

CHARLES AND ANNA KEMPER

Amthor: This is a portion of the *Oral Histories of Northwest Missouri in the 1940s* program. The Nodaway County Historical Society is sponsoring this program in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council and with support from the National Endowment of the Humanities. Today's date is May 14, 2009, and this interview is being conducted in the home of Duke and Anna Kemper in Conception Junction in Nodaway County. The interviewer is Joni Amthor and assisting is Margaret Kelley. We are here to interview Duke and Anna Kemper. Duke was born on Nov 5th, 1918; Anna on Dec 5th, 1926. They both lived during the 1940s and Duke served in the Marines in the Pacific Front and they're going to talk to us about what life was like during that time period.

Amthor: We'll start with Duke. Could you tell us a little bit about your family? Could you tell us where and when you were born and what your parents' occupations were?

Duke: Yow. My parents were farmers and I was the son of a farmer. I am a farmer, too.

Anna: You were the youngest.

Duke: I was the youngest in the family. And the oldest – do you want to know that?

Amthor: Do you have any brothers and sisters?

Duke: Well, the oldest were twins. One was - became a priest, Father Anthony. George Kemper became Father Anthony at the monastery here and they're all dead but myself. And, Leo Kemper was his twin brother. They were the oldest. Then there was my sister, Anna. She married Leo Wolfer, but, well, but she's dead. They're all dead, of course. They lived in Maryville. And then there was –

Anna: Art

Duke: Art

Anna: Arthur.

Duke: He was killed on Saipan.

Anna: In the Marine Corps.

Duke: Then there was Louis. And Louis is – well he's - well, they're all dead. What can I say about him?

Anna: He was a farmer.

Duke: He was a farmer.

Anna: Had a huge family.

Duke: His son lives on the place where...Louis, where I was born.

Anna: Five daughters and I think five of them were nurses.

Duke: Yow, or was there five or six?

Anna: Five nurses and they're still nursing. Then there was Bertha. Berthy, he calls her.

Duke: She became a nun at O'Fallon, Missouri.

Anna: Then there was him. He had a brother Eddie that died.

Duke: He died when he was 2 years old.

Anna: He had pneumonia.

Amthor: So, what was life like before you entered the Marines?

Duke: What was life like before I entered the Marines? Well, I don't know, it was –

Anna: You went two years to college here at the Abby. Then you went down to Kansas City.

Duke: And I worked at the Kansas City Country Club.

Anna: For a while.

Duke: And, uh,

Anna: Do you want to tell them about how you tried to join the Navy?

Duke: Yow, there was one of the, what do you call the people that come to the Country Clubs?

Anna: The elite.

Duke: The elite, yow. He says to me, you come on down and I'll get you in the Navy. So I went down there – let's see, we had a free day – and I went down there and the first thing they had to do is see how I could see – if I could see well enough. So they put that thing so far away that I couldn't see it. Well, that's it. He wasn't there – that fellow that asked me to come down. Of course, when I joined the Marine Corps, why, they put the card there so you could see it.

Anna: Anyway, he told Duke afterwards, he said, “You should have came when I was there.”

Duke: Yow – so that was the, they didn’t want anybody, so when they don’t want somebody they can make sure that you can’t see.

Anna: Other than that then you joined in.

Duke: I joined the Marine Corps with no trouble at all.

Anna: He finished high school and 2 years of college and then he – he just didn’t know what to do, I guess, from what he’s told me, I don’t know.

Duke: Well, I was in the Marine Corps, but , well, I went to clerical school in the Marine Corps and learned all about the, oh, what do you call it anymore? I can’t even think. See, I’m 90 years old, and I got so I don’t know anything. (Laughed) It was the Marine Corps business you might say and I was in an office and that’s when you’re out in the training area but I was in the office and the 1st Sergeant died while I was there. And so I got to be 1st Sgt. Of course, I was Sgt, but I didn’t make any – I was just 1st Sgt—

Anna: In name only.

