

Anna Schneider Schuett and Margaret Schneider Schoenbeck

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The pages that follow constitute the transcript of an interview conducted as part of the Wilmette Public Library District's Oral History program, started in 1975 by a committee of the Friends of the Wilmette Public Library which has been chaired since its inception by Rhea Adler, a resident of the Village of Wilmette since 1932.

A copy of the tape on which this transcript is based is available for circulation, and may be obtained by checking with a Reference Librarian concerning circulation procedures.

This program would not have been possible without the cooperation of the many long-time residents of the Village interested in helping to preserve particulars of a fascinating past, and the patience, energy and effort of a small but dedicated group of interviewers, transcribers and typists who share the belief that the past is too important to be forgotten.

Richard E. Thompson

Director

ABSTRACT

Interviewees: Anna Schneider Schuett and Margaret Schneider Schoenbeck

Interviewer: Briggs Maselli

Abstract: Rhea S. Adler

Date of interview: July, 1976

Grew up on farms in Grosse Pointe - fathers were brothers Schooling at St. Joseph in original school building - present building is the third building on the corner (NE) Ridge Rd. and Lake Ave. - names of early Sisters - Sister Judith, Sister Urseline, Sister Alisetta, Sister Loretta, Sister Modesta, Sister Beatina Original Schneider farm on Old Glenview Rd. was divided among ten children - eight boys and two daughters of Joseph and Katherine Schneider

Corpus Christi Day - celebration with baskets of flowers strewn along parade route (a German custom) by the whole parish - discontinued later because automobile traffic became too heavy - May of each year after last mass on a Sunday

Roller skating to school - long days with mass at 7:00 a.m. until 4:30 p.m. - all classes taught in German - took lunch from home as it was an hours walk to St. Joseph from 3100 Old. Glenview Rd. - if lunch forgotten, child was sent over to kitchen at the convent and the cook+sister would make them a sandwich - picked apples that hung over a fence and ate on way to school - all subjects taught in German for first two grades - from third grade only English was taught - at home. German was used - transition was difficult - classes were 50- 55 children per class - discipline strict

Pastured everyone's cows near Lockerbie Lane before leaving for school and upon return in late afternoon had to drive them back home

Truck farmed - had to drive produce from farm to South Water Street market on Chicago River in Chicago - left 9:30 p.m. to arrive there before 4 a.m. - returned home by 11:30 a.m. - produce was: corn, tomatoes in boxes made at Morton Grove (box factory) , carrots, beets, beans, celery

Kept cows to give milk - produced own butter and cottage cheese - chickens produced eggs - bought sugar and salt but little else

Great grandfather Joseph Schneider had a brick bake oven in back. yard where bread and coffee cakes were baked

Sundays went to church twice · mass in a.m. · dinner at 12 noon · vespers in afternoon · walked from 3100 to church and back twice · weekdays began with breakfast at 6 a.m. -plow the fields · 9:00 a.m. a little lunch - 12:00 noon dinner - 3:00 p.m. lunch · 6:00 p.m. supper

Winter storage of vegetables in cellar and in heaps of sand and manure in yard
Livestock consisted of a team of horses, cows and pigs · butchered and made pork· cured sausages and hams and bacon in %smokehouse+· traded at Bleser\$ and Hoffman\$ · ice· boxes and ice man but in earlier years stored milk and butter in the deep well · cellar (dirt floor) stored root vegetables - canning from large orchard of apple, pear, cherry and peach trees with grape vines and currant bushes

Flooded fields · barn burned, horses killed · purchased a new team of horses - father did landscaping for Mallinckrodt and Bahai Temple and %teaming+for Doetsch Brothers - mother a Doetsch · Mother and Anna did the farming with a single temperamental horse · winter father worked for Cook County with his team

Picnics at Goldbar\$ Grove - July 4th, Labor Day, Old Settlers and Schneider Family Picnic in pasture - Schneider Band played for all events.. · six of the eight brothers were in the original band - Masked Ball - Village Hall - Grosse Point - post office at Bleser\$ store · mail picked up there

Move to %Grandfather\$ house+· four unheated bedrooms · out hoUse - well water until the 1930\$ - washing in winter in shed in yard · home-made soap · lye and lard

Anna Schneider Schuett and Margaret Schneider Schoenbeck

BM: This is July 19 [1976] and I am interviewing Mrs. Schuett and Mrs.

Schoenbeck . S C H O E N B E C K. Now, Mrs. Schuett, would you please tell me your maiden name and where you grew up?

AS: Anna Schneider Schuett. Right.

BM: And you grew up at 3100....

AS: 3100 Old Glenview Road.

BM: And at that time, that was old Grosse Point.

AS: Yes, it was.

BM: And Mrs. Schoenbeck, where did you grow up? In the same place?

MS: About a block from here - 3127. Want me to give you my....

SM: Yes, please.

MS: Margaret Schneider Schoenbeck, 3127 Old Glenview Road, Grosse Point.

BM: And that's Grosse Point. Fine. Now, you're a cousin of Mrs. Schuett's.

MS: Um hum.

BM: Right. And you grew up fairly close to each other so....

AS: Always we went to school together.

MS: Our fathers were brothers.

BM: Oh, your fathers were brothers? Um hum. Okay. And you went to school together. What was - where did you go to school?

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 2

AS: St. Joe's. St. Joe's.

BM: You did?

AS: Walked all the way from here all the way to St. Joe's every morning.

BM: Oh. Um hum. And what was it like? What was St. Joe's like? Was it - it wasn't a very large building at the time, was it?

AS: No, it was small.

MS: It was a small building when we started. It was an old - a little old schoolhouse. Right?

BM: Oh, did they build another school?

AS: Yes. It was a little corner, wasn't it?

MS: Yes. Um hum.

AS: And this one she's talking about is really the real old building.

MS: We started there - it was like first and second grade.

BM: Um hum. That is where St. Joe's is now - on that corner?

MS: Um hum.

BM: That was where the original schoolhouse was?

MS: Um hum.

BM: And who were the teachers there? Do you remember?

AS: Do you remember?

MS: Do you remember Sister Judith?

