

Kathy: This is Kathy Berg at the home of Wendell Hutchinson. Today is March 27th, 2004. This is a continuation, our 3rd conversation with Hutch. Last time we got to the ... moving back to Salida from Gunnison, Hutch starting up his practice and Sue starting to teach school. Do you want to start there?

Wendell: Yes, I. That's as good as place as any. I came back from Gunnison. I already mentioned my marriage, didn't I?

Kathy: How you courted and proposed to your wife?

Wendell: We did that didn't we?

Kathy: Yeah, that was sweet, but you can always do it again.

Wendell: Well...

Kathy: No, go ahead. Just kidding.

[00:01:00]

Wendell: Well, I was just thinking how far we got.

Kathy: Yeah, I know.

Wendell: Am I on the air now?

Kathy: You are on the air. The whole world can hear you. Watch what you say.

Wendell: We came back from Gunnison, Sue and I, and we ... first of all we lived in my mothers house for a bit, which is down the road where I was born. We stayed there. She was out at the time. She went back to Harvard, Illinois to see her mom and dad I think.

Kathy: About what year was this?

Wendell: About 1950.

Kathy: Okay.

[00:02:00]

Wendell: Actually, yeah it was about 1950. She was there, so then we stayed in my mother's house, which is down the road from where we are in this house.

Kathy: Do you remember the address?

Wendell: 8911, 8911 US 50. It's the house that's directly above the old Hutchinson Ranch house. Directly east of it.

Kathy: The little white house?

Wendell: The little white house.

Kathy: Okay, I know that.

Wendell: The little white house. We stayed there a bit until she came back and there was competition then between my mother and my wife. Then we went down and stayed at the small house downtown, well, it was on Highway 50 also. That house was built by Lou Swallow about 1920, oh I's say about 1925 or so. Then we went down there and stayed there and Mrs. Swallow was up at Fort Collins at the time with her two daughters. It would be Sue's sisters. Anne and Frankie. We stayed there a bit. Then she wanted to come back. It was crowded for her and her two little girls. They suggested that we better start a house of our own.

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[00:04:00] That's when we started this house. First we build on, it was just merely a ... It was about a 5 room house then. We had the kitchen, the dining room, a bathroom, one bedroom, and kind of a utility porch. I had put the operating table in that room and kind of worked out of that room as a vet hospital. Also, I was using a car. I remember it was a Pontiac and I had a little box built in the back of it to carry my drugs. That could work out pretty well. Also, in coming back here we had the cattle to look after and get someone to maybe help us with the cows. Especially after I got real busy vetting, I couldn't do it myself, so I had other people help me then.

[00:05:00]

Kathy: I just have one question before we go too far.

Wendell: Sure.

Kathy: You said you put blocks in the back of your car?

Wendell: A box. Yeah it was in the trunk. It was kind of made with compartments in it and I could put a lot of my veterinary bottles and drugs and stuff in there.

Kathy: Okay, so a box.

Wendell: Yeah, kind of a box, with drawers that slid out and you could find the drugs that you needed. You could also find the surgical tools that we needed. There was a longer drawer that had a surgical jack. We had chains and things in there that we needed for vet work.

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After we built this house here, and I practiced on this porch out here where the washing machine is now. I had the operating table there. I did my surgery out there in that add-on room. It was large/small animals it was. The rest of the time I made calls in the car to different ranches. It didn't all come at once. People had to find out where I was and who I was because there had been other vets here before.

Kathy: Were there any at the time?

[00:07:00]

Wendell: Yes. There was Dr. M.J. Nachtrieb. Milton Joseph Nachtrieb. He was the son of a Charles Nachtrieb and they called him old Chuck. Joe had a brother called Young Chuck. Joe had a brother Cal. Joe was also a graduate of Colorado A&M College. He practiced here too. Then after a while later, when they got rough going, he took the job as meat inspector at Scanga Meat Company.

Kathy: Because you took over and he didn't have any patients left?

Wendell: Yeah, so he became the inspector there.

[00:08:00]

Kathy: Was he the son or the grandson of Charles who founded Nathrop?