Duke: In name only. Well, that was the – I got along fine with – then of course, we, it was a replacement battalion and then when we went overseas that was the battalion dispersed and some went this way and some went that way and others went different places. And I was a quartermaster then. And that’s when I failed to do something and the captain told me, he says, he didn’t get mad about it at all, he says you should have done this and then he says, “You have to do what you’re supposed to do.” And I always remembered that – you do what you’re supposed to do. And I think of that quite a bit and I think, by golly, I think there’s an awful lot of people that don’t do what they’re supposed to do. And that’s the, and I think of that a lot and...so I do what I’m supposed to do.

Amthor: So how old were you when you joined? Did you join or were you enlisted?

Duke: Enlisted. That would be the same as joining, I guess.

Amthor: So how old were you? Do you remember?

Duke: Let’s see.

Amthor: If you spent two years in college –

Duke: Yow, but I didn’t – I was probably around 24 maybe –

Anna: 23, I think –

Duke: 23. Put it 23 if you want. That would be a good- that would be a pretty good... Of course, we joined in the spring –

Anna: Spring –

Duke: In the spring –I was thinking –I don't know if we'd been - we could have been about this time in the spring, I guess. In May or June, maybe. Yow.

Amthor: So, where did you go for your basic training? And can you tell us...

Duke: That was in San Diego, the Marine Corps base in San Diego. The Marine Corps base in San Diego was where I was in boot camp. I was doing what I was told and you would line up and there was, according to height, and there was 1, 2, 3. I was the third one and you had to put your arm- he had to put his arm on my shoulder and I put my arm on the next guy's shoulder and I remember this exactly, and the sergeant, this was, I didn't know this exactly, but there's always the ones in charge of a platoon. There could be 3 guys – 3-- 3 trainees or trainers or whatever you want to call them. There might be a sergeant, then there'd be a corporal and then there'd be a PFC. And the sergeant, he was a mean guy – he acted mean, awful mean – and I, we would get in line, What'd they call that? I forgot what they call it, but you'd put your arm on that guy's shoulder and this guy had his arm on my shoulder and the first guy had his arm on the next shoulder just like you and you and me and you had your arm, my arm was down straight and there was nobody there and then he got mad—he was the main sergeant there – he was the boss of the platoon and he got mad and he was giving everybody heck and me, too, of course, but he got hold of my arm and he was going - my arm wasn't long enough to be reach those other guys where I could touch their shoulders and he was giving us heck and I always thought that was funny, and he was pulling on my arm and saying, "This guy's arm ain't long enough to reach down there." - or something like that, anyhow. Anyhow he got them all straightened out anyhow, but....

Anna: There was a mean one and a nice one.

Duke: There was always one that acted mean and then there was the one that was nice and then there was one that was just so-so. Those were three guys that kinda take turns training us in boot camp. And, of course, I, well, you done what you were supposed to do and never had any trouble.

Amthor: Did you get any specialized training?

Duke: Specialized training? No, well, I did take the test for radio like you -I don't even know what to call it – to be able to write/send messages by

Anna: Code

Duke: Code, yow. Well, I failed – I knew I would fail it – well, they had you take it - I knew I wouldn't get in that because I wouldn't have the ability to - Well, at least I

thought I did – never had the ability to go into that kind of- I don't know what you call it. Maybe you know what ...

Anna: Something with your hands on the keys.

Duke: Well, sending messages, but I didn't go into that.

Amthor: Morse Code

Duke: Well, it would be something like that. (Cough) Uh, well, I don't know. I always done what I was told to do and I don't know, I got along fine, really, and I always thought, well, that's really easy to do if you just do what you're told to do and you get along fine.

Amthor: Now, where did you go after boot camp when you actually were in the service?

Duke: After boot camp? I was - well, I went to clerical school and, uh, then we was in an office - I was in an office for awhile until (Cough)we got booted out because all the women took our places and so then I went to Camp Elliott, and then I was in training,

Anna: Replacement

Duke: The guy knew about me , I guess, and they wanted somebody in the office (Cough) so I got back in an office and, uh, so and he got sick and died and so then I was the, I was the 1st sergeant, I guess, in name, but I was just a sergeant and ,uh, and, uh, well that, I was just sergeant with the battalion. It was a replacement battalion and then we went overseas after – (cough, cough).

