

JIM HOWARD: Tape 4, side 7: JH, EP, RAD, VWD, and JJ

(Grampa and Gramma Dougan, Weston and Eunice go down to Tonica to see a cornpicker. I can't hear this story)

JJ: Was that the time I went down to MO? I was three years old and went down to Gramma Marian's. I got into trouble. I don't remember any other details.

RAD: Who'd you get in trouble with?

JJ: The little boy next door. Took me for a walk. It was dark and we were walking along the edge of the highway when they picked us up. Oh, they were furious and upset! He was the one who got in trouble. He was four or five. ///

JJ: Will you say that again? Grampa said...

RAD: We started with one horse, one cow, and a hoe....He'd been preaching, lost his hearing and had to change occupations. You've got all that. He walked out to Colley Road and talked to Mrs. Colley about it. She decided to sell him the farm in spite of the fact that he had no money.

JJ: I've heard several different versions of the story.///

(Talk of repartee when Louie and Patty got married. There's another, short story that I can't hear.)///

JJ: Okay, Dad's at Naples and they're getting their vaccinations. It took every scrap of money Daddy had.

RAD: I had to go to the American Consul and arrange to get on a ship. We didn't have enough money left. We had a day to spend, but we couldn't go to the island of Capri because it was too much money. All I had was two lira in my pocket. Gramma wouldn't come on deck. She wasn't feeling well--she didn't know she was pregnant. I would go up and play a variation of 21 with the Italians aboard. I made my money last until we got to New York, but I was still broke. I telegraphed home and asked them to send me some money. They sent enough for the train tickets. We got one lower berth. And when we got on the train there was a heavy-set man and his heavy-set wife that had the upper just above us. He looked up there and shook his head. I said, Well, my wife and I can take that upper berth. Why don't you and your wife take this lower? So this fat couple got the lower and we slept up above them! When we got to New York, I was so accustomed after a year-eighteen months in France, of everything being closed from 12 to 2. So I didn't telegraph home for money until after 2. We just wandered around until 2 o'clock and then went to the office. Coming up on the train, it stopped with a jerk in South Beloit. I spilled water all over Gramma.

VWD: (I can't hear!)

JJ: Gramma says that ten years later, when she sent Grampa's suit to the cleaners, all of Ron's clothes, she discovered a twenty-dollar bill in his knickers that he'd had at Naples. So you would have been set up. That's like a hundred dollars now. Or 150.

RAD: I could go into Paris, from Chateau Thierry, spend the weekend, go to the opera, and come back on five dollars.

JJ: Good Lord! That's incredible.

RAD: Prices weren't keeping up with inflation. The American dollar was worth 20 or so francs.

(JJ reads from the rest of her version of this story to her mom and dad.)///

(More stuff I can't hear!)

VWD: (talking about Patty as a baby--round as a butterball.)(I think it's about a visit from Grampa Dougan who saw baby Patty--the "Little Butterball" and looked at her, then looked at Vera, then said, You'll have to change her rations!)

RAD: I won't tell ya about the first time, but the last one I had was-- I'm sitting in a little valley, at the base. Jesus is over here, and God is over here, and the Holy Ghost is up here. (hard to hear: all dressed like the Green Bay Packers. And Jesus was the spokesman.) We had a long conversation. The first one that I recall was him telling me all about having some time on his hands and (he was messing around with ?) And then he went on to explain some things I didn't understand. Like (?) (off to one side and said...once every two billion years or so...magnetic poles right themselves...that's why you'll find mammoths buried at the north pole and green grass....That was years and years ago. Then this last time he was talking to me he said, I've come back. And I was so touched that first time...so proud. It was months before I could think about it without crying....) (something about Feb. 1, 1916.) (told to listen to radio at 7 o'clock, did and heard about a bus in CO that went over and was demolished, but everyone on board walked off without a scratch. That got me busy. I called all my children, got my doctor (?).... met at the hospital at seven o'clock. (can't hear, something about Craig...something else about taking his telephone out....and something about his doctors' business....Onto another dream where Jesus says that the world is really in a mess, and he didn't know how we were going to get out of it.) He said he had two or three choices; he could destroy the whole thing, wipe everything out--or, could restore old (something primordial? less development) or he could let it go for awhile and see what mankind did with it. Was quiet for a moment and then said (?). (more stuff I can't hear)///

JJ: (is repeating what RAD is saying cuz can't hear.) Fence put in by US Steel when we had farm progress days. What about concrete? Treated posts set in concrete, each post pierced--wire through them, cords at end. Dad said, I thought I'd show you the kingdoms of the world. This is where I skied everyday. This is the King's Highway the road down to the pond. (for herself) Seems like you'd better get the slaves out there to clear it!

