

BETTY LOCH

Middleswart: This is a portion of the *Oral Histories of Northwest Missouri in the 1940s* program. The Nodaway County Historical Society Museum is sponsoring this program in partnership with the Missouri Humanities Council, and with support with the National Endowment for the Humanities. Today's date is October 30, 2008. This interview is being conducted at the Nodaway County Historical Society Museum, located in Maryville, Missouri. The interviewer is Melissa Middleswart and assisting is Margaret Kelly. The interviewee is Betty Butler Loch, whose birth date is 5-23-1921. She lived during the 1940s and this interview is her story of life during this time period, including WWII. So, our first section is biographical details. Where and when were you born?

Loch: I was born in Maryville, Missouri, on May 23, 1921, and my parents were Bill Butler and Maud Butler.

Middleswart: And did you have sisters?

Loch: I had two sisters, Maxine and Esther.

Middleswart: What did your parents do for a living?

Loch: My father was a farmer more or less. And my mother was steam presser at a cleaning shop. And my grandmother lived with us for several years.

Middleswart: Do you remember about your life before 1940s and WWII?

Loch: Oh, yeah. We didn't have very much, but we played lots of games, and we lived through the Depression, more or less. We got along well.

Middleswart: Where were you educated?

Loch: Maryville High School. I graduated in 1939.

Middleswart: And you lived in town?

Loch: I always lived in Maryville until I got married.

Middleswart: Do you have any other family members who participated in WWII?

Loch: Not in WWII. I had an uncle who was in WWI. Well, there were cousins of Bob's that were in WWII, and a lot of his friends.

Middleswart: Our second section is propaganda, were you aware of the propaganda in the United States by foreign countries, and of our own governments?

Loch: More or less, because in high school, that was all we talked about for so many years. The teachers always... and we listened to a lot of things on the radio about the propaganda.

Middleswart: So it was talked about in school?

Loch: A lot. Yes.

Middleswart: Before the war actually started, how did the U. S. portray the war and the Japanese?

Loch: Really, to me, they were always afraid of the Japanese, and didn't really know what they were going to do, but I can't really explain very much about that. I really can't tell you.

Middleswart: Do you remember very much about what you knew about the war in Europe? Or in China?

Loch: Mostly through the radio and that type of thing. Friends would talk about it a lot.

Middleswart: Do you remember how you learned about the attack on Pearl Harbor?

Loch: I sure do. Bob and I had just gotten married in July, 1941, and he and a friend had gone hunting. The friend's girlfriend was with me, and we happened to hear it on the radio, and we got ahold of them, and that's when we heard.

Middleswart: What were people's reactions?

Loch: They were wild! They were going to enlist immediately. It was really a bad day: they had gone hunting, and this friend was going to go right now and enlist. Bob went to Wyandotte County Courthouse and he wanted to take the physical to be an Air Corps pilot, and he didn't pass the physical, but he passed the written. He went three times, but they wouldn't ever accept him, because of the physical. He had a hernia, so they wouldn't take him. Lot of his cousins were drafted; well, a lot of them just volunteered. There were five boys from Ravenwood that went in themselves to the war.

Middleswart: That was after Pearl Harbor?

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: Do you remember how you learned about how the war was progressing?

Loch: Through the radio, and friends that had guys in the service, and they would write home, you know, about different places that they were. I guess mostly through the radio and friends.

Middleswart: Was there a lot in the newspapers?

Loch: Yes, and in the newspapers. Very much the newspapers. We took several newspapers.

Middleswart: Did you? So the Maryville's newspaper and then . . .

Loch: St. Joseph News Press, and once in a while we would get a Kansas City Star. Mostly the News Press.

Middleswart: It had quite a bit?

Loch: Then, Ravenwood had a paper, came out once a week; that had news in it too.

Middleswart: Would they have things about the local boys that were in?

Loch: They had quite a few, yes.

Middleswart: If there were any news about them, they would have it.

Loch: Yes, there were a lot of boys from Ravenwood that were in the service.

Middleswart: Did most of them come home?

