

**Interviewed: Mrs. John Alford Sanders, Age 72 - [Mother] and Mrs. Martha Robinson, age 53 - [Daughter] No date given**

**Q: Mrs. Sanders, when did your family settle in Middletown?**

A: Well, my husband was here first in 1929 and then I came here in the early 1930's.

**Q: What were your reasons for moving to Middletown?**

A: Well, you know, my husband could find better work. So then this brick factory out in Newfield was getting men to work. They needed men and so my husband was fortunate to be one of the workers to be, as they say, brought up here.

**Q: What area of the country did you come from?**

A: (South Darlington)?, South Carolina.

**Q: Do most blacks that come to Middletown come from the South?**

A: More or less, most of them.

**Q: What other black families were here when you arrived? Were there many blacks in Middletown then?**

A: No. Not too many, quite a few.

**Q: Where did you live when you first arrived here?**

A: I lived on Newfield Street, out in Newfield.

**Q: Was that in one area, or were they spread out all over Middletown?**

A: They lived in the very same area.

**Q: And did most blacks socialize together that lived in the same area, or did they have friends that perhaps lived in other towns close by?**

A: No, they socialized together, you know, out there where we were living at.

**Q: Have the household patterns of the blacks living in Middletown changed substantially over the years?**

A: Oh, yes.

**Q: Can you tell us something about the housing?**

A: What you mean? The more conveniences or the changes?

**Q: Say, for instance, long ago could blacks live anywhere in Middletown that they wanted to?**

A: No, no, indeed not.

**Q: Why was that? Was housing too expensive? Or,**

A: No, I guess that was just on purpose they didn't put the whites with the whites, and let the colored have so much of the area, you know, their living quarters.

**Q: But--, go ahead.**

A: For instance, out at Long River Village when we first moved there they had quite a few units and they had a part of State Terrace, just about two, I think. There were about two units that the colored people lived in and part of that they gave it to the whites but they all lived separate, you know, just a few apartments. And all the others back in there, all down there, was nothing but whites and they didn't let colored people go in there. But from changes and, you know, different

**Q: The housing**

[D]: I didn't know about that but at that time I was out of State.

**Q: Would you like to comment on that for me, please?**

A: [D]-I thought that was a shame. During the time, let's see, when, I know it was during a time when housing was needed very badly for more than just the blacks, for the whites too, and they built these tents down in, what's the name of that baseball field down there just below on (Sumner?) Street. (General Discussion re location): Oh, the other one. I don't remember the name, Brook? Hubbard? No. They named it for two different people there, the (name Baroni? and ) something Field. [D]-I don't remember the name but, anyway, It was in a playground area where they put up these tents for people to go in it, you know. Of course, you know, none of the whites were going to go in it.

**Q: How long did they expect people to live in these tents?**

A: [D]-Let me tell you, nobody went down there to live in those tents--nobody did. That was just a waste of the taxpayers' money to put it down there because nobody went down there. They just let them stay right down there where they were. Nobody even showed up down there. It was a shame.

**Q: Who put up the tents, the City did?**

A: [D]-I don't know whether it was the City or an organization or whatnot, but I think it was authorized by whoever was mayor at that time, and I don't remember who was there (from background): [M]-Mayor Bielefield. [D]-No, I don't think it was Bielefield.

**Q: That was in Middletown then?**

A: [M]-Yeah, it was in Middletown there, yeah.

**Q: Why all of a sudden was there a need for so much housing?**

A: [M]-I forgot now what happened. Something within the area. [D]: No, it was some kind of emergency. [M]-Route 9 were coming through. [D]- Something or other. I can't remember what it was. Well, anyway, they put the tents down there for people to live in down there. Thank goodness nobody went down; nobody showed up down there. Of course, you know, if anybody had, it would have been, you know, blacks--they would have had no choice, you know what I mean?

