

Interviewer:

Okay. Please tell me ...

Morris E. Manz:

February 6, 1934, between Gladbrook and Green Mountain.

Interviewer:

Your name?

Morris E. Manz:

Interviewer:

You are?

Darlene Manz:

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And I was born June 29th, 1935 in Marshalltown, at the hospital.

Interviewer:

In Marshalltown. Okay.

Darlene Manz:

Mm-hmm.

Interviewer:

Okay. How did your family come to live on a farm? I'm going to let Darlene, if you want to do most of the talking here.

Darlene Manz:

Okay. Well, he grew up on a farm. His folks lived on a farm over by the Gladbrook Chapel Church.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

So he was born at that farm. And we always have farmed until we retired. And then he went to work for a young fellow with farming, and he worked for him for, oh my, almost 30 years in the spring and fall. He started out helping this young man when he was just young, farming with his dad. And then he started farming for himself, and it started out just in the fall. Well, then it got to be the spring also. And so he

farmed, and he'd run the catch wagon, run this big tractor, and would go along with in the cornfield and get a load, and then take it up, and dump it in the semi, and come back, and get under the spout.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And get another load and go back. And this went on all day. And the same way with the beans.

Interviewer:

Okay. So Morris grew up on a farm?

Darlene Manz:

Yes, he did.

Interviewer:

And did you grow up on a farm?

Darlene Manz:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Okay. And where were you growing up?

Darlene Manz:

We didn't own ground; they did. They owned their farm; we didn't. So we moved various places, but never more than 10 miles from Marshalltown.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

We haven't ever lived more than 10 miles from Marshalltown. So when we came here, it was just a move.

Interviewer:

Okay. Okay. So Morris, your family owned their farm?

Morris E. Manz:

You answer. You know.

Darlene Manz:

Yes, they owned the farm. In fact, when his dad and mom rented the farm from his dad's uncle, and then they got to the place where they could afford a down payment. They got some help from an uncle, and they bought the place where we lived.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And they moved there when he was 12 years old.

Interviewer:

Oh, wow.

Darlene Manz:

They moved there. And that's where he'd lived ever since. Well, then his mother died.

Interviewer:

Go ahead. Go ahead.

Darlene Manz:

His mother died in '55, and when she passed away a couple of years later, he remarried. And in the meantime then in 1958, we got married. And we had gone to school together, but didn't date in school. We didn't date until, well, both while we were 22 and 23 when we got married.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And so they moved to them ... we had a rented place for just from November until a year from that March, and then they had since moved to Minnesota to semi-retire.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And so we moved to the home place then, and we eventually bought it.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And so that's where we always lived.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And then we had a son and a daughter. And when the son got married, when he was 30 years old, he got married. We thought he was a bachelor for life. And so when he got married, then we built a building in the barnyard of where our house, where our farm was. And we moved in there, and then they were in the main house.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Darlene Manz:

And so it worked out really well. So then when we came here, it was just a matter of coming.

Interviewer:

Another move.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Okay. Okay. I'm going to ask each of you if you have a favorite story about the farm.

Okay. We're writing. It's with the hearing issue.

Morris E. Manz:

A lot of stories.

Interviewer:

Yeah?

Morris E. Manz:

The funniest one, which is awful dangerous, but it turned out all right. A hammer mill blew up.

Interviewer:

A hammer mill?

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah, a grinder.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

We had what they called a GM John Deere with a brand new rubber belt hooked up to this grinder.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

And the collar keys come out. It was a big whirled around and around probably 1,000 RPM. And they called them hammers come loose and start flying out the top, tore the top off the grinder, and the tractor didn't quit with that brand new rubber belt on. And finally, I got out. I was in the granary mound. The feedback from the grinder as we ground, and dad was shoveling into it outside.

And I finally got to the tractor and shut it down. Then when I found my dad, he was looking up over the sides of this wagon that was grinding from, wondering how many of them hammers was going to get him.

Interviewer:

He was hiding in the wagon but safe and unharmed.

Morris E. Manz:

There were some serious times that were turned out later was funny.

Interviewer:

Oh, yeah. Equipment was very dangerous.

Morris E. Manz:

For example, we had a corn picker in the granary driveway for a storage, and it come time to put that on in the fall, and we had it half on. But with this particular picker, it had the elevator on the back, a mounted picker. And dad was going to drive that outside not knowing the tractor was in gear, an old tractor. And he turned the crank and the tractor was in gear and it took off.

Interviewer:

Oh, man.