Loch: Most of them did, but there were several that didn't. A Bradley boy didn't come home, but most of them did. One of Bob's closest friends was Sterling Ross, that – he didn't come home. He took off on a carrier and was never seen since.

Middleswart: Was that in the Pacific?

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: Let's talk about life on the home front during the war. Can you tell us about the selective service, or service alternatives, like farming or teaching and maybe of what you remember what women did during the war?

Loch: Most generally, they did bandages, a lot of them did, that I remember. We saved papers, and everybody was trying to get scrap metal to send over there, so the Japanese could use it and send it back to us. My part in the helping, was that Lester Babb came over to Ravenwood and taught a civilian defense class on how to drive a jeep, and all those kinds of things, so I learned from him how to change a tire, check the fuel, and all those kinds of things, and I did get to drive a jeep part of the time. That was my contribution to the service.

Middleswart: Was there a lot of just all sorts of people, or were they mostly women?

Loch: Mostly women that took that course, he wanted them to know how to change a tire, and how to check your oil, and if you had fuel in it, and he was a great mechanic.

Middleswart: So he passed on some his knowledge.

Loch: And to this day I am pretty good at operating an automobile.

Middleswart: Jessica told me that you were the one that fixed everything.

Loch: Yes. I learned that from Bob's father, too. He was a great mechanic and they owned a gas station in Ravenwood and so the rationing part, we were never without tires and things like that, because they

had a trucking firm that went to St. Joe and brought back sand for local contractors to begin with, so they were allotted tires and they were allotted gas and things like that. We were never without operating stuff. We were able to keep the trucks on the road.

Middleswart: Maybe this would be a good time to say what business your husband, Bob, was in.

Loch: Oh, he was in Loch Sand and Construction business, and he and his father started it early, and they started pumping sand down on the river, and then from there they came to Maryville and started a ready-mix company – plant. Then he retired and the two boys took over. Which is Bob, Jr. and Bill.

Middleswart: Now, during the Forties, you were in Ravenwood?

Loch: We were in there until, let's see, Bill was born in '53. We moved to Maryville when Bill was going to start school in the second grade, and Bob was going to be a sophomore in school.

Middleswart: So you were in Ravenwood all during the 1940s?

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: Now, this company that Bob and his dad had, were they like, building roads and stuff like that?

Loch: No, they were just hauling sand mostly to contractors in Maryville, to start with, when they started pumping sand on the Platte River. Then as it got busier, and his grandfather, Bob's grandfather, designed all the pumping stuff from nothing, you know, and so that was – they hauled sand, and they got to thinking they would go into the ready-mix business.

Middleswart: So was there still construction going on?

Loch: Yes, there was a lot of construction. Lot of the builders had this little concrete mixer and they hauled sand for that. It was a little two yard – Foster's used it, and John Straugh, and a lot of – Logan Brothers.

Middleswart: So they all needed sand, and you supplied that?

Loch: Yes, they supplied that.

Middleswart: That's interesting. It says describe your part in civil defense, and that was the course that you took. What did you remember about rationing, price controls, scrap paper and metal drives and blood drives. Were there blood drives?

Loch: Yes, there were some blood drives back then.

Middleswart: On the price controls, do you remember like going to the grocery store, was that difficult in those days?

Loch: Well, you know, not really, because I just remember when we were first married, you could get a loaf of bread for a nickel.

Middleswart: Did you usually buy bread or bake bread?

Loch: Oh, I bought bread. The rest of Bob's family baked bread, but I was not one of the bakers. But I remember having mints - those little red and green mints and we never wanted for sugar or flour or anything. We were real lucky; I think that we were, that we didn't have any trouble .

Middleswart: You don't remember too much problem with all that?

Loch: No, not with rationing.

Middleswart: What did you do for entertainment, both before and during the war?

Loch: We read a lot, we danced a lot, and we went to movies. What friends we had left, they would come over, but mostly we went to a lot of dances, and we listened to a lot of music. We listened to a lot of music. The Dorsey Brothers, and Harry James, and Glenn Miller, he was one of our favorites. We listened to a lot, and we danced to a lot.

