

Taken on March 14, 1988
at 2621 Dexter
Denver, Colorado

INTERVIEWERS: STAN OLINER and LINDA KROUT

NIEDERHUT INTERVIEW

MS. KROUT: --area or to the--

MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, he used to be an architect.

MS. KROUT: Uh-hum.

MR. NIEDERHUT: In Germany to learn architecture, and he drew houses and stuff. And then him and my mother got married in Saint Louis, and then they came over here. It cost him \$75 to come over here on a sailing ship from Germany.

MR. OLINER: How old was he then when he came over?

MR. NIEDERHUT: 16 I think. The reason he left there, he just sort of fight in the war over there.

MR. OLINER: This would be what? The German Prussia War?

MR. NIEDERHUT: I guess.

MR. OLINER: Yeah?

MR. NIEDERHUT: So that's what he did. He came over here. Then he went down -- he got a job down at the elephant corral, shoeing horses.

MS. KROUT: Here in Denver?

MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. Down on 14th and Blake.

MR. OLINER: Yeah. Do you recall what year he arrived in Denver then?

MR. NIEDERHUT: No, I don't know when he got here. And then they shod the beg or hire horses. And then him and my uncle got started on this shop down here. It was only one

1 story at one time. I don't know whether you got a picture of
2 that or not.

3 MS. KROUT: Yeah, we do.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: They started that. And then my uncle,
5 he went -- my dad bought my uncle out. My uncle moved up to
6 Salida. Anyway, they used to shoe horses down there on 36th
7 and Walnut. And after they got done shoeing horses, then they
8 started getting into the carriage business. And they -- when
9 they painted a carriage, they put six coats of paint on it.
10 And the whole carriage would only sell for about \$125, the
11 whole buggy.

12 And they used to make the wheels. And we used to put
13 tires on these buggy wheels. We used to have a thing down
14 there that had rubber tires, you know, on them. And there was
15 a chattel on the rim, that was screwed on around the rim. And
16 then this rubber had two holes in it, this rubber tire.

17 There is wires -- brass wires or brass wires, went
18 through them holes; and then they come up here. And we had
19 machinery pull that rubber back, and we'd weld these -- braze
20 these two wires together. And then we'd release it, and the
21 rubber would come back. And that's the way they used to put
22 the rubber tires on the -- on the buggy wheels.

23 MR. OLINER: Well, in 1888, which is when the family,
24 you know, dates the founding of -- what? It was then called
25 the East Denver Carriage Works?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

2 MR. OLINER: A couple questions. Who was the
3 competition then? Did your father ever talk about -- because
4 we looked up in a city directory, and there certainly appear to
5 be other people building carriages.

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, there was Weober and there was --
7 I don't recall what they was any more. There was Timte
8 (Phonetic). That was later on. I don't -- I can't remember.

9 MR. OLINER: And then--

10 MR. NIEDERHUT: There was quite a few of them.

11 MR. OLINER: What type of carriages was he building?
12 Was it passenger, was it for freight?

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: No, buggies. Doctor's buggies, Tatens
14 (Phonetic). And used to make these sleds -- what do you call
15 those, those sleds you ride in? I can't think of the name of
16 them.

17 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: My memory ain't as good as it used to
19 be.

20 MR. OLINER: Again, was it all -- even then was it all
21 custom order?

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

23 MR. OLINER: Do you think that, you know -- because
24 one of the books here in the collection is the pattern book
25 that you pointed out that people would come in and your family

1 would kind of sketch out what the customer wanted, so you think
2 literally that's what they were doing in 1888?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Right. We used to do most all
4 stockyards work. We'd make their hay wagons and their dock
5 truck like the one I showed you. They had -- they'd get the
6 wheels -- they wouldn't get the wheel -- they'd get the hub.
7 And then they'd have to buy the spokes and the rims. You could
8 get the rims from Moore Hardware Company.

9 Then we'd have to pour the holes in them. And like
10 the spokes, you know, they'd go here. But we had to put a
11 thing on like that so they'd sit in that hole. And that's the
12 way we used to make the wheels.

13 And then when we put the tire on, the steel tire, we
14 had a thing you rolled the tire through. You stick it in, they
15 had two handles on each side. And it would role it around.
16 Then we had a gas -- what do you call it? -- natural gas. You
17 laid the rim on there.

18 First, you put it in the fire, in the blacksmith
19 forge. They had this rim thing that you run it around there,
20 see how big the wheel was; then you'd run it around the iron
21 tire, and you'd stick it in the fire and weld it together.
22 That's before they had electric welding and all that.

23 You smash it down to a point, and you'd put a little
24 powder on it. Then you put the other side on, then you pound
25 it together -- pound it together. Then we put it on this table

1 father passed on to you. How large a crew did he and your
2 uncle have then at the beginning?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, there wasn't very many. There
4 was only four or five then in the business.

5 MR. OLINER: What would they have been doing? What
6 was going on in the interior of the shop? Was it what you and
7 I would call like an assembly line or--

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: No, we didn't make no assembly line.
9 It was just each fella' was doing his job like the painter and
10 the blacksmith and the woodworker. That was the way it was
11 run. I don't remember much about way back then. I didn't
12 start down there until I was -- 1928 is when I started there.

13 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. Did your father ever say
14 anything about work that they did during World War I? Did the
15 war change business at all?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: No, not that I know of. I don't
17 remember much about that.

18 MR. OLINER: What about the change from carriages to
19 automobiles?

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: I was only 3 years old when my brother
21 went to war. So I don't remember much of that. I think I was
22 13 when he come home. So what did you say?

23 MR. OLINER: About the change from building carriages
24 to the automobile, say, at the turn of the century. When the
25 automobile started to coming to Denver, was it a matter that

1 your father--

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's about the -- I built the last
3 wagon that we built down there I think. I built it for
4 Swanson; he was an ash hauler. And the wagon had caught on
5 fire from the hot ashes. And I had to repair the wagon.
6 That's the only wagon I think I ever worked on. That was in
7 1928.

8 MR. OLINER: And you gave us one picture here of --
9 one of the bakeries was still using a horse-drawn carriage.
10 Was it Home Bakery?

11 MS. KROUT: I can't remember.

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, Denver Bread Company.

13 MR. OLINER: Was it Denver. Maybe Denver Bread.

14 MS. KROUT: Yeah.

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: And I was surprised that they were
16 still using horse-drawn carriages, you know, even in the 1920s.

17 MR. NIEDERHUT: That was -- that eventually become
18 Hostess Bakery.

19 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: But then it was the Denver Bread.
21 They was down there on -- right across from Cherry Creek there
22 on -- I can't remember the address, but I could probably drive
23 over there. And I remember there was -- when I was a kid there
24 used to be a brewery across the tracks there -- down from the
25 shop called the Capital Brewing Company and that -- I don't

1 know what become of that. But this guy that's in -- I can't
2 think of the name of that place. He got four bottles that he
3 dug up over there.

4 But getting back to the shop, during the second world
5 war we built 12 or 14 bodies for the arsenal out here, stake
6 bodies. Did you ever build a stake body?

7 MR. OLINER: No. Describe it for us. Can you
8 describe it for us?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, first you got to have 2
10 stringers, 12 feet long. A stringer is what sets on the frame.
11 There is an inch and three-quarter piece by five, and it's got
12 a three-quarter piece by five you nail onto it so it will fit
13 the frame. Then I got to have seven crossbars.