Morris E. Manz:

And dad wasn't on it in this little narrow driveway. I was about probably a hundred foot from there. And I've seen this tractor come out the north end of the granary, and the slide door went up over this elevator of the picker.

Interviewer:

Oh, my.

Morris E. Manz:

And here was ...

Interviewer:

He drove right through the door?

Morris E. Manz:

And here was dad running along behind wondering what he was going to do. So I got the thing shut off.

Interviewer:

You had to run and jump on it and shut it off?

Darlene Manz:

Did you run and jump on it?

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah, I got it stopped.

Interviewer:

Okay. Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

But there's just many, many things that went on.

Interviewer:

Okay. Do you have ...

Morris E. Manz:

The best one, this wasn't funny, but it actually happened. You started working on the farm when you got old enough you could.

Interviewer:

Yes, yes.

Morris E. Manz:

I was nine years old. True story. I was up on the 80 as it was called. Dad left me up there to plow with a tractor and a two bottom plow. And 9 o'clock at night, and I was plowing with the lights on, and the neighbors come down to dad and mom and says, started balling them out for letting a nine-year-old be up there plowing after dark.

Interviewer:

It does sound like that ... What could go wrong?

Morris E. Manz:

And dad says, he's real capable. We don't worry. But that was a difference I think with kids then and kids now. They're more responsible, most of them. You can trust them with anything. We've done our own dynamiting.

Interviewer:

As a kid?

Morris E. Manz:

Many, many things.

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Morris E. Manz:

That you wouldn't think of now.

Interviewer:

Right. How old were you when you were dynamiting things?

Morris E. Manz:

Well, we had tree stumps, rocks, anything that was in the way. You couldn't afford a Cat.

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Morris E. Manz:

So you just went the easy way out. Bought a case of dynamite and blew it.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

We had one big tree we blew out. And when we got done putting dynamite under and lifting that big, huge tree out, you could put a Ford tractor down in where it'd come out.

Interviewer:

Pretty big hole then.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, it was.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Okay. Do you have a favorite memory from the farm, Darlene?

Darlene Manz:

Well, I guess one thing that was funny was one year the kids were like, I'm going to say they were five years apart. So I'm going to say probably Jana was maybe like 12, and Barry was like 7. And they stayed home, and we went up to help his dad do some, I don't know if it was oats or what, probably oats, that we was helping him with. And so while we were gone, the kids wanted to plant garden. Well, my sister was like a second mother to Jana, and she talked her into planting garden. And so Tina went up there with them and they planted, and they were so thrilled what they was doing. Well, one of the things they planted was zucchini squash.

I had some packages of seed there. She planted them. Tina said, Jana, I think you're getting a lot of squash plant. No, no. We like it real well. We like squash. This'll be good, she said, and she had these hills of squash. It'd come fall, and we had squash and squash and squash. And we laughed later and said, it got so the neighbors didn't want to come in our driveway because we wouldn't let them leave without squash. And so she said she would never do that again.

Interviewer:

Well, you learn.

Darlene Manz:

Yes, yes. It was just funny. But they were so happy, and they were so thrilled that they'd planted this garden and surprised us. And everything else was all right. And it was, oh, the radishes was a little thick, and the lettuce. But Tina had supervised enough that everything but the squash turned out pretty good.

Interviewer:

Oh, fun. And the squash was good. There's too much.

Darlene Manz:

It did really good, so.

Interviewer:

Well, good. What kind of crops did you grow?

Morris E. Manz:

Oh, well, we always, back early days, we had oats because we had to have straw for livestock and hay.

Interviewer:

What kind of livestock?

Morris E. Manz:

Well, you had stock cows, milk cows.

Interviewer:

Okay. Do you have horses?

Morris E. Manz:

And then feeding cattle.

Interviewer:

Feeding cattle?

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. We always usually had, say, 18, 20 old stock cows, Black Angus.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

And then dad would buy about that many calves to go with them, and he'd feed out maybe 35, 40 calves a year besides milking cows. And then you always had horses back in them days. See, we didn't get rid of the last team of horses till about 1948.

Interviewer:

Wow. And then you had a modern tractor.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, we thought so.

Interviewer:

What kind of tractor?

Morris E. Manz:

I started driving a WC Allis-Chalmers with a 216 plow on it.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. But I remember dad having a GP John Deere.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

But I never drove it.

Interviewer:

Okay. Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

Things really changed. I can actually say I planted some corn with a team of horses and a two-row 999 corn planter.