Middleswart: That would have been on the radio, of did you have your own records?

Loch: We had just the radio at that time; we listened to the music. Then later on, the 78s came out and we finally got a thing to play them on.

Middleswart: Did the radio – was there a radio station here in town?

Loch: In St. Joe, and up at Shenandoah, and, let's see – I think there were two of them in St. Joe, but Shenandoah had Henry Fields and Earl May's.

Middleswart: So you could hear all of those?

Loch: Oh, yes, we had pretty good reception. We listened to a lot of music, like "I'll be Seeing You," and – oh, all the old timers.

Middleswart: Lot of good songs in those days. When you went to dances, would those be like dress up dances or... ?

Loch: Yes, we mostly usually wore dresses.

Middleswart: Where did they have dances?

Loch: Well, there was one down at Midway, or Pumpkin Center, and the Armory always had dances. We always went to the Armory. Even before Bob and I were married, we went to the Armory.

Middleswart: Now, the Armory – was that a military type –

Loch: Yes, it was military, and it was located where St. Joe Lightning, or whatever it is there on the corner of First and something, that was where the Armory was, and then they tore that down, and went over where the Chamber of Commerce is, that used to be where the Armory was – and a bowling alley. But it was the Armory in the '40's. [Note: Betty has corrected this. She meant that where we now have American Electric Co. at 206 W. 3rd St., across from the First Christian Church, that was the former location of the Armory, before it was moved to that in the 1940's, it was located as she describes here, at 423 N. Market St.]

Middleswart: During the '40s that we're talking about, the Armory was in the building on Market Street where the Chamber of Commerce is now?

Loch: Yes. So, it had a big floor –oh, yes. It was big. Then we went roller skating.

Middleswart: Okay, where was the roller skating?

Loch: The roller skating was over on Market Street, across from the Courthouse, upstairs where it used to be Yardley's shop, then Wells had a car dealer ship there, Mickey Ellis had it, and we roller skated a lot.

Middleswart: Now was that like all ages, kids – just everybody would come and roller skate?

Loch: Yes, everybody.

Middleswart: Did you have your own roller skates?

Loch: No, you had to rent your roller skates.

Middleswart: You were all fairly athletic – dancing, roller skating. . . .

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: You were having fun! Well, we talked about a movie that came out right before 1940, that was kind of a big deal...

Loch: *Gone With the Wind* and we waited in line a long time to get in to see that movie. That was a big thrill.

Middleswart: At the Tivoli?

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: Did Ravenwood have any movies?

Loch: They had outdoor theatres, but they didn't have . . . As far as the movies go, we watched Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers... we went to a lot of musical movies, but I can't remember their names right now, but we did go to a lot of them.

Middleswart: Did you go maybe once a week?

Loch: Every Sunday. It cost a dime, if I remember right.

Middleswart: After you had Bob Jr. did someone else – like his grandparents . . .

Loch: His grandparents came to the movies a lot on Sunday.

Middleswart: Oh, really?

Loch: He was their first grandchild, so every Sunday he went to the movies with his grandparents. And he became the number one boy, because there were mostly girls in the Loch family, so he was pretty well spoiled by his grandparents.

Middleswart: So the older cousins, were they older than he was?

Loch: No, he was the oldest grandchild.

Middleswart: Explain the effect upon your family created by gas and food rationing, price controls, shortages of luxuries products, shoes and clothing.

Loch: We didn't buy many – very much clothing. And shoes, we kind of had to ration those, you know, be careful about that, but more or less, we were pretty careful about what we spent. Like I said, the gas, we didn't have any problems with the gas.

Middleswart: Did other people, and you were just lucky because of the business?

Loch: No, I think the majority of people in Ravenwood were fairly lucky. I think they watched – they didn't over spend, and we had those ration coupons, and not too long ago I found one of those books, but you know what? I can't find it now. We had the little mils, the green and the red, you know, you used those to buy things with.

Middleswart: Did you?

Loch: I can't say – we had plenty of sugar, and plenty of flour. . .

Middleswart: So you don't remember it as a hardship?