14 You put them -- you put the half inch bolts through
15 the crossbars and stringers. You countersink the bottom of the
16 stringers so the bulkhead is flush, so it don't hit on the
17 frame. Then you put the nuts and the washers on top.

18 Then you cut out -- then you got to have two sub --
19 two sills and two subsills. You put the sills on the edge of
20 the crossbars. You have to cut into the crossbars about a
21 three-quarters of an inch, so when you put the floor on top
22 it's even with the sills.

23 Then you have to have a subsill underneath. You put
24 two bolts through each crossbar, through the sills. Then you
25 cut the stake pockets out. And then you put -- you put irons

1 around the sills, and you put a iron around the subsill. So
2 that when the stakes go in, they won't fall. Then you make--

3 MR. OLINER: What was -- you were building it for like
4 Remmington Arms out at--

5 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah -- no.

6 MR. OLINER: What's now the Fitness Center?

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. Arsenal out there.

8 MR. OLINER: Oh, Rocky Mountain Arsenal.

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

10 MR. OLINER: What were they using it for?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, I don't know. They were stake
12 bodies. They were 12 feet long and 8 feet wide. And haul
13 equipment around in them I guess. It was all oak, and it had
14 an oak floor in it. The floor had to be screwed, two screws in
15 each board.

16 MR. OLINER: Do you recall how much you charged for
17 it, for the manufacture?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. Somewheres around 600 and
19 something. Those big Pepsi-Cola bodies. Pallet jobs they got
20 now. Of course, they get a build -- Ethy (Phonetic) built them
21 out of Kansas city. When we used to build them, we only got
22 \$1200 for each one of them.

23 MR. OLINER: You are talking like -- when? -- even in
24 the 60 -- 1960s or--

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

1 MR. OLINER: For \$1200.

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: We built a station wagon for some
3 fella' by the name of Ema Tash (Phonetic) in New Mexico.
4 That's all wood station wagon, had roll-down windows. You
5 don't see those any more either.

6 MS. KROUT: No.

7 MR. OLINER: No. Especially all wood?

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: No.

9 MR. OLINER: Can we go back and find out a little bit
10 about you? You were born out here in Denver?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: I think I was.

12 MR. OLINER: All right. Now, before you went to
13 work--

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: I was born on 46th and York in 1910.

15 MR. OLINER: Okay. So before you -- that means you
16 went to work when you were 18 years old inside, you know,
17 full-time inside the--

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

19 MR. OLINER: --family shop. But what are your
20 memories as you were growing up, just a real young kid. I'm
21 certain you tagged around inside the shop. What was going on
22 then, in say, the early 1920s? Any memories of that?

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. We was working all the
24 time, of course. We used to build van bodies, too. We'd build
25 a framework, and then we'd have to nail sheet iron on the

1 sides, take this galvaneel (sic) sheet iron that come in three
2 foot and four foot sheets, ten foot long. We used to have to
3 nail them on -- nail the sheet iron on the cover of the
4 framework.

5 And then we'd have to put snap-on moldings over the
6 nails so you couldn't see where the nails was. There was a
7 molding that you nail on, and then this outside cover was half
8 round; and you just pop it on with your hand. That covered up
9 all the nails.

10 We used to build bodies for Navin (Phonetic) Candy
11 Company and Matto (Phonetic) Fruit Company and Berg (Phonetic)
12 Donaldson & Taylor, and Seattle Fish and L. Beam. We had a
13 meat -- Garden Farm Dairy. They had ice cream trucks, Polar
14 Bear Ice Cream. His wife lives up there on 25th and Kearney.
15 We used to sit for her sometimes. Know anybody that needs a
16 house sitter?

17 MR. OLINER: In the 1920s would they just work on one
18 unit at a time, or was the building large enough that, say,
19 they would be building two or three in various stages?

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah.

21 MR. OLINER: It would be in various stages?

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. We was -- we built a moving van
23 for Logan Moving and Storage. This was in '65. And I was
24 bowling, and somebody told me that the place was on fire. I
25 thought we had a -- I had to quit bowling to go over there.

1 And it was quite a fire. It burnt through the second
2 floor and through the roof. And we just finished this moving
3 van. It was all ready to go out. We had a plywood top on it,
4 and we had just covered it with steel over the plywood. And
5 all the plywood burnt off underneath, so we had to built that
6 all over practically.

7 MR. OLINER: How much was destroyed in the fire?

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: Just that moving truck. Of course,
9 the building -- most of the building. They said it was a
10 \$65,000 fire. And the elevator -- they had an elevator you had
11 to pull up with the ropes and -- where the -- where the cables
12 fit into the couplings, all the led melted out of it. The
13 elevator fell down. So the city inspector said we had to close
14 it -- close the elevator in if we wanted to put it up again.
15 But we decided not to have the elevator any more.

16 Well, they used to build these wagons for City Park.
17 And they finished this one wagon, and they pushed it on the
18 front elevator. Somebody hadn't locked the brakes, and it was
19 all finished ready to go out. And the elevator started to go
20 down, and the wagon went down with the elevator, you know. And
21 the front door happened to be open, and the wagon rolled out in
22 the street, the elevator went back up, and never put a scratch
23 on the wagon.

24 MR. OLINER: Can I ask about the fire again. What
25 time of the year was this in 1965?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: In the fall I think.

2 MR. OLINER: Because we would like to look up and see
3 if there were any newspaper articles?

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: There probably is.

5 MS. KROUT: How long it did it take before you were
6 back into business?

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, we kept working all the time that
8 they was repairing the place. We had all the wiring put in
9 first so we could keep busy.

10 MS. KROUT: Yeah?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: And so we just kept right on working.

12 MR. OLINER: While you were going to school here in
13 Denver, did you work part time there at the job?

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. I quit school.

15 MR. OLINER: Okay.

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Never went back.

17 MR. OLINER: Yeah. And then when you left school you
18 went in to work with the family? What was -- did you have one
19 particular job, or kind of all round--

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: I was a woodworking.

21 MR. OLINER: Okay. Now this is in 1928?

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

23 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

24 MR. NIEDERHUT: I like the woodworking part.

25 MR. OLINER: What was your first pay?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: My first pay?

2 MR. OLINER: Yeah.

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: \$25 a week. I was married and that's
4 what I -- got married later on -- but that's all I got, \$25 a
5 week. It costs me \$25 a month for an apartment; I had a
6 basement apartment. Then later on I got \$40 a week. Then I
7 got \$50 a week. That's all I got a week is \$50 a week. Of
8 course, it paid all my bills besides that.

9 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

10 MR. NIEDERHUT: So I didn't do too bad I guess.

11 MR. OLINER: When you first went to work there in
12 1928, again, your father was there, your uncle was there?

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. No.

14 MR. OLINER: So how much of a crew, and who was there?

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: He bought out -- he bought out my
16 uncle.

17 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: That picture with all the fellas' on
19 it, that's how many was there.

20 MR. OLINER: The one that you pointed out to me that
21 shows the blacksmith shop and -- where they're standing out
22 front?

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, standing out in front. Yeah, we
24 used to build -- yeah there -- this skinny guy, that's me.