Interviewer:

Wow. Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

My dad talked about getting to start the first row, and it was really important the first row was straight.

Morris E. Manz:

When you got teeth in, you moved the stake over and set it down and went back checking.

Interviewer:

Yep.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

So you raised corn and what else?

Morris E. Manz:

Corn and soybeans, oats, and then of course, the hay and straw.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

Nowadays, it's all corn and beans.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Yeah, it is.

Morris E. Manz:

My last year of helping farm was when I was semi-retired at 84.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

I was driving a four-wheel-drive tractor with a 50-foot field cultivator.

Interviewer:

Holy cow.

Morris E. Manz:

So.

Darlene Manz:

This was when he was 84 years old.

Morris E. Manz:

And a thousand-bushel catch wagon.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

You could fill the semi all in one fill in five minutes.

Interviewer:

That's very different than ...

Morris E. Manz:

It had a 10-inch auger.

Interviewer:

Wow. Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

That was a far cry from my old two-row corn picker.

Interviewer:

Yes, it is.

Morris E. Manz:

Or picking by hand. I'd done that, helped.

Interviewer:

You picked corn by hand?

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

I've seen an attachment for like a ...

Morris E. Manz:

Well, I didn't have one. I wasn't big enough to muscle it good, so I'd shuck and all.

Interviewer:

You just have to bend the cornstalk over and pull it off?

Darlene Manz:

You bend it over so you could pull the

Morris E. Manz:

Well, you grab the ear up by the shank on the stalk, and then this hand you got on the hold of the bottom of the ear, and you could pull it out of there.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

But dad, he could just rip it and open and.

Interviewer:

Yeah? And how old were you when you were picking corn by hand? 9 or 10?

Morris E. Manz:

I wasn't very old. I can't say for sure.

Interviewer:

Okay. Did you have a lot of ...

Morris E. Manz:

Dad always gave me the row back of the wagon when we splitting because they'd bend up stalks over.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

So here was this little guy going along.

Interviewer:

Did you have brothers and sisters, and did they help with the farming?

Darlene Manz:

One sister. You had one sister.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. She was four years older than I was.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

So I was a flea in the ointment.

Interviewer:

Yeah? Yeah? Did you have other animals on the farm like chickens or pigs?

Darlene Manz:

What else?

Morris E. Manz:

Oh, yeah. Everybody had chickens.

Interviewer:

Yeah?

Morris E. Manz:

Chickens and pigs. Yeah. Mom always bought leghorns every spring. And then she'd buy a few, well, they didn't call them capons, but they was a heavier weight chicken for butchering. And then in the fall, we'd have to round them up when dad would get the chicken house all cleaned out good, and disinfected, and bedded, and then we'd gather up them leghorn chickens that was up in trees and everywhere.

Interviewer:

Yeah?

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. You could hear them squall and the neighbors probably could. I don't know. Everybody had them, though.

Interviewer:

Yeah. And you had laying hens. Did you have eggs?

Morris E. Manz:

And my mom, she could butcher two chickens and them ready for Sunday dinner, and probably have them ready for the cold water in probably 10 minutes.

Interviewer:

Really?

Morris E. Manz:

She pulled the hide and all off. She'd go up the inside each leg and grab the hide and skin the rabbit, so to speak.

Interviewer:

Wow. She'd take the skin off the chicken?

Morris E. Manz:

And then take the innards out.

Interviewer:

Yeah? Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, you depended on this 30-dozen egg case and the cream can for groceries and your church offering.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

So the eggs and the milk that you sold. Okay.

Darlene Manz:

That's what you'd go to the grocery store.

Morris E. Manz:

It's not like it is nowadays.

Interviewer:

No, it's not.

Darlene Manz:

And then they would allow, well, we can spend so much on groceries, then we need this for the church offering. And that's what they would do.

Interviewer:

Okay. Interesting. And you already mentioned the garden your children planted for you.

Darlene Manz:

Pardon?

Interviewer:

You've already mentioned the garden that your children planted for you.

Darlene Manz:

Yes.

Interviewer:

Did you have an orchard or any other food you raised?

Darlene Manz:

We had apple trees and.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, yeah. Everybody had some apple trees. We probably had three or four. And then dad, I shouldn't say he was a lover, but he liked bees.

Interviewer:

Oh, okay.

Morris E. Manz:

And so we always had three or four hives of the bees down in the grove.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

And so as a little kid, for excitement, I'd run around without a shirt, of course, once it got warm, and I'd go running, a little chubby guy go running by them hives with a stick and tap on top just to get the bees riled up.