**Q: So what did people do? Did they move in with friends or relatives, or just what?**

A: [D]-They had to do something different from that, really. I've been trying to think, you know, at the time when these things are going on, when you're all up in the air about

it, you know, and then as time goes on you sort of forget about it, you know, like what has really happened. [M]-The highway. They were going to put the highway through there, the highway on South Street. They had to put it over further.

**Q: Mrs. Sanders, you said your husband came here in 1929 to get a job. Was that because of the Depression? He couldn't find work in South Carolina, so he came to Middletown?**

A: No, he couldn't find work there, you know. He came up on the farm and the farms were very (poorly) then.

**Q: What kinds of jobs did they have for blacks back then?**

A: What'cha mean?

**Q: You mentioned--**

A: Down there?

**Q: Here, in Middletown.**

A: Oh, they had, well, the Tuttle Brick Yard, you know. They had four brick yards and during their winter time they couldn't work. They shut down in the fall and then you had to just keep going on and on until the spring when they opened up again. They closed down. Well, maybe sometime they would have some trucks, an order from someplace called for some bricks. There might be a truckload of bricks and there was about 20-25 men, I guess, to get a load, to clear a little money, you know, for this, you know, truck and sometimes my husband would wind up with about 50 or 75 cents, I think (in those days?)

**Q: How did families earn a living? For the people that were working in the brick yard during the off-season, what did they do for money to support their families?**

A: They couldn't do it. Later on the wives helped by going to work, you know. I had work. The women had work but the men didn't have anything to do. So then--wait a minute now, they didn't have anything to do. Well, I was carrying the load in my home and so was all the rest of the women that was, you know, working. And sometimes I'd go to town and the wages were very cheap, 25 cents an hour, 35 cents an hour. Well, I'd get up there in the market and of course my family gonna eat, you know. I'd take the last penny, even though my husband didn't have anything to do. But I spent that and then I had to look forward to watching the pennies so I'd have enough money to get back, you know, to my (billet's? fare) to get and I'd overspent that. I had to walk about 3-1/2 miles into the town to get to my work and then later on, let me see now, later on the City of Middletown started a project something like, I think they called it the PWA, or something. (D)-WPA, Mom. That was a governmental project. (M)-Yes, and then the men was so cold. Those were some of the toughest winters--it was so cold!

**Q: Was that, this was during the Depression, now?**

A: Yeah! So cold you see they put this on to try to help, you know, to get the men a little something because they didn't have anything. And the men went out and I knew my husband ears. There was a big wind. The wind came on the ear like a WIND. (D)-Frost

bitten. (M)-Yeah. It was frostbitten and would burst. Actually, that's how cold it was. The men couldn't stand the cold then. That was to give them some little money to help out. Well, then they did that, as far as they could. Right now, all this rent, the fuel bill, your lights and rent run from one fall to the other fall and you got to pay it up. They didn't evict us. You had to pay this up, though, and by the time you start working and working and just about get straightened out, comes the fall again and it's cold. We had to go over the same routine again. But, I was thankful. I kept paying. It didn't worry me too much because I was the first (selected) to work, you know, and if a little something came in and we could eat and make it, kind of--we didn't get what we wanted but still we ate enough to live on, you know, kind of comfortable. It was the same with the others and different people that had been up there a long time, such as Mr. (Maltfassen? ), you remember him, Virginia? It doesn't matter. You don't remember Miss Hattie?(Fassen?) (General Conversation). Miss Hattie, she died not too long ago. (D)-Yeah. O.K., now I remember. (M)-And we used to, until we got an apartment we used to room with them and he would raise a lot of chickens and he was so nice. He'd always get by. You know, when he dressed a chicken for himself he'd dress one for us and he'd have so many eggs and he would give us eggs and things. But his wife, she weren't too keen about sharing. (D)-Don't put that in your recording. Everything you say is on the tape. (M)-I know it.

