

Interview: Agnes Widolff Lieland

Interviewed and Transcribed by Rita Kirchgassner, May 11, 1983

Edited and Researched by Karin Page

KIRCHGASSNER: We are in Dearborn County, York Township. The interviewer is Rita Kirchgassner. The interviewee is Agnes Lieland.<sup>1</sup> This is the 11th of May, 1983. O.K. Aggie, who were your parents?

LIELAND: Oh, Catherine<sup>2</sup> and George Widolff.<sup>3</sup>

KIRCHGASSNER: O.K. And your Mom, what was her maiden name?

LIELAND: Oh, her name was Zerr, Z-E double R.

KIRCHGASSNER: O.K. What did your dad do for a living?

LIELAND: He was raised on our farm down there. You know where Steinmetz, now Bach lives there now. Steinmetz lived there. He always told about his dad built that house. When he was born, which would have been 1875. The house is still there and I have been in it. The basement, it was made out of rock. And then he also told how - it's really hearsay what his dad told him - they had stone masons there all winter. And I forgot how many pigs and cows they killed because these stone masons were there. And I don't know who they were or where they come from, but, see, it was on the farm.

KIRCHGASSNER: They probably had to go down to the creek to get the stones.

LIELAND: Maybe they did - I don't know. But they had these people, you have seen these old stone houses. I think it will be there for another hundred years, I really do. Dad would be about a hundred. Let me see. He would be one hundred thirteen years old because he was born in 1875, and they must have started the little route

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<sup>1</sup> Agnes Lieland b. 22 Jan 1912; married Charles William Lieland 1941; d. 26 Feb 1993, Patriot, IN. Buried Saint Martin Church Cemetery, Yorkville, Dearborn, IN. (Sources: Find A Grave ID: 54160507; Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library; Journal Press, 2 Mar 1993; Register 4 Mar 1993 : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

<sup>2</sup> Catherine (Katherine) Zerr Widolff b. 11 Apr 1885, Cincinnati, OH. d. 22 Dec 1937, Good Samaritan Hospital, Cincinnati, OH; daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Zerr of Dearborn County, IN. (Sources: Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library; Press 24 Dec 1937; Register 30 Dec 1937 : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

<sup>3</sup> George Widolff b. 20 Feb 1875, Yorkville, Dearborn, IN; married Catherine Zerr in 1905; died 11 August 1952, Yorkville, Dearborn, IN. Funeral 14 August 1952, Yorkville, Dearborn, IN. (Sources: Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library; Register 14 Aug 1952; Press 14 Aug 1952 ; accessed 25 Oct 2021).

at home already. His father died and then, seven years to the day, his mother died, but he took care of his mother because he was the youngest in the family.

KIRCHGASSNER: Your dad operated what is now Widolff Store in Yorkville.<sup>4</sup>

LIELAND: Well, he did later on, but they had kinda of like a wagon and things at home, see.

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, they did it out of their home at first?

LIELAND: Yeah. And then I think after his mother died, he bought the store in Yorkville. And I can't recall, but it was a Hornbach. And I can't remember the Hornbach's first name. You know, there were so many Hornbachs. But he didn't marry my mother until he came to Yorkville. He was twenty-nine years and she was twenty-one. And her dad had a tavern and that's how he met her, my mother, although I don't know. She worked in Cincinnati as a housekeeper and cook. I think that's what they did those days. 'Cause, you know, like Lizzie Widolff, and Gertie Hornbach, and Bennie Hornbach, they were all cooks. Well, even Father Sunderman's sisters, they worked out as cooks or maids. Well, like Mrs. Schantz. They don't do that anymore, do they?

KIRCHGASSNER: Umhum. But then the people has changed so, I think. 'Cause then it was a lot, a lot richer.

LIELAND: Everything is more easier to take care of now because we have all this electric. See, we didn't have any of that.

KIRCHGASSNER: Tell them what your Dad sold in the store. Do you remember? What was the store like?

LIELAND: Oh, it was a general store.

KIRCHGASSNER: Like, what did he sell?

LIELAND: Oh, everything. Dry goods was a big deal 'cause everybody made their own clothes. Boots ...

KIRCHGASSNER: He even sold boots? Oh, my gosh.