Anna: Do you need a drink?

Duke: No, I don't think so. But overseas it would have been. Well, let's see, how long ago was it? You see, when I left the Marine Corps base I, we, I went to Camp Elliott. I did go on a furlough. I guess, I don't know who talked me into it. Somebody talked me into going on a furlough. That would be a (coughed) Uh, what would you call it? When you get relief from an office you just go on...I don't know if you know what I'm talking about or not.

Joni: Your duty or...

Duke: Well, you're relieved of one place there and you go to another, but then you... (Do you think I need that, Mom?)

Anna: I think you do.

Amthor: All this talking...

Duke: But then I was training with the battalion, say you have close order drills (cough) and you train with the, with whatever we do. And then this one guy, he wanted me in the office, and so I got out of that – I always had something easy to do, it seemed like. And then when we left the, uh, when we left, we left, what place did we leave from? San Pedro, I think, is where we got aboard ship and we went on, that's when, of course, everything ended, and we were replacements, and when we got to Guadalcanal, we was given - see Guadalcanal was already – uh – taken, yow. And there was a coconut grove there – Proctor and Gamble owned –uh, see they had to pay, Proctor and Gamble had to pay, no, yow, let's see, if the government cut down a tree, a coconut tree, they had to pay Proctor and Gamble so much for a tree that they cut down. I think that's what I heard. But I was there and, of course, I was in an office again and uh – quartermaster then, and uh, and of course, that's the, well, to me it was a snap, and uh, it seemed like I just done what I was told – that is, everywhere I went, why, I done what I was told.

Anna: But you didn't stay on Guadalcanal very long, did you?

Duke: No, not very long. That's when they invaded the.... See, Art was with the 2nd Marines and I was with the 3rd Marines. And Art, they hit Saipan and we hit Guam and I wasn't in any fierce fighting and I wasn't in the first wave and, uh, being a quartermaster and so, I guess that kinda saved my neck. I don't know...(laughs)

Amthor: So, were you in any major combat?

Duke: No, I, uh, we was, I was out, well, I seen a Jap, another fellow and I, and we were out looking for, picking up all artillery things that were lost, and we came across a, well, it was one Jap and we shot at him, but we missed him, and he took off in the brush, but we didn't care. It was fine. But we came across a bunch of Japanese and we didn't - I didn't even have a weapon with me. We was in a ...we was in a truck and we was picking up this stuff, all this stuff that was expended or whatever you want to call it. And here was the Japanese, a bunch of them...there was a whole gang of them, and they were having a kind of a, I don't know what you would call it, say a prayer meeting, I don't know, their type, what we might call a prayer meeting, some kind of meeting and we decided we was looking through the brush at them and we decided, this other guy and I, we decided we didn't want to mix with that. I didn't even have a weapon with me and he had a little bitty old, whatever you want to call it. It wasn't very...

Anna: powerful –

Duke: No. And we took off and we told one of the guys that was at the camp .. and we told him about our experience and he says we took off . He didn't use that expression and I ain't going to use what he said. And he said you'd better watch your ---- leave in a hurry and, uh, he let the patrol take care of those guys and uh, – I don't know – they – because they was having a kind of a ceremony and we stood there looking through the brush at them and we decided it was pretty dangerous for us, so we left. And, uh, because I never even had a weapon and he had a... I can't think of the rifle he had. It was not a - it was a pretty light one. It was, well, it was, it would cause damage, of course, but, we thought

