the little white church. I can't draw much.

LeSieur: Oh, that's okay.

Vincent: And here's all the steps and this right here this was rock. All of this right here was rock and it set up on top the hill. And I know the little door was here in front. Where you went in.

LeSieur: Would there have been steps, some little wooden steps in front up the church?

Vincent: Well these big steps went all they way to the church.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: Went all the way to the church. And this was all rock.

LeSieur: And so this is where people would've been signing their names?

Vincent: This is where you would go up to it. And this right here it was all rock. It set up on, it was just huge big, well you can go down there and look where it was at and the steps was built in it where you'd walk up on the steps and the little church was way up on the hill.

LeSieur: That's a good picture actually.

Vincent: Maybe that's, well that's what it looked like, what I remember.

LeSieur: Alright, that's perfect, actually. So, just being from the area, you might, may or may not know about this, but you know about the spring down there, you've heard about it?

Vincent: yeah, that's where everybody went and got their water. They had water, in all of the 75 or 80 houses there and every one of them in their front yard had a spicket you know that you turn on for water. And at the sweet springs, they was a big, you know that's where they gonna build...

LeSieur: The distillery down there?

Vincent: The distillery down there.

LeSieur: I'm actually working with Butch on his property so I've actually been down there a couple of times.

Vincent: Yeah. Well everybody went and got water down there and I know they's a lot of people before the water line come through here would go get bottles of water down there because they had a big spicket down there and it just run.

LeSieur: Oh it still runs and its good water too. So if when you're thinking about that, did people, do you think people got water there before the company came in.

Vincent: No, they was nothing there til the Kyrock company come in and built it.

LeSieur: So there was a whole operation down there, too?

Vincent: Yeah, it was a whole operation down there. They come in here and built this and they was people from every state in the union nearly.

LeSieur: Okay. Well no, I mean just the down at the where the spring was. Was there like a pump house probably?

Vincent: Yeah, they was everything to take care of it and to keep people out of it, it was fixed like it was supposed to. Until after they all closed it up and left and Bill Layne bought it for nothing and fixed that in front where you couldn't get in there too. Theres a lot of people that went in and carried water from there and put it in their cistern.

LeSieur: Okay, so even after the company closed people were still using the water.

Vincent: Yeah, people went and brought barrels of water out to wash and use and everything because we was on a water line here and in summer time it was dried up and in the winter time it was froze up. That's what Suzy said.

LeSieur: The only place to get your water then?

Vincent: Yeah, I had a big well in the back yard here but it was hard water. And you had that water and you had that to the commode and to the dishwashing stuff and you had the other you know for drinking water.

LeSieur: Okay, so it was good drinking water?

Vincent: Yeah, it was good drinking water.

LeSieur: Good tasting. I've heard from several people that I was some of the finest tasting water in the county.

Vincent: Yeah see it come through them rocks through them hills and everything.

LeSieur: Yeah, the last time I was out there, there are three or four springs in that hillside that are still running just after it rains, you can get water from any of those springs. Well what, being from the area, what, do you have any fond memories just of Kyrock in general?

Vincent: yeah, see when we went to school down there, they was, now, when I graduated, think about this, they was three boys and three girls in our class. And we had three that had been in service that come back and got their diplomas when we did. But they was six of us in the class and now they're all gone but three. Theys three of us still living. Jack Harrisson, he lives over at the, well, where our little new bank is in Bowling Green, you should go to Bowling Green, well, he lives out that road out there and theres a big churchhouse out right behind here. Well now Jack lives right there, behind that church, and Laverda lives in Leitchfield and I live here and that's all the rest of them all dead and gone.

LeSieur: And there was six people in your class?

Vincent: Mmmhm. And three that come in and graduated with us, but theyre all three, they was in service.

LeSieur: So was that a pretty normal size class group?

Vincent: Yeah, we all rode on one school bus. One school bus took everybody in Edmonson county took everybody to the old Kyrock school down there. One school bus. And the school bus parked right in front of the church. And that's, we went to school and.

LeSieur: So in relation to where the church was, where was the school located?

Vincent: The school was located, the church is you go down, was on the left and the school was on the right. We had two. We had the grade school and the high school. And one year they was, we had four teachers in high school. Four teachers. Mrs. Basham, Red Webb, Riley Skaggs, and Elsie. That's who taught the high school Well the grade school, they was three taught the grade school. That was Mrs. Erma Basham, Zelda Doyle, and Mrs. Moody. That was the ones that taught the school down there.

LeSieur: So how many, you said there was six people in your class, how many people would have been in both of the schools, you know, when you were in school, I mean, maybe a hundred people or less than that.

