

Fieldwork Recordings—Dictionary of American Regional English
UW–Madison Digital Collections Center

**Transcript of DARE Interview (1967): Grundy Center, Iowa; Primary Informant
IA002 (Tape 0346-S1)**

The DARE fieldwork recordings and transcripts have been released to support research, scholarly work, and other non-commercial usage. This transcript was created for and approved by the Dictionary of American Regional English (DARE) under a grant by the Wisconsin Alumni Research Foundation to DARE and the Wisconsin Englishes Project. To contribute to the DARE project, please consider transcribing additional recordings in the collection and submitting them to DARE@english.wisc.edu.

INTRODUCTION: The following was recorded from Dictionary of American Regional English, tape zero three four six, side one.

5 FIELDWORKER: This is a tape of Mrs. Myra [beep], made at Grundy Center, Iowa, on August tenth, nineteen sixty-seven by [beep]. Uhm, wh-what did your father do, uh, around Grundy Center when you were {(young)?

INFORMANT: Well, he was,} he was a day laborer at the time, and he helped haul the material that built the courthouse in Grundy Center.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Where'd they bring that from? The material for it.

INFORMANT: I don't know, seems to me it was around Steamboat Rock.

10 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. What was Grundy Center like when you were growing up here?

INFORMANT: What was it like? Oh, just any small town, e-, everyone knew everybody else, and you just walked to school and went home at noon for lunch, back to school.

FIELDWORKER: What kind of school did you go to? Was it a one room type?

15 INFORMANT: Oh no. No, they had two school buildings the year that I graduated from high school, they, they had two school buildings, but the building that we were in was to be sold, and they built a new, uh, high school that year.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: Since that time, they've, we've had a junior high, and then now we have a, ten years ago we had to build a senior high, and now we're about to add classrooms to that one.

20 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: And I've been interested in the product, I've been on the citizens' committee each time, 'cause I'm interested in education.

FIELDWORKER: Uhm, how much committee work have you done over the years?

INFORMANT: Committee work?

25 FIELDWORKER: Yeah, various organizations and so on.

INFORMANT: Well, I have been a, I'm a past Matron of Eastern Star, I've been head of the parent-teacher in Grundy Center and state president of parent-teacher.

FIELDWORKER: Have you had any, uh, interesting or unusual experiences in the PTA?

30 INFORMANT: Well, yes. You can't be a state president without having some interesting experiences.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: Because you would have, uh, letters from all over the state and, and of course, uh, they'd come to you to settle the problems that had to be settled in their own community.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

35 INFORMANT: You can't, uh, make decisions for people in their own community. You just advise them.

FIELDWORKER: What are some of the {problems you've had to meet?

INFORMANT: (xx)}. Well, at the time that, uh, that I was president, is when this pornographic material started out through the state.

40 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And, uh, one little thing I had to do was to tell the governor that I couldn't help him.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

45 INFORMANT: Because he was running for office, and uh, (was) being sued by some company. He wanted to know if I would be a friend to the court, and I said uh, uh, parent-teacher is non-partisan. So I couldn't take part.

FIELDWORKER: Who was being sued?

INFORMANT: Uh, people who had, uh, accused certain articles of being pornographic material. Magazine people were suing.

50 FIELDWORKER: Were suing the governor?

INFORMANT: Oh well, they was gonna sue, they, first they said they was gonna sue the president, who was, uh, this is when I was vice president.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: Was gonna sue the president of parent-teacher. But they couldn't do that.

55 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: And then the governor got into that, and, uh, he wasn't governor, he was running for governor. And was using this pornographic material as, uh, was going around the state and—

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: Saying he was against it. Wanted everybody to help him, well I couldn't help him.

60 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: Because I couldn't say that I was gonna help a Republican or I was gonna help a Democrat.

FIELDWORKER: I see (yeah).

INFORMANT: You belonged to one party or the other, but you, you're non-political.

65 FIELDWORKER: Were you concerned {much—

INFORMANT: Non-partisan} rather.

FIELDWORKER: Yeah. Were you concerned much with getting rid of the pornographic literature yourself?