Loch: Not in my mind. I don't remember being hard up. Of course, we – Bob's grandparents had a big garden, and Grandma raised chickens, so we had plenty. When I'd go to the grocery store, they'd put the slab of leg up there on the counter, and then cut off a slab of meat, and you'd get a big slab for thirty cents or forty. We never went hungry or anything.

Middleswart: It wasn't bad.

Loch: No.

Middleswart: Did it seem maybe better financially in the Forties than it had in the Thirties?

Loch: I would say it was about the same. Bob worked for about \$15.00 a week, and then his father raised him to \$18, so we lived on \$18 a week, and we paid \$7.00 a month rent, and we saved money. Now don't ask me how we did, but we always had a savings account. That was always one of Bob's things: if you make money, you have to save money.

Middleswart: Do you remember because you had Bob Jr. in 1943, is that right?

Loch: Yes.

Middleswart: So that was two years before the war was over, do you remember having any shortages of baby shoes, or anything like that?

Loch: No, not really. I don't remember that there was anything much. I do remember that I wanted to buy Bob a little suit, and we barely had enough money to buy that, for Easter.

Middleswart: For his first Easter suit?

Loch: Yes. Then Bob always felt bad because I couldn't have an Easter hat. Well, it didn't bother me because I didn't have an Easter hat, but it always bothered him, because we didn't have the money for that.

Middleswart: You wore hats from other years?

Loch: Well, back then, we all wore hats. We wore Gone with the Wind hats – great big ones, yes, I had one of those. We were real careful with our money.

Middleswart: So every time you went out of the house, pretty much, you had a hat on?

Loch: More or less, at times. Then it got to be when I didn't wear one. After so long, you have a little one around, and you don't put a hat on.

Middleswart: Don't worry too much about that.

Loch: Yes! But at Easter time, we always wore one of those *Gone With the Wind* hats.

Middleswart: I've always wondered, were outfits usually pastel, usually, for Easter, do you remember?

Loch: Well, most generally, I made mine, my dress.

Middleswart: You'd pick some material that you liked?

Loch: You know, I can't really tell you what it looked like, that's been so long ago – it's been a *long* time ago.

Middleswart: You didn't feel too much oppressed, but Bob felt bad?

Loch: He felt bad that I couldn't have a new hat. We bought the suit at J. C. Penney's, I remember that. Very much.

Middleswart: Explain how you got the news about the progress of the war, for instance, radios, newspapers, posted telegraph bulletins.

Loch: I would imagine we got most of it over the radio, and newspapers, and Bob had a friend in the service, and he did telegraph back once in a while to his mother, because he would send her some money and we'd know a little bit about that. Most generally it was newspapers and radios. We listened to the radio a lot; we had it on almost all the time. Mostly music, we listened to a lot of music.

Middleswart: We've already talked about the songs and the movies that you remember from during the war. Were there... so you said something about Smiley Burnette?

Loch: Yes. Bob's father went to school with Smiley Burnette and so he was quite a name person in Ravenwood. He was the son of a minister, I believe. Bob's dad and them were kind of... to him. You know, do little bad things. But he didn't mind.

Middleswart: Because he was a preachers kid.

Loch: Yeah. He was the preacher's, that's always, when the preacher's son... They always have to do something. So, he was quite a name figure. We watched a lot of his shows and...

Middleswart: He was in mostly Westerns?

Loch: Yeah, mostly Westerns, and Roy Rogers, we watched them. Went to those movies, but mostly we found our own entertainment.

Middleswart: Right...

Loch: 'Cause there weren't many of Bob's friends left in Ravenwood, so we just kind of hung around together.

Middleswart: Right... A lot of the men his age had gone.

Loch: Had gone off and he... there were a few that had 4-F's because of physical things, but he felt awful bad. Every time he turned around we'd go back down to the Wyandotte County court house, so he could have another examination, but it never did work.

Middleswart: He still had the hernia...

Loch: He still had the hernia and they wouldn't fix it.

Middleswart: Really.

Loch: They were fixing the boys in the Navy, because they needed Navy people worse than they needed Army people. So that's why they repaired the Navy boys.