Wendell: He'd been a grandson of the old original Charlie Nachtrieb. That's right, that would have been his grandfather. We called him Charlie, Charles Nachtrieb. They called the next one in line was Chuck, and they called him old Chuck. Chuck had another brother called Chris Nachtrieb. Chris had some ranching property up that way also. Joe then had a place down on Highway 50 that's recently been ... And he had a little clinic there, in the back. He did most of his practicing too out of his car. He also had this sort of clinic there that he used and did small animal surgery in it. It would have been nice if he finished it but he didn't. It was never really finished.

[00:09:00]

Joe was some way not well organized. He was a very good surgeon, had very clever hands, and I learned quite a bit just going around with him some. I remember an early c-section. I remember gowning up and having long sterile sleeves. Joe just went in, he hoisted the side of the cow up. Most of the time he didn't even prep it too much, but he just washed it with soap and water and made an incision. After blocking the sides then he'd go in and take the calf out. Cut open the womb, pulled the calf out, sewed the womb back up, put it back. Then we put a little antibiotic powder, a sulfa, or a pill or two in, closed it up. He did it real fast, quick. I had done one previously and it took me most of a couple hours to do. He'd done it in about a half an hour. Well, about an hour.

[00:10:00]

[00:11:00] I learned then too that you didn't have to have all these particular sterile procedures as long as you were clean and you had your instruments in the solution that kills the germs. They had different solutions you'd put it in like nolvasan and other solutions and keep it in there and keep your hands clean. Also, I learned that it was better to clip the cow with a clipper before going in and getting rid of that hair. It lap over on your wound.

Kathy: Was this some time in the 50's when you followed him around and learned from him?

[00:12:00]

Wendell: Yeah. I just went a few times with him. Before that, before I was ever a vet, I

used to go some with Joe on calls too. He went to all the same places that I did. South Park to Fairplay, in that area. He also went up towards Leadville. I later went there. Also he went to Westcliffe, and I also went there later. We competed with each other pretty much. We didn't have any quarrels particularly. I think Joe kind of lost out because he had a tendency sometimes to stop at the Green Parrot in Buena Vista and go have a few drinks too many. Joe just had a little bit of a problem with alcohol. I don't know if we should use that for publication but that's true, he did. In fact later, in his later life he always smoked a lot too and they had to operate on him and remove a lot of his lung.

[00:13:00]  
Kathy: So you were a clean living man?

Wendell: Was I clean living?

Kathy: Yeah.

Wendell: Yes. I'm not bragging but I was.

Kathy: Good.

Wendell: I didn't drink hardly at all. I might have a glass of wine occasionally, maybe a beer once in a while if a rancher offered me. I didn't make a habit of drinking. I never smoked hardly ever in my life. I remember here, after we built this house, [00:14:00] my wife wanted me to smoke a pipe. I thought it would be kind of nice to do that. She bought a little pipe stand and set it in there by the chair. She said, "I think you'd look nice smoking a pipe." I tried it at the time, but I didn't like to smoke and I still don't. I still don't smoke.

Kathy: Well good for you.

Wendell: I think it's one of the reasons maybe my lungs are still good and I don't have any cancer in the lungs and things like that that happen.

Kathy: You go outside and you take walks and ...

Wendell: Now, well mostly when I go outside I don't walk so much as I should.

Kathy: You just said you were fixing the irrigation ditch? That takes some huffing and puffing.

[00:15:00]  
Wendell: Yeah, I did quite a bit of irrigating but back in those days I didn't have a ... I got a business called a Gator now. It's like a 4 wheeler.

Kathy: Say that again, a Gator.

Wendell: A Gator. Called a Gator. Made by John Deere. I use it. It has two seats in it and a bed on the back. You can carry your tarp, shovels, picks, whatever you need to

[00:16:00] irrigate with in it. Back in those days, you had to either drive as close to the field as you could and then get out and change the water or I'd just leave the house here and run across the highway to change the water. I might drive down to the old barnyard down there and then change the water there. We had water to change at our other place a bunch. I'd drive as close as I could there. Many times I'd actually run down the road, change it, and come back. That's how we did it then.