LIELAND: And shoes, yeah. A lot of farmers bought these boots. They were

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<sup>4</sup> George Widolff "entered the grocery business in 1902." (Source: Press Obituary 14 Aug 1952 : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

Wolverine,<sup>5</sup> I don't know, but they were good shoes. A lot of people. He sold them to the kids, ya know. Oh, gosh, he had horse collars, and even some types of harness, like a halter, smaller stuff. Of course, he also had three routes.

KIRCHGASSNER: He also took, like, goods out?

LIELAND: Yeah. He took, well, he called it routes three times a week with horse and covered wagon.

KIRCHGASSNER: What did he do then?

LIELAND: Well, by and by, I don't know what year, though, he bought a truck but he didn't know how to drive. So he had someone come out and teach him to drive. Well, he never was a good driver. Used to be scared to death. [Laughs]

KIRCHGASSNER: [Laughs] Where did the routes go? Do you remember?

LIELAND: Oh, yeah. They went to Manchester and to Ester Ridge. Went through Manchester and then turned down some road and then down Burtzelbach and Bonnell and up to the hill around the Manchester district.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did he sell fresh products, or meats or?

LIELAND: Oh, no. Nothing like that. It was all – well, at that time everything come in barrels and cracker barrels and stuff. And, we, I used to have to, well we all did, at one time or another, weigh up things like sugar, even coffee, tea, beans. What else can I remember? Beans. Seems like there was other things in barrels, but I can't recall. I remember the tea - green tea and black tea.

KIRCHGASSNER: So, did he have to go get it or was it delivered?

LIELAND: Oh, he. Well, no, no. There was never any deliveries. That was still in the ... They only started out, I think, within the last ten years delivering. Like White Villa does down there. He always had to get everything from the city. Even when ice come out. We didn't always have ice. Ice boxes. He used to bring three hundred pound of ice in the back of the truck. That was the last thing he would buy up at Delhi.

KIRCHGASSNER: He would go to Delhi, up in Cincinnati.

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<sup>5</sup> Wolverine Shoes founded in 1883, Grand Rapids, Michigan, by Fredrick Hirth and G. A. Krause. (Source: Wolverine World Wide; Wikipedia article; [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolverine\\_World\\_Wide](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Wolverine_World_Wide) : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

LIELAND: He. Yeah. Well, he'd go to Cincinnati and he would buy everything he needed. What he did do, he bought up chickens and eggs. I think eggs is what he made most of his money. But he didn't make a lot because there was ten of us. We always had plenty to eat but my mother made all our clothes.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did the people buy ice from him? Or ...

LIELAND: Oh, no. He put it in an icebox, they called it those days. I don't remember an iceman coming around Yorkville like they did in town. They used to come around and get tubs - you want fifty cents or twenty cents [worth]. But, I can't remember what year we got the refrigerator and electric. It must have been in 1930. That was when they remodeled that house. 'Cause I was in Oldenburg. The same year that Marie got married 'cause Dad come out and got me - to the wedding. That's how I know because Mr. Locks. See, it was dormer rooms all upstairs. You know what dormer rooms are? He raised it, you know, nice rooms up there. There was four big rooms and a bay. So, I don't know what it's like now, but just look how old that has to be, too.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. Older than this house?

LIELAND: I imagine it's older than this house, don't you?

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, I do to. I mean, I'm sure it's like before the Civil War. I bet that house was one of the first ones that was [built].

LIELAND: I don't think we could imagine what it was like because I wasn't old enough either, you know. Dad also said there was lots of taverns in this town at one time. And, of course, there was a blacksmith and then, I don't know what they called them, they made wagons. They made everything. They made handles for hoes, and shovels, and spades. It was done in, I think ... What would you call it? They had a lot of shops in Yorkville. My mother's father had a blacksmith shop.

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, he did?

LIELAND: Yeah. And then, he also had the tavern.

KIRCHGASSNER: Where did he have these at - in Dover?

LIELAND: No, here in Yorkville. See, the house was still where Ethel lives. That was my mother's home. And there used to be a tavern. Uncle Charlie Fehr had a tavern there, too. I can almost remember that. I must have been about six, seven years old.

KIRCHGASSNER: Now, when your dad had the general store, did he have a tavern with it or ...?