Middleswart: Okay...

Loch: Bob had a close friend that he joined the Navy and they fixed his hernia, but they did not need the Army like they did [Navy].

Middleswart: Right...

Loch: So he did not get to go.

Middleswart: Did he have any friends that were farmers? That were maybe exempt for farming?

Loch: No, not really. Most of his friends were after... a lot them played basketball and baseball and they went on to that type of thing. And Ravenwood at the time had a lot of town teams, played baseball. And Bob and his dad played on the same team, and they were the only ones that ever had a father and a son playing on the same baseball team. So that was quite a....

Middleswart: His dad was pretty athletic.

Loch: His dad was in the field and Bob was the catcher, but we went to a lot of baseball games. You know around the county and that's what we did a lot for entertainment.

Middleswart: So they just played all over?

Loch: All over. Other towns, little towns like Maitland, Graham, everyplace there was a ball team.

Middleswart: Would that be maybe once a week?

Loch: Usually on Saturday or Sundays. Mostly Sundays they played. So, that was our entertainment. You were so dirty when you'd come home, you didn't know what to do.

Middleswart: The last section is the end of the war and coming home. How did you learn about D-Day?

Loch: Bob had a friend and he had more or less said something was going to happen. You know. That is where we first got ahold of it. I guess, most of the news we ever got was papers and radios.

Middleswart: Newspapers and radio. Do you remember when they dropped the atomic bomb?

Loch: Yes. Bob had a friend that was a pilot of the other airplane. He had contacted Bob earlier and said there is going to be... something really happen soon, and so that's when we got the news of the atomic bomb. So, through him. So he probably, I don't know that he was supposed to do that, but he did.

Middleswart: Do you remember what people's reaction around here was to that?

Loch: I think they thought it was the thing to do.

Middleswart: And were relieved.

Loch: Relieved. Because it was going...

Middleswart: To end the war.

Loch: I think they were really relieved.

Middleswart: Do you remember anything much about the Japanese surrender when that happened in August of '45?

Loch: No, not really. I know everybody was really happy that they surrendered.

Middleswart: War was finally over.

Loch: War was finally over, the boys were going to be able to come home.

Middleswart: Friends of Bob's that were in the war, do you remember how long it was before they did come home?

Loch: It wasn't too long.

Middleswart: So they mustered out pretty quick.

Loch: He had a cousin, and three boys all joined at the same time and they all came home, except this one Bradley boy, he didn't come home, and there was a nurse, they were from Ravenwood, she was captured during the war.

Middleswart: And the Japanese got her?

Loch: Yeah. She was nurse, but otherwise...

Middleswart: Did she make it home?

Loch: Yeah.

Middleswart: Very long after the war?

Loch: Oh, it was quite while after, and then Bob, we had close friends in St. Joe. Bill Bowman, he was captured and was a prisoner of war and he got, he was released after. He lived to be 90. He was a pilot.

Middleswart: Do you remember how the veterans were treated when they returned home?

Loch: I think they were treated fairly well. Anyway, the ones from Ravenwood were treated good. I don't know of anybody really wasn't treated pretty well. I'm sure there were some that had...

Middleswart: Were they able to find jobs rather quickly when they got back?

Loch: Not. It was harder. A lot of them--the Kirkbrite boys, their father had a little restaurant there in Ravenwood, so they helped their dad there, they weren't married at the time. I don't think the jobs were very scarce. They were pretty scarce. I think that, mostly they worked on street crews, then the CCC camp came to Maryville. There were a lot of them there, but that was before the war.

Middleswart: Yes, I was going to say, that was before the war. That didn't keep going?

Loch: No, not after the tornado. That was destroyed. I think they had a hard time finding jobs.

Middleswart: Did people have to move away to find work?

Loch: I think a lot of them went to California.

Middleswart: Really?

Loch: A lot of people from Ravenwood went to California. And they found jobs out there. Why, I don't know, but I know a lot of people moved from Ravenwood to California.

Middleswart: After the war, were you and your family concerned about the international spread of communism and about communists in the government?