Vincent: Yeah, yeah, about a hundred people that was all in both schools because they wasn't too many.

LeSieur: Pretty packed then, too because those weren't very big buildings were they?

Vincent: Now, but wasn't too big great big buildings. And you need a little funny something a little funny something or something?

LeSieur: Yeah, tell me whatever you want.

Vincent: Well, I know one time they was a family that was in need and Mrs. Basham asked all the school kids to bring a can of something to give to them. Well, we all took in stuff and this one girl brought two big half a gallon cans of pickled peaches. Them was the prettiest things you ever saw in your life. Well, Mrs. Basham she was hovering over that and wouldn't let, so we asked the girl that brought, it there was four of us and we asked could we have one of them and she said, well if you can get it away from Mrs. Basham, you can have one of them. Well, one of the girls Oneida she got so dumb in English and she got Mrs. Basham way over here helping her to get our lesson, well old Chlorine, she was watching the smoke house as we called it, the food, well I was in and under the window. Well, we didn't have screens on them they just raised up. I was under the window and Wilda Carroll was going that way. Well, we got her over there and Chlorine handed it out to me and I got it and I started this way with it and run right into Riley Skaggs, he was the principal, run right into him and he said, where are you going? I said shut your mouth. He said, what have you got there, I said hush! About that time, they all come. He said, if you don't give me one of them peaches, I'll tell Mrs. Basham on you. And he helped us open them. And we stood there, I said, used to say that was the only thing I ever stole in my life, but we didn't steal it, 'cause she said we could have it. And we ate them peaches out of the, the principal helped us, out of a half a gallon jug behind the schoolhouse.

LeSieur: That's funny!

Vincent: Well, we had some fun days down there.

LeSieur: I don't guess I've ever had a pickled peach, I bet those were good.

Vincent: They was, they was the best things ever was. Of course, we, when we went down there at first, you had to take your lunch, we didn't have a lunch, and finally, they hired two people to come in there and we, they cooked, they fixed us a little lunch for dinner. Of course, we just had one little table that's all we needed.

LeSieur: Okay, now, I know they built the school, the elementary school here now, I know in the beginning it was a high school, correct? I know they moved the school from down there to up here, right?

Vincent: Yeah, mmhmm. That was high school first, see. They moved the old one, well they, it just fell down it got so old. They had to build one and they moved it up here. And they took it to the grade school and they put all three of the high schools, Kyrock, sunfish, and Brownsville, they put them together and took this for a grade school.

LeSieur: Okay, I see. So when they moved up here, where was the elementary school then? If they, cause they had, were they still using that as an elementary school and had the high school up on the hill, or?

Vincent: No, see the elementary school or the little grade school, it was down and under the hill and the high school too. See we was down there, well when the high school moved up here, the grade school moved up here and they consolidated the high schools and sent them to Brownsville.

LeSieur: I see, I see what you're saying.

Vincent: This has always been a grade school.

LeSieur: I'm trying to think of other things I can ask you. So the school you went to, I'm assuming it was probably painted green and white?

Vincent: Yeah, it was painted green, that was all their colors, green. They was all green.

LeSieur: Can you, kind of just describe what it looked like, you know, how many rooms, you know, how big it was...

Vincent: Yeah, well, they was three big rooms and a porch when we was down at the other one, I don't remember what it looked like, but I know when we swapped and moved up here it was bigger and the high school we needed it. And they had an outdoor basketball court and when they would, the finally blacktopped it and they'd play, they'd people would play the other schools like they do now but it was on the outside. And we didn't have any bathrooms in it we had outside bathrooms.

LeSieur: So you would've had an outhouse kind of bathroom.

Vincent: Yeah, they had the boys way over on one hill and the girls way over on the other hill and they had the outhouses.

LeSieur: Okay. I'm just taking a few notes here. I wasn't actually aimed to ask you anything about the school but since you know a lot about it, so...

Vincent: Well, the school was in with the Kyrock. Carmichael built the schools. When he come there he fixed everything.

LeSieur: So were the, was the elementary school and the high school, were they connected or was it two actual separate buildings?

Vincent: They were separate.

LeSieur: Can you, I'm gonna ask you to draw me another picture but just, just, let me kind of show you what I want. Say like this, and this is not, because I don't know what it looked like, but say that you've got one school here and then one here. If you can draw me kind of like a looking down on top of it view. Do you think you can remember like what it looked like?

Vincent: Now you're taking me back 65 years, 70.

LeSieur: I know, but if you can just give me an idea, just say, here's one room and this one's connected to it.