Interviewer:

Then did you have to run fast?

Darlene Manz:

Did you run fast?

Morris E. Manz:

Well, probably faster than I could without. My sister never chased me when I was down around the beehive,

Darlene Manz:

We always had rhubarb, a rhubarb patch, and then we had strawberries. But sometimes they didn't last too long. You'd have them couple years, and then they kind of died out, it seemed, but then we always had rhubarb.

Interviewer:

And then you probably put things up for winter.

Darlene Manz:

Well, and oh, yes. Before, we didn't at our house, as I was growing up, we didn't have a freezer until, oh, I'm going to say probably, I don't know. It was maybe in '55 or so. And before that, everything was canned. And I know there was a year when we had a really good strawberry bed, and we had just put in the year before, and you could go out there three times a day and pick a pan of strawberries just easy. And we canned a hundred quart of strawberries.

Interviewer:

That's a lot.

Darlene Manz:

Yes, it was a lot. We had a lot of strawberry sauce and cake, and of course, you couldn't make a pie or anything because it was canned, so there was too much juice. It was more you had those with sauce, and we had that. And then the same way with the rhubarb, but it was rhubarb sauce. And then so when we got the freezer, that was wonderful. And when we got our freezer, we didn't have one for.

Morris E. Manz:

You and I?

Darlene Manz:

Yeah.

Morris E. Manz:

We got in about two years after we was married.

Darlene Manz:

And I'll tell you the reasons.

Morris E. Manz:

So about in '60, '61, but at home, before we got married, we probably, the folks got a big international, what do you call it?

Darlene Manz:

A chest freezer.

Interviewer:

Okay.

Morris E. Manz:

A chest freezer. Yeah. Probably got that in early '50s. And they really thought that was something mom could put, they could butcher. And I was big enough if they could put a half of beef in there.

Interviewer:

Yeah? We butchered ...

Morris E. Manz:

And that saved going to the locker.

Interviewer:

We butchered and had a big chest freezer, and we would do 200 chickens every year too.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah.

Interviewer:

Yeah.

Darlene Manz:

Well, the reason that we got our freezer exactly when we got it was because we had put our meat in a freezer downtown, and it was on South 3rd Avenue down here. And so at night, when I come home or been in town while I would stop there and get meat for and put in the refrigerator. And we had a little freezer in the refrigerator, so you could put couple packages in there. Well, this one night I was in town a little bit longer, and I stopped there, and I went in and went back in the back, and they had the ladder there that you could climb up. And our place was up on the top row, so I was up on the ladder and the light went out, and it was pitched black in there.

Interviewer:

And you were up on a ladder?

Darlene Manz:

I was up on the ladder in this freezer with the door ...

Interviewer:

Inside a freezer?

Darlene Manz:

With the door shut.

Interviewer:

Oh my gosh.

Darlene Manz:

And I thought, I just knew it was going to be the end of me. They'd find me a frozen skeleton the next morning. Well, he was out when I came in. He wasn't right back of the desk. He wasn't there. And he didn't realize I was in there. And I had gone in and turned the light on, and the door shut. So he didn't know the light was on in there, didn't pay any attention. And he was ready to leave, and he opened up the door to go out to go home, and he saw this car and thought, oh, there's somebody here. So he turned around and come back in and opened up the door, and I guess I was as white as a ghost, was scared to death.

Interviewer:

Oh, that'd be terrifying.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. Because I thought it would be a while before he would miss me because he'd think I maybe stopped at my folks, or I might've done something. So it could be an hour or two before he would start wondering where I was. And so it was probably the next week, we went to town and bought a freezer, but we didn't get a big one like he had. We had a chest freezer, but it was just a normal size one. It wasn't a big one.

Interviewer:

So this was a business in Marshalltown that had ...

Darlene Manz:

Yes, down on South Third Avenue.

Interviewer:

Do you remember what it was called or?

Darlene Manz:

The locker.

Interviewer:

The locker.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. The Marshalltown Locker.

Interviewer:

Okay. But it had a great, big freezer that you would go in and a ladder in it.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. Well, it had all these doors and you'd use it. And I don't remember in the locker. When you'd open up this door to get the stuff out. Oh, was there a key on that door? Or how did we get in there?

Morris E. Manz:

Just a handle.

Darlene Manz:

Just a handle that you'd open up, and then the door would open and you had your stuff in there, and it was just, I don't know how deep it was, or I don't remember that.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, we was always lucky and had the locker down where you could stand on the floor and not get on the ladders.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. But this one time I was on the ladder up there, but most times we was down so that you could just reach in and.