Loch: Yes. I think we thought communism was going to be the number one thing to fight. Bob talked about that a lot, of course the propaganda was terrible.

Middleswart: Were there concerns about the economy, inflation, polio, TB?

Loch: Polio, yes very much so, the lady here in Maryville had polio, and she went to Warm Springs, Georgia, but never really helped her, so... They owned the packing house down here, Leena Suess, and she never did have any control over her right arm. There were a lot of polio people that were affected, but she's one that I really remember about, I don't know about cancer, I don't really remember anybody had cancer then.

Middleswart: You remember anybody that had TB, Tuberculosis?

Loch: No, not really.

Middleswart: On the polio, were you more worried about your children?

Loch: Children. They took those sugar cubes with the vaccine down, then as they got older, they had the shots, but mostly they had the cubes.

Middleswart: Did everybody get, I mean was that when they were in school, or you take them to the doctor's office?

Loch: I had a polio shot. I don't remember anybody at that time having cancer. I'm sure there were people, but I don't remember that. Of course Mt. Vernon was the TB capital, where everybody went in Missouri for tuberculosis.

Middleswart: Describe your listening to the radio habits, for instance, would you of listened to a home making show, soap operas, adventure series, farm markets, quiz shows, mystery shows, variety music shows?

Loch: Mostly, a little quiz show, but mostly music. That was our favorite thing to do, was listen to music.

Middleswart: Did you ever listen to the Kitchen Klatter type...

Loch: No, not very often, I guess I just didn't think I needed to know how to cook. I never worried about that. I did learn lots of things about cooking, but my mother had taught us kids a lot of things and my grandmother, but that's...mostly we listened to the radio an awful lot, and like I said we went dancing and mostly we went to bed, because we were so tired when we got

through working, that Bob was, and if it was real hot we would lay out on the yard with a blanket to cool off.

Middleswart: No air conditioning...

Loch: No air conditioning then. We got one later on, we did get a TV later on, one of those little black and white ones, that you put the colored screen on it, so you thought you were watching colored TV. I remember our first TV was a Motorola.

Middleswart: Do you remember when that was or how old the kids were?

Loch : Oh, it was probably, we had moved from our little house, to another house, probably. Bob was holding Bill, that would have been in '53, 'cause that's when Bill was born, and he was sitting in the red chair holding him and I remember we had TV then.

Middleswart: So around that time.

Loch: Bob was always great to get the first of everything, no matter what. That's about the story.

Middleswart: Well we certainly thank you for taking the time for sharing this with us.

Loch: I hope I helped you with some things.

Middleswart: Margaret, how much time do we have left?

Kelley: We have twenty-three minutes left.

Middleswart: Do you have any other stories that you would like to share or anything from that time period that you remember and want to talk about?

Loch: We did a lot of fishing and a lot of hunting.

Middleswart: Did you get some of your, like you cooked your fish and...

Loch: We cooked the fish and Bob was always getting rabbits and I never did like rabbits. And I always had to fix them, and we went to... he hunted a lot, we'd get pheasant, you know at that time, and I lot of quail. And I learned to cook quail and I learned to cook frogs. And I didn't know that they almost jump out of the skillet. But I learned that too.

Middleswart: Now who taught you that? Did he know?

Loch: No, he knew. He just didn't say. The frogs have those tendons in the legs and if you don't do something with it then they'll just jump [out of] the skillet. Scared me to death. But I cooked. Frogs are really good, I guess. I didn't eat them but he did.

Middleswart: Did your mother-in-law teach you how?

Loch: No, I just kind of learned from neighbors.

Middleswart: You just figured it out?

Loch: I had the neighbor next door who was pretty good about. . . I say how do you do this and she would say I think you do it this way. But I learned a lot from nothing; about cooking wild game. And Bob's mother would cook rabbit, but I never dressed them. I'll go fishing with you but I'm not cleaning fish. And so I never did.

Middleswart: So he always did the...

Loch: All the time we went to Canada and every place. I never touched a fish. I never took it off the line or anything. But I did go fishing a lot with him. And of course, we took our honeymoon on the White River. So that was quite an experience.

