

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, BAKERSFIELD

CALIFORNIA ODYSSEY
The 1930s Migration to the Southern San Joaquin ValleyOral History Program

Interview Between

INTERVIEWEE: Frank Andy Manies

PLACE OF BIRTH: Duncan, Stephens County, Oklahoma

INTERVIEWER: Stacey Jagels

DATES OF INTERVIEWS: February 18 and 20, 1981

PLACE OF INTERVIEWS: Tulare, Tulare County

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PREFACE

Mr. Frank Manies is a retired school teacher who now sells real estate in Tulare, California. Mr. Manies is well educated, articulate and extremely easy to talk to. He seemed to be aware of exactly what the Project was interested in learning through interviews and spoke on those subjects. Mr. Manies coped with some difficult times and still is very sensitive about them. He read the transcript carefully and edited a great deal of the interview himself.

Stacey Jagels
Interviewer

CALIFORNIA STATE COLLEGE, BAKERSFIELD

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Oral History Program

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INTERVIEWEE: Frank Andy Manies (Age: 66)

INTERVIEWER: Stacey Jagels

DATED: February 18, 1981

S.J.: This is an interview with Frank Andy Manies for the California State College, Bakersfield CALIFORNIA ODYSSEY Project, by Stacey Jagels at 957 Lyndale, Tulare, California on February 18, 1981 at 2:00 p.m.

S.J.: First we'll start off with your childhood. When and where were you born?

Manies: I was born in Duncan, Oklahoma which is in Stephens County, Oklahoma in 1915. We lived there for a couple years before we moved. There were two of us there. I am the third of four children. My brother was the oldest, my sister was next and I was the third. Then there is a sister just younger than I am.

S.J.: Can you tell me a little bit about Duncan? What size town was it?

Manies: At that time it wasn't very large; however, it is growing now. Probably it had a population of 4,000 and now it must be up to around 30,000 or 40,000 people. It is now the home of Haggard slacks. It's kind of in the woods. There are black-jack and oak trees there. It is between the woods and the prairie of Oklahoma which is a little bit further to the west. My uncle was a businessman and a smalltime politician and he ran a store there. My father rented land from him--that's where we lived when I was born.

S.J.: So your father rented land and was a farmer?

Manies: Yes. He was a sharecropper for my uncle who lived in town and owned the store. After that we moved to Ardmore, Oklahoma

which is further to the east--that's in Carter County about 75 miles to the east--in 1917. After we lived there awhile sharecropping we moved to the city. We got away from farming and moved to the city of Ardmore. In Ardmore--when I was five--my mother died from fever. My brother and sisters and I were split up and my grandmother took the two girls and my father took us two boys. We kind of moved about all over the state for several years before my father remarried. I kind of enjoyed it. I had an awful lot of sickness. I came down with an infection--osteomyelitis--and malaria. You couldn't believe that malaria we had. My mother died from typhoid fever and my brother came down with it a little while later. We got shots to keep the rest of us from taking typhoid. I really had tremendous trouble with this infection after my mother died and I was in a hospital 57 days I think. It left me crippled. I can walk but I've always been crippled from that. It was in 1921 or 1922. My mother died in 1921 and in 1922 I had trouble with osteomyelitis. Then I came down with Bright's disease--that's a very serious kidney ailment which almost knocked me out. I managed to get over it. I had my share of health problems. I think that perhaps my parents didn't know how to take care of us and partly it was my fault. Also nutrition probably wasn't as good as it should have been. It was quite a trying experience.

S.J.: Did that keep you out of school?

Manies: Yes, it did. It kept me out of school for a while and then we traveled around a lot after my sisters went to live with my grandmother. My father worked for a bridge builder. He contracted building bridges and we would go from one place to another. I wouldn't really stay in school too long. In fact, I counted up one time. I think I attended 22 schools. I know that there is quite a lot of opposition to taking kids from one school to another but I learned to adjust quite rapidly.

S.J.: Why did your father move around so much?

Manies: To follow this contractor that was contracting the bridges to build. He would take a contract in different places and we would go from place to place. My father wanted us to be with him. When I was nine or ten--five years after my mother died--he remarried. He married a lady with four children. It really caused problems because instead of taking me with him whenever he went on the road doing construction work he left me with them. There were two girls and two boys--the two boys were twins just two years older than me. My older brother who was around seventeen at that time went with my father which left me with my stepmother and all of the children. It was like living in a home other than my own. They made life rather miserable for me. I didn't really get too much schooling.

I think I got through the sixth grade then I left home. I was getting to be a teenager and I went other places because I didn't feel like staying with my stepmother and all of her children with my father gone most of the time. My father was against it. Whenever he'd come home everything was fine but it wasn't fine whenever he was gone. So I left home at a comparatively early age--a young teenager--and of course that meant cutting my school short.

S.J.: Before you left home and your father worked for this contractor how were things economically?

Manies: It was awfully hard. It was very hard. The Depression started in 1929 and we weren't doing too well even with him working. After 1929 the construction business stopped to a great degree. We went into sharecropping and you know what happened to all of the sharecroppers. They went broke in a hurry. In fact, my father mortgaged the horses and everything. Pretty soon they foreclosed and that left us without money and food. By that time I had left there and gone to live with some relatives who lived in the eastern part of the state. I lived with them a year or two until I got old enough to work. I wasn't really old enough but I fibbed about my age in order to get employment. Although during the early 1930s they had some projects that were instituted by President Roosevelt for families and needy children--there were often needy children--it was hard for a young kid or a single adult to get a job. I had an awfully hard time getting work.

Finally they started the Civilian Conservation Corps and I wanted to go into that but I wasn't able to. The competition for those positions was quite strong and I wasn't able to do that so when I was about seventeen I decided that I wanted to come to California. I remember having \$13 at the time. I started hitchhiking across the state of Oklahoma into Texas. In our travels I had been across some of those places with my father. There weren't too many cars on the road and I was following the same route that we'd followed before--not Highway 66 but some route further south. I've heard of people walking out of the state--I literally did when I left Oklahoma. I would hitchhike some of the time but I actually walked across the bridge from Ranlett, Oklahoma into Burk Burnett, Texas which was the dividing bridge between the two states. I distinctly remember walking across there. It took me several days to get into Plainview, Texas which is in the panhandle part of Texas--there I ran out of money. I couldn't go any further. I did manage to stay with some people and I even offered to work for my room and board. I still had California in the back of my mind. I knew a young man who was going to go into the CCC [Civilian Conservation Corps] from Plainview, Texas. I couldn't qualify for the CCC because I wasn't a resident of

that particular county. The young fellow who was eligible was suppose to go to Lubbock, Texas to go into the CCC. I talked the fellow into letting me take his place. He said that I shouldn't do it because I wasn't a resident of the county but he let me take his place anyway. The next day I hitchhiked and walked into Lubbock and again when I got there I was out of money. I went to the post office where we were going to be examined and inducted the next day. I didn't know what I was going to do because I had no money and I had no place to stay. I saw an army officer coming out of the federal building with six fellows who looked to be about my age. They stopped at the stop light to cross to the big hotel. I stopped too. I thought, "Well, now's my chance." I walked with them even though I hadn't made arrangements with the captain for a place to stay. When they walked across I got right with them and some of the fellows kind of eyed me wondering what I was doing. We went into the hotel and I remember the captain making arrangements for six fellows. The manager counted seven. I'd guessed right--they were going to the CCC too. The manager made all of us get our papers out. I had my papers so he said, "Well, I guess I must have miscounted." So they went ahead and gave me a room and something to eat for that night. The next day they gave us the examinations. I was afraid I wasn't going to pass the physical because of this osteomyelitis--one leg was one inch shorter than the other but I kind of camouflaged that the best I could. I did pass the physical and they shipped us to what is now Camp Verde, Arizona. I was getting closer to California.

S.J.:

How old were you then?

Manies:

I think I was seventeen or eighteen at the time. They shipped us to Camp Verde, Arizona. I knew the conditions in California and other states were quite bad at that particular time. They gave me my meals and I kind of liked it there. I got a job working in the auto shop in the CCC. I stayed there for four and a half years in the CCC in Flagstaff and Sedona, Arizona. We had a pretty good arrangement. We stayed at Camp Verde and Flagstaff in the summer and Sedona in the winter. We had perfect weather. Flagstaff was high--around 7,000 feet and then Sedona would be nice and warm in the winter. I stayed there for four and a half years. I was a fairly good auto mechanic when I came out. When I left there they asked me if I wanted to go back to where I came from and I said that I didn't want to go back to Texas or Oklahoma because I remembered how terrible conditions were. I said, "I want to go to California." So they figured out the equivalent distance between Flagstaff, Arizona and Lubbock, Texas and they said that I could come to the San Joaquin Valley--a little bit past Bakersfield. I said I'd take it. And so that's how I came to California. At that time they were trying to stop

the people from coming in the state and I bypassed that. Of course they found out it was unconstitutional to do that. But they were trying to stop us nevertheless.

S.J.: Would you tell me a little bit more about the CCC?

Manies: We had army officers and one year we had a navy officer, an ensign. It was almost like the military. At night when we came home from work we were under the army officers yet in the daytime we were under the auspices of the forest service. I liked the forest service but I hated the army with a passion. I didn't care for it because I didn't like the military aspect of having to stand at retreat. When I was working in the auto shop I had to work a little bit longer than the rest of them to service the cars and trucks which took the fellows out to work. I was unable to get in my uniform for five o'clock retreat because I just couldn't make it. I was always in trouble with the commanding officer who was a lieutenant. I think that was his first assignment and he wanted everything to be perfect.

S.J.: So they had you wearing uniforms?

