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MILLER: Today is May 19, 1975 and I am talking with Mrs.  
Blaine Bowman. Mrs. Bowman will you give me your maiden  
name and your father?

REMINISCENCES

OF

JESSIE BOWMAN

A 155  
588/w

*Bowman, Jessie Allott*

Interview by  
Harriet F. Miller  
May 19, 1975

MILLER: And this was the square down on Main Street?  
BOWMAN: Down on Main Street, yes, downtown.  
MILLER: And this later then, the hardware, went to your  
brother Guy?

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Father moved to California. 1978

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MILLER: And even though your father had a business in

Alliance on Main Street, your family home was in Mount

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Union, right?

Blaine Bowman. Mrs. Bowman will you give me your maiden

name and your father? half a mile from the Mount Union Square

to the south. We had five acres, a little farm a sort of

BOWMAN: I was Jessie Allott and my father was B. C. Allott.

a little farm although we were always in the city limits.

Benjamin Allott. My mother Mary Ann Ferguson Allott. And

later on than when my father wanted to move to California

I had a brother Guy Allott who was former Mayor of Alliance

he sold off enough to make Milton Street, East Milton, and

and a sister Effie, a brother Donald and another brother

sold the back part of the five acres to the Geiger brothers,

Roscoe. They are all gone now, I'm the last leaf on the

Max and Morris, who put East Milton through almost out to

tree.

the Country Club. Then later on, a few years later, 1922 or

MILLER: And you mentioned that your father had a hardware

store. brick house with a long porch across the front and

a nice orchard in the back that he had put in. Sold that

BOWMAN: My father went into the Allott Kryder Hardware

in Milton Moore the attorney and his daughter-in-law lives

Company down on the square when the square was lined with

there now, Jane Morris.

hitching posts so that the farmers could tie their horses,

wagons, and come in and spend their money in the stores. the

property has changed considerably.

MILLER: And this was the square down on Main Street?

BOWMAN: Yes, the house has been made into a duplex. We

BOWMAN: Down on Main Street, yes, downtown.

had the upstairs and the downstairs of course and my father

MILLER: And this later then, the hardware, went to your

brother Guy? he cherished and was quite the thing in those

days. They have made now the entrance to the upstairs on

BOWMAN: My brother took over the hardware in 1917 when my

the north, but many of the old trees are still there. We

father moved to California.

had pine trees in the front that are gone and maple trees

MILLER: And even though your father had a business in break-  
Alliance on Main Street, your family home was in Mount house  
Union, right? in front of the old dwelling house. We had

BOWMAN: Yes, about a half a mile from the Mount Union Square  
to the south. We had five acres, a little farm a sort of  
a little farm although we were always in the city limits.  
Later on then when my father wanted to move to California  
he sold off enough to make Milton Street, East Milton, and  
sold the back part of the five acres to the Geiger brothers,  
Max and Morris, who put East Milton through almost out to  
the Country Club. Then later on, a few years later, 1922 or  
1923, he sold the dwelling house which at that time was  
a red brick house with a long porch across the front and  
a nice orchard in the back that he had put in. Sold that  
to Milton Moore the attorney and his daughter-in-law lives  
there now, Jane Morris.

MILLER: So the original house still stands even though the  
property has changed considerably. ling homes.

BOWMAN: Yes, the house has been made into a duplex. We  
had the upstairs and the downstairs of course and my father  
had put on to the north a porte cochere and a curving  
driveway that he cherished and was quite the thing in those  
days. They have made now the entrance to the upstairs on  
the north, but many of the old trees are still there. We  
had pine trees in the front that are gone and maple trees  
east corner of the square, later on called the College Inn

that are still there. Our back porch was made into a breakfast room for the Moores. As in the old days the brick house had been made in front of the old dwelling house. We had a summer kitchen, or what we called a wash house in to the rear. That was rather unsightly and was torn down when we lived there. And then when Milton was put through, the barn that had been the home of a bossy cow and a pony and numerous calves and dogs was moved behind the Moore house.

MILLER: Does the barn exist today?

BOWMAN: Yes.

MILLER: It's still there.

BOWMAN: It's been painted white but it's the same barn.

The chicken house where I used to gather the eggs and help look after the young chicks was also moved. But it has since been torn down. And Milton Street now, which belonged to our five acres, that is to the north of Milton, has been built up with dwelling houses, dwelling homes.

MILLER: Now let's mosey north on Union Ave. Can you tell me what other things were there during this time?

BOWMAN: [ I remember going up Union Ave. before I started to school, and the road was a dirt road, with a nickle in my hand to buy a loaf of bread at the grocery store run by Lyman Shipman. This was in the old building on the north-east corner of the square, later on called the College Inn



but in those days we had no special name for it. Lyman Shipman ran a grocery store in a narrow room to the west of the building in fact right to the wall of the building. I could buy a loaf of bread in the summer when it was too hot really to bake bread at home. That was the only time we bought bread. ] Also in that same building a little old lady, Miss. Hinckle, I'm sure I don't know if she had any other name. Miss Hinckle ran a sort of a little dry good store; needles and pins and thimbles and things like that, thread. Later on the grocery store was gone and there was an ice-cream parlor in that corner. A wall had been torn out and we had our first real taste of "tin roof" in there. Then to the east in that same building was another little store run by Katy Warren. Many of the older people would remember her. She was a blind German woman; lived there with her mother, Grandma Warren and her son Ferdinand who went to Mount Union and I think has become, has been a judge in some other county of our state. Ferdinand. And Katy was blind.