we'd better leave, and we did, and we told the guy back at camp what happened and he said, "It's a good thing you guys left." That's what we were told, so we - that was kind of an experience, but when, let's see, who was it, Truman? Truman dropped the bomb- and when that happened, see, we were training real, real severely, and uh, and uh, and we were going to hit the mainland of Japan. That's what we were scheduled to do, and uh, when that bomb, A Bomb dropped, why, and Japan give up, that was the end- so we went on picnics after that and we had a sandwich. That was our picnic, but we didn't do any more training. So we just, we just, uh, spent our time waiting to when you'd be called to come back to the states. That's about what it is. And when they called me and my name was read to go back, why, I didn't expect to be called just yet because I didn't think I had any seniority there to come home yet, but, nevertheless, they called my name and, and uh, if that was, but I seen the Pacific Ocean. There was one time, the Pacific Ocean was just like a flat piece of glass.

Anna: A mirror.

Duke: It was just as smooth as glass, and that was only one time that I seen that. But then we were on the boat, the name of it was Sandugel, Sandugel. Anyhow they called it a Kaiser Coffin. They broke in two. They had a habit of breaking in two. That didn't sound very good, to break in two. And I don't know as they had a habit of doing that, but - the sailors said that. But I don't know if it was true or not, really. I guess it wasn't. You know, there was Kaiser built these ships and he done it as fast as he could, I guess, and maybe they weren't as good as they should have been. I don't know what all happened, but there might be things that happened that they blamed the Japanese for that the Japanese had nothing to do with, I don't know - the Kaiser Coffin, but it landed. Where did it land? I don't know, but I know....

Anna: When you came home, where did you hit port at?

Duke: I don't know when we came home - I don't know where we hit at - the United States - California, I kinda forgot, but I think it was at an oceanside. No, doggone, I just don't know. San Pedro, I thought we left at San Pedro, when we went overseas, going, but coming back, I don't know where we landed at, but I know the mess halls were real good. I know I wasn't very heavy, and I thought I had done a pretty good job of eating like everybody else. Cause it was good then.

Anna: But you had to go to Chicago to get mustered out.

Duke: Yow, we took the train. Yow, that was it, we got on a train. I don't know how long we'd been - where we was anymore. I forgot, but we got on the train someplace, and the train was a long train and it was all full of servicemen - all Marines, I think - and we had to be discharged at Chicago, and uh, and the train had to make way for any other train coming. Uh, it had to go on a siding to let the other train pass before it would start out again. And we stopped, I know, beside an orange grove, and, uh, I looked out the door and everybody - all the guys was just going out - it was a long train, all the guys was just flocking out to that orange grove. So I think I went and got me an orange. And

we was wondering if the government had to pay the orange grower for all the oranges those guys swiped. I guess you'd call it that. But anyhow, that was, we did get to Chicago eventually, and, uh, I don't know how long we were there either. I forgot. Then we, from Chicago we came to Kansas City. And, well, you was on your own then, I think. I think we were discharged at Chicago and had to take the train to Kansas City. I don't know how we got back up -

Anna: -Did you take the train back to Conception Jct?

Duke: I guess we took the train back to Conception Jct. You see, the train used to go through our field down here. And it's gone. And the place over there where my nephew lives - my dad's place there - but the Wabash went through it or part of it, and it's gone. And well, you know, I think that's kind of bad because I miss those trains, kinda. But, but, they're all, that's all in the past.

Amthor: So, did you form a lot of friends. Did you have a lot of friends and comradery while you were in the service?

Duke: Well, I had a few, I guess. I did write to one fellow there for quite a while. But he had trouble with his, with something and I don't know, he quit writing, so that was.- There was several guys I liked. Some I didn't care about.

Amthor: Did you have any entertainment while you were overseas, like The USO or The Red Cross?

Duke: Yow, we seen a few USO things, we seen a few of those, I think. It's, uh, it's kind of funny that I have completely forgotten a lot of the things I knew - it just seems like, it's just, if somebody would remind me of some of those things, it probably would bring back memories of some of the things that we did, but I don't know.

Anna: You went to a lot of movies, didn't you?

Duke: What?

Anna: You went to a lot of movies, didn't you?

Duke: Yow, we had movies, but, yow, they was pretty good.

Anna: Outdoor movies?