LIELAND: Oh, no. That didn't come in [until] after my mother died. I think she died in '37. And, course, I don't think Mom would have approved of a tavern at all. I don't know exactly why. But that's how Dad got out of debt. He borrowed the money and, they had the tavern, and had slot machines.

KIRCHGASSNER: Legal slot machines?

LIELAND: Oh, yeah. We all said that's what caused ... I think he got half of it, the take. And either there was just, if there was change left or something, they just put it in a can. I can remember that so well.

KIRCHGASSNER: What else was Yorkville like? What else was here? Can you remember?

LIELAND: Well, there was another store, you know - Hornbach's store.

KIRCHGASSNER: Where they very ...

LIELAND: But he was also a huckster. And he did the same thing.

KIRCHGASSNER: Was he as prosperous, too?

LIELAND: Oh, I think so 'cause he had inherited so much money. Gertie Schantz (Schott?) told me that all those kids inherited \$17,000.00. Just think. That's almost a hundred years ago!

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, my gosh.

LIELAND: Not quite a hundred, because ... But Dad didn't have anything inherited. Very little, if he did. Although they had a farm. I bet that farm would be worth plenty now, wouldn't it?

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, I know!

LIELAND: The thing they kept getting for him was tea, you know. Marie owned the garden farm and the old Brickler farm, you know, where the Bricklers ...

KIRCHGASSNER: What was going to school like in Yorkville?

LIELAND: Oh, we only had two teachers for eight grades. My Dad went to school

here in Yorkville, too, and all his brothers did. 'Cause it was Catholic and it was run by the nuns.

KIRCHGASSNER: And did all your brothers and sisters?

LIELAND: Oh, all my brothers and sisters. My uncles and aunts, you know. Uncle Henry, and Uncle Frank, all of them. Everybody had big families those days. I think everybody did, as much as I can recall.

KIRCHGASSNER: Because you had, like, ten brothers and sisters.

LIELAND: Well, I had nine. I had five brothers and four sisters.

KIRCHGASSNER: Then, your dad, he came from a large family.

LIELAND: Oh, he had a real large family. We aren't able to raise people as much. He would talk about a little sister that died of diphtheria, and he had a brother that was twenty-one that had, he called it consumption - T.B. - tuberculosis. And he had some more brothers and I always thought that was interesting. They went to Moores Hill, the college, two of them did. But Dad always said his dad wouldn't send him because they didn't turn out so well. They drank a lot. And Uncle Charley Widolff went, too, but he went to Purdue. [inaudible]

KIRCHGASSNER: What kind of courses did you take in school, in your grade school?

LIELAND: Oh, we had most everything. We had sewing on Friday, and drawing - I remember that, you know, coloring. And we had all just reading, writing, arithmetic. We didn't have nothing like they have now - all this here ... Oh, I can't think.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, did they teach you German or did you know any German when you were a little kid?

LIELAND: Oh, I knew very little. Just from Only just what I overheard Dad say. Even to this day, I remember, you know, and I have no brogue. But Dad had a hard time when he went to school. He said the teacher would tell him it was "cow." See, they spoke German at home. And he could never say "cow" - "kuh". He said, "No. Cow." I don't know how they taught. It was all phonics, you know. It isn't like it is today. But I think there's too much, they have to learn so much, the kids do this day and age. We had writing. I remember that was important. They called it penmanship. But they got another name for it now. [inaudible]

KIRCHGASSNER: Now, what year were you born in?

LIELAND: Oh, 1912.

KIRCHGASSNER: So, then by the time you went to grade school, you went eight grades in eight years?

LIELAND: Oh, yeah.

KIRCHGASSNER: 'Cause your father would have probably only gone what, six or?

LIELAND: I think they only went about six. But he went an extra year, cause he didn't get to go to college, they let them go. He was always so proud of that prayer book he had. A priest at the time, give him a prayer book for going to school. He wasn't ignorant - Dad was smart. In fact, I always thought the Widolffs were pretty smart. Well, they were unusually good in math. I have noticed even offsprings this day and age are good, like Genie, you know.

KIRCHGASSNER: And your sons.

LIELAND: Oh, yeah. I had two sons and I don't know. The youngest kids were to but they didn't ...