70 INFORMANT: Definitely. We did, we had a committee, and worked with it and gave, gave material out to all of our units and told them h-, t-, how to, gave them a plan how to go about it to see if they couldn't do something about this.

FIELDWORKER: How, how do you go about getting rid of it? [cough]

75 INFORMANT: Well, you have you committees, and you find out where it is and work with your, with your people who have this material on their stands, and [cough] see if you can't get it removed. You just don't go in and tell them you're gonna do this or that or the other, you work with the people that are, that are doing it.

FIELDWORKER: Uhm, why don't you tell me a little bit about, uh, your teaching in the one-room school? Did you enjoy it particularly?

80 INFORMANT: Uh, well, I did, yes, I graduated from high school, I took what they call "normal training." That gave you a first grade certificate. And, uh, you could go out and you had to have all the grades, maybe not all the grades, because you didn't have children, but I, the first school I went into I had twenty-three pupils, and I went into the school [laugh] and the teacher before me did not leave records. So I had, it was, I was quite a busy girl.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

85 INFORMANT: Might know that.

FIELDWORKER: I suppose. What are {some of the—

INFORMANT: And—}

FIELDWORKER: Yeah, go ahead. Wh-what are some of the interesting things that happened when you were teaching?

90 INFORMANT: Well, we had boys that came just in, at winter, you know. And then, uh, and they thought they had to stay out to help pick corn, and then they'd come back again in the fa-, in the, when the corn was out. Sometimes the boys were greater than, was larger than the teacher, but I didn't have any trouble with discipline, because I didn't have time to fuss with the discipline, if I ca-, if I taught the children, we didn't have any time to fuss. It was just understood they were to do as they were told, and they did.

95

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh, I see, uhm—

AUXILIARY INFORMANT: Tell him about the buggy.

INFORMANT: Yes, I drove horse and buggy part the way. Part of the year. And uh, my sister and I, she taught the school two years Ea-, er, two miles East of me, and we drove for the Fall term, and then, uhm, our neighbor that lived just across the alley from me, uh, had race horses, and he had to exercise the race horses, he had three of them, so he would drive out, I was three miles from town, he'd take the horses in turn, and, and we were dumped out of the sled or the cutter one time in the snow. He was wi-, he was, uh, fortunate enough to hang on to the reigns and didn't lose his horse, and we got back into the cutter.

100

105 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: So, s-, there were cold days too, to drive back and forth.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. What sort of, uh, wagons and sleighs were they using in those days?

INFORMANT: Well, we had a regular cutter, if you know, if you see them sitting around.

FIELDWORKER: Wha-, what were these like? Can you describe it?

110 INFORMANT: Well, it was, uh, just like you see, it was, uh, enclosed in the front and come up so that the snow won't hit you at all, and you had robes to keep warm. We were very comfortable in there.

FIELDWORKER: How about other horse-drawn vehicles. For instance the ones with wheels, or something. What other kinds did they use?

115 INFORMANT: Just the buggies like you see, (xx) antique, no rubbers, well some of them had rubber tires on them, but they were hard rubber. Uh, the young man that, who is now my husband, he used to take me back and forth to school on Sunday nights, and come and get me on Friday nights and he had a black team that traveled right along.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Would, uh, would you stay at the school?

120 INFORMANT: No, I stayed with a, I stayed, uh, with a s-, with the president of the board for a while, and then I had a brother that lived from there. But I got homesick, so I, that's why I stayed in town and rode back and forth.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Yea I suppose you would.

INFORMANT: I didn't like to be away from home for the first school, and then the second year
125 that I taught school I lived with an aunt that lived just across the road from there. And then we had the flu in nineteen eighteen and the school was closed.

FIELDWORKER: Oh, permanently, or?

INFORMANT: Well, no, for a period of time. And then I was married and didn't go back to teach school, because at that time, married women did not teach school. You couldn't teach school if
130 you were married. So that ended the teaching profession.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. {Uhm.

INFORMANT: We} were married and moved out on the farm.

FIELDWORKER: What sort of entertainments or celebrations did they have around here in those days?