AS: Yes. She was one. Sister Urseline was the first grade. Sister Alisetta was the second.

BM: How do you spell - well, all right.

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AS: Ursula · Urseline? I don't know.

MS: U R S A L I N E. She was the school teacher

AS: Yes. She was nice. And I don't remember · I remember Sister Loretta and Sister Modesta and Sister Beatina. I remember her real well.

MS: Yes. She was a very nice sister. There goes that clock. (*Cuckoo clock in background*)

BM: Yes. Well, that's going to be on the tape, too. (*Laughter*)

MS: Well, that's all right.

BM: Now, do you remember Father Netstraetter?

AS: Oh, yes. Netstraetter.

BM: Netstraetter. Yes, I'm sorry.

AS: Yes. I remember him real well. Don't you, Margaret?

MS: We lived here with him for so many years.

BM: Did he live right in the area, too?

AS: No.

BM: No?

AS: No. He lived right across the street from St. Joe's school. That's where he lived · what's called Wilmette Avenue now, isn't it?

MS: No, Lake Avenue.

AS: Where Monseigneur Meter is now today, but those buildings were. all torn down, weren't they?

MS: They were torn down in 1935.

AS: I wouldn't know that, Margaret. Really?

MS: Yes, because when my Dad was buried, he was still buried

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from the school where they had the chapel and a new church was being built.

AS: You remember better than I do on that.

MS: It was around 1935 or '36.

BM: Mrs. Schoenbeck, would you please tell me what your parents' names were and where they lived?

MS: They were Joseph and Anna Schneider and they lived at 3127 Glenview Road in an old homestead which is 102 years old now.

BM: Oh, great.

MS: And they did farming.

BM: How big was the farm? Do you know?

MS: Oh, about 30 acres, I think which was some rented from his brothers and sisters. And they raised corn and tomatoes, and the smaller vegetables, you know, like carrots, beets, melons and beans.

BM: Oh, my goodness. Was this to be sold or did you....

MS: We had a stand. Yes.

BM: Oh, you did?

MS: Yes, along the road side in later years when my brothers were able to take care of it.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And did a pretty good business there.

BM: Yes, and your brothers worked on the farm with your parents?

MS: Yes, my older brothers worked with my mother and dad.

BM: Um hum.

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MS: And after school I had to hurry home and take care of the little ones so my mother could be in the field working. And before my grandfather and grandmother moved in the home they are living in now, we had a log cabin across the street.

BM: Oh.

MS: And that was built in 19 - no, 1875.

BM: What was your grandparents name?

MS: Joseph and Katherine Schneider.

BM: And then they came to live with you later?

MS: And then they moved from the log cabin house into the new home that they had built.

BM: Oh. Um hum.

MS: And my father had eight brothers - no, seven brothers and two sisters. So there were a lot of Schneiders.

BM: There were a lot of Schneiders.

AS: And they all played the music.

MS: And they all played in a band.

BM: You are related to %Shootie+Schneider then, I guess.

MS: Yes, he's our cousin.

BM: Oh, he's your cousin because I remember him telling about playing in the band.

MS: Well, his father, my father, and her father were brothers.

BM: I see. The whole clan and when did you play the music? When did that - was that on the evenings or week-ends?

MS: Well, on Decoration Day they generally had a march in the

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Village.

AS: And then when they went around with the flowers - what was that? Holy Day?

MS: It was, um, Corpus Christi. Always - the band always played. They had little houses.

AS: And big parades.

MS: Yes and they marched from one house to another and the band would play like a religious song in front of each house.

BM: Oh. Were the houses houses of people that you knew or just in the neighborhood? How did you decide?

AS: They made them out of white sheets with beautiful wreaths of flowers over them. Um hum.

MS: And then they had the Blessed Sacrament there.

BM: Where was this?

MS: The houses were, I think - one was on Schiller, wasn't it?

AS: I don't know. It was all along Ridge Road that we walked.

MS: We had a parade with our basket of flowers.

AS: We had to carry a basket of flowers and strew our flowers along the street.

MS: They still do that in Germany.

BM: Oh, they do? Now, were these members of the family that went. parading and marching?

AS: The whole St. Joe's parish.

BM: Oh, the parish. I see. And who built the houses?

AS: Well, I think everybody helped. Didn't they?

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AS: I forget what day it was in May, but I know it was in May. I know for sure. And we always had those flowers - those white - oh, what do you call them?

MS: Petunias?

AS: No. Those long....

MS: Peonies?

BM: They were white flowers that bloomed in May?

AS: Yes. They were on bushes.

MS: That was - oh, bridal wreath.

BM: Oh, the bridal wreath.

AS: Yes. We always had a basket of those.

BM: And you walked along and you strewed the flowers.

AS: We had a basket and broke them off and strewed them along the streets.

BM: How large a group would be marching?

AS: Oh, it was quite a group from church.

BM: My goodness.

MS: It was the whole parish and after the last mass, whatever time that was - 11:00 or 10:30 or something like that.

BM: Um hum.

AS: That's right.

BM: And then were just the little girls strewing the flowers?

MS: Um hum.

BM: And everybody else was....

AS: Little ones at that time.

BM: At that time. And everyone else was playing.

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MS: Generally the girls who had made their first communion marched in their little white dresses and veils. They were up in front.

BM: I see. How lovely.

MS: And the houses were all white so everything was just gorgeous.

BM: Um hum.

MS: They were like collapsible. They just put up these partitions..

BM: Yes.

MS:at that time of the year, but everybody wanted to outdo the other one - have one house more beautiful than the other one.

BM: Yes.

AS: It was really nice.

BM: Um hum. Mrs. Schuett, do you want to tell me about what you remember about roller skating home from school?

AS: Sure. I was a great roller skater. I skated so fast. I outdone all the rest of them.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And there were a few blocks of cement that were missing.

BM: Um hum.

AS: I jumped those all the time, but it was tough.

BM: Oh, so you were skating in the street then because the sidewalks....

AS: No, we had the sidewalks.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 10

BM: Oh, you had sidewalks?

AS: . . .up to Schoedens where Westmoreland Country Club is.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And then it ended and from there on we'd take our skates off and carried them and walked all the way home.