**Q: Were food prices high during the depression? What about people that didn't have much money? Was there a way for them to get food for their families?. I understand there were food coupons, or something, that people bought.**

A: Well, later on. (D)-That was during the war. (M)-In the war time. Course the panic was on still then. When the wartimes was pretty because we couldn't get any meats out to market.

**Q: This was World War II?**

A: Yes, we couldn't get all in that panic. The war and the flood came all at the same time. (D)-The flood was in 1938; that was the first one. That was a biggie.

**Q: A flood in Middletown?**

A: (D)-Yes, ma'am.(M) Middletown was darkened. (D)-The 1938 flood that was. I'll never forget it. And then we had another one two years later, '36. [I think she meant floods in 1936 and 1938]. It was almost as bad. It was a flood and hurricane mixed. It took away all of the trees. Wesleyan was bare. There were no trees. They had to replant all the trees that were on the campus there, practically. It was just bare. The town was dark; no lights. Trucks had a time getting into Middletown, getting in to bring supplies, foods and stuff, and I know that '38 flood, I remember my mother, of course my father wasn't doing anything at the time, my mother she had her little day's work. Of course, I was in school and naturally with the flood and everything there was no school, so my mother and I, we walked into Middletown to stay with relatives so that she could get to her work. She could walk from down Main Street, and everything. And I'll never forget, what that mom, we were out the flood water was coming. You could just see it rising. It was right on our heels. We was coming down and it was just coming right behind us. I'll never forget that; I'll never forget it. And all out there where your mother lived it was just like a river. Well it was just like a river, all the way from here to Hartford, both ways.

(M)-They took food out there. (D)-Yeah, they take food out in rowboats.

**Q: The Red Cross did that?**

A: (M)-The Red Cross did a very big part. (D)-Where we lived out in Newfield, it was up high, but the water was down there on our street, because it would fill in all those lowlands and so forth.

**Q: Were people's homes were flooded? They had to leave?**

A: (M)-Oh, sure. The water rose as high as three stories. Sure did. (D)-And there was down at the bottom, right down. Of course they dredged the river, made it deeper since then. Why all, you know, down where--

**Q: The Yacht Club?**

A: DeKoven House and all down in that area, you know, down there, all that was just like a river and anytime we had a flood it would come over there real quick and all the way up. There is a marking as you go under the underpass down there. You may have seen it unless it's off. You can see where the waters were. They have it marked there. (M)-And chicken coops and housetops was coming down the river. We stood on the bank, as near, you know, as much as we could. Then they chased us back. (D)-There was a swift undercurrent.

**Q: Did anybody get seriously hurt?**

A: (D)-In different areas. I don't know of anyone around, right through here, but in other areas further up there was--One of the saddest things I saw, though, I saw a doghouse coming down the stream and a dog was still tied to the house. Of course you know where he ended up at. (M)-Well, it was something. It was something.

**Q: How long did it take before people could get themselves back together and move back into their homes?**

A: (D)-Sometimes it takes a long time because you couldn't go back in your home until you were given permission to go back in because they had to go in and fumigate, sterilize, and what have you. Of course all that muck and stuff, you know, from the water was in it. When the water went down it would leave all that (stuff?) you know. They didn't even have the furniture anymore. (M)-They had these boys, they call the CC Camp boys. They went all down the river, you know, and throw out all the people's stuff. And after they got that in--I worked down there in some of those houses helping clean up the debris and stuff and the dishes and all. ( ) all around down the (sea line?)

**Q: Did they set up temporary housing for people that got flooded out of their homes?**

A: They were made to go to the Armory and those places. (D)-Different places they had, you know, for the people to stay. (M)-In the churches. (D)-Yeah.

**Q: How many black churches were there in Middletown? Are there more now than there were before?**

A: (D) There are more now. Back there when we first came here there were really only

two churches and that was Cross Street, the same Cross Street up here, and the (Homeless?) Church in Portland. Those were the only two. (M) But we used to go there before our church was opened. We used to go over there. (D) It was here then. But since then, you know, of course most of the churches that have sprung up, you know, since then originally came out of our church. The members were there under watch care because they didn't have a church to go to. Members like over here, Rev. Woods' church and Rev. Green's church. Also, they all were members of Cross Street at one time. (M)-I guess you'd call that a community church.