Manies: Yes, it was the army uniforms that had been issued to the World War I soldiers. I can remember I didn't like the bottom of them because they were quite small. We always had a joke that we had to grease our heels to get them on.

S.J.: But you would only have to wear those uniforms after hours?

Manies: After hours or if we went to town we couldn't mix our clothes. We either had to wear civilian clothes or we had to wear the uniforms. We had to do one or the other. He wouldn't allow us to do both.

S.J.: Did they give you leaves like they do in the military?

Manies: At first they did but then some of the fellows got to abusing it and then they stopped. The only way they would give it was if someone would get deathly sick. They wouldn't give us time off like the regular military. I really got homesick to see my relatives and one time I had them write me a letter--which wasn't true--saying that my father was about to die. That was about 1936. I'd been there two years and I had a chance to go and visit him. He still lived in Oklahoma at the time. Of course he wasn't sick but that was the only way I had of getting out of there. I remember riding the train and I went from Flagstaff, Arizona and back for \$21. They would give us a special rate on the train--1¢ a mile--so I thought it was quite economical. But that was the only time I really had a chance to get away.

S.J.: Did you have what was then a normal work week of five days a week and ten hours a day?

Manies: Yes we did. It would be eight hours a day, five days a week unless we had an emergency. We were in the Coconino National Forest and we had to fight forest fires and build the roads and so forth so if we had a fire the 40 hour work week turned into much longer. Sometimes we would work straight through with no time off. I always complained because they wouldn't let us have time off to compensate for that. I really liked the forest service and made a lot of friends there and I did learn a trade there--auto mechanics.

S.J.: Do you think the work was hard?

Manies: Yes indeed. It was very hard. Some of the foremen--forest service foremen--would just come right out and tell us, "If you don't want to work hard there are other people ready to take your place." So we did work hard. I went in with 88 Texans and some of those have become lifelong friends.

S.J.: You said you were an auto mechanic and that the trucks and vehicles you repaired belonged to the forest service. Were there any other government vehicles that you were responsible for?

Manies: Yes, we did have the caterpillar tractors and big compressors for the jackhammers for making the roads. We had a lot of projects in Coconino County. They worked us hard but I think it was good. We made roads. In fact, we built some of the roads from Sedona going into what is now Interstate 17. They call it Schnebly Hill Road. The word Schnebly comes from one of the founders of the town of Sedona. Actually, Sedona was named after Mr. Schnebly's wife. Schnebly Hill Road is really a winding thing. It comes up from about 3,000 feet elevation right into what is now Interstate 17 going into Phoenix from Flagstaff.

S.J.: Did you feel the work you were doing was valuable?

Manies: Yes indeed. In fact, we actually took the place of what you would now call the forest fire fighters who are paid very well. We did exactly the same thing only whenever we didn't have fires we did erosion control and forest work. We did forest culture too which meant that we would study the trees and sometimes we would cut the limbs off on some of the big Ponderosa pines. It was something that the forest service actually wanted to do before but they just didn't have the man power to do it. I think the headquarters for the forest service in Flagstaff was in Albuquerque, New Mexico--that's where we got all of our new trucks and equipment from. About every two

years we would go there for our new equipment. It was something that I enjoyed. I go back sometimes to Flagstaff where some of my friends are still living to visit them.

S.J.: Have you heard some criticism of the CCC? I've heard that some people think possibly the government invented jobs that really weren't necessary jobs and it was just a way to get people working and to pay them to try to improve the economy? Actually the work they were doing wasn't that valuable. Have you heard any criticism like that?

Manies: I have heard criticism like that but I think probably it depended on the location. I think it was partly true and partly untrue. In some of the areas like the plains states where some of the CCC boys were fighting the dust storms maybe they didn't have sufficient projects for them. But it just wasn't so in Arizona because we had many things to do. Some of the parks such as Manzinita Park in Oak Creek Canyon were built by us--and it's still in use. Some of my friends were in the Grand Canyon. They did a wonderful job there and they worked on the Bright Angel Trail--the one that goes down to the bottom of the Grand Canyon. I think all of those projects were worthwhile. Preventing the forest fires was one of our main projects--especially in the summertime. I remember one time we had 60 fires going at once in the Coconino Forest. Of course there were a lot of small ones and some real huge ones.

S.J.: Do you feel you were compensated very well for the work?

Manies: If you look at it in dollars and cents I think not. Some of the fellows complained because we were only getting \$30 a month. But then we had an army chaplain talk to us about that and he said, "Well, you really are getting more than that. You're getting your food and some schooling." We were getting an opportunity to further our education if we preferred. They didn't force it on us but we could if we wanted to. I took auto mechanics there and that was valuable to me. We were getting our education if we preferred, our food and a place to stay which was something because before I had nothing. I think that the criticism that the CCC was not worthwhile was justified in some areas but in some areas like where we were I don't think it was. I think that we really did some wonderful things there.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 1

S.J.: When you told me about deciding to come to California instead of going back to Oklahoma and Texas after the CCC, you said you didn't want to go back to Oklahoma because of the terrible conditions. Could you tell me a little bit more about this?

Manies: Of course one of the reasons I didn't want to go back was that I couldn't go back to my father's house because of the family conditions there. I was convinced that the working conditions there were even worse than in other places and I simply just didn't want to go back. A lot of people were leaving there going other places so that convinced me even more. Also, I had seen movies of the San Joaquin Valley. I can't remember the movie but the pioneers had come in and developed it and used irrigation water to produce all of these things. To me it was really a good place to come to and that's one of the reasons I had wanted to come. I definitely didn't want to go back to Oklahoma and I didn't want to go back to Texas. I'd never been in Arkansas and we always kind of poked fun at the people from Arkansas--which was unjustified I'm sure.

S.J.: Were there other reasons why you wanted to come to California?

Manies: My sister, who I was quite close to, had married early to a man I knew in Oklahoma. They too decided that they didn't want to stay in Oklahoma and moved to California--that was one of the other reasons why I was sure that I didn't want to go back there. I thought that I could come and be with them. They had moved close to Tulare six months before I left the CCC. When the opportunity arose where I could go in any direction within 600 miles of Flagstaff, Arizona it turned out to be here. I came here in good style on the train with about \$3 when I got here.

S.J.: What sorts of things had you heard about California that made you want to come here?

Manies: I'd heard that there were jobs here and I heard that they had a lot of fruit here. When I had the osteomyelitis as a young child one of the things they gave me in the hospital was raisins. The doctor said I definitely should have iron. It was before they had antibiotics and one of the things they gave me was little red boxes of Sunmaid Raisins with a picture on the box. I'd always admired this picture. And I knew the raisins came from California. I thought if I could get to the land of sunshine and food maybe I could get a job as an auto mechanic--then I would love it. Of course, I knew it was more populated than Oklahoma and that would give me a better chance of finding work as an auto mechanic. I wasn't really a skilled mechanic but I was a fairly good apprentice. Then I got off the train and went to my sister and brother-in-law's and was appalled at the conditions they were living in. They had a little, tiny cabin and two small babies. My sister was unable to work because of the young babies. They had one little tiny room and a little tiny kitchen and no stove. They had rented this from a wino. I had never heard of the term "wino" before, in fact, when they told me they were renting this from a wino I thought it was some

person from a different county. I said, "What do you mean wino?" They said, "Well, he owns the cabin and he drinks wine all the time." So that was my first experience with a wino. I stayed there with them and decided it was really horrible the way we were living. My time had run out at the CCC. They had prolonged my term to four and a half years--ordinarily the time was two years in the CCC. The reason I was able to stay there was because I had a rating and had a better job. I was getting \$45 so I was able to stay there four and a half years.

S.J.: Was your brother-in-law working in the fields?

Manies: Yes, yes he was and that was how I started working in the fields. It was in the fall of the year and the very first job that I got working with him was rolling up the raisin trays. It was raining--the weatherman had predicted sunshine--and they hired us to help roll up the raisin trays. When they first came out with paper trays they had us roll them up like a cigarette. They call it a cigarette roll to keep the rain from damaging them. I really worked quite hard rolling them up. At that time I was kind of tough and wiry even though I did have the trouble with my leg. I worked exceptionally hard for this person. They had other people working too--maybe 10 or 15. After we worked kind of later into the night doing this the boss, Mr. Gillespie, served us cake and coffee. Afterwards he called me to one side and said, "I noticed that you worked quite fast and hard--would you come back tomorrow?" I said, "Sure." So I got my brother-in-law to drive me back in his car. By that time the sun had come out and the rain was over. He wanted the raisins to dry more so he hired me to unroll them with the pitch fork handle. I would go along with a pitch fork and unroll them so the sun would dry them out. I unrolled all of the grape trays trays for him that way. As it turned out I worked a month for him--that was my first job in California in the fields. I was never able to get a job as an auto mechanic. I think it was partly because I didn't have a car to get around in and partly because I didn't have mechanical tools. So we spent the next two or three years doing field work in the Valley.

S.J.: The first job with the raisins--how much were you paid?

Manies: Twenty-five cents an hour and we were happy to get it. Of course that meant that for six days a week we could get \$12 for an eight hour day. We were barely able to live. It was a little better for my sister after I started putting in my \$12. Before that it was just my brother-in-law and his \$12. He was renting the little cabin for \$6 a month yet they had nothing. It was just a very difficult thing to even live.

S.J.: It sounds as though the person you worked for was good to you.

Manies: Yes, yes indeed. Some of them were very good and some of them were very bad--that was another problem too. The length of time that we had to work for any one particular individual wasn't very long, in fact, that was a real good goal for us striving towards a permanent job--that was the goal of most of the Oklahomans who came out here. They wanted a permanent position so they could depend on it but that was where some of the trouble was. We weren't working all the time and when we were out of work we had to go looking for work which meant no income--spending our gasoline trying to find work.