RAD: Did you notice how those (?)a-long fence gets? They're two or three years old and they're absolutely spoiled. (can't hear)

JJ: Those round bales? I've been seeing round bales with plastic over them.

RAD: (can't hear)

JJ: We're down here at the pond. Started the first terracing in 1949.

RAD: We had it all planned. The tractors and equipment came in on his birthday the 10th of May. I came down here, I saw a tractor push up against this tree here. It was about to push it down. I remember galloping across the field as fast as I could go and stopping them. I said I need some shade for cows. They said they could cut this again.

JJ: Sure this is tall.

JH?: Would it be a little bit late to cut it? Would it be apt to kill it in the winter without the snow on the ground to protect it?

RAD: First of October you can. (can't hear)///

JJ: Why is it hard to cure in the fall, Dad?

RAD: You don't have many dry days--the humidity is high and the nights are cool. Shorter days, heavy dews.

JJ: Grampa told me one time that when a field of alfalfa is ready to cut when it's one quarter in bloom.

RAD: That's right. I think that's still sound. I don't know what this is, there's a waterway here. ///

JJ: Twelve acres of land for the road. Twenty-five acres orphaned on the other side, so Dad and Blodgett swapped, sold.

RAD: (can't hear)

JJ: Blodgett lucked out on the rest stop, from state.///Hauling ice from the river.///There used to be a fence around the balcony. Grampa would be peering out one of those two small windows. Dad, Jim tells me that when he'd be down here in the morning, he'd look up and Grampa would be looking out one of those two little windows up there.

JH: (can't hear)

JJ: Jim's room was up here where the balcony is. ... I believe that in your younger days, you used to be able to what?

JH: Jump up and get that thing. And go around the barn like this. Clear around the barn, hand over hand, on the manure trolley track.

JJ: This is where you used to push the manure trolley up to that guy who was developing his muscles....from the silo. Did you have something that allowed it to cross the gutter?

JH: (can't hear) ...It was a long ways up there. ///

JJ: We're down in the side barn and JH is saying there was a box stall here at

the end, by the door going out, and the babies are over across here. This is the silage trolley. Wasn't it galvanized inside? I thought it was bigger, this doesn't seem big enough to me. With bigger wheels? ///Jim just showed the place where the cats jumped--one on one side and one on the other. ...Up high by every window there's a sort of rectangular box that opens up and then on the outside there's a little square box down below. The air would come in down below and come up and into the barn.

RAD: It would either go out there or else we'd close the top part if we wanted it to settle down.

JJ: Grampa worked out that whole ventilation system.

RAD: One morning I was called very early, there was a crack in the silo. The crack ran up about 20 feet. (can't hear)

JH: Was that hay or sweet corn silage?

JJ: Sweet corn from Libby's. Here's the crack. Do you want to see it?

JH: Over here by the silo was I-9 and K-2, real nice. And over here was K-5, some real good ones.

RAD: We'd gone through the alphabet. I remember in 1941-2 we started calling them 41-1, 41-2, 41-3. That got to be too complicated, so two years later we went back to the alphabet. Again, all the way to Z. Then started over again and got as far as C or D.

JJ: This could be a historic site if what?

RAD: If we wanted to put in some money of our own.

JH: You were asked by the State Historical Society?

RAD: I can't imagine. (can't hear) From the very top of that, Jim. I fell down this chute. Feet first.

JH: You had a little under you because that's what you were (?) when (?).

RAD: I was just out of grade school and my father said that I could be assistant herdsman. (can't hear) Went back and had a good breakfast and I was gonna really do my stuff. So I was the first guy out. I threw a little loose hay onto the top of that chute. It didn't go down. Then I put a little more on, and it didn't go down. So I jumped on it. Then it came down pretty fast. I broke both heels. I still have extensions(?) on my heels that allow me to (?).