MILLER: And yet she managed to....

BOWMAN: Managed and made a living in that. Later on, the upstairs was rented out. [ At one time a tailor lived up there and pressed pants. One day one of his numerous children fell out the window and he burned the pair of pants he was pressing. The student lost his pair of pants. Later on, the Alliance Business College was up there. ] Later on then it was torn down, the whole building was torn down, to make a parking lot.

MILLER: And that's what's there right now, a parking lot.

On that corner.

BOWMAN: Yes, a parking lot on that corner.

MILLER: When did it become the College Inn do you recall?

BOWMAN: Well....

MILLER: It would have been sometime maybe in the 1950's

or was it even before that?

BOWMAN: It was before that. It was the College Inn I think in 1940 at least, because it was run by a number of different people before Gene Clahoun ran it and it prospered.

Then Mrs. Hawkins ran it for a while. Then she moved out to Gary's out on West State you remember, but she did, Gene

Calhoun sold it to her. Then on the other corner I remember a large frame building with at least a dozen steps going up.

And in my time that was a hangout for the students to get snacks and food late at night. It was in earlier days I think run as a boarding house. I remember those long steep steps going up. Though I don't think I ever went up them, it seemed to be a hangout more for men and boys.

MILLER: Now this corner we're talking about is the south corner.

BOWMAN: The southeast, yes.

MILLER: Of this intersection of State Street and....

BOWMAN: Of this Mount Union Square, yes. We're up at the Mount Union Square. Now we go over to the southwest where the Mount Union Bank was built now the United Bank, and in the old days, even when I went to school, started to school, was a frame building there, large frame building. Also fronted with steep steps. One time Miss. Shipman daughter of Lyman Shipman, who had been over on the other corner, ran the Post Office in there. Then it became a grocery store run by Mr. Rucker who delivered groceries in a spring wagon with an ancient horse and spent all day because he liked to visit with the people as he delivered the groceries and people liked to get the news from him. He was one of our first broadcasters. But the same Milton came from Milton Geiger.

MILLER: But at this time this was a very good source of getting the news and he went around, he would have seen things.

BOWMAN: Good source of news and gossip. Yes. And then the building was torn down and the bank built and then several lots to the south were taken in with the bank too. Over on the northwest corner now we have a brick block which is the second brick block I remember on that corner. The first block burned to the ground one Saturday night a cold winter Saturday night. It was built by L. Stroup who owned a lumber mill about a block to the south, back on Mill Street because there was a Mount Union Mill, then his lumber mill and that's where we get the name Mill Street. Then after the brick was



burned L. Stroup quickly rebuilt it again very much in the form of the first building. It has had a continuous life; there are rooms up above the stores. One time we had Islay's Store in there, I just don't remember, but there was a drug-store run by, oh, I can't think of that name. name of that

MILLER: Maybe it'll come to you. All in that same block.

BOWMAN: It doesn't matter. He had two sons. And I should have mentioned before, talking about my home, Milton Street was named Milton for Milton Geiger son of Morris Geiger, who had bought the land and that's where we get the name Milton. He lives now on Ridgewood near where West Milton comes through. But the name Milton came from Milton Geiger.

MILLER: Let's go back to the fire that burned the brick block. Do you remember about what time, when did that occur, what year?

BOWMAN: It was on a Saturday night and I remember my father getting us up to see out the North window the flames in the sky; even a half mile away the sky was lighted up. And as we went to Sunday School the next morning we stopped and looked at the smoldering ruins at the corner as we passed to the church. our path to school in the old days when I

MILLER: So the fire completely destroyed it. There was nothing left?

BOWMAN: Completely destroyed it. There was nothing left. Nothing left but it was cleared out. Of course that was in the days when I wasn't up around the corner much and I don't remember the building but it was built as I remember much in the same form as the first one. Cady was the name of that drugstore.

MILLER: So that we have a history of drugstores in that building.

BOWMAN: Yes. At that corner was, and Ray Ault who bought it then from Cady was there quite awhile, was one of the older residents, Ray Ault. Lived on Shunk. But many would remember that name.

MILLER: And coming closer to this time in that block now we remember Turner Drugstore which later was purchased by Schumans.

BOWMAN: Yes. And the Stroup, Lindsey Stroup named for his grandfather who built the original blocks is still living in town. I remember as I see these large pipes for the new water system and see the children playing on the, I remember how we walked on the tops of the bricks that were stacked along our path to school in the old days when I first started to school. Of course we weren't allowed to walk on top of them and we didn't until we were beyond the sight of our homes, but it was great fun. And I remember what fun we had hopping the bobsleds on our way home from

school winter days. The farmers would put long wagon beds on big wooden runners and hitch two of their big horses to them and then go to the mill to get the grain for the farm. And it was great joy to us girls of us to run out into the street after we had passed the square and hop on to those runners. Occasionally the farmers would invite us to sit on the huge bags of grain.

MILLER: It was sort of a free ride.

BOWMAN: Free ride and wonderful ride because we couldn't, we had sleds of our own and we did go coasting but this was ahead of anything that we would have.

MILLER: Indeed. And of course it was safe because you didn't travel at that great of speed.