S.J.: How did you go about finding work? Did you hear from other people?

Manies: No we just had to go out and look. We would go to a farmer and ask. Of course, some of the things like picking cotton were nothing new to us--we'd done that in Oklahoma. We went on the west side and picked. It was so far away from our little cabin that we had no place to stay so we'd sleep in our car. We'd go out and work for days at a time. Of course, that was piece work. When we got paid \$1 per hundred for picking cotton that was nothing new to me. Some of the work here was new and I had to learn the best I could. Like pruning grapes--they didn't hire me because I wasn't experienced. It's important to be able to prune grapes just right. So every time I would ask for a job they'd ask me, "Well, have you had experience?" and I would say, "No." Well, they wouldn't hire me. I managed to get hold of a pair of pruning shears and volunteered to prune someone's grapes for free just so he'd show me how. I pruned the twelve grapes and the next time I went out--which was the next day--and asked for a job and they said, "Have you pruned grapes before?" I said, "Yes." I didn't tell them how many and I got the job. I soon found out that that really wasn't important because they have their own way of doing it and they'd show you how to do it their way.

S.J.: Was it difficult work?

Manies: It was difficult in a way because we didn't grow up with pruning grapevines. Some of the experienced people had been doing it for twenty years and could prune faster than we could. It would be kind of hard on us because we would be showed up. We couldn't work as fast as they could. But it wasn't long before we were keeping up. At one of the places we worked he didn't pay us--four weeks went by and we were just down to nothing in groceries and gasoline money. He still didn't pay us. Finally, we just had to quit. He still wouldn't pay us. I found out that I could go to the Labor Commission in Fresno in the Patterson Building and when I went there and told them that this farmer wouldn't pay us for doing all this

work and he said, "What's his name?" I told them and they said, "Oh no, not him again,"--he'd been doing this same thing before but that meant that we weren't able to get our money for about eight months--after he had harvested his crop the following fall. We finally got our money but it did make it quite hard on us at the same time trying to keep going. But by and large the people were good. There was a great deal of negativism towards us mostly out of fear--that maybe we would take their jobs--not necessarily because we were Okies but just because they thought they might lose their jobs to us.

S.J.: Who were these people who felt negatively? Were they the people who had picked the crops before the Okies ever came here?

Manies: Some of the townspeople had a rather negative opinion about us. They would make snide remarks. I didn't pay too much attention to it but it did bother some of the people. For instance, if we would go on a job they would say to us, "Where are you from? Okie, heh?" Or they'd say, "Just another dust bowler," or something like that. I could sense that there was a great deal of negativism even by the ranchers after the work had been completed--that was the thing that really disturbed me more than anything else was that they weren't as friendly after we did the work for them as when we were doing the work. I think that one thing disturbed me more than anything else. I really had nothing against the people but I was disturbed by that all the time that I lived here. It was different where we grew up. We would exchange work with farmers and they were our friends. We would see them on the street and still considered them our friends but when we got here it wasn't like that at all!

S.J.: There was a definite class difference. There were wealthy farmers and then there were workers who were usually very poor.

Manies: Right. Yet some were just as bad off as we were.

S.J.: Some of the farmers?

Manies: Absolutely, just as bad off as we were. In fact, I really felt sorry for them in some of the areas. I would say a large percentage of the ranches were for sale by banks. They had foreclosed already. It was just kind of a sad thing. Some of the large ranchers like Tagus Ranch and some of the others had a different system and no doubt were making good money. I had some friends that worked for Tagus Ranch that kind of liked Marriott and some of those people. I'm sure they weren't doing too well working for them. I never experienced the funny money that they talked about, however, I did experience some of the poker chip money on the west side.

S.J.: Are you talking about what they were paid with?

Manies: Artificial money. In other words it could be spent only in his own store.

S.J.: Like the company store?

Manies: At Five Points on the west side where we were picking cotton, they paid us with something like poker chips. We could only spend them at a certain store and the store's prices were high. I resented that. I really wanted the money instead because we had the responsibility of my sister and the babies that we wanted to take care of and I resented the poker chips that they were giving me for money. The place we were forced to trade at in order to buy food so we could keep on picking cotton--I resented that too. As a whole, the people were very nice and they were cordial. Some of them were dishonest too.

S.J.: You said the townspeople would call you a "dust bowler" when in fact you were in Arizona during the dust bowl.

Manies: At the time I resented that.

S.J.: So you didn't see any of the dust storms?

Manies: I didn't see any dust storms and yet they called me that. In fact, I got to the point that whenever they would call me that I would say, "Well, you're wrong. I'm from Arizona,"--which was only telling part of the truth because I had come from Oklahoma to Arizona to California. I resented them calling me a dust bowler and an Okie.

S.J.: Do you remember any specific incidents where a snide remark was said?

Manies: One time we got a job pruning trees--peach trees. I think he had 200 peach trees and I noticed that he had had about twelve or fifteen of them pruned already and I asked him, "What has happened here?" He said, "Well, I hired some people--some dirty Okies--to prune these and I offered to give them a five cent bonus if they would finish the 200 trees." I didn't tell him I was an Okie but I'm sure he could detect that I was. He said, "The dirty Okies wouldn't finish the job and I even offered to give them a five cent bonus." I figured out that possibly with the price that he was going to pay us--I think it was fifteen cents a tree--that we could make 25 cents an hour with the bonus. I said, "Okay, that sounds like a fairly good deal to me. We'll do that." So we went ahead and did it and I think it took us about a month to prune them. After we'd completed the 200 trees he wouldn't pay us the five cent bonus that he'd promised to pay

per tree. I asked why and he said, "Well, I didn't tell you that. I told the other people that." I said, "Yes, but you implied to us that that is what you would do and that's the way we accepted it." He said, "Well, that just isn't so." So there wasn't too much that we could do about it. I think, however, that he was afraid that we were going to do something about it so he had the marshall get after us and accuse us of swiping the neighbor's pruning shears--that had nothing to do with him at all and it wasn't true. We had borrowed the neighbor's pruning shears to prune the trees but we hadn't taken them back yet. He got the marshall to come and accuse us of taking the [shears] which wasn't so. It kind of disturbed me that he would say those things--that he would beat us out of the five cents per tree.

S.J.: Do you think very many other Okies had problems like that?

Manies: Oh, I'm sure they did. It was fairly common and I'm sure they did. There was a little bit of negativism even after World War II but it just took a long time for it to finally go away. I have forgiven them--yes indeed--but I haven't forgotten. I just can't forget. My wife said, "Well, if you forgive them, you forget them." I said, "Well, I can't."

S.J.: Do you remember working with minority workers--perhaps Mexicans or Filipinos or black farm workers?

Manies: I did work with some Mexicans and there were a few Filipinos around. There was an article in the Fresno Bee recently that said there was a high number of Mexican people doing farm labor in the Valley in the 1930s. My honest opinion is that their statistics are wrong. There must have been 200,000 or 300,000 Okies that came here during those days and I would say the majority of the farm people were Okies in the 1930s. There wasn't a great number of Mexicans like there is now. I don't know where they got their figures.

S.J.: Of the Mexican farm workers that you did come in contact with do you think they were discriminated against?

Manies: Of course they were. They are still discriminated against but I don't think they were discriminated against as much as we were!

S.J.: I've been told by some black people who were farm workers in the Valley that they were not discriminated against. They were largely left alone while the Okies had a lot of trouble.

Manies: That's true. Now I think the [blacks] were discriminated against but probably not as much as the Okies. There just weren't that many of them as far as I'm concerned--at least I didn't see them. Delano had a large portion of Filipinos that

came in 1930s but we didn't have too many Filipinos right around here. It was mostly Okies and some people from Missouri. I stayed away from the government camps. I really felt like competition for employment was even greater there. I guess they had one in Weed Patch, Linell, Arvin, Shafter and all over. Some of them are still in existence--in fact, Linell still has people living there. Government housing is what it was.

S.J.: Did you ever consider living there?

Manies: No, I didn't. I just didn't want any part of being in this large group. I liked the people but I just didn't want to live there because I felt it would be harder for me to find work if I did. Maybe it wouldn't have been--I don't know but that was my opinion and the opinion of my brother-in-law.

S.J.: How about the living conditions in the camps?

Manies: I think they were better than where we were really. They did have warm water and showers--we didn't have that. If we wanted warm water we had to heat it with a stove which we didn't have--we had a little piece of tin. Later on we did move from this one real bad cabin and found a little better place to live.

S.J.: Was that close by?

Manies: Yes, it was kind of towards Dinuba. There was an old house that was vacant. They were probably getting ready to tear it down so we lived in that. We made raisin trays in our spare time to pay for the rent. I think we were discriminated against there too because he was charging us \$15 a month rent and we were working out the [rent] by making the wooden raisin trays for him. He wouldn't allow us to go beyond the rent which meant that when we got the raisin trays made we had to go looking for work some other place.

END OF TAPE 1, SIDE 2

S.J.: I wondered if possibly one of the reasons you didn't want to live in the government camp was because it was subsidized. Did you have feelings against accepting help or aid from the government?

Manies: No, I didn't really feel that way about it. We weren't ashamed of getting government aid or getting welfare. We soon found out we weren't eligible for any of those things. We had to be here for a year I think before we were eligible. So finally we just gave up even trying to get any help. I didn't really have any opposition to the government camps other than the fact that I just thought the competition for employment there would

be too great.

S.J.: You described the first house you were living in with your sister and brother-in-law and their children and you were appalled when you first arrived at how poor the living conditions were. You said there was no hot water?