KIRCHGASSNER: Pursue it. What was it like in grade school making your first communion? When did you make your first communion?

LIELAND: Well, I thought I made it in 1919, but it seemed as if I would have been awfully young to make it in 1919. How old would I have been [in] 1912?

KIRCHGASSNER: You would have been seven.

LIELAND: Oh, I bet in 1919. May the 4<sup>th</sup>. I remember that.

KIRCHGASSNER: So, grade school was just the eight years and?

LIELAND: And it was still the same way here. There was just two teachers. And, one time there was only twenty-five kids in school, and five of them were us. [Laughs] That's the truth!

KIRCHGASSNER: Five of them were your brothers, you and your brothers and sisters. Oh, my gosh! Twenty-five in the whole school.

LIELAND: At one time, but then later, there was more, you know. I think it went up to sixty.

KIRCHGASSNER: So you, do you remember anything about World War I?

LIELAND: Very little. I just can remember marching. Everybody marched up and down Yorkville, can you imagine that? I don't think people would do that even now. I remember that and I remember the snow in 1918, because I was at grandma's and I went out and got on the – they had a drag. I don't know if I can explain what it was like. It was like a big wooden thing. And they needed someone to weight it down, the snow was so bad that year. And they had about six horses pulling it. And I remember Goldie, and Ellen, [Hilda?], all of us went. We stopped at Marmots, you know where [old] the [rose lady?] lives. **I never will forget that.** They had a dog they named Goldie. And Ellen was teasing Goldie. She'd say "Goldie, Goldie." It was kind of a gold color. Kind of an odd dog at that time. 'Course, there's odd dogs now, too.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, how deep was the snow?

LIELAND: Well, I guess it was the most snow we ever had. I knew it was bad. But that was right before the war was over, I think. There was a lot of people died here from, at Yorkville in that war, in the First World War.

KIRCHGASSNER: What did they do when they marched up and down the streets? What was that for?

LIELAND: Well, I don't know. Well, I guess just because the war was over. Armistice, I guess. But there was so many people died. I think a lot more. There must have been more people here at that time - like old Clem Steinmetz,<sup>6</sup> you know, and Theodore Fuchs and there was two Miller boys over there at the graveyard. I don't know if they all died from getting injured or if they died from the flu. The flu was so bad.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did that hit Yorkville too?

LIELAND: Well, I think it hit them in service, didn't it?

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah.

LIELAND: 'Cause, oh, the other one was Tony Hornbach. He was left with a weakness from the war. I don't know. Seems it was a lot of people. You know some of them.

KIRCHGASSNER: Hum.

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<sup>6</sup> "Dearborn County Obituaries," database Lawrenceburg Public Library District ([www.lpld.lin.in.us](http://www.lpld.lin.in.us) : accessed 27 Jun 2022); Clem H. Steinmetz b. 1896 d. 1980.  
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LIELAND: They're all dead. I don't think there is a live one around here anymore.

KIRCHGASSNER: No. I think all of them are dead.

LIELAND: I think Clem was the last one, Clem Steinmetz.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. He was the last World War I veteran in Yorkville. Well, you probably remember World War II real well.

LIELAND: Oh, yeah. We lived at Shelbyville at the time. I was about ready to have David. It was the sixth or eighth of December and, I had, he was born on the first of January following it, you know.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, how did your dad's store do during this time? 'Cause your dad still had it, didn't he?

LIELAND: Well, I remember even in the First World War, your grandfather – he was your great-grandfather - I guess, [inaudible] he took care of the food stamps. Or rather, it wasn't food stamps. It was sugar stamps.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. Like the ration.

LIELAND: That was the Second, First World War.

KIRCHGASSNER: Was that what they called the ration?

LIELAND: Yeah. Did your mother tell you that?

KIRCHGASSNER: Hum. 'Cause he had the post office.

LIELAND: That and he also had, he repaired shoes. See, that was about a shop that would have been in Yorkville. I don't know. I wish that I could remember more of the buildings that he talked about, Dad did.

KIRCHGASSNER: Hum. I know. 'Cause they said that there was a blacksmith's shop and your dad's store. And then, this Herman Nordmeyer<sup>7</sup> had the shoe repair.