25 MR. OLINER: Tell us about some of the other people in

1 that photograph. That would have been in the late 20s and
2 early 30s who was working -- what their jobs were inside?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is John Carlson. He was the
4 blacksmith -- blacksmith's helper. He worked there -- he was
5 there until we closed in '70. This is Joe Thomas; he was the
6 blacksmith. He's got the leather apron on.

7 And this is my father. He used to sharpen plowshares,
8 we used to sharpen plowshares. And Westin Pate (Phonetic), he
9 used to come around with the whole pickup load of picks and
10 these air hammers, shovels. We used to have to sharpen all
11 them.

12 And this is Mike Madrey (Phonetic); he was a
13 woodworker. I don't remember this guy's name. This is Walter
14 Hockie (Phonetic), he was a sign painter.

15 MR. OLINER: Hum.

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: He painted the signs on the trucks.
17 This is Frank Felix (Phonetic); he's a painter. Carl Dendorfer
18 (Phonetic), he was a painter. And that's my brother Ern.
19 He's -- he's gone and -- this is Ira Calahan (Phonetic); he was
20 a blacksmith. And this was Henry Heines (Phonetic), he was a
21 woodworker. And I don't remember who this fella' was.

22 This is our car. This is Willis Knight (Phonetic).
23 We had built a California top on it. California top had a
24 hardtop here and it had sliding windows in it. See you didn't
25 have to have curtains any more. We left the top in Holbrook,

1 Arizona. We hit some sand and turned over, and the top flew
2 off. That was in 1927.

3 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. Kind of describe the
4 interior -- well first of all did you work an eight-hour day,
5 or was it a longer shift?

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: This was the paint shop up here. Oh,
7 yeah, we worked eight hours a day.

8 MR. OLINER: But not longer?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: This building is setting on bricks.
10 They ain't no foundation under it. This building's got a
11 foundation under it. So we have an earthquake, this part will
12 fall down first.

13 MR. OLINER: You started to say what? The paint shop
14 was like up on the second floor?

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, up here. Most all of it was the
16 paint shop up here. This is the door that the wagon flew out
17 of. The elevator was up here. This is a dairy truck. See
18 it's got sheet iron on it. The doors were on rollers. You can
19 slide them so you can get out easy.

20 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. They used to steal the wagons at
21 Halloween and push them all the way down to Cherry Creek in the
22 creek. We used to have to go down there and get them.

23 MR. OLINER: Now, who -- you said we used to steal
24 them?

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Kids.

1 MR. OLINER: Oh, kids used to steal them.

2 MS. KROUT: Oh.

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: I guess it was the kids. I don't
4 know.

5 MR. OLINER: Oh, my.

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is the blacksmith shop. You can
7 see that, all the smoke. This here was the lumber room. We'd
8 get a -- we'd get a boxcar of lumber from Indiana, all oak. We
9 would have to unload it a plank at a time and carry it in here
10 and stick it so it would dry out even. And get one of these
11 two inch planks, 14 inches wide and 12 feet long these carrying
12 some.

13 This was the office here. This is the wood shop. And
14 the last door over here -- there is a door here and that was
15 where the elevator was. And the last door was the paint shop.

16 MS. KROUT: About how many bodies would you make in a
17 year?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's a good question. I never
19 counted them. We made about 170 for Pepsi-Cola. I remember
20 that. But this was the yard out here, a lot, we kept a lot of
21 extra stuff in like wagon poles, shaves, wheels, and all that
22 stuff out there.

23 MR. OLINER: What are your memories of the business
24 and the depression years. Did business fall way off or remain
25 fairly steady?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: Sure, we couldn't get a loan. None of
2 the banks would give us a loan. So they took all the money I
3 had and paid the wages with. But we come out of it. After we
4 come out of it, banks wanted to loan us money and we told them
5 go shove it.

6 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Didn't need them any more.

8 MR. OLINER: When did it start to pick up again?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, about '33, '34.

10 MR. OLINER: So who were some of your customers that
11 did stick with you or stick--

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: All of the old customers stuck with
13 us.

14 MR. OLINER: You needed the bank loan for, like, to
15 bring the wood in from Indiana?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

17 MR. OLINER: And just your basic--

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: To pay our bills with, pay for steel
19 and all that stuff.

20 MR. OLINER: When the banks closed--

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: During the depression we'd make milk
22 boxes, porch boxes, that you put set the milk in, you know.
23 The Salatex (Phonetic) boxes.

24 MR. OLINER: Yes.

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's what we were doing. We were

1 going out and selling them for the dairy guys.

2 MR. OLINER: So for which dairies?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, Cambridge Dairy and Brookridge
4 Farm Dairy. Oh, we went all over selling them. Franks. I
5 don't remember any others any more. Brookridge Farm used to be
6 out there on South Broadway. It's the Brookridge Shopping
7 Center now. He had a beautiful dairy out there.

8 MS. KROUT: You made trucks for Frank, didn't you?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Hum?

10 MR. OLINER: You made trucks for Frank's Dairy, didn't
11 you?

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. We made trucks for Watts
13 Hardy (Phonetic). It's setting -- Watt settin auh yes
14 (Phonetic). Made trucks for Wigwam Bread. That was up in
15 Laramie I think, Wigwam Bakery. And little after -- after we
16 started -- quit making wooden bodies, then we started in on the
17 steel bodies. Pepsi-Cola was the first steel bodies we made.

18 MR. OLINER: What caused the end of wood? Was it the
19 customer asking that, or high cost of wood? What made the
20 change?

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: I don't know. They just decided that
22 they -- everybody else was building steel, so we had to go into
23 it to sort of stay in business. The telephone companies are
24 building their trucks out of extruded aluminum.

25 We built trucks for the telephone company, but that's

1 the only one we built. But that didn't work out too good
2 because beating on the road cracked the aluminum, so didn't
3 work out very good. So then we decided to use steel.

4 MR. OLINER: In the 1930s did you have any
5 competition?

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. Whatever Wees (phonetic),
7 Timte (Phonetic), and -- I guess them's the only two that we
8 had. Weober. Weober eventually took over Pepsi-Cola's
9 business when we quit. When we quit it. There was only three
10 of us left down there, so we couldn't -- we did built 10 bodies
11 for them, just the three of us.

12 But we used to build those pop racks. It wasn't pala
13 (Phonetic) trucks, it was pop racks. But we had to do all that
14 stuff ourself. We had a brake. We had a 12 foot brake down
15 there -- hand -- by hand, you know. And we had a been 24
16 sheets for them. We had to put these louvers on them about
17 every 3 inches apart. Took us 10 -- no -- 15 minutes, two of
18 us, to bend one sheet by hand.

19 Everything was Chinese labor down there. My brother
20 always said Chinese methods. These ball corners we put on
21 these trucks, on the corners, you know, they're round. We used
22 to pound them out with a hammer. They had one of these old
23 Ford truck drums that was welded in iron, stuck in there,
24 concave.

25 And we'd take this sheet iron and cut it at an angle

1 like that. And then we'd take a pair of vise grips and hold
2 it, and then we'd pound it with a hammer until it was nice and
3 smooth, nice and round. Then we'd weld it on the corners.

4 Then we made -- made a roller down there that we could
5 roll the side -- side ones. Had three big rollers. We got
6 these rollers out of a lumber truck. You know, when they load
7 the lumber, they've got these rollers there.