Manies: There was no hot water. There was no shower. They just had a little tiny room in front and a little tiny room in the back for a kitchen. He didn't have enough money for the stove. He'd picked up a piece of iron and it really didn't look like a stove and that's what we did our cooking on--that's also the thing we used in the winter time to heat it. It was October when I came here and the cold weather started coming on in November. It was a bad situation. We had no bathtub--that's for sure. We had no shower. We had water and the little tiny stove and the one room.

S.J.: Was there a restroom?

Manies: Yes, I think there was. It's been so long I don't recall. It could have been that we had an outside restroom. I don't recall having a restroom but there could have been--that definitely was the extent of it I'm sure.

S.J.: When you came and had the extra income to contribute were there still problems having enough food for the children and clothing and gas money to go look for jobs?

Manies: Definitely. In fact, I can't understand how my brother-in-law was able to provide for my sister and the two babies with only \$12 per week. I was a little bit more of a burden by staying there but I gave them every cent that I had all the time that I was there. With my additional money it was a little bit better.

S.J.: Did your sister consider going and working in the field?

Manies: She did. But then the babies were nine months old and three and a half so it was almost impossible. However, sometimes we would take the babies when the weather was warmer and put them in the car. They were real cute little blond, blue-eyed babies. I remember we went there with the babies and my sister was working the field. A high school girl came out and saw the blond babies in the car and she got her mother to come and look at the cute little blond babies with such bright blue eyes. They thought they were really cute.

S.J.: Do you remember very many woman and children working in the fields generally?

Manies: Yes, they did which was nothing new. They did that in Oklahoma

and they did it in California so it was nothing new to us. I grew up in a cotton patch and we were paid by the hundred so it was nothing new for the families to take the children out and have them work in the fields and they did here too--picking grapes was the same way. It was so much a tray. I think we got a penny a tray for picking grapes.

S.J.: When you moved around to various jobs that were just a few weeks or a month long did you go very far from the Tulare area?

Manies: One summer I did but my sister stayed here. One summer I went to Sacramento Valley across from Yuba City with a friend and worked all summer. We slept by the river bank on the Yuba City side of the Feather River. Juan Corona, who was accused of murdering people, buried them in the exact same spot that we camped. It was quite sandy there and I know the way they described it--a mile and a half south of Yuba City on the Feather River side--that was where we had slept. Every time something comes up about his trial I think of the time that we spent in Sacramento Valley on that very same spot all summer. I thinned fruit there for a fellow but that was the only time that I got very far from this area. When I came back I gave my money to [my sister]. I remember I came back with \$54--that was a lot of money.

S.J.: Were there very many other people camping with you?

Manies: At that time there was just the one fellow. I had gotten acquainted with his sister and I liked her. I was acquainted with him and I was going with his sister at the time so the two of us went to Sacramento. It was his idea really. After I came back I continued on in this area right around here. One time we worked near Dinuba and sometimes we went to Five Points picking cotton. It was quite miserable. My sister didn't go on that trip. The farmer had some little tiny cabins that were even worse than the first one we had. It seemed smaller and there was no heat. There were a few Mexicans there. I remember one of them needed brakes put on his car and I thought this was my chance to put my mechanical ability to work if I could find some tools--but he didn't have the money for me to put the brakes on. It was rather bad there too when it started raining and we weren't able to work. It's bad to pick cotton whenever it's even damp. When it starts raining then you have nothing to do.

S.J.: What did you do during the off-season--the rainy season--when it would rain for a few weeks at a time and there was just no work to do?

Manies: It was just a kind of a sad thing because we would try to

foresee that knowing that these things were going to happen. We would at least try to save up enough money to carry us through. Sometimes our calculations were off and we would have problems. One time my brother-in-law went to Fresno to see if he could get some kind of help from the welfare and they said no. However, they said they would give him some commodities like groceries. I remember he brought back salmon, sardines and oatmeal--a few things like that and it was very good--that did help us. I think he only did that the one time. One time he took a job as a Watkins salesman. He thought maybe in the wintertime he could compensate his salary but no one was buying so he didn't make too much money. He finally gave up on it. They wanted me to try but I wouldn't do it.

S.J.: What did you do with your time when there was no work?

Manies: We still didn't give up. We were still looking, looking, looking for work. Just trying anything because we had to keep on trying.

S.J.: How about your free time in the evenings--if you weren't too tired--or on weekends? Was there ever any money left over for a movie or anything like that?

Manies: Oh, no way. Sometimes we would like to listen to the radio. We found a little radio for \$2 and we enjoyed listening to that. Finally, my sister felt that she would like to go to church and we picked out a church and went--we enjoyed it. Some of the church people wanted to help us and that was kind of good in a way. I remember going to a church social--a potluck social--and we didn't have food. At first my sister said she didn't want to go. I think they sensed why because we didn't have food to offer and they told her to bring a pound of oleo. I'd been in the CCC when oleo first came out. When I asked what it was they told me that it was artificial butter. I'd never heard of such a thing before. She went and got a pound of oleo for twelve cents or something like that--I remember she mixed it with coloring. It was white when it first came out and she had to mix it--that was her dish for the evening. They went and had good food.

S.J.: Did you continue going to church then?

Manies: Yes.

S.J.: Had your family gone to church back in Oklahoma?

Manies: We were raised in what psychologists call a Bible Belt and were quite religious. I didn't always agree with my grandmother's religion. I wasn't really a strong child and I resented going to the meetings and having to stay up quite late and listen to some long-winded preacher preach until eleven

o'clock at night. They enjoyed that. They thought that was okay but I didn't. I didn't really accept Christianity until after I came to California. I think that the churches did help some of the people--maybe not to any great degree but it gave them a place to go. I think sometimes it helped them financially too.

S.J.: Did you come to have a group of friends or a community of people you felt at home with here in California?

Manies: Yes. I think that was probably what kept us going--the fellowship that we had with friends. The girl that I was telling you about who I was going with--whose brother I went with to Sacramento Valley--still lives close by. I didn't marry her--I married someone else and she married someone else. She still lives on Adams Avenue, east of Reedley. They visit with us. She's a wonderful person and sometimes I talk to them on the phone. We had our associations and friends and that was one of the things that really helped out a lot.

S.J.: I know you were trying to help out your sister and her children and probably felt some sense of responsibility to them.

Manies: Sure.

S.J.: Did you ever at any point consider leaving and going back to Oklahoma or somewhere else?

Manies: I definitely did not want to go back to Oklahoma because I had remembered what it was like. I definitely did not want to go back. I did think of going some other place but I really felt I had a responsibility to my sister and her children and to my brother-in-law. I stayed with them until the war broke out.

S.J.: Did you ever consider trying to go into town to get some other sort of job that wasn't farm-related that might have paid better wages?

Manies: Yes, I did but that was almost out of the question because I felt that I wasn't that good of a mechanic and able to get a job. There was another problem--most of the repair work was done by the individuals and they didn't really have a lot of repair work to do--and I didn't have tools. It meant too that I would be separating from my brother-in-law and we had become kind of a team together. When the war broke out I did leave and went to Santa Monica--that was in 1941. I went to work for the Chrysler-Plymouth at 26th and Wilshire in Santa Monica --that was the first time I was able to utilize the training that I had had in the CCC. My sister and her family continued

living here a little bit longer after I left and eventually they left here and went to West Hollywood and went to work. I worked at the Chrysler-Plymouth place--a place called Ray E. Shaeffer Chrysler-Plymouth. We could no longer get cars because of the war and then I had to leave there. By that time I was a fairly good mechanic and I took a job with the Douglas Aircraft Company in Long Beach--it was a rather noisy place and I really didn't like it there. They had no windows and the lights were sodium lights. I didn't care too much for that. Still, I wasn't able to utilize my skills. They wanted me to be a riveter on the C-54's and I wasn't able to utilize my ability to my advantage. So I worked there awhile and I finally took a job in West Hollywood in a machine shop. It was called Schrillo Aero Tool Company and we manufactured precision tools and I worked there as a machinist. I got a lot more pay and it was a permanent job. I became a journeyman machinist and I worked all during the war as such.

S.J.: Did you not go into the service because of your health problems?

Manies: I did not because of the osteomyelitis. I was turned down for military service because of that, however, they took me in the CCC but that was a little bit different from the military. They wouldn't take me in the service so they gave me a 4-F classification but I was able to work. I really felt like going into the military but I wasn't able to go because of that. I did do highly technical work in the defense plant as a machinist.

S.J.: After the war did you come back here?

Manies: In the meantime I'd gotten married and my wife had not lived here. She wanted me to return to the San Joaquin Valley. It was with a great deal of reluctance that I decided to come back because I had remembered what it was like. It was terrible. I just didn't want anything to do with it but I had saved up some money and with the background of working at the Chrysler place I had the additional mechanical experience. I worked at North American Aviation too which is now North American Rockwell as a machinist. I was working there at the time that I came back. I took my money and I bought out an auto repair shop in the little town of Ivanhoe--which is seven miles from Visalia. I was there 21 years in an auto repair shop in Ivanhoe and I enjoyed it very much. Even after the war the same negativism that I had experienced before still existed with some of the ranchers. Had it not been for the fact that the town of Ivanhoe was predominantly made up of people like myself I think I would have gone broke. I was able to succeed operating this auto repair shop because of their trade but it was eight or ten years before I started getting business from the ranchers.

S.J.: What made you think that it was because were an Okie?

Manies: Of course there was no need for me to try to camouflage my voice. They knew I was an Okie--there was no question about that with my accent. Some of the native people had garages and I was competition for them--that made a difference. I just didn't get any response from the local ranchers at all--maybe only one or two--but my business was very good. I enjoyed it and the people. I enjoyed being around them and doing work for them.

S.J.: When did you complete your education?