Duke: Outdoor movies.

Anna: On Guam

Duke: On Guam. Let's see, I thought of something I was going to say.

Anna: You told me many times that you went to the mess hall and went and bought a 10 cent can of pork and beans and went home...

Duke: Yow, I always had cans of pork and beans. There wasn't near as much juice in a can of pork and beans as there is now. Now you get a can and it seems like it's mostly water.

Anna: He said many a times he had a can of pork and beans for his meal.

Duke: Yow, I'd go to town. I'd go to chow and I couldn't stomach what they had and I'd probably take a piece of bread. They did have good bread. The guys that baked the bread, I think they needed a pat on the back. I don't know who did that, but they was, the bakers were good. They did have good bread, but the rest, sometimes it was pretty hard to eat.

Amthor: Did you ever hear of Tokyo Rose?

Duke: What?

Amthor: Did you ever hear Tokyo Rose?

Duke: I never did hear Tokyo Rose. I heard of her, but I never did hear anything she said. Of course, I never did see her either, naturally. But, well, I was never in the, never wanted to be, I guess, in the, I don't know what you'd call it. I never did try to, to hear anything like that, I guess. But I know some of the guys did. They'd hear once in awhile. I guess not too many, though.

Amthor: Now, after the war, when Truman ended the war with the bomb, how did you feel about that?

Duke: Well, everybody was happy. Everybody was pretty happy. They was all happy, by golly. We had no – we knew we were going to hit the mainland of Japan, one of the mainlands, anyhow. I don't know exactly where, but we were training for that. It was going to be the mainland of Japan,

Anna: And be lot of casualties.

Duke: Yow, there was going to be a lot of casualties. I would think Truman did the right thing –

Anna: Saved a lot of lives.

Duke: He saved my life, I know.

Amthor: When you came back, did you join the American Legion or the VFW?

Duke: No, it's kinda like this. I always had the idea that they start things, and then they wind up, and they don't continue. And there's no sense in joining the American Legion. It'll dwindle down to nothing. And finally ...

Anna: After about 10 years you did join.

Duke: After about 10 years I joined and it's still going. And it's pretty active. And I thought, well I'm wrong on that.

Amthor: Did you take advantage of the GI Bill or anything like that?

Duke: Yow, we went to school. That was the GI Bill. Another fellow did, the house is gone. Did you ever hear of Jack Protzman? Did you ever hear of Jack Protzman? Well, I went to school with him all of my life. And...

Anna: He joined the army, didn't he?

Duke: Yow, he was in the army. He was in England all the time. He never did go to France.

Anna: They went to this agriculture school. Wasn't it agriculture school on Saturday mornings?

Duke: Yow . We seen... Did you ever hear of Jim Cline?

Anna: He just passed away not very long ago.

Duke: He taught that agriculture school down there. I liked him. He was a good person.

Kelley: Did you go into Maryville?

Duke: Yow, we went to Maryville. Every Saturday morning.

Anna: And he got paid \$100 a month and that was a lifesaver.

Duke: There was a lot of guys - I made use of it - I did buy the farm from my dad, of course, but a lot of guys would just get paid and then they quit farming. Of course, there's a lot of them that didn't. They stayed with it. Of course, he was one who did the same thing as I did. He's dead now.

Amthor: Now, do you think, what do you think is the difference between the war of today and the war that you fought? What do you think is the difference or the differences?

Duke: Well, it's really - that I shouldn't be able to say because I have not experienced anything about this one, but this one is kind of a bad one. I would say that it's, I don't

like to use the word, it's kind of a nasty war, it seems to me like, it's, you, well, I hate to see those guys get killed there. It's not even safe to walk out, well, it's not safe to be there. I don't know how to say it. I feel sorry that they, that they have to be there. I don't know what the deal is. Is it necessary for them to be there? I don't know. Now they're in Afghanistan. Let's see, where were they before?

Anna: Iraq.

Duke: Iraq, yow, what'll it be next. I don't know.

