

Fieldwork Recordings—Dictionary of American Regional English
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**Transcript of DARE Interview (1967): Chagrin Falls, Ohio; Primary Informant
OH002 (Tape 1205-S1)**

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INTRODUCTION: The following was recorded from Dictionary of American Regional English, tape one two zero five, side one.

5 FIELDWORKER: For s- [cough], for some inexplicable reason this tape is wound on the reel backwards. This is a recording of Mrs. Annie [beep], made at Chagrin Falls, Cuyahoga County, Ohio, on September twenty-fifth by [beep], nineteen sixty-seven.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: Oh gee, it sounds so trite to record that.

FIELDWORKER: I thought it was rather hilarious.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: [laugh] I love the Wednesday!

INFORMANT: Well it s—

10 AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: That was a riot!

INFORMANT: —started out with Monday.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: Oh no (xx) shut up.

INFORMANT: With Roy getting a leaky gas tank.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: Yea, and that was the night he broke the windshield, outside.

15 INFORMANT: And he arrived home at four o'clock and it was the wrong car, not his, and I discovered that his gas tank leaked and he had to leave his car at (Wince's). Consequently, I needed my car the next day and he took it. Meanwhile, he drove it that night and a rock hit it and put a hole in my windshield. So now I have to have a new windshield. And that was Monday. And the next day I was co-hostess for garden club, because somebody else couldn't be there. So I
20 could see myself walking down Main Street with two salads, a bowl of rolls and all the paraphernalia. And then, in the morning, I was getting ready to do this, and Janie got sick, and I got a call, I had to go to school to get her. Well, I had juggled around with one neighbor to get the babysitter and somebody else to take me to garden club, in the meantime Roy's car was done.

25 So, I ended up tearing the school for Janie, tearing for garden club and arrived home, and that
sort of settled Tuesday. And then, Wednesday, Janie was home sick and everything seemed quiet
and calm, and the neighbors' little girl ate some bo-, berries that we thought was poisonous, so
we ended up trying to get her taken care of, finally she went to the hospital to have her stomach
30 pumped, and Janie babysat [cough], and fed Hope and Mary [beep] their lunch, and then we
brought Margaret the baby over here, and we got calmed down again. And then we took Mary
and Margaret back, and Nora said, "Wait a minute," [cough] and her husband's aunt had just
called her, and she had fallen the night before, at eleven o'clock and had been lying on the floor,
cause she couldn't get up, due to a broken hip. And she just had managed to get to the telephone.
Well, fortunately, she wasn't hurt, she just simply could not get up, because she's been on
35 crutches for quite a number of years. So we took off, went up, got her up, and Janie babysat all
the kids. And then in the meantime, Hope ate two vitamin pills, which we didn't expect, plus ran
into a piece of tin foil [laugh] and consequently, by the time Wednesday night came, (we'd had
it) [talk in the background], and then Thursday, and Wednesday night Mr. [beep] called [laugh],
and wanted to know if I would do this silly business.

FIELDWORKER: [laugh]

40 INFORMANT: And I was rather suspicious, cause I didn't trust Mayor [beep].

FIELDWORKER: Oh! [laugh]

INFORMANT: For recommending me. But when he said Miriam [beep], I figured, well, if Miriam
let him (in) the door, I guess I could too. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Did, uh, why, why were you suspicious of the whole thing?

45 INFORMANT: Well, I didn't know, {just that i-, y—

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: (xx)}

INFORMANT: Mr. [beep]'s at the city hall. You could have just walked in there, maybe showed
him some credentials, or something like that, I didn't know too much. Because, um, Mayor [beep]
knows I'm in gar-, uh, historical society, but I don't know him real well personally. And, you know,
50 I thought you maybe walked in and asked for some names, and when he mentioned Mrs. [beep]
and mine, knowing that we're both in Historical Society, that might be why he would have given
you the two names. Probably why he did, partly.

FIELDWORKER: Have, have you had any trouble with other people, uh, coming around, uh—

INFORMANT: Just on survey type of thing.