Then you always had to put up the hay later in the year or two because after it was irrigated the hay grew and then you had to mow it with mowing machines. For many years we used strictly horse drawn mowers. I think we had two McCormick Deering mowers that we used and different teams. One team that was Brigham and Maude, and the other team was Molly and Nig.

[00:17:00]

Kathy: Nig?

Wendell: Molly and Nig. Nig was a big black horse and Molly also. The other little Bay horses, Brigham and Maude. Brigham got his name because he was sort of a proud cut and when there was mares coming, he was out there riding them. That's how he got his name Brigham, named after Brigham Young.

Kathy: Brigham Young, yeah. What did you say, proud cut?

Wendell: Proud cut. What that meant, he's cut with ... And left some of his testicle in. That made him proud cut. Some animals you might cut them completely but still they'd be proud cut for some reason. They still have the hormones in there that went to the brain maybe. Those horses could be a real nuisance. Brigham was kind of a mean horse. You had to hook him up over the back of his partner Maude or he'd kick your head off. When you got going with him he worked hard. He didn't let up. He'd actually pull more than Maude. Maude kinda got used to that and wouldn't pull as much as he did. She got lazy.

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[00:19:00] The other team, Nig and Molly. Nig, I guess he got his name because he was black. They probably called him Old Nigger to start with. Later we just called him Nig. He liked to run off if you gave him a chance. In other words, if you got off your mower or anything and he knew, could see you didn't have the lines, he'd take off running. We had a wagon, he tore up a lot of hay rigs and wagons because of him being that way.

Kathy: What would Molly do? Weren't they attached somehow?

Wendell: Yeah, she'd run with him then. They'd run together. He'd instigate it and she didn't have much choice but to run too.

Kathy: Wow, sounds like they had some personalities.

Wendell: Yeah, every horse in there. Molly was awfully gentle, but she got hit out on

Highway 50 and got her shoulder ripped open.

Kathy: Oh god.

Wendell: I remember, boy that was before I was a vet, I had to doctor that wound on her shoulder. Another veterinarian had prescribed scarlet oil and we would put the dauber in the bottle and then paint that wound down. That was my first experience trying to be a vet.  
[00:20:00]

Kathy: Was it hard working on your own horse? Did that make it difficult?

Wendell: No. Not particular. No that never did bother me much, my own dogs or anything. It didn't matter too much. I'd just help put them to sleep and spay them or castrate them or whatever.

Kathy: Yeah. What were some of the dogs on the ranch?

Wendell: Some of the what?

Kathy: Dogs that you had. Do you remember?

Wendell: The earliest dog that I remember was a dog called Wag. He developed a big sore on his side and it was cancerous. The dog in his later years went out in the blacksmith shop and he hid under a bench. I remember my father had to put Wag to sleep. I think he shot him.  
[00:21:00]

Kathy: You were a little boy then?

Wendell: I was pretty little, yeah. I was about 6, maybe 5 or 6. They killed old Wag and that broke my heart.

Kathy: Yeah.

Wendell: Another dog I had was a dog called Pal. We got him up on the Kirkman Ranch. They were half breed dogs. Had some German Shepherd in them and then some Labrador I believe. This dog, old Pal, was kinda red. He'd lay out on the highway and when cars would come by, especially if they were going slow, he would bark at them and run and chase them, and try to grab ahold of their tire.

Kathy: Oh, ouch.

Wendell: He also was bad about getting into the neighbors sheep and old roosters. Then Sidney Denison, my neighbor, up here, had a bunch of sheep, and he got into those sheep.  
[00:22:00]

Kathy: What was his first name again?

Wendell: Sidney.

Kathy: Sidney.

Wendell: Sidney Dennison.

Kathy: Sidney Denison.

Wendell: We called him old Sid.

Kathy: Old Sid.

Wendell: Old Sid Denison. He was the original of the Denison family.

Kathy: Did they ever do pot shots at Pal?

Wendell: Yeah, my mother then, I came home from school one day and said that Pal had been up there and got into his sheep and she had the vet, and the vet here then was not Dr. Nachtrieb but Dr M.N. Riemenschneider. Riemenschneider. I think he spelled it R-E-I-M-E-N-S-C-H-N-I-D-E-R. Riemenschneider.

[00:23:00]

Kathy: Wow.