135 INFORMANT: They had dances, and, uh, oh, parties.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT: Lodges.

INFORMANT: We went and we had (lodge) we went to.

FIELDWORKER: What, what sorts of dances, uh, did they have?

INFORMANT: Well, they had what they called square dances then. And, uh, circle two step, and
140 then they used to just waltz, two step, like they do, a lot like y-, they do now, with their dances that they have, you see them all dressed up in their—

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Frilly skirts.

FIELDWORKER: Uh, did they have barn dances too, (xx)?

145 INFORMANT: Well, not very often.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. [clock sound]

INFORMANT: Oh, somebody built a new barn, why they might have a, they might have a, a party in the, before there was, they had everything in it.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

150 INFORMANT: They might have a dance in it to start, but that's the only thing.

FIELDWORKER: Are there any, uh, particular holidays or special celebrations around here nowadays?

INFORMANT: Not especially, we have the county fair.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

155 INFORMANT: [Cough] and they try sometime during the year to have some sort of a little fair on the street for the kiddies. That's about all.

FIELDWORKER: Do any of the various, uh, nationality groups around have special fairs, or celebrations of any kind?

INFORMANT: The national what?

160 FIELDWORKER: Any, any of the nationality, various nationality {groups.

INFORMANT: Oh}, uh, I believe up at Dike there is something, the Danes have a little gathering up there sometime, once a year, but not in Grundy Center, we don't. Hm-mm.

FIELDWORKER: Uhm, you, uh, you spent your married life, most of it on a farm, huh?

INFORMANT: Yes sir.

165 FIELDWORKER: How, uh, how was it living on a farm? What were the, what were the duties of a farm wife?

INFORMANT: Well, it, i-i-it was much different when I moved from the farm from when I went out there. I raised chickens. I started out by setting the hens, and, uh, raised the chicken that way. Later on I had an incubator, and, uh, I just put the eggs in the incubator, had, then, then I had a brooder house, the chickens were in the brooder house, and finally, uh, I had the opportunity to survey the county when they changed the, from the one-room school. And after I had that job, I decided that I couldn't raise chickens for the same money that I could do a survey, and that ended the chicken business.

170 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

175 INFORMANT: But when I first, I uh, I churned butter, had a barrel churn, that you churned, worked the butter, and we used to sell cream, we brought cream to town, sold it for twe-

delivered it to the houses for twenty-five cents a quart, while we were there on the farm for a while. And we gradually, I didn't raise chickens anymore.

FIELDWORKER: Were you raising any special types of chickens?

180 INFORMANT: Oh, Plymouth Rock, mm-hmm. And as the years went by, the different brands changed and you tried to have the one that was the healthiest. Used to sell eggs to the grocery store when we started, we'd take the eggs into the grocery store, and they'd give us credit for the eggs, and we'd get the groceries. That's where we got rid of our eggs, most of them.

185 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Uhm, what were some of the, uh health problems you had with your chickens? What kind of diseases would they have?

INFORMANT: Well we never did have a lot of trouble, but, uh, later on, there were ga-, there were, Coccidiosis was, uh, the prevalent among the chickens, but uh, we never had a lot of trouble with them especially. As, as such that you lose a whole flock or anything. (Trouble oh) sometimes you'd have in the brooder house and they'd get too cold.

190 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Uhm, what, what were some of the diseases though that chickens do have around here?

INFORMANT: Well I, it's been quite a while since I raised chickens, so I better not try to tell you what the diseases are of the chickens now [laugh]. I'd (afraid) someone, I'd be quoting wrong.

FIELDWORKER: OK. Uhm, how many children do you have?

195 INFORMANT: Two. Two boys.

FIELDWORKER: What are they doing now?

INFORMANT: Well, one of them is, uh, the last thing he did is sell insurance, the other's on the farm, uh, right where we m-, when we moved out, the day we moved out, they moved in.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

200 INFORMANT: And they have three daughters. And the other son has five daughters and one boy.

FIELDWORKER: Grandmother a few times over.