8 So we got these rollers, and we'd put one here and one
9 here and one over here, and we put gears on it. We had to wind
10 it and make these quarters, these round quarters. So we used
11 to do all that. Chinese methods.

12 MR. OLINER: Before we leave the 1930s, tell us about
13 the Hupmobile because that was one of the delightful pictures
14 you gave us in the collection. Was that just a one-time thing
15 where you--

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

17 MR. OLINER: Who was that for; do you recall?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Dr. Knoch. His wife lives over here
19 on Third and Ida I think. He died.

20 MR. OLINER: What all did you do to that car?

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, it had a four-door sedan on it.
22 We took it off and made this body for him. Somebody's got it.
23 I'll give you the guy's name, and you can call. And he'll tell
24 you all about it.

25 MR. OLINER: Oh, good.

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: We made these fenders for it. Didn't
2 show it on there. That's before they had these round fenders.
3 Just about like this and we put a piece on the inside so you
4 could -- they had a chrome -- chrome motor in it. All chrome
5 finished. He was a big surgeon here in town. He had hands
6 like a ham. He died. His wife is still living. She got all
7 antique furniture in her house. Old chairs and--

8 MR. OLINER: How do you spell his last name?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: K-n-o-c-h.

10 MR. OLINER: Okay. Again was that the 1930s when he
11 brought in that Hupmobile?

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: Uh-hum. I'll get -- I'll get my--

13 MR. OLINER: Well -- yeah, we can do that at the end.
14 Couple more questions. Tell us about -- again -- we're up to
15 the start of World War II. What changes came to the company.
16 Did you have trouble getting parts, labor? Wartime--

17 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, no.

18 MR. OLINER: --restrictions?

19 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. We was -- we kept getting these
20 bids from the government. And this arsenal deal come through
21 and my brother told them, he says, he'd build them for them if
22 they keep the eager beavers off of his neck. So--

23 MR. OLINER: You mean like inspectors?

24 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

25 MR. OLINER: Yeah.

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: They'd come around and inspect
2 everything all the time.

3 MR. OLINER: So we built 12 bodies for them. They
4 never came around. And after they -- after we delivered them,
5 never heard nothing. So they must have been all right. We had
6 to put the lights on it and everything, you know.

7 MR. OLINER: What were some of the others things you
8 built during World War II?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, we built a motor home for a
10 couple. Never built one of them before. They bought this bus,
11 and we put the cupboards and the tables, and everything on the
12 inside of it. And that station wagon I was telling you about.

13 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: We also -- we also put a top on a jeep
15 for a Model Fruit (Phonetic) guy. That's when they just had
16 canvas things. We put a metal -- wood and metal doors on it.
17 With wind-down windows. And, of course, we built a lot of pop
18 trucks. For Duffy's and--

19 MR. OLINER: Now, that was after the war, wasn't it?

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, I guess. We didn't do much
21 government work. That's the only government job we had.

22 MR. OLINER: Sure. The arsenal.

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Too much paperwork.

24 MR. OLINER: Did you have much trouble getting sheet
25 metal during the war?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: No.

2 MR. OLINER: What about gasoline rationing?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. Well, I didn't have much
4 trouble. These farmers would give me their stamps that they
5 didn't use much. I had two 55-gallon barrels of gasoline in
6 the paint shop. I never run out of gas. Off duty off road
7 staff. This friend of mine, Dears Telage (Phonetic) Station
8 on 46th and York, he furnished me with the gas.

9 No, we didn't have no trouble getting stuff. They was
10 building a liberty ship down the middle of Walnut Street where
11 cops and pipe and steel was over there on about 33rd--

12 MR. OLINER: Oh, really?

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: --and Walnut.

14 MR. OLINER: Who was--

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: They put one together out there to see
16 how it would look.

17 MR. OLINER: Who was building that?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Thompson Pipe and Steel.

19 MR. OLINER: Okay.

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. They had that big liberty ship
21 sitting out in the middle of Walnut Street. And the streets
22 used to be cobblestone down there. Meadow Gold Dairy had
23 wagons. They got wagons. They couldn't get enough gas or
24 tires or anything, so they bought some wagons some place.

25 Anyway they had wheels on them made out of wood.

1 Instead of the wood longwise, it was cross grades so it would
2 wear better, you know. Pretty soon, going over them
3 cobblestone streets, they got oblong. So the wagons was going
4 like -- so they brought them down there.

5 And we had to get them round again. And then we put
6 steel tires on them. By the time we got all that done and they
7 was satisfied, why, the war was over. Then they got rid of the
8 wagon.

9 MR. OLINER: But you are saying these were horse-drawn
10 wagons?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

12 MR. OLINER: Even during World War -- that's
13 interesting -- during World War II. I never heard that.

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, they went back to it.

15 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. During the war did the bakery
16 companies keep coming to you and the dairies?

17 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. They -- they bought some
18 stand-drive trucks -- no they bought some -- what are they? --
19 Model A trucks. And we had to cut the frames on them with a
20 hacksaw by hand. Had to cut it on this side, cut a piece out
21 about this wide, and on the other side.

22 Then we'd lower the frame so they could -- we call
23 them stand-drives. So they had -- instead of climbing way up
24 here, they just step right in it. And somebody got after us
25 for that because they said they had a patent on it. But we got

1 out of it. I don't remember how. But--

2 MR. OLINER: Where did you buy your chassis from?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: We didn't buy them. They furnished
4 them.

5 MR. OLINER: So in other words, the customer was
6 expected to furnish it?

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. No, all we did was build
8 the body on it.

9 MR. OLINER: So the chassis was delivered to you, and
10 then you took over from there?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. There wasn't -- all it was on
12 was the dashboard, the motor, and the frame, and the wheels.
13 That's the way we'd get them. Henry Bulloff (Phonetic) we had
14 to build a cab and a stake body all on theirs.

15 MR. OLINER: Would those chassis arrive on the train,
16 or how would they be delivered to you?

17 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. We'd Ford dealer would deliver
18 them. I don't know how he got them. But Pepsi-Cola's, they
19 got theirs from International Harvester. Old Jim Gooding, he
20 had -- he was leasing his trucks. I forget the guy's name.
21 Anyway, the guy was going to raise the lease on him.

22 So he wanted to know if we could build him 15 trucks
23 in a certain length of time. So we told him, yeah, I thought
24 we could. So he bought 15 chassis, and we worked night and day
25 on those things to get them out. So we got them out. And this

1 guy coming around to raise the franchise, and he told them
2 where he could put the trucks.

3 MR. OLINER: Sure.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: And he was stuck with the trucks.

5 MR. OLINER: How long would one of those Pepsi trucks
6 last?

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, I see them running around yet.
8 It's all steel.

9 MR. OLINER: So it wasn't a matter that like after
10 three or four years they came back to you with another order?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. We just keep building more. We
12 built -- we built them for Joe Asheoto (Phonetic) down in
13 Pueblo, and built them for Pepsi-Cola here. We never did build
14 anything for Coke. We built a lot -- we built them for
15 Duffy's. We built them for guy up in Boulder. He had a route.
16 We built them for him.

17 We built fish trucks for State Game and Fish. First
18 they come out with just a steel tank on it with a motor on each
19 side, you know. Aerated. They had these big carbon rollers on
20 the bottom of the tank. These motors -- these supply the
21 oxygen. They go through these rollers. The rollers were --
22 what do you call it? -- Porous.