**Q: Was the church in walking distance for all the members or did they need some form of transportation?**

A: We had buses.

**Q: Was there any public transportation that they could have used? Public bus transportation?**

A: (D) That's what it was, yeah. Buses just run all over Middletown. I remember when the West Side bus used to come out in this area.

**Q: Why did they cut out bus transportation? They don't have public bus transportation anymore?**

A: (D) I don't know. They just gradually dribbled off. We haven't had those buses since, gee, it's how many years? It's been quite a few. We got down to two, the Hartford bus and the Meriden bus. Now I understand the Meriden bus is out and the Hartford bus runs into Middletown. That's the only one that runs into Middletown.

**Q: Have economic opportunities for blacks increased substantially over the years? Are there more jobs for blacks in Middletown today than there were?**

A: (M) Oh, yeah. When I first came here colored people couldn't get a job. I'll tell it like it is. I used to get the Middletown Press when I first stopped in New York and then I came over here and, um, because my husband was working here, but I was making my way here and so I used to get--well, just before I left New York I said that if anyone could get a job I'd find something. So I came over here and I'd go to town every day and get the Middletown Press and I'd go from house to house and ring the doorbell. "We don't hire colored people." I'd say, "Thank you". And I'd go on to someplace else. So then, finally, I ran up on Mr. Kresge. He is head of the Kresge store. He wanted his wife to have somebody to help in the house, so he hired me. So then after he hired me they found that I couldn't come on Sunday because, see this little dinghy didn't run on Sundays and I would have to have transportation for that, couldn't do it walking. So then I had to curtail that job. And so, finally, I went to see about a job in tobacco. And so I went over there and the man, he hired me, over in Portland. So I came back and when I came back who I found, I think her grandmother who was there waiting on me. She had found a job for me.

**Q: Virginia's (grandmother)?**

A: (M) Yeah. That was a steady job so I worked on that for years and years and years. And from time-to-time, you know, I'd just change jobs and go here and there. Then they

had the Employment Agency so I never had anymore trouble about work. But here, the white people worked, you know, they had their white worked for white. That's how they did it. They didn't know us. They didn't know us and they didn't understand us, but when they began to find out who we, you know, they really liked for colored people to work for them.

**Q: Were there any day care centers for little kids?**

A: No, No. None that we knew of. If there were, we didn't know about it. (Laughter). (D)-And listen, I'd like to go back to when you asked my mother the question about were there any black people living around when we came and did they all live in the same area. Now, it is true that in the sense of living in the same area, that's true, but there was more than one area. See, there were some that lived in Portland and there were some that lived out in Newfield, in the Newfield area, but in different brick yards. See, they had Brick Yard #1, #2, and 3 and 4. We lived in Brick Yard 4 and there were some living at Brick Yard 1, what they used to call Lincoln. They used to call that Lincoln there. (M)-Well, those people lived all together. (D)-Yeah, I'm coming up to that now. As I was saying, there were all right in one, you know, and then there were people that lived in other areas of Middletown, but we didn't know. Colored people used to live right here on Prospect Street even, and also right over here on Cross Street. But we didn't know them, you know. Now, if my mother-in-law was alive now, she could really tell you better because when she came here she was only 17 years old and she's been gone now about six, no she's been gone about thirteen years, she's been gone now. But, she was just about 80 when she passed and she was 17 when she came to Middletown. So, she was the one that told me about these colored people where they lived, you know, in Middletown. But they, you know, died out, you know, and so forth and I suppose after they died nobody else was able to get in, you know, once they left, that was it. But of course we didn't know--

**Q: So, black people that worked at the brick yards, they lived in housing that was right there near the jobs? Was this special sort of housing built just for people working there?**

A: Well, they had, see, they had their houses for their workers, yes.