BM: Yes.

AS: That was it.

BM: And you were the champion skater?

AS: Yes, I was the champion skater - not that I want to brag about this one.

BM: Well, no, if you were.

AS: Nobody could keep up with me. That was the worst thing.

BM: And this is while you were going home?

AS: Going home from school and going into school in the morning. We always went real early. About what time did we leave - at 7:00?

MS: 7:00. Um hum.

AS: And we always had to go to mass. And then - we had days that were very long. I think our school didn't let out till 4:30 and sometimes it was dark at night when we came home in the winter months.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And it was great walking.

BM: Yes. About how long did it take you to walk?

AS: Oh, about an hour.

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MS: About an hour.

AS: A little longer sometimes - the way we'd poke around.

BM: Well, yes. You didn't always go straight home.

AS: No, of course not. You know what we usually did? If we could swipe a couple of apples along the highway, we did that. Remember when we picked them up by Falk - old man Falk? He always said, "Don't come inside the fence. You can't come in, but take anything that's outside the fence." And we used to pick those apples and eat them on the way home.

BM: Oh, sure. Did you take your lunch to school with you?

MS: Oh, yes. Always we had to take our lunch.

BM: Um hum.

MS: It was the only way we got it. They never had anything there but just water.

AS: Just a sandwich with - and they would never serve - and if anybody forgot their lunch, the poor nuns would send you over to the convent and the poor cook sister would give you a sandwich.

BM: Oh, yes.

AS: ... because they were long days.

BM: Yes, it was a long day. You couldn't go home. There wasn't enough time to go home.

MS: No. So that's about all I know.

BM: Mrs. Schuett, would you give me your parents' names, too?

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And tell me where they lived?

AS: Rose and Peter Schneider and they lived at now what is 3100 Old Glenview Road.

BM: Um hum. And he had a farm about the same size as....

AS: About the same size as her father - that's Margaret's father....

BM: Um hum.

AS: .. .but you take - as far as Grandpa was concerned, the real Grandpa, he owned from Hibbard Road way past Lockerbie where all the pastures were.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And that was all pasture - Lockerbie Lane at that time. We used to take our cow and drive it into that pasture. How many cows did you have, Margaret - two?

MS: Two. Yes.

AS: Yes. And we'd all get together and put those cows every day down where it's called Lockerbie Lane now.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And then from there we'd bring them back at night

BM: Before you went to school, you took the cows....

AS: Oh, yes.

BM: .. . down there?

AS: We did that before, and then when we came home from school we had to bring them back home.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And all this property belonged to Grandpa Schneider - Great

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Grandpa Schneider.

BM: Um hum.

AS: So when he couldn't farm it any more, he divided it amongst the boys, didn't he - amongst all the children?

MS: Yes.

AS: So how many acres did each one get?

MS: Six acres.

AS: And this here was part of Daddy's. Right here.

BM: Um hum.

AS: This six acres. And they - we did the farming.

BM: Um hum.

AS: Of course, it was - at that time it was - property was not enough to farm on so they had to go out and rent a little bit, but in between Daddy used to plant - like beans - and in between those rows he would already have a space that we could put tomatoes in between.

BM: Oh.

AS: We always - our farm was always doubly farmed all the way through.

BM: Um hum.

AS: So that gave us a lot more vegetables.

BM: Oh, sure.

AS: Then, Daddy would take these vegetables and take them to market. And he'd leave at 9:30 at night, didn't he? And he'd come home around - oh, what - 11:30 the next day.

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MS Yes, around noon.

BM: Where did he go to market? Down in Chicago?

AS: South Water.

BM: Oh, the South Water Market?

AS: Um hum.

BM: With a horse and his wagon - with his produce on it?

AS: Yes. Yes, all the produce. We had to load it up and....

BM: Oh, my goodness.

AS: ...he had to take it down there.

BM: When did he sleep if he didn't get home?

AS: Well, that was just it. He got home at you might say 11:30 - was it the next morning? Then he had to rest a while before he went back out.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And sometimes they had to go, depending on how the vegetables came in - they had to go pretty near every day.

MS: For a while, yes..

BM: Well, yes, when the produce was ready....

AS: And they went down with a team of horses and the wagon. And later on as we went along, we finally got one of the bigger trucks.

BM: Um hum.

AS: So that helped.

BM: Now about how long did it take him to get down to the South Water Market with a horse and wagon?

AS: Well - 11:30 to - well, how many hours would you say they

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came in? I think they came in at some time in the morning.

MS: Yes, early in the morning. Around 4:00, I think they were there.

BM: Um hum.

MS: Sometimes they would go down there and they might get as much as 60 cents for a bag of corn.

BM: Um hum.

MS: . . . and beans and tomatoes.

AS: We'd load up so many tomatoes.

BM: Did you put them in bushel baskets?

AS: Never. We had to box them all up.

BM: You boxed them?

AS: Um hum. We had to clean them and box them all up in boxes.

BM: Oh.

AS: And we had to pack them with what we called packing paper. They looked beautiful. And these boxes had little cleats on top so we could stand one box on top of the other.

MS: Without crushing them.

BM: I see. And then he would bring the boxes back and you would have to repack them?

AS: No, he'd buy new boxes.

BM: He bought new boxes at the time?

AS: He bought them from the box factory. Where was it - in Morton Grove?

MS: Yes. They had a box factory there.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 16

BM: Oh.

MS: That's where the boxes came from. They were quite expensive at the time, too.

BM: Um hum.

MS: So sometimes we wouldn't make any profit on it so I - they brought things back that wouldn't sell.

AS: Right. They couldn't sell it and they'd have to bring a lot of that stuff and dump it. And here we did all that hard work.

BM: Yes.

AS: Well, that's the way it went.

BM: And with the cows, did you make your own butter?

AS: Yes, all of it.

BM: Cottage cheese?

MS: Yes, definitely. I loved the cottage cheese (*laughtert*) and the cream.

AS: Her mother and daddy did a lot of that cottage cheese.

BM: Yes. Well, with all those children in the family, I guess they needed a lot of marvelous food.

AS: And then they'd sell it if they had a lot of it. They'd sell it along the highway.