23 The motors didn't have anything to do with that, the
24 oxygen went through these rollers. Fish have to have oxygen.
25 These motors -- we had pipes, two-inch pipes on the side with a

1 lot of holes in it. These motors kept the water circulating
2 all the time while they were driving down the road. So that's
3 the state game and fish.

4 We built a lot of trucks for them. Then after a while
5 they come out and they wanted it insulated. So we had to put
6 two inches of Styrofoam in them and then covered it with sheet
7 iron on the outside. And we had to make lids for the top, and
8 made them out of aluminum and Styrofoam covered with aluminum,
9 so the fish could keep cool.

10 First they had -- just had a two-inch valve in the
11 back. They used to dip them out. Then we put a six-inch valve
12 there -- and it -- just put a hose on it and threw it in the
13 creek and let the fish fly--

14 (Second side of the tape.)

15 But it was the late 60s it kind of slowed down. We
16 didn't have much to do. We didn't build any more bodies then.
17 We just repaired. Pepsi-Cola would bring their trucks over,
18 bent fender, or repairs on it, you know.

19 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's about all we did.

21 MR. OLINER: Then by the 1960s how large a crew did
22 you have?

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Just three of us.

24 MS. KROUT: Those were your brothers?

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. One brother and this -- picture I

1 showed that had just three of us.

2 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: So finally Old John, he retired. So
4 then there was two of us.

5 MR. OLINER: Right.

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: My brother got sick, and so he had to
7 give it up. So that took care of it. 1970 we was through.

8 MR. OLINER: What would you say your feelings were
9 that last week? I mean was it real sadness after all those
10 years?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. I went down there -- took
12 -- I went down there for about three weeks afterward. Goldberg
13 Brothers bought it. And they had a burglar alarm put on it.
14 And they gave me a burglar alarm card so I could get in there,
15 you know, without -- my brother forgot to call them, and they
16 come running in there with their six-gun.

17 But I used to go down there and -- oh -- I brought a
18 lot of stuff home, and we sold a lot of stuff before we let
19 them have it. And -- it took me a long while to get over it,
20 about three or four weeks. But then Goldberg was going to use
21 it for a warehouse. He wanted to store a lot of film and stuff
22 in there. So I helped him out. I tore all the machinery out
23 and cleaned it up for him.

24 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: I used to go down there once in a

1 while. Of course, Goldberg ain't there any more either. He --
2 Norman, he's working over there on -- by the post office
3 selling hydraulics or something now. This film company bought
4 out Goldbergs and -- so they quit business too.

5 MR. OLINER: In the 1965 fire were most of the records
6 that aren't here that you gave us -- were they lost in that
7 fire?

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: Uh-hum.

9 MR. OLINER: Because, of course, you know, as you
10 pointed out to me the last time these were blackened because
11 they were saved from the fire or the water damage?

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's all I got. I didn't have them
13 until my brother died. My nephew -- it's his son -- he brought
14 them up here because he took all the books and stuff home.

15 MS. KROUT: Is he the one that who kept the books?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

17 MR. OLINER: Wrote in them?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. I never could write. So he
19 kept the books.

20 MR. OLINER: Did your mother ever get involved in the
21 business?

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: My mother?

23 MS. KROUT: Yeah.

24 MR. NIEDERHUT: Forget it. She wouldn't even go on a
25 trip or nothing.

1 MR. OLINER: Would you do us a favor and describe your
2 father for us. First of all, how tall was he? How tall a
3 person.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, he was shorter than me. He -- him
5 and my brother Ed was about the same height.

6 MR. OLINER: So like less than 6 feet or--

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah.

8 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. Like very very short or--

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. He's about 5 foot -- 5 foot 7 or
10 8.

11 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. What was his temperament like?

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, he was very nice. Except when he
13 got mad.

14 MR. OLINER: And then what happened? Then what would
15 happen?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Then the fur would fly. Yeah. He
17 only got mad at me once. I was working on the milk boxes, you
18 know. I had these little -- little hinges, is only about this
19 square. And I'd have to run them across the rip saw and cut a
20 groove in it. (Inaudible) You know, I was afraid I'd get my
21 fingers cut off all the time. But I told him I wasn't going to
22 do it any more, and he got mad.

23 So then I got a long stick, and I made a thing that
24 folds on the guide, you know, and I put notches in it. And
25 then I'd put that stick against that notch, and then run it

1 through. And then slide it over and run the next through, and
2 the whole stick, you know, instead of these little pieces.

3 So I was lucky I got all my fingers yet. My brother
4 Ed, he lost two fingers in the jointer with a little piece of
5 wood.

6 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Lost this first joint here and he had
8 a thing here that he shaved off like this one. But we was
9 lucky. John, he cut four fingers off on the rip saw. Right
10 across here. He says -- he says, I wouldn't have my fingers
11 back. He got along fine that way.

12 And then there is another guy down there, he cut his
13 finger off. He went over to my brother, he said, John, look
14 what I did. And my brother says, I'll take you to the doctor.
15 No, he says, what's a doctor know. And he went over to the
16 glue pot. It had hot glue. And he took the brush and he put
17 it on the stumps and he picked the dirty rag off the floor and
18 wrapped it around it, you know. He never did go to the doctor,
19 and they healed up beautifully.

20 MR. OLINER: You know what would happen today?

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: It was a tough Dutch in them days.

22 MR. OLINER: Boy, it sure sounds like it. Because you
23 know what would happen today with the government inspectors and
24 all of that on any injury?

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

1 MR. OLINER: Oh, my.

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: My brother he was -- we used to repair
3 wrecks, you know, fix cars. And my brother, he had this bumper
4 on, and two studs in it. So he took this stud out, and he sent
5 the bumper like this, see. And he was working on the fender,
6 and that bumper come down like a pendulum, you know, and hit
7 him on the bean.

8 And the bumper guard come right down there alongside
9 his ear. And he was laying out there on the sidewalk. And I
10 said -- I says, Are you drunk again? He used to get drunk all
11 the time. Then I seen the blood. This lady -- this gal
12 surrounded him. So I took him to the doctor and they sowed it
13 up. Boy, that bumper thing, it hit him right in his bean.

14 MR. OLINER: Over all those years did you ever have
15 any female workers?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. My niece did a little office
17 work.

18 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

19 MR. NIEDERHUT: But that's all.

20 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: She's only down there once in a while.
22 No women allowed. And see what else? Oh, I got -- my head
23 must be hard because those clamps would fall off of them -- up
24 there on them 12 foot high bodies. Every once in a while one
25 would fall off, bounced off my dome. Never did bother me.

1 MR. OLINER: There is one--

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: The port-a-power jack, you know, that
3 you pump, they come out like that, trying to get two big pipes
4 apart. And I was sitting there pumping away, and that jack --
5 jackknife hit me right here. I didn't even get a headache out
6 of it. Didn't even cut my skin or nothing. I'm a hardheaded
7 Dutchman my wife says.

8 MR. OLINER: Now, this one picture here in the book of
9 a hearse parked out in the graveyard and, you know, I wanted to
10 ask you about that. Was that just kind of a one-time thing?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. Built a police patrol too once.
12 A Black Mariah. They called it the Black Mariah.

13 MR. OLINER: Who was that for?

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: The Denver Police Department.