55 FIELDWORKER: Oh, you were mentioning uh, uh, somebody coming around with a church
survey?

INFORMANT: Yeah, uh they're taking a survey, a church survey. They wanna know your re-, uh, church affiliations. But they didn't identify themselves as to who they were with or anything. And, um, so I just told them I wasn't interested, and I think maybe that, they say this is up for the, possibly they want to do this on our next census in nineteen seventy. But anyway, that was {Wednesday.

60 FIELDWORKER: That was} Wednesday.

INFORMANT: And then Thursday you arrived and we started this business. And Friday we ended up going to Niagara Falls.

65 FIELDWORKER: Well, why don't you {tell me—

INFORMANT: And that} was interesting! I went down to have lunch, and I had a funny feeling, I almost got lost on the tour. I went into the dining room, and there wasn't a soul in there, and I sat down at a table, and the girl took my order, and all of a sudden this mob of people came in and sat down, and I had to share my table with a man across. Well, this was a new sensation. Not one of them spoke English. And here it was a tour from Europe. And all these people with these air bags, and cameras hanging on them, and all, and they were looking around for menus, and the waitresses didn't bring them any menus. And then, finally, they have a buffet set up, in another dining room, and these people were to use the buffet. So the waitress came around, and was going like this to them, go to the buffet, and the people were just looking at her, like this. And the tour guide wasn't there with them yet. So she was going, "Buffet, buffet, buffet!" and poking these people till they got the idea. Then they all went at once and got in this huge line, and one lady didn't go. She let her husband, she was sitting two tables down, go to get her plate. So the waitress comes along, and she starts hitting me on the shoulder. And she says, "Buffet, buffet!" [laugh] And I said, "I'm an oddball, I speak English, and I've ordered." Then she got the funniest expression on her face, and this other woman started to laugh. And then, uh, I noticed one woman came back, at another table, and the waitress was pouring coffee, and she said, uh, "Please pour a cup for my husband." And she said it in English, and that was the only English word I heard. And then a couple sat next to me, and the wife did not speak English, but the husband could. And so I talked to him, and they were from, is it Basel or Basel, Switzerland, up near the German border. And this was a tour of people, and they were not all Swiss, they were all different nationalities. And you know, this was a new sensation. I've never been in Europe, or anything, but to sit there and have all these people taking at these different tables, and not to comprehend a thing they were saying. And I thought, gee, this must be what it would be like to go to a foreign country in a restaurant, where there wouldn't be any other Americans, or English-speaking people, and to sit there and hear all this. And it really brought something home to me: I'd like to take a foreign language, so I could speak it.

85 FIELDWORKER: [laugh]

INFORMANT: Does that sound silly?

FIELDWORKER: No, no I don't think so. Wh—

95 INFORMANT: Have you ever had an experience like that?

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, yes. Many, yeah, this summer especially.

INFORMANT: Did it give you a funny feeling? To be with a whole group of people, and there you are, sitting isolated, and all these different ta-, now one table I know was speaking French, that I could understand. And [cough] the woman down at the far end that did speak in English sounded
100 like she had either a German or Dutch accent. But the two men that sat across from me, and the lady to the side of me, they never said one word. And the other thing was fun to watch, some of them ate with their left, I watched, just to see if they were eating with their fork in their left hand. Some of them were, and some of them were not. Because I understood this was the European way, and I noticed something else, they really cleaned their plates up. And then, this was a riot,
105 they took fresh oranges, Roy, and you know they're Sunkist oranges now, and they're rather sni-, thick-skinned? You should have seen them, trying to peel those oranges. They were cutting them long ways, one fellow really had it, he peeled it in a nice curl, all the way down. But they, they really mutilated those oranges. And I know how hard an orange is to peel. And the waitresses hadn't given them any paper napkins. So they had orange juice just squirting, you
110 know, like this. And it was fun to watch. But this was a new experience. So then, let's see. We left Niagara Falls and came home. Stopped at the Vineyard Room, up at North, uh, Dunkirk, New York, where you have to get off the New York three-, thruway now, because they're repairing it. And this is kind of interesting, it's a quality motel, and it's a very attractive dining room, and it's evidentially where people who raised grapes and all up in the grape country and local farming
115 people and all come in for dinner. And it's called the Vineyard Room.