**Q: What year was this? Do you know--**

A: (D)-Well, it was in, actually it was in the thirties. It was in the thirties, because my father came to Middletown in '29 and my mother followed, although he used to come to Middletown before then. He used to do seasonal work, work in the summer and then go back to South Carolina in the fall. But then when he and my mother decided to make their home here, my mother, we were all supposed to come, my grandmother, put on a performance. She didn't want me to go and leave home and my mother, she left me. I told her I would never have left my baby, her only child.

**Q: How old were you then:?**

A: I was, what, 6 years old? (M)-I don't remember that. (D)-I can remember when mamma left. I can remember that. And she came to New York and stayed with my aunt because my uncle and my father were over here in Middletown working. At that time

they didn't have any facilities for the wives, see, to stay here.(M) They had shacks.(D) They had shanties for the men. So when my father used to go to New York on weekends to see my mother and my aunt, you know, when they could get away going on weekends, and then when my mother left me with my grandmother and, mom, I think you came like in the spring of the year, somewhere about April, somewhere like that, and then daddy followed and he was supposed to bring me when he came because he had to get things settled there, you know, our house and everything. My grandmother cried, so he left me and my mother was to come back and get me at Christmas time. Well, she had to come before then because in the meantime my grandmother passed and so after that she was glad that he did leave me with her, you know.

**Q: Because you were able to spend that time?**

A: That's right, yeah. So my mother came down and we came back after Christmas. My mother stayed a month after she came to get me and we rode like all day and all night too, and I was amazed to see as we would ride on a train through New Jersey and see the kids on these sleds, riding on the ice and everything--ooh, I'd never seen all that snow before, you know. And, of course, when we finally got to Middletown my daddy met us in Berlin. We got to Middletown, but when we come into town we got off at Yard 4 because the train came from Berlin come to that area first, then came on into town. I think we were here about five or six years before we went back for a visit. (Static on tape. Missed dialogue.) (D)It was strictly an Italian neighborhood that we lived in. Where Italian people lived down there where we lived in. The men then they worked in the brick yard too. And, I've enjoyed my school days here. When I went to Wilson, I went to Middletown, no, I went to Woodrow Wilson. I went to Newfield School first, the little Newfield School, grade school. Then I went to Woodrow Wilson. We were bussed then. From Newfield all the way across town over to Woodrow Wilson. At that time they only had the one building, the Junior High and Senior High was all in one building. And when I entered the 7th grade there, I was the only black in the whole school. The only black. I had no problems at all, I had, the teachers were wonderful and the kids were wonderful. I had lots of friends. I still have a lot of those friends today. I had no problems going to school and not the problems that the children have today. Course I realize that the children today are more (interviewer says something here) I would say so. For my time and as I grow up I suppose it was sufficient for me, but this is another generation now, you know. So now, God willing, I'm looking forward to my 35th class reunion in June. I've only missed one. (Laughter). And we have a grand old time. Like momma was talking to me and I said to her "Mom, you know, it's just like, well, me now". Where she's been along where I'm starting to go along now, you know. It was one of those cases like this, I mean, where husband and wife, if one couldn't do, the other's gonna take up. Carry on, this is what it's all about

**(Q) Yeah, that's what America is definitely (Chatter).**

A: (M)-That's right. I think that any, not to say I'm patting myself on the shoulder, but I think if there's (available). (D)-You know when help is needed in you're home and that's why there's a lot of things are broken up today. (M) In later years, when my husband got sick (D)-One won't take from the other. (M)-Oh dear, and then the people that I was working for, they said "Why don't you take your daughter out of school? Let

her help you". I said I'm not gonna do it, and I didn't. She kept on going and she graduated from Middletown High School. (D)-See, during the time we moved from the brick yard into Middletown in the City District you had to go to a city school, so I had to transfer. I was a Freshman then. I went to Middletown High. That's where I graduated from, Middletown High. (M)-But all of her children graduated from Wilson. (D)-Yeah.