15 MR. OLINER: Denver Police Department?

16 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

17 MR. OLINER: Yeah?

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: We used to repair their police cars
19 too. Until they wanted a cut, and then we wouldn't do it any
20 more. Get enough out of it ourself without giving them a cut.

21 MR. OLINER: Tell us about this one because it's
22 delightful where Sterns cow was on the back?

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah.

24 MR. OLINER: I mean that was--

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Moo. It had a horn on it, said moo.

1 Yeah, we cut this out of plywood, the head. This part here.

2 But this was part of the body. The painter painted it on
3 there.

4 MR. OLINER: You think any of those have survived?

5 MR. NIEDERHUT: No. Sterns Dairy is long gone. This
6 door slid back here, too. It was more of a novelty
7 advertisement. We used to -- Blaney (Phonetic) and Murphy, the
8 packing house, they bought three little Crosleys automobiles.
9 Ever hear of them? They're real tiny, you know. Only sit
10 about this high. They brought 3 of them up.

11 We had to cut windows in them, on the side of the --
12 and put a shelf in there and so they could put a glass in
13 there. And then they displayed their hams and sausages in
14 there, and they'd drive around town.

15 Then we used to make ice cream -- these ice cream
16 things on two wheels that they push around the street for
17 Fairmont (Phonetic) Foods. Had to insulate them and -- they
18 kept dry ice in them. And they pushed them things around the
19 streets in Denver. They used these -- these old hospital carts
20 in the army to surplus, and that's where they got the wheels
21 and the axle. So that's what we used.

22 MR. OLINER: Now, this picture marked 1916 kind of
23 looks like the wagons that used to be down at Railway Express.

24 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, this is--

25 MR. OLINER: --and Union Station?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: --this is a hay wagon. It's a
2 stockyard.

3 MR. OLINER: Okay.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is a hay wagon down at the
5 stockyards. They used to keep the hooks in here, hook the hey.

6 MR. OLINER: Well, so you are saying your family --
7 okay -- so you built the hay wagons, you built -- another
8 photograph you showed us--

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is another one over here.

10 MR. OLINER: --is what you called a dump wagon for the
11 manure?

12 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

13 MR. OLINER: Any other kind of wagons for the
14 stockyards? They must have been a big customer.

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, they was. Anderson -- Anderson
16 Harrington Coal Company furnished all the hay to them. They
17 used to get the hay from South Park. Yeah, this used to --
18 this is -- this is where they used to keep the horses for the
19 stock show. They had a big door over here and you'd go in it.
20 And they had all these big Percheon horses with the rosettes in
21 their main and roses in their tail.

22 This, we built for Chicago Dairy and we -- they wanted
23 this painted on there, that cow. And they had to take it off
24 because it was somebody's patent. Some kind of -- Messledge
25 (Phonetic) or somebody had a patent on it.

1 MR. OLINER: And were you much into like semitrailers
2 like this White Loaf Flour?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: No, we didn't have the room for them.

4 MR. OLINER: Yeah. So that was kind of again--

5 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yes.

6 MR. OLINER: --kind of a one-time thing?

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, yeah.

8 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Didn't have the room for semis. Gosh,
10 when they run those big Pepsi-Cola jobs in there. The big one
11 -- great big ones why their wheels would slide on each side of
12 the door and getting it in there -- if you didn't get it in
13 there straight, you didn't get it in there.

14 MR. OLINER: Can I ask you about this interior picture
15 so that you can identify -- I think this is possibly like
16 blacksmith shop or--

17 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. That was the old blacksmith
18 shop.

19 MR. OLINER: Okay. So this is like before the turn of
20 the century? This interior picture.

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is 1894?

22 MR. OLINER: Okay.

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: We cleaned it up. We put plasterboard
24 -- I guess that's what you call it -- they use it in the houses
25 now -- on the ceiling. Then we clean all this up here and

1 painted it all aluminum so it was clean. Boy, that soot --
2 that soot hung on there that long. You'd dropped something on
3 the floor upstairs, and it would come down like rain. Yeah, a
4 dirty place. That's before the back part was built on.

5 See, you got a wagon tire in there now, ready to put
6 on this wheel. This is a slack tub. It's where you run the
7 wheel around to cool it off so the tire would stay on there.
8 That's my father. This is my uncle.

9 This was the bellows. Used to have to work a pedal to
10 blow the air to keep the fire going. We went up Tincup and
11 found a bellows up there in one of them old mine buildings up
12 there and brought it down and hooked it up so it would run by
13 electricity so we didn't have to pump it any more.

14 I don't know whether some of that stuff's in there yet
15 or not. Had a big trip hammer here. Boom, boom, boom, boom.
16 This vise is still there I bet you. Had a big vise. Anvils.
17 Loaned the anvil to some opera once so they could pound on it
18 during the play. Yeah, there is that old picture. That's the
19 way it used to was.

20 MS. KROUT: The one story?

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: Uh-hum. See when they built that,
22 they didn't put no footing or nothing under it. Just the brick
23 sitting on the dirt.

24 MR. OLINER: Tell us a little bit about the
25 surrounding neighborhood there.

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh--

2 MR. OLINER: You mentioned Goldberg Brothers was
3 there. Who else?

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, when I first started there,
5 there was a house next door, two houses. And Old Lady Gabarino
6 (Phonetic) lived in one of them with her sister, and they was
7 school teachers. And they had an apple tree in the yard. Us
8 kids would get up in the apple tree all the time. And she
9 always used to chase us out of there because they -- she says
10 we'd get a stomachache from eating the green apples. So her
11 sister died and eventually she passed on.

12 So they tore the houses down. Goldberg bought the
13 property. And across the street they had a terrace. And one
14 house, the umbrella man lived. He made umbrellas. And they
15 had a little store next door to him, sold branch water, that
16 Belgium stuff, you know. I found a bottle washer in my bottle
17 of milk I bought one day.

18 And then next door to them Old Man Schloppe (Phonetic)
19 lived there. He had a beer joint across the street. Later on
20 that closed, and this is during prohibition it was closed. And
21 he went up on the roof to repair something. He fell off the
22 roof and bit his tongue off. And then he developed pneumonia
23 and then he died.

24 And here's the Hupmobile. We took the front end of
25 the body and left the door on it. We just built the back part

1 here. Come to a point.

2 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. When you finished that, did you
3 take it--

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: Davis Autotop put the top on. They're
5 out of business too. They went out of business last year.

6 MR. OLINER: On the Hupmobile, when you finished
7 building that, did you take it out for a drive?

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: No.

9 MR. OLINER: Was it designed to go fairly fast?

10 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. It had a great big eight --
11 eight-cylinder motor in it. I never did drive it. This is
12 when they had hard rubber tires on the wheels. You'd never get
13 a puncture. That's what you call a stake body. Here's the
14 sills here. Here's the crossbars. You had to build it high
15 enough so that when they'd hit a bump, you wouldn't -- the
16 wheel wouldn't hit the body.

17 We also built -- we rebuilt a stake body for the
18 Boulder Denver Truck Lines. Remodeled it. It was an old body,
19 and they wanted it rebuilt. So we -- so they got -- we built
20 that just before we built the Deep Rock Truck. There was an
21 Old Franklin I think that bought it. Didn't have no radiator
22 on it, air cooled. And oh, yeah. Merchant Biscuit Company.
23 We used to build a lot of trucks for them.