Wendell: Before he came here, he lived in Marshalltown, Iowa. My caregiver here, Kimberly ... At Marshalltown there's a bunch of Riemenschneiders. She said she went to school with them, with several of the Riemenschneider boy. It's kind of a small world.

Kathy: It is.

Wendell: Dr Riemenschneider, I, his practice at Gunnison. One of the things he had was some cages and they were home made. On the back of it, for some reason, says Marshalltown, Iowa. I had those cages for quite a while. I had them in the clinic out here when I used it. Then when I built Mountain Shadows, I used it and then we got some better stainless steel cages. They were kind of hard to keep clean. Part of them was wood and had iron bars on the front. We got some better cages in and some of those cages, Kit still has over there. Those stainless steel cages will last a lifetime.

[00:24:00]

Kathy: Just hose them out, huh. So he saved Pal's life or he saved the sheep's life.

Wendell: He got into several sheep and killed some but Dr. Riemenschneider put the dog, old Pal, to sleep. Really cried over that, putting Pal to sleep, old Pal. I got a cemetery for dogs now, but back then we just took them off up in the pinons. We had a place up there if we had a cow die, and had kind of a pit, kind of a gully wash, we would put the cows in. Well, that's where the dogs went. Anything that died went to that place. Later, I had bulldozers scoop out a pit or two and we would put new animals in there. A lot of people would bring pets to

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you that were old, had to be put to sleep. Then I would put them to sleep and put them in these pits and then kind of cover them up a little bit with dirt from the edge of the pit.

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Kathy: Is that a pretty common practice in those days?

Wendell: It was common then. Today, it's best, usually you put the animal to sleep and then you can take them up to Buena Vista and they have an animal crematorium where they cremate animals. That's a much better way to do it. Then also I was requested, before they ever had that crematorium, to bury a dog. That's how come I got my pet cemetery started down there. It gradually grew and grew until today there is probably 200, 250, dogs down there.

Kathy: Are they still using it, or do they only use the one in BV?

Wendell: Yeah, I always manage to find room for somebody's pet. I just recently put a dog to sleep for Barbara Williams. Barbara has I think, I think she told me 23 pets in there that I buried for her in the dog cemetery.

Kathy: Oh, that are in the ... Okay.

Wendell: In the pet cemetery. Right.

Kathy: Who do you remember after Pal? Dog-wise.

Wendell: We had a dog called Jack and Jack was kind of a Shepherd dog. He was a pretty good cow dog. My uncle had a dog and then called him Ring.

Kathy: Ring?

Wendell: Ring. R-I-N-G. He had a white ring around his neck. That was old Ring. Ring was deathly afraid of lightning. If there was lightning or crashing he's just panic. He'd go somewhere and hide if he could. It seems like the old blacksmith's shop was a common place for him to go because there were some old dark pinches back in there and they thought they would be hiding I guess.

Kathy: So the dogs were not really inside dogs it sounds like?

Wendell: No they were not inside dogs. They were strictly outside. We fed them outside. We didn't buy dog food for them then. They just got table scraps. Usually they had enough to eat. They weren't starved or anything. We did not back then have dog food that you could go down to the store and buy like they do today.

Kathy: Was one of the purposes in having the dog was for the cattle, right, the cattle?

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Wendell: Yeah, mostly to herd cattle, right. To herd cattle.

Kathy: Everything had a purpose on the ranch.

Wendell: Yeah. Sometimes to, there was a lot of hobos in the Dust Bowl Days. Hobos were itinerant men out of work, walking up the road. Most of them were just hungry and my mother always gave them a nice lunch when they stopped. A couple sandwiches and maybe a cookie or two. Maybe an orange. I don't know a hobo she ever turned down. Some of them could be dangerous but we never had one of them attack us.

Kathy: Especially if you had a dog around on the ranch.

Wendell: Yes.

Kathy: After Ring ...

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Wendell: After Ring ... I mentioned Jack, didn't I?

Kathy: Yeah.

Wendell: Ring was a pretty good little cow dog but I'd say he was afraid of lightning. My father had a dog before that, he called Tootie.

Kathy: Tootie?