BOWMAN: We didn't meet the automobiles that we would meet today.

MILLER: No.

BOWMAN: We didn't meet them.

MILLER: And snow was soft if you happened to miss.

BOWMAN: The streets weren't scrapped down to the bone in those days.

MILLER: So in the period we're talking about the streets were not paved. You saw the brick being brought in which would have been the paving of those streets.



BOWMAN: And then those were paved I think about the first year I went to school.

MILLER: Well the Johnson family were some of the original

MILLER: And paved in those days meant brick laying rather than the asphalt that we are accustomed to today.

BOWMAN: Yes, they were. And he was one of them and then some

BOWMAN: Brick laying. Oh yes. We didn't know a thing about asphalt and from the south of the square it was paved with the brick. Then a little later there was a half a paving made from the corporation line on out through the township. I remember that but that was not connected with this brick laying that I remember in the town, or city.

MILLER: And just thinking back to what else must have been there on the square because at that time if the streets were not paved most likely there would have been many more trees than what we see now.

BOWMAN: There were trees yes, all out South Union and North Union and the houses clear up to the corner. Grandpa Snyder who was our janitor at State Street lived in a little house just beyond this building we speak of now, we remember now as the College Inn. We would see him coming out of his little house. Then there was a little house to the west of the Rucker Store or that building that was torn down to house the Mount Union Bank where Cale Johnson, an old time character of the village of Mount Union. He had been there I think since time began, and held meetings in his house. It was a meeting place for the old timers to go in. He knew everything and was, his family the Johnson family had owned perhaps

that whole section to the southwest.

MILLER: Well the Johnson family were some of the original settlers in that Mount Union village.

BOWMAN: Yes, they were. And he was one of them and then some of them a couple of them lived, were my neighbors across Union Ave. but that was different.

MILLER: Now Cale Johnson was short for his full name, what was his full name?

BOWMAN: Caleb. Yes but no one called him Caleb. I think he would have dropped over if anyone had called him Caleb. It was Cale.

MILLER: And he probably enjoyed many people coming in to chat with him about....

BOWMAN: Oh yes. It wasn't a ladies parlor by any means. It was for men, men only. Men only.

MILLER: And I can imagine subject were pretty wide ranging in those days.

BOWMAN: Well, I suppose. Later on then another Mount Union character Peg Oswalt lived in that same general vicinity. He had lost one leg but he could play basketball, he could play football, he could outplay we should say anyone else with one leg. And he was then probably one of the famous Mount Union characters. Later on, a generation or two later than Cale Johnson but filling the same space he was.

He had a gathering place and entertained all the young boys you know with stories.

MILLER: And Peg....

BOWMAN: Peg Oswalt, yes.

MILLER: Probably from his one leg I gather. Did he actually have a peg leg?

BOWMAN: No, he had it folded up. His pants were folded up.

MILLER: Issee.

BOWMAN: But they called him Peg.

MILLER: We had talked earlier about an influenza epidemic, that came in this area.

BOWMAN: Yes. It came in the time of the First World War. In fact it was brought over probably from that war because the soldiers had it over there in France before we had it here. But I remember how serious it was in Alliance. And if we went out to meetings, many meetings were cancelled, but if we went to meetings we were supposed to wear gauze masks over our faces. I remember nurses were called back to duty and the old Atwell House was made into a hospital. As we went by we could see where the windows had been taken out to let all the air come in. In those days they treated pneumonia with fresh air and they didn't have the wonder drugs



that we have today for pneumonia. I remember then of our regular hospital, which of course is not as large as it is now, being used for the influenza victims and then also this Atwell house. Many of our prominent people died of that flu.

MILLER: Just couldn't survive it. Many of them probably couldn't survive the fresh air treatment either.

BOWMAN: Well I don't know. But I remember the windows coming out. And I think that was the treatment to give all the fresh air possible.

MILLER: Now the Atwell house was located where?

BOWMAN: Where the Purcell Rodman house is now on South Union.

MILLER: This would be by Overlook Street.

BOWMAN: At the corner, not on the corner of Overlook but the next house. And the Purcell house was built behind the Atwell house.

MILLER: So the Atwell house is no longer there.

BOWMAN: The Atwell house was then torn down. It was a large, large mansion type house with the mansard roof, I remember. But much closer to the street so that the Purcell house could be built behind it. And this was built by W. H. Purcell and

later was lived in by his daughter, Mrs. C. J. Rodman and her husband.

MILLER: Let's go back to Mount Union Square, you had mentioned Mill Street was so named because of the location of that street of several mills. Now at one time there was a Mill Pond there, wasn't there?

BOWMAN: Yes, yes. There was a Mill Pond by the feed mill up on Penn where Mill street would be except for the railroad and there was no railroad crossing there. There was a large feed mill and the farmers came in there to have their grain ground. Beside that was a small body of water we called the Mill Pond. The boys would escape there after school. I was never allowed to go there. And if you can remember the skates that were used in the old days. There were no shoe skates, no one had thought of that happy thing. Skates were clamped on shoes. We were allowed to skate down on Colonel Morgan's lakes and I remember going down there to skate but not on the Mill Pond. The Mill Pond was not deep and I think was just gradually filled in then later on. And the mill ceased to grind the grain and the flour long ago when other things happened to feed you know. They didn't have the business. Then it just started to sell coal and became an outlet for coal. But that's all I remember about the Mill Pond because it was a hangout for the young boys.