24 MR. OLINER: And that became Bowman Biscuit, didn't
25 it?

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. Yeah, there -- oh -- Toilet
2 Supply Company. They sold pipes and johns and stuff like that.

3 MR. OLINER: You know, talking about the street scene,
4 you said that they were building a ship on the street. Well,
5 what happened to the ship? You didn't ever tell us.

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, they dismantled that again.

7 MR. OLINER: Okay.

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: They just built it to see how it
9 looked. Yeah, they dismantled that.

10 MR. OLINER: Right in the middle of Walnut?

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. And here -- this was a body for
12 a fruit and vegetable guy. Joe VanDania (Phonetic). Elk Coal
13 Company had a yard across the street from us.

14 MS. KROUT: Is that still there?

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, no. They finally built a building
16 on it. Here it is here. They built one -- one building on to
17 another building. Still there. But it ain't Elk Coal Company
18 any more. Here's the pop jobs we used to build. They're all
19 steel. I don't know how we did it with the equipment we had.
20 Chinese methods.

21 MR. OLINER: Let me get back--

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: Okay.

23 MR. OLINER: Let me go back to just one final one, and
24 that's the Denver Bread Company. This is probably my favorite
25 photograph. That's marked 1929 and, of course, as I told you

1 before I'm amazed that they were using horse deliveries in
2 1929?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, we had a -- they had put these
4 -- these three crossbars here, and that's got a fifth wheel on
5 it. It's a round thing like that. And there is another that
6 fit the top of it so that when you turn, it slides on that ring
7 like a fifth wheel. So the wagons all had five wheels. This
8 is the way we used to built stand-drive trucks. We'd cut it
9 down like that instead of across here.

10 MR. OLINER: As you say, they can step right in then.

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

12 MR. OLINER: What was the inside like on like that
13 Denver Bread truck then? Just shelves for the bread and
14 pastries?

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. Here and back here. City Park
16 Dairy, when they delivered milk, why, the reigns run through
17 here, and they never did guide the horses. The horses would
18 come up to your house and stop, after a guy run in here and
19 deliver the milk and back out, and the horses would take off
20 and just trained. They knew where to stop and never had to do
21 anything with them.

22 MR. OLINER: How many of those do you think Niederhut
23 built for--

24 MR. NIEDERHUT: We built 10 for City Park Dairy--

25 MR. OLINER: Okay.

1 MR. NIEDERHUT: --during the war. And I don't know
2 how many of these we built.

3 MR. OLINER: Was that like 10 all at once?

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. One order. I think some of the
5 pictures is here, parts of them.

6 MR. OLINER: Can you kind of tell us about the pattern
7 book?

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is -- this is a dairy -- dairy
9 truck here. These is the round corners I was telling you
10 about. These round -- this is round too.

11 MR. OLINER: Whose drawing is that in the pattern
12 book? Is it all one person?

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah. My brother.

14 MR. OLINER: Okay.

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: We had a lot of plans, real good
16 drawings, but they all burnt up.

17 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: See, you had to have all these strip
19 -- wooden strips inside, and then one across here so you could
20 nail this sheet iron on. This is a stake body. Crude. Crude.
21 Oh, this is a -- this is like those constructors bodies like
22 the public service got, keep all their tools and stuff in
23 there. Built a couple of them too.

24 This is the -- this is the Pepsi-Cola -- no -- this is
25 the fish tank. See, here's where the pipes come out for the

1 motors. They had to put an aerator on it so it would filter
2 the air with the water. That's the way we had it insulated.
3 Here's the pipes. Good looking pipes?

4 Oh, I don't think we ever built the -- yeah -- we
5 built one Schlitz truck. These are all stakes here. Never did
6 build anything for Coors. Never built a stagecoach. They
7 wanted us to once, we never did.

8 MR. OLINER: Who wanted you to build a stagecoach?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: I don't remember who it was.

10 My wife had to go to the doctor. That's why she ain't
11 here.

12 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: She's put together wrong. Here's a --
14 here's the way we made the -- made all these iron frames, and
15 then we screwed wood to them. That was easier than doing all
16 the woodwork. I never did like iron work.

17 MS. KROUT: There's a picture in here--

18 MR. OLINER: What would you say was the average--

19 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, here's the wagon. This is the
20 wagons.

21 MR. OLINER: Which wagon was that?

22 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, either the City Park or Denver
23 Bread I think it was.

24 MR. OLINER: Okay.

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is red paint, a spray for

1 Pepsi-Cola. This is the back end of the wagon. This is the
2 fifth wheel.

3 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: The stockyards hay wagon. These are
5 hounds. This is the axle. This is the stub.

6 Maybe this is it.

7 MS. KROUT: No. It was a picture of you inside the --
8 inside the shop as a kid as a child. It might be in that.

9 MR. OLINER: Some of these are--

10 MS. KROUT: Yeah. I don't see them.

11 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, I was 3 years old when they took
12 that picture.

13 MS. KROUT: Yeah?

14 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is the gate, the stake bodies.
15 These were 2-inch oak stakes. And these were all oak panels.
16 That's all we used was oak.

17 MR. OLINER: Why was it just oak? Because sturdy,
18 more sturdy?

19 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oak is hard.

20 MR. OLINER: Yeah.

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: Next to hickory. Here's the fish
22 tank. All the stuff you'd need.

23 MR. OLINER: Now you've reached a point in the book
24 where you can see where the fire was reaching the pages.

25 MS. KROUT: Yeah.

1 MR. OLINER: Oh, boy. Are we glad it survived.

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: If it wasn't for that Pepsi-Cola --
3 here's a rack jobs.

4 MS. KROUT: For Pepsi?

5 MR. NIEDERHUT: For Duffy's. These were Impala jobs.
6 Yeah, this is Pepsi, isn't it? These were the racks. Slide
7 the cases into here, three layers. Yeah, here's the -- here's
8 the corners that we made. They're round like this.

9 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

10 MR. NIEDERHUT: And have to bend them like this.
11 Here's all you needed for the truck. Get all this out, you
12 could make a truck. This was a -- on the inside of it. Here's
13 the doors on here.

14 MS. KROUT: Uh-hum.

15 MR. NIEDERHUT: This is kind of a brace. I wonder
16 what become of Old Lenard Beach. At the Beach (Phonetic) Milk
17 Company. Fairmont (Phonetic) bought it. Deep Rock Water, we
18 used to build a lot of those for him too, just little pickups.
19 You don't have many more. Here's all of Pepsi stuff. I guess
20 that's all there was. That's a scrapbook.

21 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum. All right.

22 MS. KROUT: Here's the picture I was trying to find.

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah, 3 years old. I think it's 3 or
24 5 years old.

25 MS. KROUT: So you did hang around the shop with your

1 father a lot?

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, yeah. Yeah, I was 5 years old in
3 1915. That was a long time ago.

4 MR. OLINER: Well, can we thank you very much for
5 sharing your memories. And can we also have your permission to
6 play this tape recording for any researchers at the Colorado
7 Historical Society who might want to research the history of
8 your family?

9 MR. NIEDERHUT: Sure. I don't care. My dad -- shut
10 it off -- my dad and my -- well, first of all, my uncle got
11 interested in Tincup. So then my dad and my uncle went
12 together and they built a store up there, a mercantile store.
13 And they grubstaked the miners up there. And they used to --
14 my dad used to go up there in the summertime.