MS: Yes, people that went by - that didn't have any....

BM: That's right. So people would come over here from say Wilmette or Winnetka and....

MS: No, we'd take it when we went to school and drop it off.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 17

BM: Oh, you dropped it off at people's houses?

AS: In a little plowboy pail. Wasn't that it?

MS: We had a little - a regular little milk pail.

AS: I didn't remember that - I thought it was a plowboy bucket. I don't know.

(laughter) I

MS: And those things are precious now. They're antiques.

AS: You don't see them any more no wheres.

MS: Remember those - they're shaped like a little bucket and it had a handle on it with a handle on the cover? Remember those? You'd get them in enamelware or tin. Remember those?

AS: Yes, I remember when we went to school and when it used to snow a lot.

Why, we'd never miss a day of school because - and sometimes the snow was pretty deep and we'd start crying and, boy, they had to hitch up the old horses and we'd go to school with the sled.

BM: Oh.

AS: And her father and her mother, they had made quite a bit more cheese than we did at that time and then her brother had to take it over to Mike Loutch's and they lived along the old Glenview Road. I'd never forget this one because we were on a sled. Always had a lot of fun on the sled. It was great.

MS: Yes, it was like a sleigh ride party. I remember.

AS: And then he had to take this cheese and put it by Mike Loutch's and that was going down where Centennial Park is

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now, that was where he lived.

BM: Yes, I know where he lives.

AS: So her brother stands this on the steps (*laughter*) and they had a million chickens (*Laughter*) and along come those chickens and this cheese tipped before they ever had a chance to come out and pick this bucket of cheese up. (*laughter*) It was the funniest thing. (*laughter*)

MS: I don't remember that.

AS: You don't remember that? And your brother did cry because all the chickens were really, you know, all in this bucket. Then he came jumping on the sled and away he went. Oh, it was great fun when we went to school.

MS: It really was.

AS: It was a lot of walking, but we'd never walk alone. That was one thing we didn't do. We'd always bunch together. We started at - you were - oh, you were about the first ones that we started out. And then we went along the highway from here to St. Joe's. All the kids, you know....

MS: Were waiting - were waiting to join the crowd.

AS: And we'd always go - like the boys ahead of us and the girls behind. And there were - oh, eight, ten of us girls, and maybe eight, ten of the boys.

BM: um hum.

AS: We never were lonely.

MS: It was great.

AS: It was really great going to school.

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BM: Did you have the sleigh rides, say on week-ends when you weren't going to school?

MS: No.

BM: I guess you were working on week-ends, right, because there were things to do on the farm?

MS: No.

AS: No.

MS: No. We had enough during the week so we didn't look forward to having one, you know....

BM: Um hum.

AS: We'd look for play then.

BM: Yes.

MS: Because like on Sundays we'd go to church with the sleigh.

BM: Um hum.

AS: We'd go to church in the morning and then we'd go to vespers in the afternoon. We'd walk it twice on Sundays. It was great doing all that. Today, I don't know, they wouldn't do most of that.

BM: No, they wouldn't walk all that far now.

MS: Well, they were a lot more healthy in those days in that culture.

BM: Oh, sure, things were healthy in those days. So then did you have your Sunday dinner between....

AS: At 12:00 o'clock.

BM: At 12:00 o'clock?

AS: We always had dinner at 12:00.

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BM: Um hum.

AS: And everybody had to be there.

BM: Um hum.

AS: We were very strict. I think your people were, too. Very strict about your dinners. And we~~o~~ had to have a certain time to have breakfast before we went out. What was that - about 6:00 o~~o~~clock?

MS: Um hum.

AS: And then we~~o~~ had to plow the field. And then at 9:00 we~~o~~ had come with a little lunch. Then we~~o~~ had to have our lunch. Then at noon we had our dinner. Then at 3:00 o~~o~~clock we~~o~~ had our lunch again, then supper at 6:00.

BM: Oh, well, with all that hard work you needed all that food.

AS: That~~s~~ the way it went.

BM: And did you raise, most of the food on the farm?

MS: Um hum. All we could - potatoes and everything. All the vegetables that we~~o~~ store for the winter.

BM: Um hum. You had to store your vegetables in the winter time?

MS: Yes, in the basement.

AS: Yes,. and outside on the heaps.

MS: Yes, the celery.

AS: Yes, and carrots. We~~o~~ put them out there - a lot of carrots.

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AS: We'd take and put them on a pile.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And cover them up with ground - with sand. Remember the sand patch?

MS: Yes.

AS: And on that they'd throw a lot of manure so it wouldn't freeze.

MS: Yes, and straw.

BM: Oh, I see.

AS: And then they'd dig them out in the winter time.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And that's one thing we bushelled up - was the carrots. Yes, we bushelled that....

BM: Um hum.

AS: . . . and celery. We raised a lot of celery. We put those in bags. That was great, wasn't it?

MS: Um hum.

AS: We'd put them in bags and they'd bleach nice and white and then around Thanksgiving and Christmas time, they'd go and dig it out of the beds and clean it up.

AS: Boy, was that sweet.

MS: Oh, wasn't it beautiful looking? You can't buy celery like that any more. Never.

AS: So that was their income for the winter.

BM: Um hum.

AS: There was no other income there.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 22

BM: Yes. What did your parents do in the winter time then? Work around in the barn?

MS: Yes, repair work - harnesses and do repairing around in the barn if there was anything to do.

ASq There was a lot to do all winter by the time they fed the animals and everything.

BM: What other animals did you have besides the cows?

AS: We just had a team of horses and a cow.

MS: Did you have pigs? We had pigs.

AS: Oh, yes. We had a lot of pigs, too. We had maybe five of them at the most. In the spring of every year they would buy little baby pigs and then raise them during the summer for slaughter in the fall.

BM: Um hum.

AS: Always.

BM: And then you had to cure your own meat and make your sausage?

MS: Um hum. And cured it in the old smoke house.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And smoke hams for Easter.

AS: Hams and bacon.

MS: Right.

BM: So you were really just about self-sufficient. How about things like sugar and things like that? Where did you buy them?