JH: Did you tell Jackie about the boys lighting a fire on the manure pile? (can't hear)///

End of Side 7

Side 8

JJ: We're getting a confession here. He's going to tell us about the only mean

thing he ever did. Okay, Jim, go ahead.

JH: You had a bunch of cats hanging around the barn. I never liked cats very well, anyway, but they'd gotten (can't hear--something about into the milk, perhaps?) I always tried to make'em scarce. You'd say scat, they'd scat! I'd never done this. One time I took a string and I tied the tails of two of them together. Not close, so's they'd fight, about three or four feet. They were running around the barn some. Went down where the lower silo was. Decided to go up that stairs. They went up and that door was shut. So down they came. They went down to the lower barn and up over the (?)bales and between boxes. Made a leap. One landed on one side (of what?) and one on the other. One was down the ventilator. I had to cut the string. I had to get rid of that quick cuz I was afraid Daddy or somebody would come along and see it. I kindof wish I hadn't done it because (?). I think that's the only time I did something around there that I really shouldn't've done. It was kindof mean.

RAD: The worst thing you can do is tie two cats' tails together and hang them over a wire.

JH: No, I gave them a string about this long so they'd run together, like a team of horses.

JJ: Did you see people doing that on the farm?

RAD: No. Just heard about it.///

JJ: Where would you do the butchering, give me details.

RAD: Out there by the barn. Across from the door to the little lean-to by the icehouse.

(can't hear)

JJ: I remember once you butchered a cow out in the new garage. That was much later.

JH: Doc Russell practiced for quite awhile.

RAD: Finally got married.

JH: I remember when I came here (can't hear--about Doc R)

VWD: (something about Dick Knilans)

RAD: He may have come in later. We had him, father and son, for 40 years anyway.

JJ: He was around when I was a kid.

JH: (can't hear--talking about cow troubles that he was involved in while herdsman)

RAD: You told about some bulls cornering Grampa, and Griffiths.

JJ: One time was on the manure pile and the bull was ripping away at the manure pile. As soon as he toppled the person on top he would have demolished him. That was either Grampa or Griffiths. It was Grampa on the manure pile and Griffiths under the manger. That must have been some vicious bull--the same one.

RAD: (Had an old bull and a young one. Afraid to put them together.) They both had horns. Put them in the bullpen together, the young bull was showing his spirit. The old one looked at him, went down and slammed in his side and threw him against the fence, backed off, hit him again. The young one finally went to a corner and just stood there. No more argument.

JJ: They didn't have the bull walk when you were there, Jim. When I was little we had a bull walk, like a treadmill that you put them on and they went round and round.

RAD: We had a bull sweep where the bull was fastened to an old tree (rest of explanation I can't hear).

JJ: But the bull didn't go anywhere. I remember tying Craig to the bullsweep and making him walk. That was one of the things we did to poor Craig....Did you work the ventilation system on the barn?

JH: Used to adjust it all the time.

JJ: I don't have much on that, yet.

JH: It seems that the openings were on top, they came down and (can't hear--something about shutters, heat and humidity.)

RAD: Then you had chutes--the side(?) chute, the hay chute and the other hay chute. A wooden chute that wasn't a hay chute all the way at the top of the barn. When it was operating, you could put a handkerchief over it.

JH: On windy days, you had to close some of the shutters or there'd be a gale blowing across there.

(can't really hear but they're talking about all the humidity that built up in the barn.)

JJ: You were very young when you began, Jim, did you need any training as a herdsman?

JH: He left me pretty much on my own. He'd help me out when I got into a scrape, he was pretty good. (can't hear, but he's talking about a previous job as a herdsman. Also a story about some folks from the Isle of Guernsey coming here to work.)

RAD: I remember the crossing from Jersey to Guernsey, especially. I had a letter of introduction from Carl Hill, of Rosendale(?), Wisconsin, who imported Guernseys for a long time. Our first registered Guernseys came from Carl Hill.

JJ: So we had some immigrants on our farm. Some of the cows actually came from the Isle of Guernsey.