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, and I have a grandso-, or, I have a great-grands-, son.

FIELDWORKER: Great-grandson too?

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, yeah.

205 FIELDWORKER: So you got what, five generations going right now?

INFORMANT: Yes, we have, there's five generations. The, the grandfather's ninety-three, and sixty-nine, and on down. There's five generations in Grundy Center right now.

FIELDWORKER: Have you had a five generation picture taken yet?

210 INFORMANT: No, they haven't, and the funny part of it is (xx) there's five in the, in the, my oldest son, there's five generations on the other side.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: His wife's grandmother is a hundred and two years old. She's over in a Lutheran home. So there's five generations in that family on both sides.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Better get some pictures taken (pretty quick).

215 INFORMANT: Yes it, it is time, I wish they'd get it done, maybe they will.

FIELDWORKER: Uhm, yea I, I've noticed people look really so young around here, and a lot of people live so long. Do you think there's any good reason for it?

INFORMANT: Oh, I think maybe good country air [laugh], good wholesome food, not this rush and hurry, perhaps, I don't know.

220 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh. Uh, when you were a little girl, were there any, uh, things that people took for spring tonics? Anything like this?

INFORMANT: Oh, I, no, I don't know if there was. I didn't have to take anything like that, specially.

FIELDWORKER: Have you ever heard of Lydia Pinkhams?

225 INFORMANT: Oh, yes, I've heard of Lydia Pinkhams, sure. And I, and I had relatives that, that carried an asfidity [=asafetida] bag around their neck too, but my mother never did anything of that kind.

FIELDWORKER: What was that for?

INFORMANT: We were—oh, I don't know. Keep away diseases, I guess.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

230 INFORMANT: But I was from a family of ten children. We were just a good, healthy—

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: —group of children.

FIELDWORKER: Wha-, what was in this bag?

INFORMANT: I don't know!

235 FIELDWORKER: [laugh]

INFORMANT: How, how I happened to find it, I was out at an aunt's one time I said, "What is this stuff?" "Asfidity." So I don't know what, whether they ever wore it, or what they did with it, but they had it anyhow.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

240 INFORMANT: Well, I know, uh, one thing we used to do. If we had a sore throat, we used uh sulfur.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: Mother used to give us sulfur for sore throat.

FIELDWORKER: Just straight sulfur?

245 INFORMANT: Uh-huh, and if, well, just on you-, on your throat. And if we had a cold, uh, honey and onions. See that, in those days you had a cook stove.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And she put the honey on the onions and it'd, on the back part the stove, and we could eat that.

250 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And of course you know, onions are a good healthy thing (xx). [laugh] But we didn't have to, uh, do a lot of hocus pocus when we were kids. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Wasn't this sulphur kind of hard to take?

255 INFORMANT: Yes, I didn't like it. You just put a little pinch on your finger and put it on the back of your tongue. Put it in your throat.

FIELDWORKER: I see. Uhm, this cook stove you mentioned, is that just a straight wood-burning stove?

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, you could burn wood, or cobs or coal in it. You could burn coal if you wanted to.

260 FIELDWORKER: Is that what she usually—

INFORMANT: When I first started keeping house here, I had a coal-burning stove, and we were, and a, my husband used to split the wood [cough] and, that we burned in the stove, and then some coal, and then I went from that to a electric stove.

FIELDWORKER: We burned corn in it.

265 INFORMANT: Yes, one year, during the thirties, when corn was only two cents a bushel, we could burned corn in the furnace. [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Might as well for those prices.

INFORMANT: Yes, during the Depression.

FIELDWORKER: Yeah.

270 INFORMANT: Well, corn, corn was ten cents a bushel at that time. We had a lot of fun with that little dog that we paid, uh, what was it we paid for the dog? Anyway, it was ten cents, he gave uh-

AUXILIARY INFORMANT: It was ten dollars (because {xx)

INFORMANT: Well, he} give ten bushels of corn for the dog, 'cause he had a, it was a te—

275 AUXILIARY INFORMANT: (xx)

INFORMANT: It was a dollar dog.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT: (Hundred bushels.)