MS: Well, there were stores up on Lake Street.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 23

AS: Lake Street.

BM: Oh, you went to Bleser's?

MS: We went to Hoffman's. We went in the fall. I don't know where my mother bought syrup. We'd store up sugar - 100 pounds at a time - and coffee, oatmeal and flour because my mother baked her - a lot of bread at that time.

BM: Oh, she baked her own bread?

MS: Yes, she baked her own bread and coffee cake.

AS: Every Saturday was coffee cake baking.

MS: I still do it.

BM: Oh, you still do?

AS: Yes, she does. She keeps it up.

BM: So Saturday was baking day. You baked the bread and the coffee cakes.

AS: Oh, yes. We had real days.

MS: Yes. And my grandfather had an outside oven where he baked.

AS: Oh, and how.

BM: Did he build that himself?

MS: Yes, I think so.

AS: My mother and dad did a lot of baking in that outside oven. That was really all with bricks, wasn't it? You had to heat the bricks.

MS: My dad would have to come out and stick the wood in there and light it until it burned and the oven was hot enough and then scrape the ashes out. And my mother

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had the bread and the coffee cake and pies and cakes and everything ready. I remember us kids all - it was a regular procession. - carried the bread and the coffee cake and everything out to the outside oven.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And that was the best bread. It was so crusty. And it would bake for about an hour.

BM: Well, did it all bake at the same time or did you have to....

MS: Yes, it all baked at the same time.

AS: All cooked at the same time.

MS: Only my coffee cake....

BM; Yes, that doesn't take an hour.

MS: The coffee cake - we'd take it out after about half hour or so. And then we'd be there again and we'd all carry it all back in the kitchen.

BM: You'd carry it all back in the kitchen again. And then where did you store all that - pies and things?

MS: Store it? You don't store it. They ate it.

BM: Oh, you ate it? (*laughter*)

AS: You ate it.

MS: No, it didn't last very long. Then on Tuesday my mother had to bake bread again.

BM: Well, yes - with all those children....

MS: There wasn't anything left.

BM: There wasn't very much left over. No.

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MS: No deep freezes.

AS: No, nothing like that. And our ice box - that was a regular ice box. There was no refrigeration.

MS: We didn't have an ice box. We'd lower our butter and things down into the well.

BM: I see. Yes, but there were ice- houses around here so that you could buy ice in the summer?

AS: Yes.

MS: Yes, you could buy it, but you had to have an ice-box. Later on we did. We had an ice man. He'd come and deliver ice.

AS: We'd get five pounds at a time because it would melt.

MS: Yes, you had to put a card in the window and then he'd see how many pounds of ice you would want.

BM: Um hum. But before that you just lowered the butter and things into the well, but if it was fresh every day, I guess you didn't really have to keep that much.

MS: No, just when it got real hot, the butter would get kind of soft. And for the milk and everything, we had a kind of cold basement that we called a cellar.

AS: See, that had no floor. That was all floor from the ground.

MS: Yes, to store the....

AS: It was a cellar.

BM: Yes.

AS: A real cellar and things stayed cool. I thought it was

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 26

great.

MS: That's where we'd store the winter crops so they would keep.

BM: What crops did you store there? Did you can? You must have canned things.

MS: Oh, yes. Mother did a lot of canning.

BM: Yes.

MS: We had an orchard from our place all the way up to Hibbard Road here. Half of it was theirs and we had a lot of apples and cherries and pears.

AS: And peaches, even. There were some beautiful peach trees there.

MS: Um hum. And grapes, currants - everything.

AS: We had all that fruit.

MS: We had a lot of that.

AS: Yes. And we'd keep apples in the cellar, as you would say, and you could eat them all winter. And we'd make a lot of coffee cakes.

BM: Mrs. Schuett, would you tell rite about your classes in school? What did you start with in say - in first grade?

AS: Well, the first two grades were German - complete - no English whatsoever.

BM: Everyone spoke German?

AS: Yes, and I had to read German, too. Thank God I was a big German reader in school again. Here I am bragging. So I was really good at it. Today I can only read a

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont, 27

very little bit of it, but I do understand every word they say.

BM: Yes.

AS: Then from there it got to be third grade, wasn't it?

MS: Yes.

AS: Write English - right off the start - from German to English. If you didn't think that that was hard. I was pretty stupid about that because it was so hard to....

BM: Well, if you were still speaking German at home and German in school....

AS: Always. We got home and Daddy would forbid us to talk English. Didn't he to you?

MS: Um hum.

AS: He said, "All this English." because he could not understand it but, as the years went on, we did nothing but talk English.

BM: Um hum.

AS: So they all did - so the whole thing went to English.

BM: But then your arithmetic classes and all those things were in German?

AS: Absolutely everything. I have papers here where I read - I wrote German in school.

BM: Um hum, Yes. And all the classes - what else - what other subjects did you have? Do you remember geography, history - all those things?

BM: Um hum. All those things - arithmetic and mostly Catechism

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont, 28

and spelling. Reading, spelling and Catechism.

MS: And history.

AS: And history and geography which I loved - geography, but I didn't like history - no way.

BM: It's harder to learn things that you don't like.

AS: That's right.

BM: Were you in the same grade as Mrs. Schuett?

MS: No, I was a grade behind her, I think - a grade or two.

SM: How many children were there in a class?

MS: Between 55 - about 50 to 55 children in a class.

SM: Um hum.

MS: And sometimes they had to sit two in a seat because they didn't have enough seats in there.

SM: Oh. Were all the children - well, if it was only a two room school house at the beginning, were you there when - it was a two room school house?

M5: You started in the two room school house and from there you went into the other third. Third grade started in the other larger building.

SM: So all the first grade would be in one classroom?

MS: Yes.

SM: I see. Well, if there were that many children, discipline must have been a little different in those days. If you had two children in one seat and they were learning....

MS: Well, at that time the children - they were taught to listen.

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BM: Um hum.

MS; And if they didn't, they knew what was coming. *(laughter)*

BM: Yes.

MS: Maybe go stand in a corner.

BM.: Oh, you did?

MS: We just got it some way or other.

AS: That's why correction was wonderful and believe me, we did mind.