RAD: Three of them. I persuaded him to make this sale. I was about 16, 17 years old. That's why I wanted to go to the Isle. It was nearby when I was in France. There were very nice to me. They probably thought I was another importer. Carl Hill had said, treat him nice, and they did. They gave me a car and chauffer. I was there for two or three days. Stopped at all the breeding places. I saw all the bulls that had won all the prizes. (desc. of a room). One room set apart for the medals of recognition. We'd stop and I'd take a dip in the ocean. I had a little extra time. I stayed at a hotel.

JH: This was during the war--I don't know how Guernsey fared, but the Germans slaughtered a lot of cattle on Jersey. I never heard how the other islands made out.

RAD: We drove all over Jersey, I think we rented a car--Appleby and I, and his son, a runny-nosed nine-year-old. He's now the head man in Jacksonville, IL.

JJ: (talk of reading Round Barn to faculty in the fall)

VWD: (can't hear)

JJ: Why did Appleby go to Jersey?

RAD: He was interested in everything. I don't know why he went.

JJ: Did you persuade him?

RAD: I can't remember.

VWD: (can't hear) Had Jerseys on their farm.

JJ: So he didn't go on with you to Guernsey.

RAD: I came back alone. I was following a bunch of boys from the University of IL. They had a young leader on their tour. I would run across that tour every once in a while. When I got back to the mainland, I sat on one side of (?) . Fifteen miles away, on the pennisula, I sat waiting for three quarters of a day for my train. Just on the other side was Saint Mont Michelle. I didn't know it was there! I caught the train back to Paris and this young fellow with these boys, fifteen or sixteen-year-old kids. It was too late to get back to Chateau Thierry that night, so I stayed in Paris. I was in my room getting ready for bed. He came busting through the door saying, these kids are certainly getting on my nerves! Here we're leaving Paris tomorrow and I haven't seen anything. Let's go out! I'd been around Paris very little, but he thought I was a habitue. I said, How about going to Maxine's? So we went. (desc. of place) If you went back around, there was a cover charge. Well, I wanted to avoid that. I slipped into some seats facing the bar. There were all sorts of things going on. (desc. of window shades that need to be hooked and pulled down.) This rather drunken gentleman got a hold of the bar and pretended to walk a tightrope down the alley way between the bar and the dining area. He took this bar to balance himself. As he went down the "tightrope" he'd knock somebody in the head, tip glasses over, he hit the bar, then they got him out of there. We had a real good time. Didn't I tell you the story of picking up a girl there? He and I

were watching the bar. There was a group at the bar. One very good- looking girl and a couple of very drunk young Frenchmen. She was remonstrating with them. They were saying, Let's go to Monmart. She'd say, and after that? One of the men would say, It's a thing unknown. She was shaking her head and they were very drunk. I got up and said, Do you want to get away from these clowns? She said, yes. I said, slide in here and I'll order you a drink. I was sitting in between the U of I guy and the girl. He could hear us talking to her. She had a drink and we were talking. She was speaking French, I was speaking English to the U of I guy. He kept asking me, What'd she say, what'd she say? I'd tell him. (I can't hear, but I know the story well enough to know that she's telling RAD about the young man she lived with for several years.) He asked what she said and I told him that she lived with a young Englishman and that's where she learned to speak English. (something about marriage) What'd she say? what'd she say? I offered to get her home. I was too tight to get a taxi. She was mincing along in her little heels.

VWD: (can't hear)

RAD: I didn't expect to take this evening myself! I was trying to impress this young man and got tied up with this young lady of the night. We are close to the Champs Elysees. My conscious took me and said Maybe we should get a taxi. She said, no, no, it's not that. I said, what's the matter? She said, (I can't spell that absurd phrase about peepee!). There were some low bushes along the walk we were following. I turned around and picked her up and put her over the bushes and directed her to a bunch of lilacs. She went around on one side and I went around on the other. We emerged and went back and joined our young man.

JJ: Who was no doubt open-mouthed!

RAD: The things that go on in France! My conscious was really bothering me by then. Here was this poor girl with the high heels, it was early in the morning. I wanted to get out of there, I wanted to go to bed. So we got into a taxi. About six blocks we reached her apartment. She wanted us to come in. I said, No. I walked her to the door. I came back to the taxi.

JJ: You didn't tell the other guy that she had invited the two of you in?

RAD: No...I didn't...I...

JJ: You were taking care of him.///

End of Tape.