MILLER: And off limits to the girls then. Arts?

BOWMAN: Yes. Yes, arts degree, yes.

MILLER: But then Colonel Morgans lakes which are located in front of what we now call the Castle.

BOWMAN: Yes. my husband and I went through school from the

second grade on. He and his father who later became Dean of MILLER: Is this what you were referring to? The girls were the College came from Canfield in 1902 and he happened to be permitted to go down there?

much the same age and was in the same grade then as I was BOWMAN: Yes. We went down there to skate and with these skates that had to be clamped on to our shoes. In the days when we went down there to skate the Dorm Lakes were not in existence. awarded by mail shall we say. The diplomas were...

MILLER: These would be the lakes at Mount Union College.

BOWMAN: The lakes at Mount Union College, yes. Those were used later but by the time they were made I was in college and didn't have time to skate. In fact for years there was no skating on the lakes and then the college allowed everyone to come to skate and it's been a wonderful playground for children ever since.

MILLER: Yes, indeed. Now you mentioned Mount Union College. You attended Mount Union College?

BOWMAN: Yes. Three years. I went one year to Pomona College in California, second year. But I did get a degree from Mount Union College.



MILLER: In what was your degree? Liberal Arts? school

teaching until he went overseas to France.

BOWMAN: AB. Yes, arts degree, yes.

MILLER: Then you would have returned here?

MILLER: And you mentioned that you had gone through school with your husband, Mr. Bowman. my home on South Union.

BOWMAN: Yes, my husband and I went through school from the second grade on. He and his father who later became Dean of the College came from Canfield in 1902 and he happened to be much the same age and was in the same grade then as I was and we went through school then together. We did not graduate together for he left in May of 1917 to go to Officers Camp in Fort Benjamin Harrison during the First World War and was graduated by mail shall we say. The diplomas were....

MILLER: In absentia as we would say today. could come to the

performance in the big tent. I was allowed then to go and

BOWMAN: In absentia, yes. watch the parade from the upstairs window of the Allott Kry-

MILLER: This probably affected a number of young men on Mount Union's campus didn't it? the ones who were running

BOWMAN: Yes, many of the students especially of our 1917 class went to that same camp and then were scattered around at different places. When my husband was commissioned we were married then and he was assigned to the 83rd division down at that headquarters in Chillicothe with Colonel Glenn and I followed him down there to live in the town which was quite a historic place having once been the capitol of Ohio.

And lived down there and substituted in the high school teaching until he went overseas to France.

MILLER: Then you would have returned here?

BOWMAN: And I returned back to my home on South Union.

MILLER: So pretty much except for a few brief visits to California your sojourn there in college your living in Chillicothe you've lived here....

BOWMAN: Oh yes, yes, and have known, and have been interested in it, in the Mount Union area and in the Alliance area because my father was in business downtown at the Allott Kryder Hardware. I can remember what a pleasure it was when the circuses came to town. In those days they always had a free parade in the streets so that the people would come to the performance in the big tent. I was allowed then to go and watch the parade from the upstairs window of the Allott Kryder Hardware Co. I remember later on the pleasure we had when the politicians, especially the ones who were running for the office of President of the United States, would go through the town on the Pennsylvania Railroad and would stop for a few minutes and would appear on the back platform. We could rush and shake hands with them. I remember many of the ones who made it to the presidency, many of the ones who later became President had taken my hand.

MILLER: Do you remember their names?

BOWMAN: Well, I shook hands with Woodrow Wilson and Teddy Roosevelt and President Taft. I was more agile in those days and could make it up to the back platform, the observation platform, better than I could today.

MILLER: Certainly even in this day of what we consider

MILLER: Well you would have to compete with everyone else who wanted to make it there. resident.

BOWMAN: I'd compete, but I had been raised with boys and I knew how to get up there. Sometimes these politicians would stop the train long enough to come up to the Public Square and make a speech there. I know that William Jennings Bryan did but I don't remember of being down at the station when he went through. Although I'm sure he did go through Alliance. quite an experience for young people to

meet them.  
MILLER: This we should add was also convenient to your father's hardware which was on the square. But the depot would have been just what two or three blocks down? use jets

and there are no observation platforms on jets.  
BOWMAN: Two or three blocks down on Main Street of course where it is today but the old building is gone and a new small building has been built. It was quite a day when those men went through Alliance as many of them did. In their campaigning, yes.

MILLER: And you mention now of meeting the politicians when

MILLER: So the crowds would turn out, most likely did they have bands playing? would come, and skating on the lakes

in the winter, what other forms of entertainment were available?



BOWMAN: Yes. Well yes, sometimes. It was mainly the idea of meeting them, shaking their hands and hearing what they had to say.

MILLER: Certainly even in this day of what we consider modern transportation there aren't as many people who have the opportunity to see the President.

BOWMAN: No. And it's quite a thing to remember. Quite a thing to remember to see them rather than just pictures, to see them in flesh and blood. And to meet them. Usually the wife, some of the party would be out on the back of the platform. I don't know whether we have observation platforms anymore on those trains. But in those days it was quite a pleasure, quite an experience for young people to meet them.

MILLER: And of course in this day most Presidents do not use the railroad as a form of transportation, they use jets and there are no observation platforms on jets.