Vincent: Now this would be the one, see, the road that went down to the commissary would be up here and you'd come off of it and right here would've been the high school and it was just, I don't remember exactly how it was built but it was just a big outfit like that. A big school. And it, I remember it had a front porch here on it and then we had these four rooms. And I know that when they fixed a little kitchen back in here, they had a little kitchen back in here and I know they was an old hydrant right here because it leaked and the water just stood on the floor all the time, like that...

LeSieur: So was the kitchen attached to the back, or?

Vincent: The kitchen, yeah, they had the kitchen, it was attached to the that like here, and they's porches all the way around it. And then it, you went on down and see the road was just like this and it was high banks and I know one girl fell over it and broke her leg.

LeSieur: Oh goodness.

Vincent: And then the grade school it was down here. And the grade school I don't remember exactly what it looked like but it was just a big ol room and it was cut up and it was kindly big like this and it was just cut up and they had three teachers down there, so they had three rooms. I don't remember how it was fixed but I know it was a porch on the front of it, I don't know why they put porches on, but they'd put porches on the front of them. But see, it was old timey and they had to build them the cheapest way that they could and they was all the kids and they's one road went this way and one went this way and one was called pigeon something one was called this road was, they all had names.

LeSieur: Pigeon creek, maybe?

Vincent: They all had names. The roads that they all had names. And they all (mumbles). I don't know that that looks like it, but.

LeSieur: that actually helps me a lot.

Vincent: But I know that we had the four teachers and everybody had their room and then when we was down there the first then I remember we swapped with them. I don't know how come us to swap



but we swapped and Riley and Elsie was and when Jimmy, see, I guess you remember Jimmy don't ya? Teaching there at Western he taught Jimmy Skaggs, Jim Skaggs?

LeSieur: That name sounds familiar.

Vincent: He taught English.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: And he lives in one of them big mansions as you go up the hill. And if they had a babysitter, Riley and Elsie, they left him and if they didn't they brought him to school and we took care of him. Everybody just kindly watched him, he was about 4 years old and everybody watched him. And I didn't know until they moved to Bowling Green after it went down, they went to Bowling Green and she taught and he did too over there. And they had Jimmy and then they had another. What is their other daughter's name, Matt? She was Suzy's best friend. But they had a daughter and she teaches history there at Western. And I didn't know that they had her 'til for years and when I graduated and went to work for the telephone company over there, why Elsie would come up there to see us, and me and Margorie would walk her back home.

LeSieur: Okay, well thank you for drawing me that.

Vincent: (Laughs)

LeSieur: Well, I know it seems kind of silly, but it is really helpful because what my main area of focus is archaeology so what I'm doing with Butch right now is I'm going in and documenting stuff that is still there and you know its mostly foundations and stuff so it does help me when I can say, you know, oh okay that's where that foundation block is or that's where that one is. It kind of helps me get a good picture of whats going on down there, so. So you said this would've been the road to the commissary. Would that have been the main road that ran through Kyrock?

Vincent: Yeah, right in front there it went down to the commissary and it was sitting right in the, they fixed a little place across through there and it was on the left right across from where the sweet springs was at. That's where the commissary was. They had a post office and a grocery store and everything there.

LeSieur: Okay, I know where you're talking about there, over there by the creek.

Vincent: Well my, my walk here these bricks come from down there on the hill where they had an old boiler or something. We went down there and pulled them out of the hillside and put them there after we moved here.

LeSieur: So that would've been down at the spring, right?

Vincent: Yeah, down at the old spring thing. And they lived around river road and they lived around this, they had them all named up. I've heard Truman talk about the names, but I don't remember them too much.

LeSieur: Alright, well, I'm just trying to think if there's anything else about the school that I want to ask you. It was, both buildings were one-story right?

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: And they was just blacktop there and they's just built one here and the other one right down through there.

LeSieur: Okay. I mean is there any other fun stories that you have besides your, the pickled peaches, that you want to share about the schools?

Vincent: Yeah, when we was there the Coca-Cola truck would always go down to the commissary and they'd take the Coca-Colas and everything because they had the, the post office and store down there when I went to high school down there. And Curly Upton drove the Coca-Cola truck and he'd come through there and all of us girls, he wasn't married, we'd get out there on the hillside and we'd flirt with him and the boys got over there in the bushes, and they's over there in the bushes getting his Coca-

Colas out of the back of his truck while he was a looking at us. Well he finally caught um and he brought his sawed off shotgun along and said I'm gonna fill you boys full of shot.