FIELDWORKER: Do they have a special menu or something (xx)?

INFORMANT: They do have things cooked in wine, they have a regular menu, and then they have the real fancy type of things, done with wine. Along your French type of dishes, and some Italian.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: It's a varied menu, but there's a lot of particularly fancy foods.

120 INFORMANT: So we stopped there and headed home. And then Friday—

FIELDWORKER: {That was {Friday.

INFORMANT: That was Friday.}

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Saturday.

INFORMANT: Oh, Saturday you went to work, and I went grocery shopping. And then yesterday
125 you woke up and said, "Let's get outside." So we took off and went to Metropolitan Park and hiked for about two hours. And we ha-, got in a fight, and Janie said we were on a bridal path, and (Doc) thought it was an awfully nice walking path, and we were on a bridal path, we discovered afterwards. We came home with boots full of hickory nuts. We wore boots because

130 we thought it would be wet and muddy, and then it got hot, so we took them off, and we found all these nice big hickory nuts, right in the bridal paths. Where they'd fallen off the hickory tree, so we just filled the boots up with hickory nuts. Now we'll put them in plastic bags and let them dry.

FIELDWORKER: Do the worms get at them?

INFORMANT: Yes, some of them. Mm-hmm.

135 FIELDWORKER: Do the worms go from one to another, or—

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: No.

FIELDWORKER: —do they get into the blossom.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Worms are inside to start with and they work their way out. And they, we have quite a few back here in the back woods. We collect, oh, one year we had maybe five
140 bags of nuts, and let them dry, and I would say about three-fifths of them were wormed. If you let them hang and then you just look at them, there's a worm hole in there. Throw those out, and the rest all right.

INFORMANT: We crack them in the vice, in the basement.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Then we have a hickory nut cake for Thanksgiving.

145 INFORMANT: Mm-hmm.

FIELDWORKER: How do you make a hickory nut cake?

INFORMANT: Just an ordinary white cake and put hickory nuts in it. Then a butter frosting.

FIELDWORKER: OK [laugh]. What, uhm, you were telling me about some of the trees that you saw in the Metropolitan Park.

150 INFORMANT: Well I noticed, we were commenting yesterday, there's quite a few tulip trees. And then the native evergreen, which is a hemlock. And I noticed something down there, that the hickory trees were more or less on the high land, rather than when you got down near the lower, towards the creeks and the gorges, that the hickories were up high, and your oak trees were up high. And then there was the beech. What else did we see? {Maple.

155 AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: The black} beech.

INFORMANT: A {black—

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: Like a} cherry.

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, a black birch.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: OK, {birch.

160 INFORMANT: That} looked like what we'd call wild cherry, but it was birch, and there was one that was just tremendous. Remember, it was real black, and it has little tiny lines, [in the bark, going around it this way. They have some of them labeled. What else?

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Maybe you can tell about that (goofball) birds.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: Oh, I saw some (fly over {xx)

165 INFORMANT: Oh, all} the starlings, the whole flocks of starlings. They startled us. We've never seen so many. It was just a tremendous flock, and they acted like they were going to land.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Very noisy.

170 INFORMANT: And very noisy! And there were just hundreds of them. And you know, we were up in this woods, where it was very quiet, and then, um, we heard these, and we just stopped and looked up and here were just scads of starlings.

FIELDWORKER: Did you see the movie *The Birds*?

INFORMANT: No.

FIELDWORKER: (No?) [cough]

INFORMANT: Is there such a movie?

175 FIELDWORKER: Yeah, Alfred Hitchcock. The [cough] birds attack the people.

INFORMANT: No, we haven't seen that.