INFORMANT: And, uh, later on it was a ten-dollar dog when corn went up, you see, so— [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Was it pretty rough here during the depression?

280 INFORMANT: Yessir, it was. Mm-hmm. [cough] My husband, uh, butchered hogs that winter and sold a half a hog to people in town. Uh, if he would butcher the hogs, he could get twice as much for them as if he would sold them, sold them on the markets. So in order to, uh, take care of our bills that we had around town, he, he butchered the hogs and he would go into a merchant, "Would you take a half a hog?" To help pay the bill. Yes, they would. So we, uh, could have a
285 good, honest living, we wanted to work at it.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. Was there drought too, in those days?

INFORMANT: Not especially. Well, one y-year, there was a drought. One year during the forty-eighth year, my husband had to drive his cattle to town, because he didn't have anything to feed them.

290 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: No grass.

FIELDWORKER: Hm.

INFORMANT: Then after the cattle were gone, it rained like heck and a lot of water grass, you know.

295 FIELDWORKER: Yeah.

INFORMANT: But the cattle were gone. Had to sell them as sacrifice. Well, you can't live on a farm forty-eight years and have all the hi-, hot spots. There are some low ones, you know.

FIELDWORKER: I suppose not.

INFORMANT: So, in the forty-eight years, the, the lord has been pretty good to us.

300 FIELDWORKER: You only had one really bad year.

INFORMANT: Well, then I guess, and then there was the Depression, one year the hail hit us, one year he lost his hogs with cholera.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm, with what?

INFORMANT: Cholera.

305 FIELDWORKER: Oh. Do they, {(I've had some interesting—)

INFORMANT: They were all ready} to sell and got the cholera. See, that was before they vaccinated. That was a blow. But—

FIELDWORKER: I imagine it was.

INFORMANT: [laugh]

310 FIELDWORKER: What sort of traveling have you done as PTA president?

INFORMANT: Well, I have, uh, I traveled several places in connection with, uh, the parent-teacher, I've gone t-, all over, uh I've gone different places, to the national conventions. And then the National Education Association paid my way to Washington DC to a meeting at one time. And then I was, uh, guest of the state when they had the White House Conference for children and youth, that was (xx). And, so it's been very interesting.

315

FIELDWORKER: Yeah I imagine so. Have you, uh, uh, met any big national leaders on any of these trips?

INFORMANT: Oh yes. Who is now governor of the state of New York, one time.

FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

320 INFORMANT: Was the speaker at uh, at um, Salt Lake City. Or not Salt Lake City, at, uh, agh, at one of the national conventions anyway, and, uh, the, uhm, State [distortion] were, this was at a, was at a national board meeting. State school board meeting that I was, and the state presidents were platform guests, and we all met the, the governor, {who's

FIELDWORKER: Uhm}—

325 INFORMANT: At one time was gonna be president, and he isn't [laugh].

FIELDWORKER: Now he may be yet.

INFORMANT: [laugh]

FIELDWORKER: Uhm, do you think that your, your speech has been at all affected by, uh, your, your traveling and your committee work and that?

330 INFORMANT: Definitely.

FIELDWORKER: How so?

INFORMANT: How soon?

FIELDWORKER: How so? In what ways?

335 INFORMANT: Well, you can't, uh, you know, you get just as much out of anything as you put in it.

FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: And I have, have worked hard to help in parent-teacher, but I feel that I have gotten as much or more out of it than I put in it, because, you, you just do. That's all. You just do gain so much from it.

340 FIELDWORKER: I heard you were pretty active in church work around town.

INFORMANT: Yes, I'm a member of the Baptist church.

FIELDWORKER: What sort of, uh, women's organizations do you have over there?

INFORMANT: Well, I'm a past Matron of at Eastern Star, I belong to the Legion AUXILIARYiliary. I've been president of the local Legion AUXILIARYiliary.

345 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm. What do they, uh, what do they call the women's organizations in the Baptist church?