Anna: Pakistan.

Duke: Yow, Pakistan. I don't think we really have any, I don't know if we have any business there or not. Of course, we don't know all the details of how things are and I just wouldn't say that we should or shouldn't be there. I don't know.

Amthor: Ok, well, we'll ask Anna a few questions here, too.

Duke: Did you guys ask me enough questions yet or not? I think so.

Amthor: We'll ask Anna, real quick, about her background. Can you tell me about what life was like for your parents and your family before the war?

Anna: I grew up in western Nebraska. My dad farmed, came from Germany and married my mom. He came here to the convent. In Germany he's from a big family and the oldest one is the only one that got anything. The rest didn't get anything so the rest had to leave. So he came to America with his two brothers. Two brothers went to Texas and became truck gardeners. And dad went out to - he had an uncle that paid his passage, and he had to go out to Steamboat Springs to Colorado and worked 2 years to pay for his passage. Then he came back to Omaha and worked in a dairy awhile and came to Clyde to see his sisters. He met my mom at Clyde and they got married. They went to western Nebraska and dad homesteaded on 80 acres and we lived in a boxcar when I was a kid. My sister and brother, we didn't think nothing about it. We papered the walls with newspaper with just flour glue. And two guys was coming from Missouri to visit and Mom was ashamed of where she lived. I can remember that now. That they would come back to northwest Missouri and say how poor she was. But I didn't think we was poor. I didn't have that feeling. We walked to school a mile. We moved around a lot 'til dad homesteaded that 80 acres. Then, when I got to be a freshman and we had, for my 8th grade graduation, we got to go to the county seat, and I got an aqua-blue lace dress that Mama bought me. I'll never forget that. I thought that was great. And I was scared to death to go to Dearing and be on the stage with all the 8th graders in the whole county. I don't remember getting a diploma or nothing about that. Then we moved in February of, uh, one year we decided we didn't know, we decided there wasn't any Santa Claus. So when Mom and Dad would leave, we would try to hunt the gifts, and the first thing we found was baby clothes. We didn't know what was going on, we didn't know, Mom wore an apron all the time and the first thing we knew we had a new little brother. And

so, he was just a little baby when we moved to Missouri and we moved down here and I went to high school here at Conception at that brick building and I just had – there were just 6 in our class. The class below me and the class ahead of me had about 15 to 20 but my class was a little class. His class was a little class, he said. Then dad told us all that - the home place was out west there - and that we could, he would see to it if we wanted to go to college, we could go to college. He would see to that. So I went down to MU for one, did I go a year or just a semester, just a semester, wasn't it?

Duke: No, it was two semesters.

Anna: Yow, a year, then mom was expecting another baby. So she kinda raised two families. And mom said, Louise was born in September, and she said, "You can't go to college until after the baby's born," and I said, "Mom, I'd never catch up," and so I was going to start back in February, but then he came home and in the meantime I got married instead of going to school. So that's all. I just had the one year then in the school of agriculture. And other than that, I don't know anything else you want to know.

Amthor: Can you tell us about the rationing that was going on during the war?

Anna: It didn't seem to bother me as a high school student. Mom, I think it bothered her some, but we always had plenty to eat. She always had a big garden. We always had chickens, we had cows, mom loved to milk, we had cream, we had butter, we never ever, I never heard her complain. I know we had some ration stamps and stuff, but it didn't affect me at all.

Amthor: Did you have any feed sacks? A lot of people used them for clothing or aprons.

Anna: Oh, yow, I was in 4-H and we - I made some blouses and we used some would bleach out and make tea towels, embroidered, and things like that. As a matter of fact, we always tried to get feed sacks of the same pattern.

Amthor: How about entertainment - what did you do for entertainment?

Anna: I think we probably, on Saturday night mom and dad took the eggs and cream down to Stanberry and for a quarter we could go to the movie and see a western. And that was our entertainment. And we were happy with it. The church group had what they called the CYO and we would go roller skating over to Albany. My dad had a truck and he'd haul us in the back of the truck over to Albany, the whole bunch of us kids. Other than that, I don't think we had any other entertainment.