LIELAND: Well, that was a barn just right over there that was old Johnny Miller's blacksmith shop. Now, that barn was still here I think, you know. I used to see it because Marie told me that's what she had a lot of rusty nails and that's what she

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<sup>7</sup> Herman Nordmeyer b. 23 Feb 1856 d. 24 Mar 1923 (Source: Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

keeps her flowers blooming that color. I was like, I don't know. Those hydrangeas, you know.

KIRCHGASSNER: I know. But, it was... I don't know. I just think, Yorkville, there's nothing ever really exciting that happened. I mean, like, there were no murders.

LIELAND: Well, not really. Except that, well, I don't know what you call exciting, like. I can remember one time on a Sunday it seemed like a horse run away and some [inaudible] got killed.

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, really?

LIELAND: In front of our place. He was in the surrey or whatever they call it. And then, like, or [inaudible] getting killed on, this, your road there.

KIRCHGASSNER: Leatherwood.

LIELAND: I don't know. Then, like, Marie, the house pushed on her, Marie. I don't know if you don't call that exciting or not.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well didn't ... wasn't there someone coming home from a first communion and got, that was when. Was it Ben Nordmeyer?

LIELAND: Oh, I don't remember that.

KIRCHGASSNER: They were saying he came home. I don't know. Maybe he lived in New Alsace then. Came home from one of them [communion] and got electrocuted, lightning struck him. That was one of Grandma Dorrie's first cousins or brothers or something.

LIELAND: Oh, I never knew that. I'm surprised I don't recall that. What else happened? It seems like there was. Oh, I don't know, how he was killed. Marie Wiedeman's little boy<sup>8</sup> - how was he killed?

KIRCHGASSNER: I don't know.

LIELAND: I don't know; I guess he was younger than [inaudible – Norm?]. But [Norm's?] at least 65 now. So, that was a long time ago. Now, he served Mass and he got killed. She lived up - it was after her husband was dead.

KIRCHGASSNER: When he was coming home?

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<sup>8</sup> Son Weideman 6 years old; d. 23 Nov 1931 (Source: Dearborn County Obituaries, Lawrenceburg Public Library : accessed 25 Oct 2021).

LIELAND: I think Roman died from ruptured appendix.<sup>9</sup>

KIRCHGASSNER: And then, one of your cousins drowned. Didn't one of Phillip's drowned in Tanner's Creek?

LIELAND: Oh, yes. He had one that drowned. It was my first cousin; it would have been my first cousin. And then Marie Vogelsang, she had a child that drowned in an open cistern or well. You remember that?

KIRCHGASSNER: I just remember them talking about it, 'cause they had said there was so many tragedies.

LIELAND: And then Helen Vogelsang had a little boy that died. I think it might have been polio or, I just don't quite remember, and it's only been a little over forty years ago. Or less than forty, maybe even, because Charles and I went down and saw him. You see, they laid out people in homes those days. Kinda had a parlor they saved it for that [funerals] - didn't use the parlor very much. I don't think they did. It was always cold. I can remember grandma's parlor was always cold.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. It seems like, I don't know. It seems like there were a lot of tragedies around here, though.

LIELAND: Yeah. Well, see, when you think about it. There's probably some more when you think about it. Well, Eileen - her first husband was tearing down a shed and he fell in a bee's nest, and he died right over there out in the yard. Eileen had the, it was about this big. It was in the paper. She had planted flowers exactly where he died. Somebody come out and must have told them. It was written up in the paper.

KIRCHGASSNER: The bees stung him so bad?

LIELAND: Yeah. He died that evening. And I was there when he died. Father was there, Father Sunderman. I remember he rode up on a bicycle. Now see that. That was after I was married, too. It hasn't been too long ago. And then she had a bad time with Jack, too. She said that Jack got up. He was hot, and she finally come alooking for him and he was setting out there in a chair unconscious. So, I don't recall what priest we got. I imagine it would have been Father, who ...

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<sup>9</sup> Roman John Wideman Death Certificate ("Find a Grave," database, Find a Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : accessed 27 Jun 2022), memorial page for Roman John Wiedeman (1886-1928), Find A Grave Memorial no. 54172582; citing Saint Martin Church Cemetery, Yorkville, York, Dearborn, Indiana, USA; the accompanying photographs by Joe Breimayer; created originally and maintained by dhintx, and are materially informative.)  
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KIRCHGASSNER: Summerschein was his name.