Manies: When I came back to the Valley I had only a sixth grade education but I was able to do highly technical work. My math was good enough to be a machinist. I was constantly using figures with the micrometer and doing highly technical work. After I came here and went into business just by chance one of my friends wanted me to take classes with him at the College of the Sequoias. I had never gone to college--in fact, I didn't go to high school. After I had my business and I was getting to be more prosperous and I had two young children I just wanted something to do in the evenings apart from being with them so I went to the College. We decided to take algebra --I'd never had that before. I had no idea what it was like and they didn't quiz me on my background or anything so I started taking courses. I found out that I could do college work without too much trouble. I went to night school for about eight years and I got enough to graduate from the College of the Sequoias. The College is in Visalia--it's a fairly large junior college.

Then after I got the 72 units there I went to take special training in automotives. By that time I had been in business about fifteen or sixteen years when I went to school at the General Motors Training School in San Leandro. It was free. One of the things we had to do in our training was to get up and teach the class. After I gave my presentation the teacher said to me, "Why don't you teach high school?" I said, "You must be kidding! How would I teach high school? I don't have the training." He said, "Well, you can be a vocational teacher." I said, "That takes four or five years to get a credential." He said, "You can get a credential with your junior college degree and your five years' experience in auto mechanics." I said that I'd think about it. It still stuck in the back of my mind. You had to take a test in order to determine whether you were capable of doing those things. I took the test after thinking about it for three or four years. They issued me a vocational credential. I was thinking that maybe sometime I would like to teach--that's when teachers were really hard to find--in 1967. The principal of the Tulare Union

High School called and wanted me to come teach auto mechanics and machine shop. I already had the experience with machine shop at North American and Schrillo Aero too. I thought about it for a while and thought maybe I would which meant that I'd have to sell my shop and my orange grove too and move to Tulare. I took the job teaching here at the high school in 1967 and in the summer months that I had off I finished my degree. I first went to Berkeley and finally got my degree from Fresno State University. I went back in the summers after that to the very same place where I was in the CCC at Flagstaff and got my master's degree at Northern Arizona University.

S.J.: What was your master's degree in?

Manies: Vocational education.

S.J.: Pretty good for a fellow who didn't graduate from high school.

Manies: I've heard them talk about high school drop outs--I was really a drop in to be honest about it. I've enjoyed going to school and even after I retired I got busy and had enough schooling to get my broker's license. Of course, some of that I'd already had because of previous schooling--such as economics--but I've always enjoyed going to school. I probably still will.

END OF TAPE 2, SIDE 1

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S.J.: We discussed that you never actually lived through the dust storms because you lived in Arizona.

Manies: No, I didn't experience dust at all in Oklahoma. In fact, I think at the time I'd left there--the drought hadn't actually started. Also, we lived in the area where there were trees. The dust storms were worse in Beaver, Texas and Cimarron County which is the panhandle of Oklahoma--that's where troubles really were. I think sometimes Colorado was just as bad with the dust--maybe more so than Oklahoma. I think the label that they put on the dust storms that it was strictly an Oklahoma calamity was not quite right. It was only partly so. I really didn't experience any dust at all.

S.J.: Did you hear much about it from your family?

Manies: Yes, absolutely. Some of my friends from Texas that I was in the CCC with had relatives that had "dust" pneumonia. If you had double dust pneumonia then that was something very serious. The farmers plowed up the grounds and they didn't take proper

care of the land and then when we had the droughts and the winds--that's what happened. I didn't experience any of it personally and neither did any of my relatives.

S.J.: You mentioned that they plowed up the grounds--was that in connection with the Roosevelt program?

Manies: Before that they would plow in a straight line--a straight row. In fact, they would pride themselves on having straight rows. There was no rotation of crops. They would plant cotton, cotton, cotton year after year after year. Pretty soon the land began to deteriorate and not be productive. Along with the winds and the drought came the dust storms. It wasn't entirely the fault of the weather as much as the bad farming principles.

S.J.: Do you think the people realized that at the time?

Manies: Well, perhaps they did a little bit, but not as well as they do now--not by a long shot. Now when you go back there how do they plow--in contours--circles. They still have rotation of crops. Now they plant alfalfa and things like that and it kind of tends to hold the soil.

S.J.: Do you remember hearing very much about tractors at that time? Some people say they were "tractored off" the land--that the tractors came and took the jobs from them.

Manies: Well, that is true. Of course we were right at the transition of going from horses to tractors. It was hard for the farmers to give up on using the horses--some of them would and some wouldn't. In fact, my father said, "Well, we have eight teams of horses and we have the grass and we have the facilities for the horses and there's no point in us trying to go to a tractor." However, we did buy a tractor that didn't run too well and we just gave up on that. The farmers who did succeed did go to tractors. It was right in the transition from horses to tractors and we didn't progress with the times--neither did we own the land for that matter. The ones who did succeed stayed with it and made the transition. I know my father went back after the Depression, after World War II, and visited some of our friends and they said, "We've gotten rich." What happened to all of the people who lived like we did? They had disappeared and the land became big farms. They had made the transition from horses to tractors and they were prosperous but there were fewer farmers.

S.J.: I've also heard people say that the railroad rates were so high that farmers couldn't afford to grow and transport their food and that was the reason some of them were forced to leave. Do you remember hearing anything like that?

Manies: We didn't have that much of a problem where we were because the

railroad went right through our little town. I don't recall it being like that but I have recalled them talking about that in California when I came here. I'm sure that was part of it and still is for that matter. Shipping oranges back east is quite a problem.

S.J.: When you first moved to California and moved in with your sister and your brother-in-law you must have been disappointed in California. Would you say that was true?

Manies: Yes, that was true, definitely true. The economic conditions disappointed me. I loved California. I loved the Valley because it was a milder climate than I had been used to and I loved the idea of being able to get fresh fruit--I loved that. But there was no work. The attitude of the people after I got a little better acquainted was rather negative especially after we would work for a rancher. I would see him on the street after I had completed the job and he was an entirely different person. I couldn't understand that. It was hard for me to understand that. I was disappointed in that respect. I hadn't been used to that type of attitude.

S.J.: It sounds as though in Oklahoma there was a community atmosphere. You were very close to your neighbors.

Manies: Absolutely. It was with a great deal of reluctance that I came back because I simply did not want to come back to that type of atmosphere. I was afraid that I was getting into that type of situation.

S.J.: You felt a definite class structure here?

Manies: Yes, there was. It was a clash between the ranchers and workers and there was a clash between the town officials and the workers. I can't understand it myself but it actually existed.

S.J.: You say you weren't really disappointed in the physical aspects of California.

Manies: No, absolutely not. I loved it. I loved it because I'd seen movies of it and I liked the idea of being able to irrigate the land and have all this wonderful food which we didn't have to any great degree in Oklahoma. Our peach trees had little tiny peaches and the only kind of grapes we had were the wild grapes which were sour. It was a wonderful place as far as I was concerned. There was this abundance of fruit and vegetables and still people were going hungry.

S.J.: Did you come over the Tehachapi Mountains into the Valley?

Manies: Yes. It was quite a sight. I rode the passenger train and I

bypassed the trouble they were having at the border by being able to ride the train. We came from Flagstaff, Arizona to Barstow [California] and I got off the train at three o'clock in the morning--that was at the hot time of the year. I waited until nine o'clock the next morning to catch a train from Barstow to Bakersfield. We came through all those winding hills and I thought it was really spectacular. I do remember coming over the Mojave Desert and it was a real desert. I thought that California didn't look too good to me. I remember coming through Bakersfield and they were having a parade--of course, if it was hot in Barstow it was twice as hot in Bakersfield. I distinctly remember coming through there and I could look out the windows and see the parade. They were having a good time and I thought maybe this was a good place to be.

S.J.: You mentioned that you were able to avoid the troubles at the border because you were on the train. What did you hear about it?

Manies: It was the same story that had been circulated before--that they were turning them back unless they could show evidence of sufficient money or of having relatives here that would furnish them work. One of my friends said she was an Okie and that she was thirteen years old at the time she came to California. They stopped her father for several days before they could come through. She said that it was very humiliating.

S.J.: Did your sister and brother-in-law have any problems?

Manies: Yes, they did. Finally they let them through but they took all of their food. The only thing they had was a few potatoes--small potatoes from Oklahoma--and things like that. She was so disappointed that they took the food that the food inspector said to her, "Oh, don't worry about it. When you get to Bakersfield you can get all the potatoes you want--much nicer than these--for \$1 per hundred pounds." She felt better about that. They did have some problems but she was quite a talker and persuaded them to let them through and they did. I think, too, that the state officials found out that it was unconstitutional for them to do that. I think what actually happened was that if they could discourage them from coming in they would. If they made it a little bit hard on those coming in then there would be that many less to have to support. They really weren't supporting us from the standpoint of welfare.

S.J.: After you moved here you were living with your sister and brother-in-law. How would you compare your economic situation with that of other Okies?

Manies: About the same really--there was very little difference. In fact, most of us didn't really have a steady job--that was the goal that we were looking for--a steady job where we could have a

constant income but it just didn't exist.

S.J.: Did you know of or ever see Okies who lived in the ditch camps or under bridges?

Manies: I have never seen them actually along ditch camps but I have seen them in some pretty poverty stricken conditions--they may as well have been along a ditch camp. They would be out of gasoline and out of food and everything else and not able to go any further. As far as I'm concerned there is very little difference in having to put up with that type of a situation and camping by a creek. When we would leave our cabin to go and find work--like on the west side--we were just as bad off because we had no place to stay. We would sleep in our cars and didn't even have a tent for that matter. We would sleep in our cars--that's where I encountered this passing out of poker chips for payment--we would use them at the stores. I highly resented that because as far as I was concerned it was unfair to have to go to a certain place to spend those poker chips--invariably the prices would be higher.