LeSieur: You all were sneaky! (Laughter)

Vincent: Well, we had to do something. We had to make, back when I grew up you made your own entertainment, you had to! And we'd slip off and get caught every time we'd slip off, every time and we'd climb the tower. Get up on the tower. We was always into something or another, see, there was out where I lived up here, where you turn out there where Donald Ray had his store out that road, there was me, and Laverda and Nolita and Onita and Chlorine and Wilda all lived out that road. And..

LeSieur: Now was that Chlorine that was...

Vincent: Chlorine Duvall.

LeSieur: Was she related to Bill Layne?

Vincent: No, you're talking about his aunt, the Chlorine. This was a younger girl, she was our age, she was Chlorine Duvall. And she's dead. She went to Louisville. Wilda, she lives up north. And Onita, she lives down here, Odell's wife, she lives down here. And Laverda lives at Leitchfield, and Nolita's dead. She married Jim Hunt. He lived down there at Kyrock. And we all...

LeSieur: Well, I heard you mention just a second ago about climbing the water tower, was that something that a lot of people did?

Vincent: No, you wasn't allowed to! So we all sneaked off down there at recess and we was gonna climb that water tower. Well, we all climbed that water tower. Mrs. Basham seen, she got out there, she had eyes like I don't know what and she saw us down there, she reported it to Riley and he had to call us all in and we just swore we wasn't down there. Said, well somebody had on a red blouse and he looked at me and said you're the only one with a red blouse on and I said that ain't red, that's pink! (Laughter) He used to laugh at me. And we had, one time, I was always blabbing everything and so they got us on the carpet for that, but Riley didn't do nothing with us.

LeSieur: So y'all didn't actually get up on the water tower, y'all just aimed to do it.

Vincent: Well no, it had steps and we climbed it, the could see us going around there.

LeSieur: See, I thought you meant that they caught you before you could get to climbing it.

Vincent: No, they caught us and she was aiming for us to get punished, and of course Riley, he was easy on us. He was a good principal. And we did all of these things but you had to do something to kindly make your day cause you couldn't just sit there and look in an ol Latin book all day.

LeSieur: So I'm assuming you were in high school when...

Vincent: Yeah, we was in high school, that's when we was in high school.

LeSieur: Okay, I just ask because that's, I've heard of people still going up there and climbing on that water tower. That's kind of something that (laughter) that I know that people do. Well that's pretty much you know everything that I needed to ask you, I just kind of wanted to talk about how you were affiliated with the church and of course you brought up the school and that's one thing that I haven't done a lot of work with was the school.

Vincent: Well see, the school was down there and course they moved it up on Kyrock and then after me and Truman was married and Suzy come along and we, she was over there and of course she joined the church over there and she stayed there until her and Barry married and she went to Steep Hollow. Well, we was all here at Sweeden and now I go with Matt and Matt comes and gets me and I go to, all of the people here, see I'm 84 years old in a few days, everybody else is dead and gone and everybody, not too many older people around, most people's done gone.

LeSieur: I just thought of something else, I can't remember what it was, but it'll come to me. (Laughter)

Vincent: Brother Moody, see he was pastor down there and he was Methodist.

LeSieur: Oh, but yeah, you were raised Baptist, right, so you didn't go to church there a whole lot.

Vincent: No, but we was connected with it on account of we was down there at school and everything and we'd go up there. And it was up on the rocks and they's plenty of rocks down there.

LeSieur: Oh, I know something else I was going to ask you about the church. I've heard that there weren't bathrooms there right? People just went on one side of the rock or the other?

Vincent: Well no, they had, the built little outbuildings.

LeSieur: Oh they did?

Vincent: Uh huh, They had little outbuildings.

LeSieur: Where were, were they kind of just on the sides or were they in the back?

Vincent: Yeah, the back, they just had a little out building out there just for emergency. But most of the children if the mommy's had to take them out then you know during church or something or another I guess they just went out there and said, I don't know.

LeSieur: Well, that's what I've heard people did.

Vincent: Well I guess people did.

LeSieur: Was there a bell still there when you went?

Vincent: Yeah, they had a bell, because they took it up to the Kyrock, the new building and somebody stoled it, but they brought it back. They got it back some way or another.

LeSieur: Okay.

Vincent: They got it back. It's still over there. Its over at the new building. Yeah, somebody pilfered it.

LeSieur: I read about that.

Vincent: But they got it back.

LeSieur: Alright, well that's pretty much all I needed to ask you I think.

Vincent: We had a good time down there. It's been so long you forget a lot of stuff, but, we had a good time. We went to school and of course kids is all over the world that went down there. They just, one went here and one went there and see after they closed it down, the men went here to work and went there to work and they all disappeared. I know, Truman, my husband, after we was married, he had a truck and he hauled asphalt and he was the one that sunk the ferry boat at Brownsville.