LIELAND: I bet it was. Charles went over and got the priest. And they took him to the hospital and he died that day. You know what I mean. I always think about those things. I think it is kinda sad.

KIRCHGASSNER: Aggie, what, you know. We were talking, we always talk, you know. The people around here were so Catholic and so religious, and yet they believed in the hexes.

LIELAND: Yes.

KIRCHGASSNER: What is a hex?

LIELAND: I don't know what it is. I think it's somebody that puts a curse on somebody.

KIRCHGASSNER: Where did it ...

LIELAND: There used to be a saying, too, that this parish would never have a priest. I forgot why, I forgot why though. And we did. We've had a priest and he's still a priest. And I remember Hilda asking Father Widolff if there could be anything to that, and he said, "Yeah." The Irish people were superstitious. I think they still are to some extent. 'Cause I know Aunt Bridget was.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, what do you think the hexes came from Germany or from the Irish people or from both?

LIELAND: I think it would be more Germans, 'course this German community. I mean, I don't know. I never did hear of the Irish people doing that - except my cousin, you know.

KIRCHGASSNER: Did your parents believe in the hexes?

LIELAND: I'm sure my dad must have. But I wish I would've listened to him because I used to just laugh at him.

KIRCHGASSNER: [Laughs] Do you remember any of the stories?

LIELAND: Well, one was like Charlie's wife. I forgot what she did. But her bathrobe caught fire. They had a coal stove at Marie's. And Dad said that he thought sure the baby would be marked, because... Of course, she was able to put it out, you know, in the bathroom. Now, I don't believe in that stuff. Now I don't think it could

mark a baby. It was the same thing happened in my family. But Mother and Dad said that Ella had a mark on her arm when she was born. And they went and got old Mrs. Schantz - you didn't know her either. And she hexed the afterbirth. She took it outside and whatever she did over it, buried it. That's ridiculous.

KIRCHGASSNER: What did they hex it for? Because she had this mark that they thought was ...?

LIELAND: So the mark would go away.

KIRCHGASSNER: Was this Mrs. Schantz, was she supposed to be the one who had powers or something?

LIELAND: Yeah. I don't know what it was. But, I know, my mother must have believed in it, too, then.

KIRCHGASSNER: Which Schantz was this, this Mrs. Schantz? Do you know?

LIELAND: Oh, it was George Schantz's mother.<sup>10</sup> She was some relation to the aunt ones. Now, I'll tell you who would be interesting would be that, she's really old and [has a] really good memory yet. Hiltz - old lady Hiltz. I guess she is close to ninety now. Now, she's the one that was relation to Schantz's. That's the reason I thought of her.

KIRCHGASSNER: Yeah. Well would ... 'cause umm, I don't know. I remember my grandmother telling me that if your pillow, if your feathers shake to make a crown, you'd boil them and that the next person you saw was a hex. [Laughs] Do you remember anything like that?

LIELAND: No. [Laughs] No. I just remember that about the afterbirth. But then I remember laughing at somebody here in this town. And, at me, I was laughing, cutting up and said "I didn't believe in that stuff." And Lucille said, "Yeah, yeah. You don't believe in it, but I believe in it. We had to have Father Sunderman come over and pray over the cows because they were all losing their calves." Now, you know that's a disease. A lot of cows do lose their calves or they don't even get pregnant. It's just like human people.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, did you ever hear the one about, what was it, a Kuebel lady,

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<sup>10</sup> Possibly Mary Anna (née Herr) Schantz. George Schantz b. 4 Mar 1873 d. 24 Jan 1947 ("Dearborn County Obituaries," Lawrenceburg Public Library : accessed 26 Jun 2022). George Henry Schantz b. 4 Mar 1873 d. 24 Jan 1947. "Find a Grave," database, Find a Grave (www.findagrave.com : accessed 27 Jun 2022), memorial page for George Henry Schantz (1873-1947), Find A Grave Memorial no. 54162618; citing St. Martin's Cemetery, Yorkville, York, Dearborn, Indiana, USA; the accompanying photographs by Mary Craven Abrams; created originally and maintained by dhintx, and are materially informative.)

or whatever, that killed a spider on her neck, and her baby was born with a mark on its neck? Was it a Kuebel?