Wendell: We got pictures of that dog would ride on the back of the horse, he'd go to the hills when we'd be coming home. After going to the hill we'd have to ride clear up Poncha, on the highway, clear up maybe to Marshall Pass, or in the area, but coming back the dog would get real tired and he'd jump on the back of the horse and ride on the back.

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Kathy: Smart dog.

Wendell: That was Tootie. My dad taught him to do that. He also taught the dog to grab the reins of the horse and lead the horse. He could say, "Go get the Socks," or something and Tootie would grab the reins and bring the horse over to where my father was.

Kathy: Amazing.

Wendell: I was pretty young when that happened. I'd see pictures of that.

Kathy: Being a veterinarian, have you throughout the years just had your own pets or have you felt like you've had your fill of pets because you took care of them all day long.

Wendell: Did you have to take care of them all day long?

[00:32:00]

Kathy: Well, I was wondering if you had any pets of your own in your home or if taking care of the pets satisfied your love for animals.

Wendell: Oh here. Yeah, we had some pets. I remember when my son Art was a little boy, we had a dog. It was a collie. I remember he went to school one day and that dog in and tried to follow him and he got hit by the ... I don't know, I think it was another car but I think he was kind of chasing the school bus. When my son came home and found his dog, he thought lots of that dog, that collie.

Kathy: Do you remember the name of the collie?

Wendell: I was thinking about it the other night and I remembered. I forgot it now.

Kathy: Oh well. Maybe next week.

[00:33:00]

Wendell: Next time.

Kathy: Well that kind of brings up another subject for me, if we're all dogged out here. Arthur was your first child? Maybe we can talk about your kids and what family life was and how you built onto the house, and when, and so on.

Wendell: Sure. We built on the house, and our first son, about two years after we got married was Art. He was born October the 11th, 1951. He was our only child there for about 5 years. He used to go with me on calls a lot. He would sit out here and visit with the clients that came in. After a year or two we built this house, we built this clinic out here and it had an operating room in it and had those cages in there. That was before I got Mountain Shadows. Art would go with me and he was very fond of a dog too. He backed out of the garage here on day when he was old enough, and he ran over the dog. Killed his own dog. That devastated him.

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Kathy: How old was he then, about?

Wendell: Oh, about maybe 9 or 10 I think.

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Kathy: Oh, so he couldn't really see over the back anyway.

Wendell: He couldn't see where he was going.

Kathy: In those days, the kids got in the Jeeps and the cars.

Wendell: Yeah, they got in the car an they'd drive around the ranch and learn to drive. All my kids became good drivers because I was such a poor driver. I think I taught

them what not to do.

Kathy: They learned from ... That's great. Who was next as far as children?

Wendell: 5 years later came Andy. He was born almost on Christmas day. He was born on December the 26th. That was 1956. December the 26th, 1956. They were all  
[00:36:00] born actually in what is now the Salida Hospital, or what's the Rockies Regional Medical Center. It wasn't called that then. I think they called it the Salida Hospital. Dr. Hoover delivered Art, and then finally Andy came along I think Dr. Steven Phillips delivered Andy. Andy is the second son, and like said, he was  
[00:37:00] born December the 26th, 1926. He now, Andy, lives at Durango. He was recently in a divorce now with his wife, Marianne, which is to me kind of a sad thing because I always liked Marianne very much.

Kathy: Do they have children?

Wendell: They had no children. I think maybe if they had children, it would have been different. Andy became quite an animal. He learned to kayak out here in this pond and he became a kayaker. He would kayak in the river here and he would start competing in the 26 mile long kayak run. It went from Salida to Cotopaxi.  
[00:38:00] He ran it about 6 times and in 1989 Andy won it. The only time he did, but he won that particular race. Let's see, the next child we had was Lisa. She was born September the 16th, 1958. Andy was born 56, yeah she was born 1958.

Kathy: She was almost born on your birthday.

Wendell: Yeah, she was. Later Art had a daughter born on the 27th of September.

Kathy: Art has how many kids?