15 He'd take a team of horses. It took him two weeks to
16 get up there. They had -- they'd go up to Buena Vista and over
17 Cottonwood Pass -- not over cottonwood -- they'd come down over
18 Texas Creek. They come down Texas Creek and always took him
19 two weeks to get up there with the wagon.

20 So anyway my uncle spent more time up there than he
21 did here. So my dad just let him have the store, and he took
22 the shop. And for a while my dad had a stage line that run
23 from Tincup to Natch (Phonetic) Road over up through Tincup
24 Pass. And one day they come back and the horses got tangled up
25 in the harness.

1 When they had a lot of rain or snow, the lake would be
2 over the road. So this time the lake was over the road, so the
3 horses got tangled up in the harness. And one of the horses
4 drown before they could cut the harnesses.

5 And anyway, they had a lot of saloons in the town
6 then. And French Lateret (Phonetic), he was one guy that had a
7 saloon up there. And the place caught fire and it was next to
8 the store so the store burned down. So that took care of the
9 -- the store.

10 They used to have a school up there, schoolhouse; and
11 they had a hotel. And when I used to go up there, they still
12 had all that stuff there. But, of course, they ain't nothing
13 there now. Old Man Corrigan (Phonetic). He's a Texan. He
14 come up there, and he had the hotel tore down. He bought the
15 school and tore that down.

16 So anyway, my dad -- my uncle in the mean time had
17 gotten another partner and he quit him too, and so he had a
18 house up there, a cabin. And my dad bought the cabin off of
19 him for \$150. It was three lots and -- for \$150. It had three
20 lots and a cabin on it. And it had all the bedding, all the
21 beds, all the furniture, all the fishing poles, all the rifles,
22 everything in it for 150 bucks. The guy gets bull (Phonetic)
23 down.

24 And then later -- well, here's that book of Tincup,
25 the mining road. Anyway, got some old papers and stuff in it.

1 Anyway, when I used to go up there, why, Youlishare (Phonetic),
2 he had a cabin up on Forest Hill. He made booze, and he had a
3 trunk down there by the mailbox. And he had a lookout tower up
4 on the mountain so he could look down see the road.

5 And a guy would hang a flag out there, a rag or
6 something, then he'd know somebody wanted something. So he'd
7 take a gallon of booze down there and put it in the trunk, and
8 the guy would pick it up. Then one day the Old Feds got ahold
9 of him and threw him in jail. I don't know whatever become of
10 him. And Hank Bright (Phonetic), he had a ranch there. It
11 would be under Taylor Lake now.

12 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: We used to stay with him. And he had
14 a team of horses and he had a hay field. We used to cut the
15 hay. I used to help cut the hay. We used to fish along the
16 Taylor River there. It's all under the lake now.

17 And Old Eric Norlow (Phonetic), he's an old Swede up
18 there. He used to build all the cabins up there. He -- he cut
19 these -- these corners, you know, the way they cut them, fit
20 just like a glove. He used to do all that with an axe and a
21 saw. He was a great cabin builder.

22 But my uncle, he died. He finally went and bought a
23 ranch up at Gunnison River. Oh, that's about all of Tincup.
24 My nephew, he built a cabin on the extra lot there now.

25 MR. OLINER: One thing we didn't ask was about your

1 uncle. Between your uncle and your father, did they split the
2 duties there at the shop?

3 MR. NIEDERHUT: Yeah.

4 MR. OLINER: Who did what?

5 MR. NIEDERHUT: Well, my dad worked in the office, I
6 guess. My uncle worked out in the shop. Anyway, this book's
7 kind of beat up, everybody had it. And it finally disappeared,
8 and I had a hard time getting it back. This old cabin up at
9 Dorchester -- it's up the head of Taylor River -- they used to
10 be used as a saloon.

11 This is my father. I don't know where they got Tom
12 Stevens from. They got this book all fouled up. I used to
13 have the hotel register and Monty (Phonetic) got it. I don't
14 know where that is.

15 Here's -- here's our cabin, right here. Big two-story
16 deal. There was a hotel. And there is the town hall. That's
17 still there. This is my uncle's store. A lot of it's gone.
18 Never be the same.

19 MR. OLINER: Was the railroad still running when you--

20 MR. NIEDERHUT: Here's my father. That's the wagon he
21 used to come up with. And there's my uncle's store the Tincup
22 Mercantile Company, Merchandise Company.

23 MR. OLINER: Was the railroad still running when you
24 started going to Tincup?

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Oh, no. It never did get up Tincup.

1 Went over Almont Pass and then into Almont. Here's the town
2 hall. They just resingled the roof a couple years ago. They
3 got it all fixed up. Us kids used to get up in the tower and
4 ring the bell at 2:00 o'clock in the morning. Oh, we was
5 ornery.

6 The Old Breaklarn (Phonetic) bought the hotel up
7 there. He'd always get drunk and he'd run his car in the
8 livery stable, that's where he used to park it. Here's
9 Youleshare (Phonetic). I stayed with him a couple days up on
10 Forest Hill.

11 Anyway, he used to park it in this livery stable. So
12 one day all us kids got -- got his car and pushed it out -- and
13 pushed it to the back of the livery stable and put this wagon
14 where he parks his car. So he got drunk one day and went down
15 there to get his car, and the wagon was there instead of his
16 car.

17 So he got mad and stormed up -- back to the hotel, and
18 raising heck, you know, and while he was gone we changed it
19 again. So when he come down there to get his car, why, all the
20 people told him he was drunk.

21 MR. OLINER: Is that an original Tincup newspaper, or
22 is that -- that's the reprint that Dr. Mumey did?

23 MR. NIEDERHUT: I don't know. I think that might be
24 the original.

25 MR. OLINER: Looks old.

1 MR. OLINER: Yeah. Sure yellowed.

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: Here's the way the town was laid out.

3 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: I haven't been up there for a few
5 years.

6 MR. OLINER: Sure.

7 MR. NIEDERHUT: I used to go up there every -- every
8 year, fishing. But too modernized now.

9 MR. OLINER: Yeah.

10 MR. NIEDERHUT: Ice cream parlors and beer joints and
11 motor cycles and everything.

12 MR. OLINER: Sure.

13 MR. NIEDERHUT: Fishing ain't as good as it used to be
14 either. Used to go out and get 65 fish in a day, and you are
15 lucky to get one now.

16 MR. OLINER: Well, again, our thank you for sharing
17 all of these memories.

18 MR. NIEDERHUT: Okay.

19 MR. OLINER: When was your father on the voluntary
20 fire department again? Right after he came to Denver, or--

21 MR. NIEDERHUT: I don't remember when it was. Anyway,
22 the fire department's got that stuff in the museum.

23 MR. OLINER: What? His badge it looks like. And what
24 else?

25 MR. NIEDERHUT: Pictures.

1 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

2 MR. NIEDERHUT: That's all. This -- read that.

3 MR. OLINER: Oh, yeah. I have seen that, yeah.

4 MR. NIEDERHUT: I inquired about that stuff.

5 MR. OLINER: Capital--

6 MR. NIEDERHUT: That monument place that I showed you.

7 MR. OLINER: Uh-hum.

8 MR. NIEDERHUT: That he made that. That's down the

9 river--

10 (End of Tape.)

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