LeSieur: Too much asphalt on it, or?

Vincent: Well, yeah, they was six on it and he backed off and I know one of the Ashley boys said it was 20 years before he ever got paid for his truck. It, you know, they was so many on there and it was so heavy and what I meant they gone through Brownsville with their foot in the carburetor. And Truman said they know'd just about where you'd meet this one and you'd meet that one.

LeSieur: That's funny. I mean it's not funny. It's funny to me cause my dad sunk a car at the lake once, so I know what that's like.

Vincent: Well, backed off and it, somebody come and called me and said that Truman had sunk the ferry boat. Well everybody got off but their trucks didn't.

Wood: Yeah, it was off balance, cause he backed off and everything went down.

LeSieur: Is that in the, does he talk about that in the interview you did with him?

Wood: I don't know if I did or not. It's probably in Mom's thing.

LeSieur: I mean you kind of answered the question I was gonna ask, but Truman worked for, I guess he worked for Kyrock, then?

Vincent: Yeah, he worked for Kyrock, he had a truck, he drove a truck.

LeSieur: Okay, so, did he work, before they started using trucks, I know they shipped everything on barge, did he work, he would've probably been too young.

Vincent: No, he went to school down there. But he had a truck and he hauled asphalt and we built this service station down there and he and his dad built a service station down there and sold the place up there and they moved down there and we sold that and we come to the farm and we built here and he built here in the front like here and then Pa had cancer and sold the farm and got rid of the cattle and all the tractors and everything, got rid of everything. And then Truman joined the union and it was heavy equipment, he run a crane. Heavy equipment person. And then we went, the kids got out of college, no

they was in college, and we went, for a while, we went to Petersburg and this man pulled a brand new trailer on the lot and rented it to us for so much a week and we had friends up there.

LeSieur: And this was where?

Vincent: Petersburg, Indiana. And we, Terry said you have to go with us to church. And I said okay, and we went to church one Sunday morning and she called the preacher around there to introduce us to him and he was a Toms and he worked for Scotty Woodcock here, the preacher there and Truman looked at him and he said I think we know each other. Terry said, well everything happens! And then he went back to Paradise and he worked at Paradise for a long time.

LeSieur: At the big coal mining?

Vincent: No, it was a power plant. Where they built down at Paradise.

Wood: He built the power plant. He was the crane operator and (mumbles).

Vincent: Crane operator, and then he they was gonna build six big units at Rockport Indiana and of course he had been in service and he had all the time in the world cause that counted. Your service time and then he stayed in the reserves for 10 or 15 years and he could open the door and close it wherever he wanted to go. And he told them that he wanted to come to Rockport and we bought a big travel trailer and we come to Rockport Indiana and we stayed there 16 years until he retired and up there they didn't have no time and a half, they had double time. And one weekend, it was the funnest thing, one weekend, they had it divided up and wanted you to work, he worked one weekend, make \$56 an hour and for them two Saturday an Sunday and he brought it home, I think he got about \$300 out of about 15 or 20. And he said I'll not work no more. But they was one man that they would, that lived there, he would take you there and we had a nice time there, I made friends, they were every place in the world. And we went and I done volunteer work with the senior citizens and we just...

LeSieur: When did y'all come back and move back here?

Vincent: Yeah, well we still had our home and that's when Suzy, she lived across the road here and they took care of everything. I don't know whether Matt was here, but Katherine was and they, Suzy and Barry took care of the place here. And we'd come home on Friday evening and went back on Sunday evening. And we retired and come home, we had 16 good years before Truman died and could do anything we wanted to do.

LeSieur: Yeah, I remember coming out, I was telling Matt on the way out here, I said I don't think I've been out here since I was little. I remember coming around here and walking around the farm and stuff.

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: Well, I think that's all I was going to ask you. We'll go ahead and cut the recording off. I appreciate your help.

Vincent: Well, I'm glad I can help you honey, I just help anybody I can, because I've been helped down through the years.

LeSieur: Yeah, well I understand that. That's the way you're supposed to be.

Vincent: Yeah.

LeSieur: Well, what I'm going to be doing with this, with this specific project, you're the second person I've interviewed, I'm going to be doing at least four more and then I'm going to compile all of this information into a paper.

Vincent: So you're going to write you a thesis on it, write you a thesis.

LeSieur: And I'll send you a copy of that paper, too so you'll have and you can look at it and say, hey, there's my name in there.

(This part of recording omitted for reasons of irrelevancy.)

LeSieur: We can cut that part out. So, I'm going to cut it off, its 7:30 now.