Interviewer:

Wow. So this getting a freezer at home was a huge improvement for you?

Darlene Manz:

Oh my. Yes. Oh my. Yes. Because then you didn't have to worry about, well, let's see. Oh, we're having company and I only have one package of something in the freezer in our refrigerator, and so you'd have to make a trip to town or go to plan B.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Well, and people didn't go to town as often.

Darlene Manz:

No. No. So that was not good. Where this way, just go open up the freezer and take out what you wanted and.

Interviewer:

Yeah, I remember we would make the trip to town every Saturday and you would plan your groceries and so you probably did that too.

Darlene Manz:

We did that too and a lot before I started working. Of course, things changed when, well, when Jana graduated from high school and was going to go to college. That's when I started working outside the home. Before that, I'd always been at home. And so on Friday, I had a sister that never married that lived with my folks and three brothers down there. And every Friday we'd go to town shopping and I'd lie, he laughed because all during the winter, we would stop at Country Kitchen and have an apple dumpling. And then in the summer, we would stop at the Dairy Queen and have ice cream. That was our thing so we did on Friday night before we come home.

Interviewer:

Okay. Okay. And so the type of work that you did on the farm would be, you had the crops and you had the animals to take care of, and then you had eggs and you had dairy that you sold. I'm trying to think, what else did you do on the farm? What other kinds of work would, because I know there was always more work than you could possibly get done.

Darlene Manz:

Oh, yeah.

Morris E. Manz:

My mom drove the corn picker.

Interviewer:

Yeah? Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. She'd slip on the old coverall and the men's jacket and the way she'd head for the field with the first corn picker, we had one real pole.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

In the summer months, you couldn't do it all. You had crops to tend. Back in them days, you cultivated everything, and so you had hay to make. It was endless.

Interviewer:

Yeah. Yeah. And I remember having neighbors come help with the hay making. Did you work together?

Darlene Manz:

Yeah.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, like shelling corn or something like that. Well, all the neighbors got together. There was always three or four guys. So it was a good thing when the combines come through and the grain bins. I know I breathed a sigh of relief least first combine we got about the second year we was married. I said, this is

enough of this. And then we put silos up, and then 10 years later, the wind come along, blew them down the barn.

Interviewer:

Oh, boy.

Morris E. Manz:

So then we dried out in '77, so we had a lot of fun.

Interviewer:

It was a drought year?

Morris E. Manz:

The bookkeeper says you only dropped 80 some thousand this year.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Of course. That was nothing. Nowadays where they talk millions.

Interviewer:

Yeah?

Morris E. Manz:

Instead of farming 500 acres of farm in 2000, that young guy I worked for, he was pushing right at 2,000 acres.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Darlene Manz:

When you was laying up next to the wheel when the door from the ...

Morris E. Manz:

When? When I rolled the tractor?

Darlene Manz:

No. When you was under the tractor up against the wheel, when that door was going around in a circle.

Morris E. Manz:

Oh, well. When the first storm come through, when in about in '62, I was shutting the cattle, making sure the cattle was shut in the barn. Crazy things you do. And I didn't make it back to the house and basement.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

But the G John Deere with the cultivator was sitting there and the yard, so I ducked under that. When that wind come up, as I was looking east out from under the tractor, I seen them big slide doors from the corn crib.

Interviewer:

Swirling in the air?

Morris E. Manz:

The heights of the crib going in a circle.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

I thought surely the devil was after me for sure.

Darlene Manz:

That was scary.

Interviewer:

That is scary. That's very scary.

Morris E. Manz:

And yeah, life is precious and life is short.

Interviewer:

It is.

Morris E. Manz:

I haven't had one week of high school left when I rolled the tractor over on myself.

Interviewer:

Wow.

Morris E. Manz:

Tractor and loader. And I was laying there thinking I was going to go the trip, and it's terrible what goes through your mind. I Shouldn't have done this, or I shouldn't have done that, or. But luckily, a neighbor heard me down there hollering, and he was a good-sized man, and he got a hold of one side of that AC and got enough pressure off. It felt better until my dad got there with a tractor and the log chain and pulled that tractor off.

Interviewer:

Wow. How did you roll it?

Morris E. Manz:

I had a loader on concrete foundation from an old building site.

Interviewer:

Okay. So you had a big heavy load on it.

Darlene Manz:

You had a big heavy load on it. Did you have a load?