FIELDWORKER: [Cough]

INFORMANT: That's a new one.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 1: (xx)

180 FIELDWORKER: Why don't you tell me about this, uh, radio program that you had, uh, as an interior decorator.

185 INFORMANT: Oh it was horrible! [laugh] I worked for a store down there, and they started the radio station at Wooster. So, he got the bri-, well you know everybody was getting suckered in for advertising, so he got the bright idea to have me do this decorating program, and it was giving advice to housewives on decorating ideas. You know, in color schemes and so forth. Well, that's an agricultural county, it's one of the best, um, farming counties in the state. And this was uhm, a small store, and so he got the idea that I could do this radio program. Well, I ended up, they played "Home, Sweet Home" for a theme, and then I had to write the script, and at fir-, I started out doing this twice a week. And this was, took time to get that thing typed up, and get my script written, and get out there for a fifteen-minute program, and then back. I had to take a taxi out
190 the radio station, because we did not have a car at the time. And take a taxi back, and that really

drove me wild, doing this. But the funniest thing was I was always intrigued with that machine that the UP news comes in over, the AP news. And one day, the only time my parents heard me, they were driving down in the car, and one day I was standing, before I went in my little booth to go on the air, I was standing there watching that machine. So I went in and sat down, and "Home, Sweet Home" is playing, [cough] and I had a name, Caroline [beep]. And the fellow announces me, and I look down, and I'd lost part of my script [laugh]. I didn't know what to do! So I said like this to keep playing "Home Sweet Home," and I tore out, and I'd lost it in that machine. And you know there's just scads of paper coming out of those things. It rolls all on the floor, you know, until they finally, you know after a morning of that thing running, they wouldn't tear it off or anything, and here in all these rolls of paper, I had to get down and dig through to find the rest of my script. So I got back and I came on the air, and my parents are hearing me for the first time, and my voice just shook. I could hardly breathe, "Good morning, this is Caroline [beep]." I was just, oh that was awful, I was just panicking. You know that's a terrible feeling. I found this, because television must be even worse, if something like this happens, because people are seeing you.

FIELDWORKER: Yeah.

INFORMANT: You know, when this happened, at least I couldn't be seen. But oh dear, that's a panicky feeling, because you are dependent on what you're reading for that. Your preparation.

FIELDWORKER: Did you have to prepare, uh, did you read it over aloud several times to prepare?

INFORMANT: Oh poor Roy had to listen to me all the time.

FIELDWORKER: Yeah.

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm.

FIELDWORKER: What, uh, what kinds of ideas did you give them? Uh, what made you, uh, able to give—

INFORMANT: Oh dear}, I dug in books and everything, trying to fig-, plus, of course, um, color-wise I was pretty good. That I didn't have any trouble with. But ideas on, uh, tips on covering, oh, on using floral and stripe and carpeting, uh, at that time, people were very strong on Venetian blinds. And working out draperies, the types of draperies that would look better with Venetian bi-, vi-, blinds, then using, you know, thin nylon curtains with Venetian blinds. And, uh, how they could make, um, remember we made them in the apartment?

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: Yeah.

INFORMANT: Um, valances over the windows and that type of thing. And on color schemes, difference, if they had, happened to have blue carpet, (xx) they could work out with it in color scheme. And, remember where everything used to be blue and maroon? And we were starting to change a little bit. And, uh, on how to make slip covers. And how they could make draperies if they wished. How to measure for them. Just this type of thing.

FIELDWORKER: Did you, uh, decorate all this yourself?

INFORMANT: Well, as far as selection, yes. Mm-hmm.

230 FIELDWORKER: I was curious about the uh, the uh, candle holders on the mantelpiece. Uh—

INFORMANT: These were a wedding gift, and the neighbors brought those to us from England a year ago, they're from London. And they were guaranteed around eighteen two or eighteen three. We took care of their house and checked their plants and everything while they were gone, and that, they brought that as a gift. And I thought they, they're kind of interesting, in the twisted
235 pattern.

FIELDWORKER: What can you tell me about the frame around the mirror there?

INFORMANT: That was an old family picture in my grandmother's garage, with some old bearded character in it. And I took it and painted it and made a mirror out of it.

FIELDWORKER: And it had the holes in it already?