MS: Sure.

AS: We were, in fact, as scared of the nuns when we came down to it....

BM: Oh, yes.

AS;because we really respected them in every way.

BM: Then when you went over to New Trier, that was a different situation then, wasn't it?

AS; We never did.

BM: Oh, you didn't go. to New Trier?

AS: No, out in the field was our New Trier.

BM: Oh, after you graduated from - what - eighth grade?

AS: That's right.

SM: And then you went to work on the farm?

AS: Right on the farm and we had to do that a lot of times. We missed school in between which wasn't very good.

MS: Um hum - when they needed help.

SM: Well, yes, when they needed help on the farm because that was the family income.

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SM: Yes.

AS: We had it rough going because many a time when we planted everything in the spring of the year, everything drowned. Everything was under water.

SM.: Um hum.

AS: And we would have to plant it a second time.

SM: Um hum.

AS: And that wasn't very easy.

SM: No. That's hard to do. All right, do you want to start again about the flood and the farm?

f3 AS: Yes. We were all flooded out and we had to plant it the second time. So then in the meantime, that same year, we lost our barn and our team of horses. It all went - everything and daddy and mother were working in back of the barn. That was on the 4th of July and they went in that barn, just a couple of minutes before. And I think it was combustion of the hay that was on top - that was a little green or something.

SM: Yes.

AS: And that whole thing went in flame before anything - anyone could help. And there was no water anywhere. And at that time the farmers all got together and they all came running the minute they saw there were flames, and they got the water out of what we called our cistern.

SM: Yes.

AS: The cistern comes from the rain water from the roofs....

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BM: Yes.

AS:that goes in and they pumped the well dry and that's about all.

MS: And then they came over to our place and carried the water from our place in buckets and pails.

AS: You never saw neighbors work so hard. Didn't they?

MS: Well, they tried to save the shed which was right next to it.

AS: They saved it.

BM: Oh, they saved it?

AS: They saved the shed, but the horses were gone. And I'd never forget that because they claim horses don't come out of the barn. They came as far as the door, and they went right back, and they both died right in the stable.

BM; Oh.

AS: .. .were they - you can't get them out unless you blindfold them.

BM: Oh.

AS: So that is what happened there. Then that year - that was a rough year because we drowned and lost our team of horses,.

BM: Um hum.

AS: So Daddy went out and bought a beautiful team and he was teaming with these horses. Now Daddy did landscaping at Mallinckrodt and at the Bahai Temple with those horses that year. He worked for Doetsch Brothers. That was my mother's brothers. My mother was a Doetsch.

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BM: How do you spell that?

AS; DOETSCH.

BM: Um hum.

AS; So he done all that that year which helped us come along pretty good because he went out to work. And he bought us an old cripple - between me and Mother. I ~~do~~ never forget - I called your daddy one time. I called it a cripple and it was a single horse. So we had to plant everything over. Mother and I did as much as we could and we did our own farming as Daddy went out teaming. So this horse - it would always get up on its hind legs, stand up and come down. Put its front legs right down on you. And one day - I ~~do~~ never forget it. I was - we ~~do~~ picked a bunch of tomatoes and when he thought there was a load in back of him, he ~~do~~ stand like this and look. He wouldn't pull. This is the truth. He ~~do~~ get up on his back haunches, you might say, his back legs, and his front ones would come out at you. You ~~do~~ never dare touch him by the bridle because he would kill you. So one day we had a big load and we called your daddy over. And he wouldn't pull that doggone load. So your daddy came and he got him by the bridle. Well, this, horse raised up and he couldn't make him pull the load. Finally, when he was good and ready, he ~~do~~ take off. He ~~do~~ take off like nobodies business. So one day, I was sitting on this single horse wagon, you know .

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 33

and here I was, and Daddy just had come home from teaming, and he stood there and he was looking in the back to see what we were doing. He didn't like it so I sat up on the seat and I had a hold of him - the lines - well, finally he made up his mind. He was going to go and you know what he did? He went into the barn with the wagon and everything. He couldn't get in there, of course, but oh, was that a ride. And Daddy was standing there hollering. That horse would never, never listen.

BM: Oh.

AS: Took off and halfway into the barn he was. Never forget that.

MS: Lucky you didn't get hurt.

AS: Those were rough years, believe me.

MS: Then, too, in the winter time they would go out and shovel the streets.

They'd work for the county, you know. All the men would get together and line up in the streets and shovel all the snow off the streets and over here at Memorial Park so they could get in with their funerals and everything.

BM: Oh, I see. Sort of an extra income in the wintertime.

MS: Um hum. Oh, yes, that was great if you could work for the county.

SM: Um hum.

AS: That was county money because that was all county. And I

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remember one time we had a terrible storm and, I'm telling you, they had to shovel for days before we got out of there. And we could never - the snow was so high that you could never see anybody coming through the road no- how. And they had to throw this up very high - over the top....

BM: Yes.

AS: .. . just to open up those streets.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And days it was sometimes and they would open up short distances.

AS: We were snowed in then. We thought that was great because we could play in the snow.

BM: Yes, but there aren't any hills around here that you could - did you go sledding? Were there enough hills?

AS: Um hum. That hill up there where Mother lived was a lot higher. They took that down now - where Mother's house is - up there and that was really high. And we used to sled - go down on the hill on that and we'd have a lot of fun there with the sleigh.

BM: Um hum.

AS: .. .because it was great. It was a great hill, but they took it down eventually. I guess it was too high.

BM: Yes, probably. How about things like - you said - Fourth of July? Did you have any particular kind of celebration on the Fourth of July?

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MS: Yes, we always had some kind of a picnic. What was that?

AS: The Schneiders' picnic?

MS: No, this was like a community picnic.

AS: I don't remember that, Margaret.

MS: Oh, don't you? That was when my dad always told us, "Get your work done and then you can go to the picnic."

BM: Um hum.

MS: And that was up there on Lake Avenue, wasn't it? On Father Netstratter's property?

AS: Oh. Oh, that was that old grove.

MS: Yes.

AS: What was the name of that grove? Can't you remember?

MS: Culver, Culver.