S.J.: But you were better off than some of the people?

Manies: Absolutely.

S.J.: Did you know very many that lived on government aid or did not try to find jobs?

Manies: Actually, I didn't know too many that didn't try. Most of them did try. Very few were getting government aid. At that time they had to live here a year before they were eligible.

One time when I went out to the cotton patch after I'd been here just a short time the leader of this group of cotton pickers said to me, "Ham and eggs." I said, "Ham and eggs?" It was pretty apparent that I didn't know what he was talking about. He said, "Ham and eggs everybody," and they said, "Ham and eggs." Then he said to me, "What do you think about it?" I said, "I really don't know what you're talking about. I like ham and eggs but I don't understand!" He said, "Well, they're going to vote very shortly on an initiative." It was headed by a person by the name of MacLean. What it consisted of was a kind of Keynesian theory--a revolving thing--a welfare type of program. It was the craziest setup outfit. It was very ambitious and you couldn't tell for sure where the money was coming from. I opposed it. I felt like saying, "There's no free breakfast." In those days you used the phrase, "If you're going to dance, you've got to pay the fiddler." I said, "Well, if you're going to dance, someone's got to pay the fiddler and someone's got to pay this so, therefore, I'm against it." I got into a little bit of trouble. It did go on the ballot and believe it or not, it almost

passed. However, I don't think it was the Okies that really put the measure on the ballot in the first place. I don't think it was the Okies who almost made it pass for the simple reason that so many of us had not been here long enough to even vote and we were moving around so much that I don't think we voted much. In fact, I didn't vote the whole time I was here. I think that applied to a lot others. I don't think it was the Okies who promoted that thing. Most of the Okies I knew really didn't go in for welfare that much--that was a very unusual measure that they had. Then there was this thirty every Thursday type of measure that they had. I don't recall whether it was tied in with this or not. They were going to use script. People would get these thirty pieces of script and they would take it to the store and the store would honor it. It would make the revolving circle and come back and it was kind of complicated but I know some of the stores said that they'd have nothing to do with that because it just doesn't make sense. Someone said, "Well, I will because it's just as good as money." It was just another welfare initiative--both went down to defeat by a small margin.

S.J.: You said you don't think the Okies really had that much to do with it.

Manies: That's my honest opinion. I don't think they really did because they weren't eligible--so many of them didn't register to vote because they didn't have the time. They were busy looking for jobs or they were busy going from one place to the other. You know you've got to be in a certain place a given length of time before you can even vote.

S.J.: Had these measures passed and been adopted and had they worked do you think they would have benefited the Okies?

Manies: I suppose they would but of course we are only thinking of a hypothetical case and in the first place I don't think it would have worked because it would have had to have been paid for--one way or another--by someone. Of course, it would have been the taxpayers of California who would have paid it. I'm grateful that it didn't pass. I probably would have taken advantage of it but then I think that most of the Okies were anxious to have anything that would give them food and clothing. I don't think they were looking for welfare. I know I wasn't. I've never received one penny's worth of welfare and I didn't want the welfare. I wasn't opposed for someone else if they wanted to go and get it--fine. I did resent some of the ones who had been here several years who would work eleven days a month and be off the other nineteen days and yet they would make more money than I would by working a full month. I kind of resented that. They had a lot of free time and it seemed like they weren't trying to better themselves. I don't think it was what you would call the dust bowl Okies who were drawing that--I think it was some who'd been in the area for

several years.

S.J.: Do you think very many of the dust bowl Okies did that?

Manies: I don't think so.

S.J.: If they did do you think they were the type of people who would have done that back in Oklahoma if they'd had the opportunity?

Manies: Absolutely. You're going to have that in every situation--you'll find that even today. I'm thinking of the group as a whole and I don't think they were looking for handouts--most of them were very hard working people who really wanted to succeed--that's all I was looking for. I'm sure that applied to my brother-in-law and sister and all of my relatives. We were just looking for a chance to make an honest dollar.

S.J.: Do you think most people who were native Californians realized that?

Manies: At that time they didn't. I've had them make some pretty snide remarks to me. I even had them say to me, "Oh, where you from? An Okie? Well, I don't know of an Okie that can do anything very well." I'd get so mad I'd want to sock the guy--that was the attitude that some of them had. I think I would have slugged one fellow had he not been a cripple--he was a very sarcastic person. This was the type of thing we had to contend with most of the time but by and large people were nice.

You'll find that while some of the Okies were looking for a handout, some of the ranchers were not honest either. We did find a lot of ranchers who were very nice, like Mr. Gillespie, the Jensens, and some of the Millers that I'd worked for. You couldn't ask for nicer people.

S.J.: Did you ever resent some of the Okies who were getting handouts and, therefore, were giving the rest of you a bad name? Did it bother you that because of these people you were grouped together as Okies and discriminated against?

Manies: I have tried to analyze why this connotation existed. I did resent it. Maybe it was a combination of a lot of things that brought on this connotation. Perhaps it was our physical appearance--looking like real bums and not having the money to buy the things that we would have liked to have bought--coming to California in a worn out car that wouldn't run too well--not having sufficient money to get here--all those things.

S.J.: Do you think your manner of speaking had anything to do with it?

Manies: Absolutely. It was a different type of speech and it was something

we couldn't get away from. Some of the language that we used I'm sure wasn't up to par but that didn't mean that we weren't good, hard working people. We were. We just had a different accent no matter how hard we tried to camouflage it. Just like Peter in the Bible when Christ was being crucified, he said, "I'm not part of him." But they said, "You are too because you're speech betrays you." It was that way with us--we couldn't get away from it. It was just something that was easy to detect by the natives.

S.J.: Some people feel that the Okies were used as a scapegoat--that during the Depression California was doing poorly and the Okies happened to come at that time. Had it been any other group, they would have been treated the same way. They would have been discriminated against too.

Manies: I think too that's true because the economic situation was bad. We were going through this transition from horses to tractors and the elimination of a lot of people that had no place to go. I think the media had a lot to do with it too. The newspaper and the radio contributed--[people] called us Okies. One writer said, "Well, would it make a difference if they'd called them Kansies or Arkies or something like that? Would that have made a difference?" Perhaps it would but you take all of those factors and put them together and you have a stigma that was attached to being an Okie that I think was unfair.

S.J.: You mentioned the media. Did you read newspapers very much at that time?

Manies: Yes, I did.

S.J.: Do you remember what they said about Okies? How were they reported?

Manies: They just mentioned the trail of cars leaving the dust bowl. In fact, one picture is a classic example of the average person that had to flee his place and I think it still exists in some file. They didn't actually do it as a degrading thing so much as a true portrayal of what existed. They had to leave an economic situation, then they had troubles along the road--sometimes deaths occurred along the road and people didn't have the means of even burying their dead. In The Grapes of Wrath it mentions that some of them died and Preacher Casey preached the sermon. On a few occasions that sort of thing did happen but all of these things contributed to the stigma of being an Okie.

END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 1

S.J.: You mentioned Steinbeck and that you'd read The Grapes of Wrath. Did you think that was a very accurate representation of what the Okies actually went through?

Manies: In some respects it was quite accurate. The economic situation was accurate. I'm sure John Steinbeck did a tremendous amount of research in the preparation of his book. There's no question in my mind that he was well versed in the things that he wanted to write about. The economic situations were quite accurate. Tom Joad returned from prison and when he got back the houses were all gone and his family had moved away--that was quite typical. In fact, I had relatives that could be depicted almost as a Tom Joad. In fact, I've remarked a few times that I think I could have played Henry Fonda's part in The Grapes of Wrath without rehearsing.

For instance, I've had relatives that would go into religion very much like Casey. In those days if you wanted to be a minister or a preacher you were called by God. God would call you to be a minister and sometimes you really weren't well prepared. Nowadays you have to go to college for four years and select the denomination of your choice--when you come out you're prepared. It wasn't so in those days. I have had relatives who were exactly like Casey. They wanted to be a minister for a short period of time and when it didn't work out and the money didn't come in they changed their occupation. The mother of Tom Joad was almost exactly like my grandmother. I remember the mother defended Tom even against the law. She would do everything to protect him--that was the typical Oklahoma mother. I remember my grandmother protecting one of her own sons from the law. He'd done something that wasn't really too bad and the law came to get him. She would hide him behind the door and the law couldn't fine him. Tom Joad's mother was a typical Oklahoma mother from that point of view.

S.J.: Some people have been bothered by the vile language.

Manies: Yes, now that is one portion that I do not agree with. It simply wasn't like that to any great degree--you would find some of it but it just wasn't like that and I resented John Steinbeck using that kind of language. I didn't use it. I still don't and I know many of my friends and relatives did not.

S.J.: It tended to make them look very, very crude?

Manies: Maybe that was one of the things that contributed--of course, he didn't write the book until 1939 but the stigma still extended beyond the Depression days. Perhaps The Grapes of Wrath contributed to the stigma attached to the Okies.

S.J.: Throughout most of the story the Joads were depicted as being solely concerned with their survival--that's all they could be concerned about.

Manies: Well, that's all we could think of! In fact, that was the reason

why I mentioned that I had completed only six grades. It wasn't that my parents didn't want me to have an education--in fact, my grandfather was a school teacher--he said, "Frank because you're a cripple I want you to get an education." My father wanted me to also but what comes first--education or survival? Survival came first. It was the same for my parents. My father didn't say one word when I said, "I want to quit school." I mentioned too that I was having trouble with my stepbrothers and he was away from home a lot. I said, "I'm going to quit and maybe I'll go someplace else."

S.J.: Steinbeck also suggested in the book that many of the girls were promiscuous and many of the people perhaps immoral or amoral. Do you think that was generally true?