240 INFORMANT: Yes, uh-huh. And the cow is the interesting thing, because you don't see it too much. That is a piece of Bennington Ware and it's a cream pitcher.

FIELDWORKER: Oh yes, my wife has one of those.

INFORMANT: From Bennington, Vermont, and they're, they're getting scarce.

FIELDWORKER: Hers is from Scotland.

245 INFORMANT: This is from Bennington, Vermont, where they make, and, uh, did have some regular pitchers in the family of this type of thing.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: His (jaw) fell off, didn't it?

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, and the horns. But that was in the family. Now that has, the family lived at Bennington, Vermont, and then came to New York State and then to Ohio. So that's rather one
250 of the old things. I don't know where the goat came from. He's just a funny old pitcher. It was in my grandmother's pantry.

FIELDWORKER: Ah.

INFORMANT: And, it's not majolica, this is. This is (mineral). And um, from Chagrin, the, um, amber plate up here my grandfather gave to his mother when he was a little boy for a bread
255 plate. And that did come from an old store in Chagrin. The, um, heart-shaped type of plate. And then the little flower plates up there were Roy's grandmother's, and they were a wedding gift of her in eighteen eighty-seven. And they probably came from Chagrin, because she lived in Chagrin and was married here.

FIELDWORKER: (xx)

260 INFORMANT: The wine bottle is what they call amberina glass. And that's something else you don't find too much.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT 2: (Excuse me.)

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

265 INFORMANT: And then, (xx) stop and look around. The daisy and button. That was an interesting story. Roy's grandmother got that before she was married in eighteen eighty-seven from a peddler. That used to, a tin peddler, and a peddler that had glass and china. The pitcher and the glasses with the glass tray up there, uh, that travelled through the country. And he later on went up into Wisconsin and invested in timber and became a very wealthy man with lumber camps.

270 FIELDWORKER: Hm. Well why don't you sit down and tell me, uh, what your connection is with the Historical Society and what you do with them.

275 INFORMANT: Well, my connection, my title is Vice President and right now I sort of help on programs, but in the past, I've worked on cataloging, and more or less before we had our nice museum, which we now have, um, just kind of helping with, when people gave us stuff, to get it cataloged and find a place to store it until we could have a nice place to display. And now, our membership has increased, and I do not take an active part in the display work. The curator and her assistant do that. But, um, I help on getting programs organized every couple months. We are trying, we have weekday meetings, regularly, the second Thursday of every month, and then we're trying every other month to have a program of some type, and of course it's open to the public, and we're doing it now on Sunday afternoons. Because then the men can come and some
280 of the children can come. In October we're going to have one on covered bridges of Ohio. And this man is a retired school teacher. And he ha-, he taught for forty-three years, and ten years ago when he retired he became interested in covered bridges. And he has studied [cough] them in Vermont and New England and New Hampshire and then also in Ohio. And when I talked to him last week, it was rather interesting, when he started ten years ago, there were two hundred
285 and seventy-six in Ohio, and there's now two hundred. And, new highways have destroyed some, and then it has become a lark for the kids to burn them. And there were two this summer, that went (with the) fire. But he is going to bring models for, because they're different types of construction, and show slides of covered bridges.

290 FIELDWORKER: I saw a picture and an article of him in the paper, I think in *The Plain Dealer*, because I got interested in covered bridges when I first came to Ohio.

INFORMANT: Mr. [beep]

FIELDWORKER: Yes.

295 INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, well he's going to talk in, uh, October. On Sunday afternoon, the, uh, fifteenth of October. And we'll will be down here at the Shute building in the back of the city hall. Have you been in there?

FIELDWORKER: No.