BOWMAN: No. We have had progress. But I have a great pleasure in remembering those old days when we did go down to the depot and meet those people.

MILLER: And you mention now of meeting the politicians when they would come to town at the depot, you mentioned circuses and the parades that would come, and skating on the lakes in the winter, what other forms of entertainment were available?

BOWMAN: Oh, we had after we started to school, and I remember them with great pleasure, we would have taffy pulling parties in our own groups up there at Mount Union. Taffy pulling and popcorn popping and that was about all because the idea of going out, starting out anywhere at 9:00 for entertainment was just ridiculous. We were in bed at 9:00.

MILLER: And not watching television.

BOWMAN: Not watching television, no. Not watching television, we played and sang sometimes in the evening. And we played in these parties the games of spin the pen and some children talk about spinning the bottle. We didn't ever do that, and I have to say too that the new game came along, Post Office, and we played that. I don't know that we should mention that because it might embarrass some of the older people.

MILLER: Oh, I doubt that that would embarrass anyone. So in addition to taffy pulling when you would have get to-  
gathers there would be other games for participation.

BOWMAN: Yes. One thing I remember I had a friend who invited me each spring, early spring, to come out to her sugar camp, maple syrup camp. That was a high point in my life. She's still living and we meet each summer along with several others who started to school on the same day in 1901 in the little old red brick building on East State Street.

MILLER: And that would have been the beginning of State Street School.

BOWMAN: The beginning of the State Street School, yes, the first building. Then that building was torn down and another building was torn down, there have been a number of buildings there.

MILLER: What other forms, when for instance did children begin to go to movies? Do you remember any movie theaters in Alliance?

BOWMAN: Yes, we began that when, about the high school, when I was in high school and I graduated in 1913 and we had movies then. I can remember going down from high school to Barnum's on Main Street, had an ice cream parlor and also a taffy place where they pulled taffy in the window. But we went down at noon from high school to get a cup of hot chocolate with whipped cream on the top for 5¢.

MILLER: Oh my.

BOWMAN: And Mrs. Barnum would serve that to us along with two crackers, saltines. And it was a wonderful thing to have a nickle and be able to go down there at noon and get that. Many of the older students would remember the Barnum Ice Cream Parlor with pleasure.

MILLER: And they would be coming from the high school meaning the Alliance High School on Broadway and Arch Street right?



BOWMAN: Alliance High School, yes.

MILLER: So that would have been an easy walk for the noon hour.

BOWMAN: Yes, and we had time enough at noon. We carried our lunches usually, it was before the day of the cafeteria and we had dried up sandwiches and usually pieces of fruit. That was before the thermos bottles and lunches. So it was a great pleasure to have a nickel to be able to go down and finish off with this cup of hot chocolate and whipped cream.

MILLER: I'm glad you explained that you had carried your lunch I thought that might have been all that you had for your lunch. Quite a treat. Maybe in the summertime then, this was an ice cream parlor, they probably had the hot chocolate in the winter.

BOWMAN: Yes, yes we had all kinds of ice cream although it was before the days of slushes and malts and things like that. We did have, cones were coming into use, ice cream comes. Some of them had the cone made of paper or cardboard but most of them were the rolled up cake cones. We had those in the summer for 5¢.

MILLER: How about flavors of ice cream? Would you have had a wide choice of flavors?

BOWMAN: We had vanilla, chocolate and strawberry.

MILLER: And that was it.

BOWMAN: Yes. Sometimes maple nut. But the 17 flavors weren't even dreamed of yet.

MILLER: What about going out to eat? If the family in the evening wanted to go to a restaurant. What restaurants were known at that time?

BOWMAN: It wasn't done.

MILLER: It just wasn't done?

BOWMAN: It wasn't done. We had boarding houses and we had a few lunch rooms. The idea of taking a family out, at least we didn't. Perhaps some of the students didn't, I think some of the students boarded around with different people. Mrs. so and so ran a boarding house they would say and another Mrs. Whosit ran another boarding house. The idea of numerous eating places we have today wasn't thought of.

MILLER: So you just didn't gather up the family if mother didn't feel like cooking in the evening there was no choice, she had to cook at that time.

BOWMAN: Well, yes, we sometimes in the hot summer weather, this was before the days of air conditioning, the hot summer weather we had what was left from the big noon day meal.

MILLER: We were talking about having restaurants and going out for meals and we had decided that that just wasn't available at the early period of time. And you had mentioned if mother didn't want to cook in the evening it was a matter of eating leftovers from the noon meal.

BOWMAN: Yes. That's right. Because most of us had the dinner at noon in those days. The idea of calling the evening meal dinner hadn't come across yet. We had supper in the evening.

MILLER: Which was a small meal.

BOWMAN: A smaller meal yes, with leftovers.

MILLER: We have talked about getting downtown to the Alliance High School for your schooling and getting down to skate on Colonel Morgan's Lakes, just how did you get from place to place?

BOWMAN: We walked, we walked, we walked every day to school and from my home it was almost two miles but we didn't know that I guess and we didn't worry about it. In fact some of the ones who came from farther out stopped and as we went on down we gathered up friends and by the time we reached the school we had quite a nice group to talk over the school teachers and everything.

MILLER: So if you wanted to go skating then it was a matter of walking also?



BOWMAN: Went walking down, we walked from our home down to the Morgan Lakes as we called them. But skating was never very satisfactory for me because the skates that clamped on our shoes had a habit of slipping off and we'd be in a different part of the lake from our skates.