**Q: Were there black teachers in the public schools?**

A: (M)-Not at that time, no. (D)-There was one that was offered an opportunity. That's the first and only one I knew of at that time that was offered a job in the public school system here. You know that was the lady (Virginia Earnest? Max?).

**Q: Do you know her?**

A: She was a smart woman.

**Q: Was she a resident of Middletown?**

A: No. This was her home here. She was offered but she had other plans. (M)-She did teach down in Willimantic (Graduate?) once. She went down there and taught a little there. Then she went to Africa.

**Q: What kind of social activities did young as well as old engage in?**

A: (D)-What, now or back then? Back then they played with cars, played ball, baseball, sports like that, you know. ( ) and in their homes. That's it.

**Q: So there wasn't really organized social activities for senior citizens?**

A: (M)-No.

**Q: Did schools have playgrounds for children to play in?**

A: (D)-You mean like when I was going to school? Oh, yeah, we had, of course there were gymnasiums in the schools, of course, and then outside. Of course, this was all school activities like track, football, baseball, what have you.

**Q: Were there, like, church picnics and things like that?**

A: Of our own, yes.

**Q: What did young people do on weekends; did they go to the movies? Were there movie theaters then?**

A: Oh, yes. That was about the main thing, movies. And we used to go to sport dances too. We used to go out of town, go to Hartford. Sport dances. They'd have, like, basketball games and then afterwards there'd be dancing. Then, of course, we had to find the eating places, always had to eat (laughter). I think we kept (Boomy's? ) in business just...(laughter). We supported him, we'd head over to his little shop, or on our way to the movies, stop and eat. I don't know where, we stopped and eat before we go home, you know.

**Q: Can you recall blacks that were involved in politics in Middletown?**

A: (M)-Gee, I don't know (Rodgers?) is the only black man that I can think of that really

got involved in politics, but it was not way back. (D)-No ( ).

**Q: Did blacks none-the-less still go out to the polls to vote?**

A: (D)-Yeah, some did. There were a whole lot that didn't, but some did. ( ) later years (they began? ) just get with it, you know, I mean some people, you know, they have the attitude that what's the use of voting, you know? But I feel this way, as long as I was eligible to vote I'd go anywhere I want to use that vote, whether it pays off or not; use it, you know? At least it's something of your own thinking, you know. I mean, you can do as you please. You know what I mean?

**Q: Can either of you name any particularly outstanding blacks in Middletown that worked in the community that tried to help the people here? In other words, was there, like, any particular person or organization that you could go to with complaints, whether it be about jobs or housing, or whatever?**

A: (M)-No, not here in Middletown, not directly in Middletown.

**Q: Were you going to say something before? (Addressed to daughter.)**

A: (D)-Well, what I was going to say is, of course this isn't going 'way back, you know, when I was a child because at that time we were really nobody. If you had a problem you had to go right straight to the horse's mouth, the mayor or whoever, you know, was in office. If there was a problem you didn't have an organization to say to go to. Not like it is now, of course, no. Now you've got many things you can go to now. It wasn't like that before. Of course there wasn't money allocated by the government either to set up these organizations either. (Static on tape--lost dialogue.) (M)- ...remember coming from Hartford. She stayed up near Miss Banks. I know she weighed about 400 pounds, I guess. Goodness gracious! (D)-She was a big lady. (M)-She didn't want to leave her home and the boats had to go up there to get her and make her come out. Because they had those boys, those CC boys. They'd be moving them out of the house, you know. (the dangers? ). They watched all night long. The dangers, all night long, those boys long ago. If they say a water danger they would just ( ) get out. But Mrs. Banks, you couldn't get her out, not by ( ). She was 'way up there on the second or third floor in the house. It's still there now. The water was up there. (D)-That's when they decided to build the new bridge because during the flood all these buildings and things would come down the river and, of course, when it would get to the bridge it would hit the bridge and BANG. Then the current would sweep it under, you know, and the bridge was unsafe. And then they decided we had to have a new bridge, and that's when they built the (Portland-Middletown Bridge?) [That is what it was known as then. It was later named the Arrigoni Bridge--but I don't know what it was she said.] (M)-We were in town then when they built that new bridge, right where we were living--Bang, Bang, Bang, all night long. They worked all night and all day to dedicate this bridge. (D)-I was at Barbara Camp's that weekend. I was at Barbara Camp's, so I didn't see that; I missed it. The president came here, came right down to ( ). President Roosevelt, I think it was. (D)-Oh, I saw Roosevelt when he came through, he and his daughter Margaret. I was just as close, I could put my hand on him. (M)-Roosevelt, I don't know about Roosevelt coming. I remember Roosevelt and ( ) and once one was supposed to go through Wesleyan. I don't know, something happened up through there,