INFORMANT: Well that little museum, we just have a couple of rooms, but what we have done is we have tried to change our displays every two months. Our idea is not to walk in and see the same thing every time. So, uh, we opened last October, and when we opened in October, we had
300 a variety of things, so to speak. And the woman's club, uh, bought a nice old cupboard, and they keep that supplied with a changing display of glassware or china every other month. But we start in October, and then at Christmastime, we had a Christmas tree with old-fashioned ornaments, and we have a marvelous collection of old toys. Old mechanical toys that little, turn of the century, primarily. So we had a Christmas tree, and old toys. And, uhm, we had a Christmas
305 program, with a, kind of a history on old toys, and so forth. And then in January, we changed that, and we tried to cover February and March with Lincoln and Washington, old plates and dishes that had Lincoln and Washington pictures, and then, um, we also had quite a collection that somebody loaned us to use of old Valentines and old Easter greeting cards, the old-fashioned ones. So we carried that theme through March. Then it was changed, um, let's see, we had Dece-
310 , October, November, December, January, February, March. Then, uh, April and May, I'm trying to remember what we had in April and May. Uh, they've changed it five times in this past year. I'm blank right now on what we had in April and May. We had something different in there. And then, in June, we took the theme of a wedding of nineteen hundred, and in June we had the kitchenware, which include tin ware, wooden ware, and everything that a bride of nineteen
315 hundred would have, and also the tools that a bridegroom of nineteen hundred would have, that would live on a farm, in this area, and would be married in nineteen hundred, what they would go to housekeeping with, as far as his tools, both barn-wise and house-wise, oh we had old wooden shovels, quite a variety of things. And then, we changed that in August, no, in July, that was a-, uh, May and June, and then July and August, we had summer wedding, and we've had
320 some very lovely old wedding gowns given to us, and so we used those, and we had some cut glass, and also hand-painted china, which ladies of that early period did. So we used the theme of summer wedding. Well when we've changed these we have an open house. And usually we have refreshments of some type on a Sunday afternoon. So, for our summer wedding, we bought a wedding cake. We had over a hundred to two hundred people that Thursday night for that, and
325 it was really very lovely. And, uh, so now that's been changed, and I don't know what they have in now, but it will be along a fall theme. I noticed they had some apples they've bought to do something with, so I don't know if they're putting a cider press in or what, for along this time. But our idea is to keep it small. The only thing we may have to do is have more storage space. We've got one room, and it's just crammed, but to keep it small with the idea of changing it so when,
330 uh, the children, the people come in, or groups come in, it will be something different every time. And it's worked out very nicely, 'cause some people are very nice about loaning us something for a short, you know, couple months. And this way you can have variety. And there's some people with rather nice collections.

FIELDWORKER: Can you remember any of the, uh, tools, you mentioned, this uh, turn-of-the-
335 century wedding, can you remember any of the tools {that they used?

INFORMANT: Oh, there were} planes, oh dear, we had so much. There were all different types of wooden planes. Course a lot of them had the cast iron too, because that was later. But we, I'll tell you what we had. We had a family who had been on an old farm here, and they were a marvelous family, they must have saved everything. And we got the early equipment they used
340 in the sugar bush. The wooden buckets with the yoke that they could wear one their shoulders, the hand-done wooden buckets, uh, we had a whole set up of what the old-type farmer would have used in making his maple sugar. You know, the buckets, the type of things they tapped the trees with, which were a little different than the metal ones they use now. And this was kind of nice. And, uh, then some man up in the country had some more tools, and he brought those in
345 and loaned them to us for that display. I'm down there once a month during museum hours, but you know, when the children come in or something, you get busy going around with them, that I really, that is the one collection I didn't have too much opportunity to study myself. Where the wedding one, I kind of, I guess the day I was there, there were not too many people, and so I went around and looked it over. But I think we're growing, we'll be all right. And it's not too much,
350 but of course it's like everything there's certain ones that have given a lot of time to it, but um, I think as time goes on, uh, if we can get more variety, and keep our displays changing, why, uh, more and more people are coming in, stopping to see. And when they find out you're having something different, no, "Well, I saw this before," why, they're not walking in and saying that. And that's our whole idea. The {variety.

355 FIELDWORKER: I think that's} a good idea. Rather than having a standing {exhibit.

INFORMANT: Well}, somebody mentioned getting a house. Well you get a house and get all furnished and then you've simply got the same stuff, people come in, they've seen it once and that's it.

FIELDWORKER: They come once, and—

360 INFORMANT: Mm-hmm. And this is it.