INFORMANT: The Mission Union. I now, I have been president of the Mission Union twice, and I'm now treasurer of the Mission Union. And I'm in charge of the communion service that is my job to get the committees to see that the wavers are there, that the linen is ready—

350 FIELDWORKER: Mm-hmm.

INFORMANT: —at present time, that's one of the jobs I have to do.

FIELDWORKER: What are uh, some of the memorable experiences you've had raising your two boys?

INFORMANT: Well, I, I don't know, they haven't given us any serious trouble ever.

355 FIELDWORKER: Uh-huh.

INFORMANT: I can thank the Lord for that. [laugh] I think it was because of the good help I had of their dad in training them, and they have been, they have both been in the service. Our, the oldest of them was a Marine in the war, and, uh, the youngest one spent time in Korea.

FIELDWORKER: Were they, uh, were they helping on the farm {when they were young?

360 INFORMANT: Oh yes}, uh-huh. They were both athletes in school on the football team. When the youngest of them, when the oldest of them was, uh, in football, he, the very last game they played, he was pleased, he caught a ball at one end of the field, didn't know if it was gonna work or not, he run the whole length of the field and made it. Made the touchdown. And the year the youngest one was in football, they were undefeated.

365 AUXILIARY INFORMANT: He went to Luther.

INFORMANT: Yes, Arnold went to Luther College.

AUXILIARY INFORMANT: (xx)

INFORMANT: This is the Story of Arthur the Rat. Once upon a time there was a young rat who couldn't make up his mind. Whenever the other rats asked him if he would like to come out
370 hunting with them, he would answer in a hoarse voice, "I don't know." And when they said, "Would you rather stay inside?" he wouldn't say yes, or no either. He'd always shirk making a choice.

One fine day his aunt Josephine said to him, "Now look here! No one will ever care for you if you carry on like this. You have no more mind of your own than a greasy old blade of grass!"

375 The young rat coughed and looked wise, as usual, but said nothing.

"Don't you think so?" said his aunt stamping with her foot, or she couldn't bear, for she couldn't bear to see the young rat so cold-blooded.

"I don't know," was all he ever answered, and then he'd walk off to think for an hour or more, whether he would stay in his hole in the ground or go out into the loft.

380 One night the rats heard a loud voice in the loft. It was a very dreary old place. The roof let the rain come washing in, the beams and rafters had all rotted through, so that the whole thing was quite unsafe.

At last one of the joists gave way, and the beams fell with one edge on the floor. The walls shook, and the cupola fell off, and all the rats' hair stood on end with fear and horror.

385 "This won't do," said their leader. "We can't stay cooped up here any longer." So they set out, sent out scouts to search for a new home.

A little later on that evening the scouts came back and said they had found an old-fashioned horse-barn where there would be room and board for all of them.

390 The leader gave the order at once, "Company fall in!" and the rats crawled out of their holes right away and stood on the floor in a long line.

Just then the old rat caught sight of young Arthur—that was the name of the shirker. He wasn't in the line, and he wasn't exactly outside it—he stood just by it.

"Come on, get in line!" growled the old rat coarsely. "Of course you're coming too?"

"I don't know," said Arthur calmly.

395 "Why, the idea of it! You don't think it's safe here anymore, do you?"

"I'm not certain," said Arthur undaunted. "The roof may not fall down yet."

"Well," said the old rat, "we can't wait for you to join us." Then he turned to the others and shouted, "Right about face! March!" and the long line marched out of the barn while the young rat watched them.

400 "I think I'll go tomorrow," he said to himself, "but then again, perhaps I won't—it's so nice and snug here. I guess I'll go back to my hole under the log for a while just to make up my mind."

But during the night there was a big crash. Down came the beams, rafters, joists—the whole business.

405 Next morning—it was a foggy day—some men came to look over the damage. It seemed odd to them that the old building was not haunted by rats. But at last one of them happened to move a board, and he caught sight of a young rat, quite dead, half in and half out of his hole.

Thus the shirker got his due, and there was no mourning for him.

FIELDWORKER: OK, good. Have you enjoyed this?

INFORMANT: Mm-hmm, yes I have. Mm-hmm.

410 FIELDWORKER: OK, good.