AS: I forget the name of it. Anyways, I remember going up in that grove. Oh, dear, I can't remember the name of that now.

BM: Did everybody just sort of bring their own picnic and just got together and met at this one place?

AS: Yes. Um hum.

MS: Yes. Um hum. And then they had dancing.

BM: Yes.

MS: And regular booths there where you could buy like lemonade and ice cream, crackerjack and things like that.

BM: Um hum.

MS: That was a great day. Those were days we looked forward to for a whole year. And on Labor Day, they always had

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 36

the Old Settlers Picnic.

BM: Oh, and where was that?

MS: And I think that was up there, too.

BM: Um hum.

MS: I'm trying to think of the name of that grove. Was it Goldblatts - Goldbergs?
Goldbars? Goldbars - I think it was.

AS: Were they the ones that had that little store when we went to school. We
always could buy candy there across the street from St. Joe's.

MS: Yes. Goldbars.

AS: Yes, I think it was their grove. It was in the back now where Jewel stands.

MS: They had a dance floor there and....

AS: It was beautiful. Big trees were there. It was really a nice grove.

BM: Um hum.

AS: And then once a year they had the Schneider picnic where everybody had to
- like your daddy and my daddy....

MS: That was generally in our pasture though.

AS: Yes, they kept it.

BM: How many people - if all the Schneiders were there - how many people
came to that picnic?

MS: You should see the picture I have of the Schneider picnic.

BM: Oh, you have a picture?

MS: Yes, I've got a real old one - your dad and my dad and

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 37

all those who had the teams and wagons. They would go up into the....

AS: Up to Grosse Point.

MS: .. .village and pick everybody up and bring them down - put benches in the wagon and bring them down to the grounds.

AS: And they all sang and had flags and they drove along.

BM: Great.

AS: It was great.

BM: What kind of songs did you sing? Do you remember?

AS: I don't know, but we had to stay home because they would pick a load up over in the town, you know, what is Wilmette now. They'd pick up all the relations there and there were three teams. There was your daddy and my daddy and Uncle Johnny. There were four wagon loads. They'd go and get people and we'd go down in their pasture.

MS: Everyone would bring their instruments and they'd play music.

AS: Oh, it was great.

BM: Oh, great.

AS: And then they had the barrel of beer.

BM: Well, you have to have a barrel of beer.

AS: And their lunch. Definitely.

BM: How did they learn to play the instruments? Were these things that they just learned by themselves?

AS: By themselves.

MS: All of them. There were eight brothers in my dad's family

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 38

and all played instruments, didn't they?

AS: Yes, every one.

MS: And they all belonged to the band except Uncle Frank played the violin.

Uncle Ed didn't play anything, but he was younger.

AS: He was the young one.

MS: All the others had their instruments. My dad played coronet. Her dad played the big tuba. Isn't that what it's called - the big....

BM: The big horn. Yes, the big horn.

AS: Yes, the big horn. He was the littlest of the bunch and he had the biggest instrument. *(Laughter)* That's

really true. And when they had their parades and played, you know, he'd be the littlest - the shortest guy and have the biggest instrument.

MS: And after that when the younger boys grew *up*, then they joined the band.

BM: Um hum.

MS: So at the end they had a great big band.

BM: It must have been very musical because it's not that easy to learn how to play an instrument....

MS: No.

BM: . . .by yourself.

MS: Some of my brothers still play.

BM: Where did they get the instruments? Did the family have them or did they buy them? Do you remember?

A.S. Schuett & MS. Schoenbeck, cont. 39

MS: They bought them. Maybe they bought them second hand instruments. Of course, at that time instruments were not as expensive as they are now.

BM: But that's a great idea. That way the whole family got together.

AS: That's how come it was called the Schneider's band. It really started with the boys.

BM: But the music that you played was just for yourselves. You didn't - well, except that Shootie Schneider said he used to play for other occasions for other people. It was a business for him. It wasn't just family gatherings.

AS: Yes. Yes, they played wherever they could and they would have a big dance up at the village hall.

MS: Once a year they would have their own dance and they'd play for that. That was great because they used to draw quite a crowd. That was a masquerade dance.

BM: Oh.

AS: Everybody masqueraded.

MS: And they'd pick out the best costumes and award a prize.

BM: Oh, how cute.

AS: I made my own one year and I got the first prize.

BM: You did? What were you dressed as?

AS: I went more or less as an American Legion girl. I had made my dress in white. I'll never forget - I put all stars on it and I put a cardboard band with the big star on the front. It was really pretty good.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 40

BM: Um hum.

AS: So I got the first prize there and they usually wanted to be careful so they didn't want to give it to the people that belonged to the band.

BM: Oh.

AS: But when they don't know you and you're sitting behind that mask all night....

BM: Yes.

MS: The judges don't know who they are.

AS: That was great. That was up at Eddie's building today.

BM: What's Eddie's building? What is that?

AS: The old village hall right there.

BM: Oh, the old Grosse Point village hall. Oh, yes, that's where the ball was.

AS: That's where the dance was. It was once a year they had the big dance.

BM: Now, that's the village hall you said. Was that where you got your mail?

AS: No.

BM: You said you went to Bleser's to get the mail?

MS: We went to Bleser's - where the barber shop is. They ran the post office there.

BM: Oh.

MS: The Bleser's did.

AS: And there was - they were all boxes, weren't they? And they had us turn a certain number to get that box open.

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 41

BM: Um hum.

AS: And if you didn't know your - what do you call it - your number, you didn't get the box open.

BM: Oh.

AS: So we would stop in after school and pick our mail up and take it home. That was the only way we got the mail.

BM: And then you had to bring the mail down to the post office to mail it?

MS: Always.

AS: I think you would remember Mrs. Bleser's post office. That was the very first post office around here and at that time it was - well, we were so far away from Grosse Point - it was Grosse Point as far as Schoeden's, where the sidewalk ended. That's how come we didn't get sidewalks. From Schoeden's on up to here - that way the mail was listed. What was the way they called us?

MS: New Trier Township. That's all it was.

AS: Um hum. That's the way it was. Then Grosse Point took us over and then Wilmette finally came over here.