Middleswart: So where's the White River?

Loch: Down south Missouri. So, we pitched a tent on the sandbar. That was quite an experience too.

Middleswart: So that was 1941?

Loch: '41. July the 12. We left on the 13th and went down there. I never will forget that. It was so cold that we took the flap off the tent and put it down under the cots so it would be warmer.

Middleswart: Really! In July?

Loch: Oh it was so cold on the river. But he caught a lot of fish.

Middleswart: Was that your idea of your of a good honeymoon?

Loch: No, that wasn't my idea, but I went.

Middleswart: Did you drive or did you..

Loch: We drove. He had a '35 Ford. That he had bought from Zipp Renshaw. We had the tent and everything. No hotels. We were lucky to even go down on the White River. But was about everything I can remember.

Kelley: Is that your first camping experience?

Loch: Yes. It was.

Middleswart: And your honeymoon?

Loch: Another little thing was they had a boat there. And if we had of known it, Bob went out in this boat and it had a coffee can lid over a hole in the boat. It was a wonder he ever got back in. He could have drowned. We got pictures of that in that old boat. I never went out with him, but he went out. After that we laughed about it many times about how we were so stupid, we didn't check the boat over. It had a hole in the bottom and I'm sure it was probably the bottom of a tin can, but I'm sure it had to be coffee. Juice can or something. But we went out. This farmer that had this land, he had a son and he was kind of like a hillbilly type of person. That morning... and he came up to the camp and scared me to death. He said do you want to buy some fish. And he had one strap hanging down from his overalls. And I tell you I was like scared to death. Bob came out and said no I don't think we need any, but it was this man's son. And you caught the fish by the light of the moon, and I don't know what all. He was trying to explain all that stuff to Bob. We had a lot of fishing experiences. That was one of my first, never went back on the sandbar after that. It was so cold. I can still feel that cold. It was so cold.

Middleswart: It wasn't what a honeymoon should be?

Loch: It wasn't very fun. But I guess when you don't have any money, you make your fun.

Middleswart: How long were you able to get away for your honeymoon?

Loch: We were only gone three days. He had to get back to work. But in July, it's usually so hot, but I didn't really take any clothes that were really real warm, but I should have. But that was quite an experience. I will never forget that. But Bob was a great fisherman and he loved to hunt. So every chance he got, he did. I will say, one of his friends that came back from the war, was never the same. He was never the same person that he left. And he was the one that was at our house when they did Pearl Harbor. He never got over it. We always thought maybe had to kill somebody or something. But he never was the same fun person he was before he went. He had a real change in personality. And we never...

Middleswart: And he probably never had any kind of mental health...?

Loch: I don't think so. But he kind of ended up being a loner. And if you asked him anything he always say, well we survived one bad thing, we'll survive another. He never had a good outlook on anything. But that's the only one I can think of that came back from the service not his usual self.

Middleswart: Did he ever marry?

Loch: Yes, he married and had two daughters. And one was killed in a car wreck. And after she was killed, he was worse than ever because he was driving the car when she was killed. And so he never really recovered from the war. That is the only one I can remember.

Middleswart: What was his name?

Loch: Gweldon Bedle.

Middleswart: And he was from Ravenwood, too?

Loch: Yeah, but he just had a different outlook on everything. That's what I remember most about him. He was never the same.

Middleswart: I imagine that in some ways it made you glad Bob didn't have to go?

Loch: Yes I was but you know he felt so bad that he wasn't able to go. Because, you know, when all your friends are gone. He talked about it a lot. But it wasn't in the cards I guess that he should go. But he always hated it.

Middleswart: Did he ever get his hernia repaired?

Loch: Oh yes. One, he had three hernia operations. The first one didn't work. The second wasn't very successful either. The third one finally was good. Doctor in St. Joe did it. Doctor Craig. That's almost the end of my story.

Middleswart: Okay, well we thank you very much for sharing that with us.

Loch: I hope it was good, Melissa.

Melissa: I'm sure that it was fine.