MILLER: Matter of fact that would have probably been a painful experience.

BOWMAN: Well it was mainly with me, although there were skater's, skates then that screwed on to the leather heel and leather things but that wasn't good for shoes and in those days those had to be protected and cared for so they weren't generally allowed except for professional skaters.

MILLER: What an exciting event skating, that must have made skating.

BOWMAN: Yes. Well, we had to do it, it was fun but it was also hazardous.

MILLER: Indeed. At the period of time we've been talking about when you walked to school then most of the transportation in Alliance would have been horse and buggy, right?

BOWMAN: Yes. Well, we had a streetcar that went from Mount Union Square downtown. In the later years of my highschool sometimes I would walk home at noon and then have a nickle and go down on the streetcar for the afternoon classes. But that

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was when I was a senior. Usually we walked and thought really nothing of it. Bad days or good days we were protected from the rain. We had the most fun when there had been an ice storm and we fell down on the way down to school.

We made good friends though in that way and really enjoyed our school more.

MILLER: This was because, you were actually coming down a hill so to speak. Mount Union being truly situated on somewhat of a promontory meant that you slid down to school when the streets were icy.

BOWMAN: We slid down to school on icy days and usually had a great deal of fun. We walked up home then in the afternoon and I don't remember generally riding the streetcar. Just on special occasions because it was a nickle.

MILLER: Yes. And a nickle in those days as we talked about quite a thing to have revivals and camp meetings in the summer. He then was chased out of town eventually because they weren't exactly religious practices that he put on out there.

BOWMAN: Yes.

MILLER: Well, how was the streetcar powered? Was it horse drawn?

BOWMAN: Electric.

MILLER: Oh was it electric?

BOWMAN: Electric. Yes. And with the trolley and the motor-man would get out and put the trolley up.

MILLER: Back on the wire.

BOWMAN: Yes, back on the wire and change it then to go back down. And then later on of course the Canton line was put in. We had larger cars that went clear through to Canton and that was, I can't give you the date on that. I remember when we had this religious camp out there at the place where, out on Beechwood, out in there someplace. That Levi Lupton had a religious camp and people went out on these larger streetcars; the Canton cars we called them. I've seen them hanging on the roof or riding up on the roof and hanging on to something there because they couldn't get in the car. I've seen that from the square. Then Levi Lupton had this sort of a camp meeting. In the older days it was quite a thing to have revivals and camp meetings in the summer. He then was chased out of town eventually because they weren't exactly religious practices that he put on out there.

MILLER: So, this was sort of like a revivalist in residence. In otherwords he stayed here until....

BOWMAN: Yes, they were supposed to have the gift of tongues and they had great carryings on and finally it got to much for the law and he was forced out of the place. It was in the country, it was in our township, Washington Township but not in Alliance. But I speak of that to mention why



they were hanging on the streetcars. They wanted to get out to this place to see what went on and perhaps get the gift of tongues.

MILLER: So it must have been quite a popular stop for a while.

BOWMAN: It was quite a place but I was, I didn't know the full thing that went on at that time.

MILLER: Now this streetcar that you talk about, the larger Canton cars when they ran the line to Canton, that would have been what we knew as the Stark Electric?

BOWMAN: Yes. Yes it was the Stark Electric.

MILLER: And this then opened travel to Canton. Did you use it very often?

BOWMAN: Yes people did. I just don't remember what the fare was; it wasn't very much. But I remember before I was married going over there several times.

MILLER: What would be the reason to go to Canton? Added shopping? Would it be to go shopping?

BOWMAN: Sometimes the college people had banquets over there in the big hotel or something like that and sometimes they would go over there to go to Myers Lake. There was quite a resort over there at Myers Lake. But usually when they wanted to go to a resort they went on a train to Ravenna and to

Brady Lake. We had different lakes around you know. Then we had Lake Park and we went down here to the east and we had Chatauqua there. When I was young I was allowed to get a Chatauqua ticket and then with one of my brothers we would be allowed to take our lunch down and go down on the Stark Electric which went to Salem then in the other direction, go down there and stay for the two meetings of the day at Chatauqua. That's another full story though.

MILLER: Was this a branch of the Chatauqua in New York?

BOWMAN: It would be the real Chatauqua the red path Chatauqua. So the programs that came to the Chatauqua must

MILLER: And there was a branch here in Alliance.

BOWMAN: Well it would come for two weeks in the summer. It had to have backers you know, it had to be subsidized and guaranteed before it would come and that was how we would get the tickets. That was how merchants downtown usually bought them. My father would buy them. I can remember going down on that streetcar when I was quite young to the Chatauqua. The Chatauqua of today I don't know whether it goes around the same way or not, does it?

MILLER: So it would have been near their terminal out there  
Lake Park?  
now go to that location in order to participate.

BOWMAN: Yes. And they run it there at Chatauqua of New York.

MILLER: And these would have been lecturers....

BOWMAN: All sorts of things. All sorts of magicians, musical things little plays. I remember a glass blower and I was sitting right up in front and he blew out a little bird, a tiny little bird and then he let me hold that little bird in my hand and it was such a wonderful day to see the glass blower with the blob of hot glass on the end of that rod.

MILLER: And then to have the privilege of holding....

BOWMAN: Of holding that little bird.