maybe they detoured. Long about then, Wesleyan was here then.

**Q: Did they have any black students at all at Wesleyan? Were they letting them in?**

A: Yeah.

**Q: They did have some up there?**

A: Yes, because they used to be down at the church. There was one smart one up there. ( ).....languages and things. Mr. Blake. I don't remember him.

**Q: But at that time you had to be super-smart to get in there?**

A: Yeah, you bet. My, you had to be (slick? ). You'd really have to have A+, A-average, B+ average, something like that probably. Where now I don't think it's quite as high.

**Q: Do you know if he was receiving any scholarships, or were his parents paying?**

A: (M) I don't know. (D)-It seems as though he got along very well up there. (M)-He would come and help us out and give us things. We had programs that he could speak, you know. We had a debate on a lazy man (fussy woman?) a lazy man, or something, you know. I can't remember. We had a debate on that and he said something about it and it was quite funny. [dialogue unclear] So I guess that's about all I can say. It was a pretty tough time, but I guess, as I say, I was young and could take it. But if I'd been old, I don't think I could have, and that I was thankful that I had, you know, some way of working to get by in some way to keep us, you know, going.( ).

**Q: Like you said, you didn't take your daughter out of school to help work. Were there other families who had to take their children out of school to help support the families?**

A: Well, what I was talking about was of another time when her father was sick. This was 'way later, but at that time she wasn't old enough to work. (D)-Well, I was getting, I was finishing high school about that time, I remember.

**Q: What type of snow removal did they have then? Were they able to remove the snow way back then?**

A: Yes, shoveled.

**Q: I mean about your streets, your highways, your roads. How did they go about removing snow and stuff then?**

A: They used some kind of plows. (D)-They had trucks and things and they got out with shovels on the highway, well, not highway, roads. (M)-They shoveled the snow into the trucks and the trucks would cart it off.

**Q: And how long would it take them to clean up one street? If you'd get a big snow like we have now you'd be snowed in for a couple of weeks before you could get in to town?**

A: (M)-You would. (D) It was something! I could remember that, of course, when we were kids we thought it was great. Now we lived up on the hill out there on Newfield,

Brick Yard 4. The men, instead of Tuttle's and all doing that, I think they should have had that done, but the men had to clear all this out. They'd all get together and shovel.

**Q: Were they paid to do this?**

A: No. They paid to shovel to get out (laughter). (D)-And on Main Street I can remember when they used to allow, you know, when the big trucks would be up there and the men would shovel the snow onto the trucks and they would go down and dump it in the river, you know. (M)-That was all manual work to get that snow out of there. They didn't have snow plows, nothing like that. (M)-It's not like in the South when this ice storm came down there. See, they don't have the facilities to do like these people up here. They're not used to it; they never have snow like that. The same time we had the ice storm last winter, a couple of years ago, (D)-They had to get vehicles from other states to go down and help them out because they weren't prepared for that. They never had snow like that, you know. People were stranded in motels and everything. It was terrible.