Manies: No, it was not true. Of course, you'll find that sort of thing in those days on a few occasions but it's no different whether it is a depression or it's now or even back in Biblical times. It's all the same as far as I'm concerned. I think that was kind of unfair for him to say that. If I were a girl growing up in those days I think I would have resented John Steinbeck saying that.

S.J.: I think he also intimated that perhaps many of the Okies were not law-abiding citizens--beginning with Tom Joad being released from prison and then several of the things they did along the way.

Manies: Let's think of it like this--they were law-abiding in their own way. In fact, maybe we had our own code of ethics that we went by. Of course, that was during the days when there wasn't any liquor to be had legally. The only thing we did that was against the law was have a tremendous amount of whiskey. We could buy it just any place. Everyone knew where it was and the county sheriff would have his own. It came in fruit jars--half gallon fruit jars. The county sheriff would drink his share of it along with all the rest of us and we had it in our home but we didn't overdo it. The only time we would drink it was if we had a bad cold or something like that --we would use a small amount. We wouldn't drink more than two half gallons in a whole year per family. We could go buy it whenever we wanted to. Apart from that I don't think we were any more unlawful than anyone else.

Why did they make the whiskey in the first place? They couldn't sell the corn and they couldn't make money working at other places because they couldn't find a job and so that was an occupation for them.

S.J.: Through The Grapes of Wrath health and malnutrition are constant problems.

Manies: Yes, indeed. I had an awful lot of illness and I think it was

because of improper care. I mentioned before I had this osteomyelitis and it left me a cripple but I am sure it was a lack of medical attention. I also had Bright's disease--I'm sure that was caused by improper diet. I had malaria summer after summer because we didn't know how to take care of ourselves and the mosquitos would bite us.

S.J.: After you were here in California, do you think people had health problems? Did the Okies have health problems more often than the general population?

Manies: Yes they did have but they could get good food and good vegetables. My grandfather died from pellagra. The doctors didn't know what caused it and my father was even afraid that he'd die from it. After my grandfather died from it my father took sick and they found out what was causing it--a diet deficiency. After my father got sick with it it was no problem--simply a matter of proper vitamins--that's all there was to it--people used to die from it. The people in California were not troubled with pellagra but we were in Oklahoma. In fact, I have never heard of anyone in California having pellagra because they have the fresh fruit and vegetables. I think we were in better health after coming here than we were in Oklahoma.

S.J.: Some of the native Californians accused the Okies of using the free hospitals and health facilities here. They thought the Okies had more health problems in general.

Manies: When we came here that was true I'm sure. We weren't in the best of health yet we were determined to break out of this bond that we were in. In fact, whenever they would insinuate these things it would make me infuriated. I just was determined that I was not going to allow them to stop me and I think that that applied to a lot of Okies.

S.J.: I've also heard some criticism of the Okie diet because it tended to be very heavy in starches.

Manies: Heavy in starches and heavy with the pork--you can see why we had pellagra--that's what we grew up with. As long as we were doing hard work--hard manual labor like pulling a crosscut saw--then we could get away with that type of diet. The trouble started when we got easier jobs we could no longer tolerate the pork grease and the pork with no greens to go along with it.

S.J.: Do you think most of the Okies did change their diets when they came to California?

Manies: I'm sure they did. I did, especially after marrying a nurse. I sure did but it was hard to change. I used to like to use my bread to sop up the grease and my wife said that was bad. It was

hard to change but I'm glad we did.

S.J.: I know your sister had two children.

Manies: Well, she had more after that. I mentioned the two little girls to begin with and she had four in all.

S.J.: Do you remember if they had any particular health problems?

Manies: No, they didn't. In fact, they were quite healthy. They grew up to be quite normal children and they are quite successful.

S.J.: Were you living with them when they entered school here?

Manies: No, I wasn't. By that time I was not living with them. They'd entered school and World War II was starting. It was 1943 or 1944 before any of them went to school. The California schools have been very good in helping the Okie children. At first they weren't though. I've heard accounts of some of the teachers not thinking too highly of the Okie children when they came into school because of their dress, their language or their accent.

S.J.: Were you involved in any of the strikes or know someone who was involved?

Manies: No, I was not. They did have some strikes that I knew about. For instance, they had a strike at Tagus Ranch which was one of the largest ranches in California. It's a fruit ranch with 6,000 acres. I thought some of the things that the ranchers did in enticing some of the Okies to come here was unfair--like the circulars.

S.J.: Could you tell me a little more about that? Did he send flyers back to Oklahoma?

Manies: Yes, all over. You'd find them not only in Oklahoma but you would find them in Texas as well.

S.J.: Did you ever see one yourself?

Manies: I did not see any but I know they existed because I heard so much about them and I had friends that saw them. Maybe he would have had all the help he needed had he not done that but he did have this vast supply of help there at any given time. There were a few people who did cause disturbances wanting to strike but it was really a very small group that did that. Maybe Tagus had seven people to take the place of every one that quit. The strikes were very ineffective--they just didn't get off the ground. I'm sure the same thing happened in the southern part of the Valley like Weed Patch and around Woodville. I think there was a labor camp there and I'm sure the same thing happened there. In the

book The Grapes of Wrath it mentioned that Tom Joad and his family went to Woodville and they met the highway patrol. The labor representative went to Weed Patch to solicit support and he told Tom and the family where to come to but when they got to Woodville there was a road block of highway patrolmen asking, "What are you going to do? Where are you going to go?" And he said, "I'm going into this place to work." When he got there the strikers were there but he went ahead and went on through. Why did he go through? Not that he didn't want to honor the picket line but simply because he needed to work. The same thing happened here with the Tagus strike.

S.J.: Did you ever cross a picket line?

Manies: I never did. I know of a few who did. By and large they were very ineffective. It just didn't happen. It's not like today. Cesar Chavez can have a boycott and pickets and they are effective.

S.J.: You mentioned the lawmen. Do you think very many Okies were harassed at times by the law?

Manies: Yes, they were. I have been harassed but I had a way of talking my way out of some of those situations. I've been stopped by the highway patrol who are nicer as a whole than some of the local sheriffs and marshalls. In those days they rode motorcycles--they didn't have cars. I've been stopped by them for no reason at all. I told you about the one sheriff who harassed us because we complained when the fellow wouldn't pay us the bonus that he had promised. As far as I was concerned it was nothing more than harassment--perhaps to deter us from doing anything about collecting the five cent bonus--partly that and the sheriff was a good friend of the rancher who accused us of stealing his pruning shears. One time our car stalled at night and we wanted to push the car to a light so people wouldn't strip it. We pushed the car for almost a quarter of a mile. It wasn't in a restricted area so we left it there. When we went back the next morning we found a ticket for no reason at all. We had to pay a fine for parking our car in the "wrong place." As far as I was concerned it was nothing more than harassment. Of course, they could look at the car and tell that it belonged to some Okie. They threatened to put me in the hoosegow when they were having the Wiskerino Contest. I was never able to grow a beard very well so I didn't. They harassed me some over that too. They did harass some others--I didn't suffer from that too much.

S.J.: You mentioned that the townspeople were rude.

Manies: Yes, they were very snide. In fact, over this same Wiskerino thing, the clerks in Safeway would harass me. A clerk threatened to call the townspeople and have me thrown into the hoosegow. He could very easily tell that I was just getting in from the fields. Just snide remarks that they would make kind of got to me--but if

we had money it wasn't too bad. If you had money to spend--fine. If we didn't their attitude was, "Then get out of here", and "If you're going to do nothing don't do it here." The same way with the farmers--their attitude was "I have no more use for you, so why should I speak to you?"

S.J.: You mentioned that this continued to some extent during and after World War II.

Manies: Yes, it did. It wasn't as bad after World War II. After I came back I was successful to some degree in saving money. I bought this auto repair shop and I started business. It is usually acceptable to invite a new business to participate in membership in the Chamber of Commerce or the Lions Club or the Kiwanis Club or something like that. If you were a good business person then you might even be offered membership in the Masonic Lodge. They will ask you if you would like to make application to be a Mason. When I went into business none of these things happened to me. For nine years I didn't get business from the same ranchers that I had worked for. Part of the reason was because I was in competition with some of the established auto repair shops in the area and partly because I was an Okie. Gradually, little by little, after nine years I began to be invited to be a member of all those organizations. I was a member of the Chamber of Commerce--I was president of the Chamber of Commerce for several years. After nine or ten years I was asked to be part of the Public Utility District and I was president of that--I was asked to join the Lions Club but look how long it took.

S.J.: Do you know that other people who were not Okies and started businesses were offered these things?

Manies: Absolutely. I was a machinist along with being a garage mechanic and I would do the machine work for other garages. They were my competitors yet they would come to me because I was a machinist. I remember on one occasion the president came to my place of business and solicited membership of one of my competitors--with me standing right there. He knew that I was not a member and it infuriated me.

S.J.: Did you know other people from an Okie background that had experienced things similar to this?

Manies: Yes, but again it was a gradual thing--kind of like the Japanese when they first came back from World War II. There was opposition to them at first. In fact, they had signs outside of Ivanhoe in 1946 that said, NO JAPS WANTED. What happened? The Japanese people came back and started doing good work and getting their farms back but it took a long time for them to overcome their situation. It also took a long time for us to overcome the stigma of being Okies. It gradually faded away and I'm happy.

S.J.: Do you think it's still there to some extent now?

Manies: Very small amount. In fact, it doesn't bother me one bit if someone wants to call me an Okie.

S.J.: Do you think the connotation of the word Okie has changed since then?

Manies: Yes it has. I'm sure it has.

S.J.: What did it mean then?