MILLER: So the programs that came to the Chataqua must have been ageless in their appeal then.

BOWMAN: Oh yes. And there was no trouble in getting people to go to them. The last one I think they held there was what we called Chataqua Court that branches off of South Arch almost up here in Mount Union by Shadyshade and there was a large field back in there. And for several years the Chataqua was held there. But the one I remember was the one at Lake Park which was developed by the owners of the Stark Electric Railroad, Lake Park.

MILLER: So it would have been near their terminal out there on Lake Park?

BOWMAN: Yes they had the barns there, the car barns there at Lake Park.



MILLER: But there was an actual park there. no Street is

BOWMAN: Yes, yes. And really a wonderful thing for those days. There's quite a grove of trees many of them still there, unusual trees and each one marked with a tablet the name, the Latin name and the English name of that tree. There were dozens and dozens of good unusual trees there at one time. I don't know how many are still standing. Then there was a lake and there was a house built but it was all run by the Stark Electric, owned by them.

MILLER: So this would have been a recreational facility. You mentioned that you could also go to Canton to Myers Lake or to Ravenna but was there not in Alliance a Rockhill Park at one time?

BOWMAN: Yes, we had picnics there. And I suppose some of them, we had to walk there for a picnic. That was, is still there on Rockhill. Mainly you see a horse, place for horses to run and I think horses have been kept there. But it was quite a nice flourishing little family park and there was a little lake there, I don't think there was bathing. May have been but I didn't know of that but I do know of being there for several picnics.

MILLER: Then Rockhill Park would have been North Rockhill would it have not?

BOWMAN: Yes, almost across from the City Cemetery.

MILLER: Yes. So near North Rockhill and Vine Street is where it would have been then.

BOWMAN: Yes, it's to the west of Rockhill where Rockhill comes along by City Cemetery and then it's that place there. It's been in difficulty, I think the city was contemplating buying it at one time. I don't really know what has happened to it as regards ownership.

MILLER: For the most part now it's just an overgrown field because....

BOWMAN: No, it's not used as a park anymore and has never been developed. In fact it has gone down hill very much.

MILLER: And if you walked there you must have had quite a hike that was....

BOWMAN: We did. But remember it wouldn't be any farther from Alliance than our Memorial Day parades go now, walk every year. Usually walk down Lincoln and across Vine. But we walked practically everywhere. Sometimes we went, I can remember my father hiring a livery rig and taking us out to picnics; two seated carry all or some sort of a rig and with the strange horses, and everything but we made it.

MILLER: Couldn't predict how the horses would behave could you?

BOWMAN: No, no, I have that, but that would be a private

affair that wasn't anything community wise. We had a wonderful time on the Fourth of July. Colonel Morgan invited everyone to come down and view the fire works. He put on a great fireworks display every Fourth of July from the castle there and the town gathered to see them.

MILLER: So this would have been the fore runner of our town celebrations at Silver Park.

BOWMAN: Silver Park yes. Not many people remember that but I was there.

MILLER: What about the celebrating of the Fourth of July. What sort of events went on?

BOWMAN: Oh, it used to be we always had, in our family, we had young ones, a brother just older and a brother just younger and then these two older ones. We always had Roman candles and pinwheels and all sorts of fireworks, everything was allowed in those days and a great many fire-crackers. I didn't appreciate them as my brothers did and tried to stay out of the way of them. But even with our own family, my husband and I, we had fireworks for our two boys for several years until they were outlawed. But my husband took care of that and the boys enjoyed them. But it was done with great care and as the years went along and people became more aware of the dangers then the laws were made prohibiting them. And I think the big display out at Silver Park is the answer.



MILLER: That way everyone can enjoy it but it is done safely.

BOWMAN: That's right. And in the old days lockjaw often followed the Fourth of July.

MILLER: Now, why would that have been?

BOWMAN: Well, they would get burns and things from the lack of care and they didn't have the medicines and things.

MILLER: So they would get infection and tetanus would be what would happen.

BOWMAN: Same way with the cap pistols. Those were very common in the old days.

MILLER: Yes. Shooting caps in pistols.

BOWMAN: That was very common. Sometimes they got burned. We all would remember playmates that had died of it.

MILLER: Oh boy. Quite a serious thing.

BOWMAN: Well yes, it really was a serious thing but of course a great many things were more serious in those days.

MILLER: Let's go back up to the Mount Union area. We had pretty much covered I think Union Ave. and State Street at the square the buildings there and some of the others. Was there not between Mount Union square and your house, south on Union Ave. was there a cemetery located there at one time?

BOWMAN: Yes, on the west side of Union Ave. almost directly opposite from the A.A.A. building now, there was in my childhood a cemetery where many of the older Mount Union residents had been buried. There were great huge pine trees in the front that set up a terrible sighing noise when the wind blew through them. I was afraid, really, to pass by there and never did at night. But it was a favorite place in the old days for the college students to hang out and tie up some of their people they wanted to keep from going to class parties. That was a favorite place to keep them. That cemetery was moved then to our Mount Union Cemetery out beyond the corporation line next door to Silver Park. And those graves were all moved out there, and the land sold to business enterprises.

MILLER: I can imagine having a cemetery in the neighborhood made it a pretty popular place on Halloween too.