Interviewer:

You're hauling concrete, so it was very heavy. It's okay. They don't give you a lot of instruction with you when you drive a tractor.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. We had that on the bucket, and I had it raised a little too high probably. And there was a little sideling, not bad, but a little bit.

Interviewer:

Okay. That'll do it.

Morris E. Manz:

And I had this old Humboldt mechanical loader at that time. But that's life.

Interviewer:

But you survived.

Morris E. Manz:

Yeah. You know, you look back and you wonder how you made it this far.

Interviewer:

Yes. Yes.

Morris E. Manz:

That's like, I was in the semi. When I was semi-retired coming out of southeast Iowa and some boys ran an overhead flasher red light.

Interviewer:

Oh, dear.

Morris E. Manz:

And here I was in the Peterbilt semi going 60 mile an hour and hit them. I thought, surely we'd end up in the

Interviewer:

Wow. Wow. Are there members of your family still farming?

Darlene Manz:

No. No. We're the only ones left.

Interviewer:

Does your son farm at all? I know he works here.

Darlene Manz:

Well, he works here.

Interviewer:

Yes. Very nice guy.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. And then our daughter and son-in-law, and they are just semi-retiring from a dairy farm up in Strawberry Point. So they got their, well, they've got two little grandkids now, but they got their first grandson four years ago. And that mother is an OT, and so they keep him three days a week when she works. So he has been the blessing to transform the dad, the grandpa especially, from getting up at 2 o'clock in the morning and coming in sometimes at night at 10 o'clock at night. And when the cows are having calves and things. And so it has made the transition a lot easier on him because he's been kept busy with Ryder.

Interviewer:

I think it's hard to retire.

Darlene Manz:

Oh, yes. And it's the same way with Jana. She had a horse camp, and she had kids come, and they would be at the Waloo church camp, and then there would be so many days that they could be part of the horse camp. And she would have her horses over there and teach them how to take care of them and ride. And then she said, that was just a wonderful experience because there was kids, mostly grandma and grandpa brought them, and they were kids that would come from, maybe some of them was even like from the Chicago area or somewhere, and they'd come and spend them a week with grandma and

grandpa. And this one family, she just loved that little girl. She'd come and they were supposed to be there at 9 o'clock, so Jana went over about 8, 8:30 and was getting things ready.

And here they pulled in about 8:30, and the little girl got out and she come over and she says, I told my grandpa that we weren't supposed to come until 9 o'clock. And he said, we don't want to be late. And she said, that's okay. She said, in fact, I have some little jobs you can do if you want to. And so she sent grandma and grandpa home, and this little girl stayed, and she said by Friday, it was probably 10 till 9 when they got there, But that was the latest that they was ever before. Wow. It had been any time from 8:15 until quarter to 9 that they showed up.

Interviewer:

Wow. Well, this has been really fun to hear about your stories. Is there anything else you have a big strong farm memory of or?

Morris E. Manz:

Well, I'm sorry that I caused you all this problem, not hearing.

Interviewer:

Oh, you're fine. Darlene was kind enough to write your questions, and your stories were worth waiting for.

Morris E. Manz:

Strokes do funny things, I guess.

Interviewer:

Storms?

Darlene Manz:

No. Strokes.

Interviewer:

Oh, yes, yes.

Darlene Manz:

Yeah. When he had the stroke, he was just fine before. I mean he, he'd had a stroke, or had open heart surgery, and he'd had a stroke, and he went out the Saturday morning and Barry and Anthony was there, Anthony, the grandson. He didn't want to go to town with dad and go pay bills. That was boring. He wanted to stay out there.

So Morris went out to check to see if the mail had come yet, and we'd had lunch, and he'd come back in and everything was fine. He said, no, they're late today. So I said, well, I'm going in the bathroom. And just like that, everything was fine. I went in the bathroom, come out the door probably five minutes, and Anthony said, Grampy's sick. And here, Morris said to him, help me to the Davenport. And he got him over to Davenport and we called the ambulance and he'd had the stroke. But the only thing it affected this was his hearing. Other than that, they said, move your legs, move your arms. What day is it? What have you done? He knew everything. Nothing, so.

Interviewer:

Your stories were lovely.

Morris E. Manz:

Well, thanks for your patience.

Interviewer:

Yes. Thank you for the interview.

Darlene Manz:

Well, hope it went all right.

Interviewer:

Yes. I will keep you posted.

Darlene Manz:

Okay.

Interviewer:

Okay. There we go.