LIELAND: I never heard that, but I know people believed in that. A lot of people still believe in birthmarks to this day, that something happened to the mother, and I don't think it's true. The strawberry mark was supposed to be, oh, that the mother craved strawberries or something silly like that. [Laughs]

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, no. Do you remember any other stories about the hexes?

LIELAND: Well, I remember that personally about the cows. But I just know a lot of people. I remember old Feist, Albert Feist believed in it. But I don't know who did it. They didn't explain it, about people who were crippled, you know. Like Rose Miller<sup>11</sup> and that. Oh, I don't know. There was quite a few of them. They had something wrong with their legs. It was hereditary. Who else was it? All those Millers were that way. But they believed that it had somebody put a curse on them. Cause some man went out with some woman in the family. See, I didn't pay much attention. It kinda makes me mad that I didn't. I just don't know anybody who would know that stuff now. Maybe Alma would know, 'cause her mother used to talk about those things. See, I made a mistake, 'cause I just laughed at 'em. I just didn't believe in that stuff. I think it had something to do with, well, I knew it wasn't true. I think we are wiser or something.

KIRCHGASSNER: And I think they were a real suspicious, or not suspicious, superstitious type people.

LIELAND: Oh, I think so, too. But, I could be wrong, but I think so, too, just from. That's so ridiculous - anybody hexing you. Well, the other one was they thought that Kitty Kuebel blamed Marie Steinmetz for hexing her baby. Her baby died. He had a bad heart. Marie could tell you that but Marie's [inaudible] now too.

KIRCHGASSNER: And they blamed it on her?

LIELAND: Yeah. They brought it up at school, the kids. But I bet some of those kids could tell.

KIRCHGASSNER: Because they just thought the baby had a bad heart? What did they think she just looked at it or she just put a hex on it?

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<sup>11</sup> Rose Miller b. 18 Jan 1894 d. 10 Jun 1970 (Sources: "Find a Grave," database, Find a Grave ([www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) : accessed 27 Jun 2022), memorial page for Rose Miller (1894-1970), Find A Grave Memorial no. 43928402; citing St. Martin's Cemetery, Yorkville, York, Dearborn, Indiana, USA; the accompanying photographs by dhintx; created originally and maintained by dhintx, and are materially informative. "Dearborn County Obituaries," Lawrenceburg Public Library District ([www.lpld.lib.in.us](http://www.lpld.lib.in.us) : accessed 27 Jun 2022); Rose Mary Miller b. 18 Jan 1894 d. 18 Jun 1970.)

LIELAND: I don't know why because they just thought that. 'Cause Marie used to cry when she told me it was terrible for her kids to be told that in school.

KIRCHGASSNER: Well, a lot of people thought that Marie Widolff was a hex, too, didn't they?

LIELAND: Oh, did they? I didn't know. I didn't like her, but I never thought about her being a hex. [Laughs]

KIRCHGASSNER: Well. They used to tell me - Grandma Dorrie would - that she boiled her feathers one day, and the next person she saw was her [Marie?]. You know. And I know that they really were, suspicious, I mean superstitious type people.

LIELAND: I know they were. But why it's too bad we didn't listen to that of stuff. I just thought it was so ridiculous.

KIRCHGASSNER: Oh, I know. But, you know, when you think of it. But to think of these people, they went to church as much as they possibly could.

LIELAND: Oh, yeah.

KIRCHGASSNER: 'Cause you probably had, on Sundays they said, well, your dad probably remembers, remembered. They said that church used to last a couple of hours at a time. And then they'd come back in the afternoon for another service.

LIELAND: Oh, yeah. You remember. We used to have a ...

KIRCHGASSNER: Benediction.

LIELAND: Benediction. And then there was also something else that took real long. But none of that goes on now. Even during Lent, we don't, we did have stations on Good Friday, I guess, a couple of times.

KIRCHGASSNER: I know.

LIELAND: I don't know that people are as religious now or not. Some of them are. 'Cause I think, I never look, but once in a while I have looked on Monday and saw people, over there - four or five cars. Then I wonder if they are cleaning church or something. And then I think, oh, they are probably having Mass.