BOWMAN: Yes, they used it to scare most of us with. But I didn't go by; of course I was real young then, young at the time it was moved out to the Mount Union Cemetery. That is quite a place for Mount Union now.

MILLER: And would have then in the records of the people who are buried there quite a history in the Mount Union area.

BOWMAN: Yes. Yes, it would be. Whatever they have left of that. The tombstones are toward the back.

MILLER: If you were looking then for the original cemetery most of it then would be in the back of the Mount Union Cemetery.

BOWMAN: Yes. But of course the ones after this cemetery was, and I think it was started in 1886 the Mount Union as we know it now today on the hill there next to Silver Park. The older residents and there are a number of the college people who are buried there at the front. Dr. Headland is out there and a number of different ones of the college are buried there. Then we moved back and back and back but that's all we ever had in Mount Union. There is out near Children's Home another little old cemetery, as you go there just before you come to the Children's Home there's a little cemetery. That's being taken care of now by the township; I think it's taken care of.

MILLER: Oh, this would be farther south on Union Ave. which is nearer Fairmount.

BOWMAN: Oh yes, two miles from Mount Union. Just past the second cross roads and each cross road is a mile. So from Mount Union Square it's two miles out. And this Mount Union Cemetery is almost one mile from Mount Union Square.

MILLER: Yes, because it's not quite to the next cross roads.

BOWMAN; Not quite to the cross road.



MILLER: That's an interesting rule of thumb for calculating the distance.

BOWMAN: Yes, well they were squares. They set everything off in squares I think in the old days. And to go back to these Johnsons, I think they had that whole southwest square which they had most of that.

MILLER: Does that also apply then from State Street down to Main Street? Is that a two mile section or wasn't that?

BOWMAN: Yes. That's supposed to be two miles but I don't know where, at least we used to say from the square downtown a little bit beyond Main that it was two miles. And we used to figure from our home to high school was two miles. But we didn't have the automobile mileage to go by then.

MILLER: Well that was probably two miles as the crow flies then.

BOWMAN: Yes, as the crow flies. Yes, that was right.

MILLER: Let's ask one more detail before we finish our tape and that is about your brother. You had referred to your brother earlier in the tape. Your father had the hardware store, Allott and Kryder and then your brother Guy Allott....

BOWMAN: Took over in 1917, yes. Name changed to Allotts.

MILLER: And he was also Mayor of the city.

BOWMAN: In the 30's yes.

MILLER: Yes, for a period of time. And I think it's note worthy that he was the only blind Mayor that we ever had.

BOWMAN: Yes.

MILLER: How did he get to be blind?

BOWMAN: He fell down the stairway and detached a retina, then he went up to Cleveland and had it attached. Lay there in the Cleveland Clinic for weeks and weeks and weeks and then came home. Had light perception, had a little bit of sight from it but was hopeful that it would get better, and all at once it detached again. And he went back up and they tried to attach it but could not. It was before the day of the Laser Beam. And perhaps that might have worked but they didn't have it then. And so he was completely blind when he went into the Mayor. But he walked downtown, his wife, my sister-in-law, walked with him miles and miles and miles. And every-day he walked down to the Mayor's office and has a good record of being Mayor although being blind.

MILLER: And also a good record of running the hardware store with his handicap.

BOWMAN: Yes, it was Allotts then. When my father had it it was Allott and Kryder. John Kryder was in with him. And then when my father wanted to go to California to live my brother took over.

MILLER: Well, do we have anything else? I think we've just about covered a goodly part of, picture of Alliance in days before there was paving on the streets and some interesting characters roaming around. Anything else?



ALLIANCE BUSINESS COLLEGE.....	Bowman 4
ALLOTT AND KRYDER HARDWARE.....	Bowman 1
ALLOTT-HOME.....	Bowman 2
ALLOTT, BENJAMIN.....	Bowman 1
ALLOTT, GUY.....	Bowman 1, Bowman 38
ATWELL HOUSE.....	Bowman 13
BARNUM'S ICE CREAM.....	Bowman 21
BOWMAN, MR.....	Bowman 16
BRYAN, WILLIAM JENNINGS.....	Bowman 18
CADY DRUGSTORE.....	Bowman 8
CALHOUN, GENE.....	Bowman 5
CHAUTAUQUA.....	Bowman 29
CHAUTAUQUA COURT.....	Bowman 30
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FAIRMOUNT CEMETERY.....	Bowman 36
FOURTH OF JULY.....	Bowman 33
GEIGER, MILTON.....	Bowman 7
HAWKINS, MRS.....	Bowman 5
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INFLUENZA OUTBREAK.....	Bowman 12
JOHNSON, CALE.....	Bowman 10
LAKE PARK.....	Bowman 30
LUPTON, LEVI.....	Bowman 27
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MOORE, MILTON.....	Bowman 2
MORGAN FIREWORKS.....	Bowman 33
MORRIS, JANE.....	Bowman 2
MOUNT UNION CEMETERY.....	Bowman 35
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OSWALT, PEG.....	Bowman 11
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REVIVALS.....	Bowman 27
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STROUP, L., MILL.....	Bowman 6
STROUP, LINDSEY.....	Bowman 8
TAFT, WILLIAM HOWARD.....	Bowman 18
TURNER'S DRUGSTORE.....	Bowman 8
UNION AVENUE.....	Bowman 3
WARREN, KATY.....	Bowman 4
WILSON, WOODROW.....	Bowman 18