Manies: Well, it was a degrading expression then because the media and The Grapes of Wrath had implied degrading things. It just made me mad. It made all of the other Okies mad too. We didn't say much about it but we didn't like it.

S.J.: If someone called you or someone else an Okie now what would that call to mind?

Manies: I would laugh about it. I'd think about Merle Haggard's song I'm Proud to be an Okie from Muskogee. It doesn't bother me and I think it is kind of cute the way he put that in his song. It doesn't bother me one bit.

S.J.: You think some people who are not from Oklahoma, not from the dust bowl, are called Okies now?

Manies: What does Okie really mean? It could be they're from Arkansas or Texas. I think it generally implies that they are either from Arkansas, Oklahoma or Texas. It's something I hope never happens again.

END OF TAPE 3, SIDE 2

S.J.: I wanted to go back just a little and talk about Roosevelt and some of the programs he'd started in the 1930s. Did you follow politics very much then? You said you read the newspaper.

Manies: Yes, I did. I did read the newspapers a lot and my father used to talk about the politics and he followed it quite closely. We couldn't understand the plowing up every other row of cotton and killing the hogs. I think here in California they were burning the oranges--that was the program instituted by Roosevelt. I think that was one of the mistakes he made. Now some of his programs were quite good. For instance, I was part of the CCC and I really think that that was one of the programs that he had that was good. I benefited from it personally. I learned a trade from it. Perhaps the WPA [Works Progress Administration] helped people but apart from that I'm not sure that some of the

programs he had helped. I think they were paying farmers not to raise hogs. I heard a cute joke about this--one farmer said, "Well, if President Roosevelt is going to pay him not to raise hogs, he was not going to raise the very finest." It's kind of tricky but I think he did make a mistake in that sort of thing. People were starving and all of these things were going to waste--that was something my father couldn't understand--neither could I. You can't blame Roosevelt too much because he was stepping into a situation that was very bad. I don't remember exactly how many people were unemployed at that time but it was quite high.

S.J.: Some of the people that I talked to hold Roosevelt personally responsible for the things that happened to them. For instance, if they lost their jobs on the farms in Oklahoma because of his programs and had bad times after that they deeply resented him. Do you think very many Okies did feel that way?

Manies: I'm sure some did. I know my father did. In fact, my father was a staunch Republican and he never did think too highly of Roosevelt. He maintained all along that had Roosevelt left things alone, like Hoover's idea of letting the country work out its own economic problems, maybe it would have been much better. My father was against the vast giveaway program that they had in those days and there was some opposition to that--there certainly was.

S.J.: When World War II came you described how you moved to the Los Angeles area and went into the defense industries.

Manies: Right. When I left here I could not get employment. I didn't try very hard but I felt like it was a fruitless effort trying to get a job here as an auto mechanic, even though I did have some experience in the CCC. At the outbreak of the war I left my sister and her husband and went into Santa Monica. The situation there was entirely different. I immediately went to work at the Chrysler place. I only worked there for a few months because on account of the war we stopped getting cars so we no longer stayed there. I went to work at Douglas Aircraft and I experienced some negativism from the people that I'd worked for here in the Valley. In the defense plant at that particular time the security was very strict. They had to go back several years into your background to make sure they weren't getting someone who would sabotage the plant. I couldn't get previous employers to answer a questionnaire as to my whereabouts even after I'd worked for some of these people for quite a lengthy time--I'm sure they remembered me quite well. The Douglas Aircraft Company got onto me. They said that there was too much space that was unaccounted for. They thought maybe I was in jail or in some foreign country or something like that. I had a terribly hard time convincing them that that just wasn't true. They asked me to write to the employers I could and see what I could do. I was never able to get even one of them to answer. Again, their attitude was, "We're through with you so why

should we help out."

S.J.: Did you finally get that situation straightened out so you could keep your job?

Manies: I'll tell you what happened. It still wasn't straightened out and they were still after me. I mentioned before that I really didn't like it at Douglas because there were no windows and it was quite noisy. I deliberately quit there and went to work at a different place in West Hollywood. It was a machine shop for Schrillo Aero Tool Company and I worked there most of the war as a machinist and I came out a journeyman. After I left there I went to work for North American Aviation which is now North American Rockwell. I worked there until I went into business for myself in 1946.

S.J.: Sounds like when the war came things got a lot better for you.

Manies: Oh, yes, very much so. I started getting more money and people's attitudes changed. At the defense plant they didn't look on me as an Okie. They just looked on me as another worker.

S.J.: Did you notice that many of the other workers in the defense industries were also Okies?

Manies: Yes, yes indeed. In fact, some of the really good workers were Okies and then this negativism began to disappear fast. Yes, I noticed that. I worked with quite a few Okies that did quite well. I got my brother-in-law a job at the very same plant and he worked there. He and my sister lived close by.

S.J.: When you came back up into the Valley you were very reluctant to come back here.

Manies: To be very honest I didn't want to come because by that time I was prosperous and I thought why should I go back to the same spot where I almost starved to death. Inwardly I thought maybe it was different. By that time my father had moved to Ivanhoe and I was getting pressure from him. He said, "Listen, we need you here. We need you in this little town and there are a lot of Oklahoma people here. Come here and live." I said, "I don't know. I remember what it was like." My father wasn't here during the Depression. I was. I said maybe I'd think about it. I was still working at North American Aviation and finally agreed to come. I took my money and bought out this auto repair shop in Ivanhoe. It was an older building and I really wanted a nicer, newer place of business. At that particular time the prices were escalating. I bought the building and I was able to sell this after one year and double my money and build myself a new one. I got a nice location. I had a little bit of opposition from the person who sold it because I was going back into business. I told him that I was not leaving town--that I was going to have a business at some other place. So

I had a nice, new building and I kept the business for twenty years.

S.J.: Although you had some problems with the townspeople and the farmers to begin with it sounds as though you were successful.

Manies: I was.

S.J.: Were you glad you came back here?

Manies: Yes, indeed. In fact, my reluctance went away. I came back and the little town was made up predominantly of Oklahomans and Missourians. Even though I was not getting work from the ranchers I was getting a tremendous amount of work from the townspeople because they were people like myself. By that time I had become quite skilled and I had equipped my place of business quite well with the proper machinery. I had more work than I could possibly take care of but I was really happy. I was prosperous and it was something that I liked to do.

S.J.: Are you glad you came to California?

Manies: Oh, absolutely. In the beginning I thought this was a bad deal but I'm so happy that I came. I'm glad I'm here and I don't want to leave. I never will.

S.J.: Did you ever want to go back to Oklahoma?

Manies: I have gone back a few times. My wife and I drove back two summers ago and I went to my home town and it was the first time that I'd been back since I left--that was many, many years ago. Some of the places I recognized and some of the places I didn't. I went into a cafe and thought I would go in and pick out someone my own age and ask him, "How long have you been here?"--that was going to be my leading question. If they said, "All my life," I would try to figure out who they were. So the first person I picked out and asked, "How long have you been here?" His answer was, "Fifteen minutes. I'm from Ventura, California." I said, "Well, you're not the person I'm looking for." I did find some other people that I'd gone to grade school with--it was kind of enjoyable.

S.J.: Would you say your life has been better in California than it would have been had you stayed in Oklahoma?

Manies: I think so. I really do because it's been more fulfilling and I have accomplished some of the things that I wanted to do. I think there's nothing any worse than not doing what you want to do. I have been prosperous and we have travelled a lot. My wife and I have been in just about every nation in Europe and part of Asia. I've worked at the school and had my salary and her salary so we had plenty of money to do the things we wanted to do. We still do but it hasn't come easily. It's been a lot of hard work to do these things--that was one of the things I tried to point

out to some of the minority students. They had this give up attitude. I'd say, "Well, look, don't tell me that because if you really try hard enough I know by first-hand experience you can accomplish some of these goals."

S.J.: You feel good about what's happened to your life since then. You've been successful and have gotten quite an education. When you look back at the time around 1936 or so when life was very hard how do you feel about that in general? Do you have very negative feelings about that period?

Manies: No, I do not. I feel like it was something that happened to us that we had no control over. In fact, one of my Okie friends described it as "like having the bull by the tail and not knowing how or when to turn it loose." It was something that we didn't know how to control. Something we had no control over. Yet, we were determined that we were going to somehow or other break the bonds of the Depression and break the bonds of negativism that existed.

S.J.: You did very well. Not very many people could have overcome some of those things and gotten an education.

Manies: Well, not all of them did.

S.J.: How about your children? How many children do you have?

Manies: Two sons--both of them live in Texas. One is married and one is single. One lives in Dallas, Texas and he's married and has a degree in electronics. They have no children yet but they've been married several years. The other son was in the service. He graduated from the College of the Sequoias. Then he went into the Air Force and he was in the Air Force during the Vietnam War. Now he's taking his G.I. training and is a senior in college--he'll be graduating probably either this spring or late summer. I'm real proud of our children. They've done quite well. They tease me a lot about being an Okie but I think they're kind of proud of me in a way.

END OF TAPE 4, SIDE 1

END OF INTERVIEW

Andy Sylvester Manies
b. 1890, Little Rock, Pulaski Co.,
Arkansas
[His parents from the South]

Nola May McAfee
b. 1895, Boone County,
Missouri
[Her parents from the South]

Frank Andy Manies
b. 1915, Duncan, Stephens County,
Oklahoma
Education: M.A.-Vocational
Education
Church: Seventh Day Adventist

m. 1941 → Beulah K. Bokma Manies
b. 1924, Conrad, Pondera Co.
Montana

Richard Andy Manies
b. 1948
College Student

Michael Lee Manies
b. 1952
Assist. Supervisor for
Gould Corp., Dallas, Texas

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