Amthor: Did you have any other family members that went to war?

Anna: Now, well, my brother went to Korea. He not in too good a shape. He got shot in both his legs. He guess he got that orange, that stuff they got. Robert didn't go, did he? He went to

Duke: I don't believe he...

Anna: He went to the School of Mines at Rolla and he was in Black and Veech when he retired and he built power plants. That's all that I know. He wasn't in service. My other brother got killed – he turned a tractor over on himself on Oct 12th, 1962. It was a free day from school and they were picking corn. None of my sisters went. I have two sisters and I had 3 brothers.

Amthor: When did you guys get married? Did you get married after the war?

Anna: After the war.

Amthor: What year was this?

Anna: '46. He got out in '45 and we got married in April of '46. And then I moved here and this is where, as a matter of fact, his mom left that table, and most of this stuff she left and it's still here.

Amthor: How many children did you have?

Anna: Four, we had four.

Amthor: All right. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us –that you've remembered, or like any other the stories that you've thought of that's important for us to know?

Duke: Golly sakes, you know, when you want to think of something it seems like it passes you by and you can't think of it until you're gone – then you think of it. I don't know why that is. But, well, I'm not very – I've experienced quite a bit in my life – I guess you could figure that. But I think...

Anna: I can't believe where all the years went .

Duke: I think people were happier before all these new-fangled things come into being. They were happier before that.

Anna: We watch very little television, very, very little. We read.

Duke: I'll tell you how much she watches. She turns it on at what time? Around 5:00. And she watches Alive at 5:00. Did you ever hear of that? Well, that's pretty lousy.

Anna: I watch the World News. I'm not supposed to watch that.

Duke: She wrote to KQTV and asked hows come, when they're interviewing somebody, they always have to talk to her or him and not face the people. I can't understand why

they never face the people. They're always talking to like you and I and the people out there... That's the way it always is.

Anna: And I watch the world news and as soon as St Joe news comes on, I watch it and when the first commercial comes on, I say, that's it.

Duke: She reads quite a bit, and uh, she has a bunch of books that I don't care about. I like the Louis L'Mour books.

Anna: I like them, too. I like westerns.

Duke: I've got a bunch of books out there on the porch if I could find them. I think there are some pretty good ones there, but I don't know where they're at exactly.

Anna: I do know where they are. Since I had a job until December up here at the Printery. Father says - I really think the economy took my job, but I'm always telling everyone I got fired.

Duke: She didn't get fired.

Anna: The job just sort of disappeared. I wasn't there full time. They were having a hard time making it, I think, up there and because of the age, you know. I was just working half a day, part time, but I liked it. So there were three of us that were elderly, so out we went.

Duke: I do carving. Look behind you there in the corner – in the corner. Pick that up.

Anna: It's probably dusty.

Amthor: This one?

Duke: Yow, pick it up. I don't know how many are there. There's two of them there.

Anna: Well, he makes these.

Amthor: Wow, nice!

Anna: My dad had a timber with walnuts and that's a piece of walnut from it.. I told him he makes the blessed virgin's face like a man's face.

Duke: Well, I don't know how to do that. What is that other one over there?

Anna: St Benedict

Duke: That's St Benedict?

Anna: Father Benedict over here at the Abby asked him to make a statue.

Duke: Father Benedict asked me to make a statue for Father who? Who is the priest?

Anna: Marcell, was it?

Duke: Marcell Yal, Marcell. So I made three of them. I think there's three of them. George has one. I made one for George and your brother.

Anna: Yal, he has it. Then I don't know where the other one went.

Duke: Well, I never did finish. I make crucifixes. I don't know if you seen the bunch out there or not. Look at them crucifixes I'm working on.

Amthor: We go ahead and end the interview but I am so happy we got to come and visit with you both.

Duke: Well, thank you.

Amthor: If there's anything else that you can think of, you can write it down and we'll be happy to add this to the interview.