MS: We were annexed to Wilmette. I can't remember what year that was.

AS: I don't know that either, but it was great when we were all by ourselves.

BM: Um hum. You liked it that way.

AS: Yes, great.

I was four years old when we moved into this house. My

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 42

grandmother and grandfather were building their home on Washington Street.

AS: It still is there.

MS: Yes.

BM: Do you remember what the number is there now?

MS: Thalmann lives there now. I can't remember the number.

BM: Oh, all right.

MS: 1900 - something. And when that building was finished and my grandmother and grandfather moved there and - because they didn't farm anymore. My father took over the farm.

BM: Um hum. I see.

MS: So when we moved in there, there were five children and we didn't need such a big place, but after they moved out - so we took over the house. It had four bedrooms upstairs and a big - a living room, a big dining room, a bedroom, and a great big kitchen downstairs.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And at that time, we had no city water so we had our own well and we had a pump on it, and in the winter time if it was very cold, the pump would freeze up and we had to wait to thaw it out so we could get water again. And the kitchen had a white floor, you know. It was not linoleum or anything in the kitchen. We had to scrub it four times a week.

BM: Yes, a white floor in the kitchen.

AS. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 43

MS: Yes. And the dining room was the same way. Later on we put a linoleum and rugs in there and - let's see....

AS: And how many bedrooms did you have upstairs?

MS; Four.

BM Oh, four bedrooms. Yes. And you must have - how did you heat it?

MS: We heated it with a heating stove. What do you call those?

AS: Old cook stove and a big pot bellied stove....

BM: Oh.

AS: .. .at that time.

MS; The cook stove was in the kitchen.

BM: Yes.

AS: That's how you baked and cooked?

MS: Yes. We had to go out at night and bring our kindling and coal in that we were going to use during the day.

BM: Um hum.

MS: And, of course, the fire would go out at night because it needed to be stoked up.

BM: Um hum. Yes. So the first one up in the morning got to start the fire up again and it was a little chilly.

AS: And we'd shake a little ice off the quilts in the morning.

MS: Yes. Our upstairs was not heated.

AS: No.

MS: We'd go to bed - run through the hail into the bedrooms because it was cold and we didn't get warmed up until we got the bed warmed up.

A.S. Schuett & MS. Schoenbeck, cont. 44

AS: You know how I used to warm the bed? I'd take an old iron - we used to put the irons on the back of the stove - and wrap the irons up and put them next to our feet in the bed.

BM: Yes.

AS: That's the way we kept warm feet. And we'd breathe over the blankets and the next morning it was all frosty.

BM: Oh.

AS: . . . over the whole works.

BM: The whole works. Yes.

MS: So in the morning, you'd put one foot out and you'd wonder - should I get out into the cold or shouldn't I? (*Laughter*)

And you'd get downstairs and scoot behind the stove.

BM: Oh - well, it was warmer there behind the stove. Well, then you had to go out to the outhouse?

MS: And how.

BM: Ah, then you ran - (*Laughter*)

MS: Lots of time we had to crawl through high snow or shovel our way out there. I have a picture at home where my Dad is standing in the pathway and the snow is as high as the shed.

BM: Oh.

MS: And you could hardly see the barn for all the snow they had. Of course, the land was all level. There were no buildings or anything and the snow would blow from every direction.

AS: You know what brother Leo did? Every morning, as sure as

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 45

it came 5:30, that guy would get up. From upstairs all the way down, no matter how cold it was, how much snow was there, that guy would go barefoot out to the outhouse and back.

MS: Oh, my gosh.

AS: Really! Barefoot! Right into the snow! Every morning.

MS: We had no plumbing then inside. Well, it was great. We didn't get city water till 1930~~s~~ - around 1930 or so.

AS: You had a wonderful well though. Your well was deep. Ours wasn't so - as deep.

MS: Yes because we put in a bathroom in 1921 or ~~22~~ and we had enough water to.

AS: From the well.

BM: Oh, from the well.

MS: For the bathroom.

AS: That was a deep well.

MS: I wish we still had that well now.

AS: How deep was that, Margaret?

MS: It was a big well. It went way, way down.

AS: It was one of the deeper wells around here.

MS: It was very good water, of course. Then - and we had a cistern besides which we had used for the laundry. And the well water was so hard.

BM: Did you do your laundry once a week? Was there a wash *day* when you did all your wash?

MS: Yes. We had a regular washroom, next to the oven - the

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 47

BM: Yes.

AS: She made it out of lard and lye, I remember, and used to stir it in the basement and then cut it in chunks and that was white. That was the kind of soap we had lots of.

3M: Well, you must have had a lot of stoves around if you had a stove in the basement to make the.

MS: No, we didn't. It was cold down there.

BM: Well, you said she made it in the basement.

AS: Yes, she did.

BM: Oh.

AS: The basement, I don't think, got as cold as the outside.

MS: We had a stove in the basement, didn't you?

BM: How did she make the soap?

AS: Well, she took lye and lard and just stirred it up.

BM: And just stirred it together. You don't have to cook it?

MS: You had the lard upstairs then, didn't you?

AS: I don't know. I don't remember heating it even, but I know she made it out of lard and lye and you had to stir it and it got white. And then later on, she cut it in blocks. That was our soap.

MS: I can't even remember our mother making soap.

AS: Oh, my mother did a lot.

MS: We always used the American Family Bar.

AS: That's right.

MS: Sometimes even for bathing.

BM: The American Family Bar? Was that a brown soap or white

A.S. Schuett & M.S. Schoenbeck, cont. 48

soap?

MS: Um hum - brown.

AS: I wish we could get it today because....

MS: Then in the summertime we~~d~~ set a washtub outdoors and put rain water in it to heat up from the sun.

BM: Um hum,

MS: And then carry it into the wash house and then we~~d~~ take a bath. That~~s~~ the way we took a bath. It was great.

BM: Okay. Mrs. Schuett and Mrs. Schneider, I would like to thank you both for an interesting conversation and thank you very much for your time. I~~m~~^{am} sorry, it should have been Mrs. Schuett and Mrs. Schoenbeck and this is Briggs Maselli.

(End of tape)