Wendell: Art has two. Erin and Abby. Erin graduated from CU in finance, but now she's got a horse training facility at Longmont, which is kind of on the way up to Fort Collins, Longmont is. She has a facility there where she boards horses and also jumps horses and teaches kids ... Well, a lot of those girls don't know the first thing about a horse. She teaches them how to bridle them, saddle them, ride them, and maybe some of them she teaches how to jump. She hooked herself up a pretty good business. She's not married. She goes with a boy and he helps her a lot.  
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Then I got Abby. She's going to Colorado State University and lives in Fort Collins.

Kathy: She's the one who visited you last week?

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Wendell: Yeah, she visited with me. Did you meet her?

Kathy: No, I came after she left.

Wendell: Yeah, she works on the side up there. They both did. Worked on the side to make money. Their parents helped them a lot. I even gave them quite a few dollars too, to help with their education. We sold some land up here. Some of that land, money I got from that, I gave each one of them I think 10,000 apiece.

Kathy: Wow.

Wendell: Which was to help them with their education. Erin graduated but Abby is a senior now and should graduate maybe in December. She very much loves cattle and would like to come back to the ranch.  
[00:41:00]

Kathy: Think she could run the ranch for you?

Wendell: Well she could. She's pretty capable. When she was here, she went right out there and was picking bales of hay on the wagon, and then when we got out on the field she was pitching it off with a pitchfork.

Kathy: That's a good sign.

Wendell: Yeah, that's a good sign, wasn't it. She's not lazy in other words.

Kathy: Yeah, she's a hard worker it sounds like. So Lisa, she was born in 1958. Does she have any children now?

Wendell: Let's see, then what?

Kathy: Lisa.

Wendell: Lisa, yeah, Lisa has two boys. She didn't get married until just recently. Let's see, when did she get married? I think she got married in 1988. Her husband was David Scarborough. They lived there in Anchorage, Alaska. He was a helicopter pilot and he was shot down in Vietnam. He kinda messed his ankles up and I think a knee pretty much. I think he was taken to some hospital, I don't know whether it was in Guam or Hawaii or somewhere to recover, after being shot down. He's there now and he runs a helicopter firm. Lisa met him when she was working for Alaska, the Bureau of Indian Affairs. He would fly her around in a helicopter and drop her off at some Indian camp, maybe with another girl or co-worker, and they'd interview the Indians. It was about the only way you could get around, was by helicopter up in that country. That's where she met him, but they still live there and he doesn't do much flying himself but he manages the helicopter firm there at Anchorage and also co-manages one at Fairbanks. Anyway, so they live there.  
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Kathy: What are her boys names?

Wendell: The two little boys are, the oldest one is Benjamin, Ben, he was named after my good Japanese vet friend in Alamosa. Ben Konishi. I was just over there and saw  
[00:44:00]

Ben last week. I went to a dentist over there, in Alamosa. Then I had dinner with Ben and his wife Bessy.

Kathy: Betsy?

Wendell: Bessy, yeah.

Kathy: Bessy.

Wendell: Bessy Konishi. He has a vet practice there. He graduated from college a year after I did. He's practiced around the valley there ever since. Very, very good vet.

Kathy: How do you spell that?

Wendell: K-O-N-I-S-H-I. Konishi. Konishi.

Kathy: Okay, so there's Ben ...

Wendell: What?

Kathy: There's Ben and what is the other boy's name?

Wendell: Oh yeah, the other boy is Daniel.

Kathy: Daniel.

Wendell: I don't know what if she named him ... She likes the name. I got a worker here now, Daniel Wood, Danny Wood. She might have named him after him because she always liked Danny. Anyway, she just liked the name Daniel. Maybe she named him after Daniel Boone.  
[00:45:00]

Kathy: Or maybe Daniel in the Bible. I have a son named Daniel.

Wendell: Do you?

Kathy: Uh huh.

Wendell: You have a son named Daniel?

Kathy: I do, and I don't know why I named him Daniel.

Wendell: Wasn't there a Daniel in the lions den?

Kathy: That's probably why, yeah.

Wendell: You named him Daniel.

Kathy: What was family life like in this house, with these three kids, and you were a veterinarian, and was Sue still teaching or did she stop teaching to raise the kids, or how did that go?

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Wendell: Well, my wife was trained to be a teacher. She also did a lot of music and training. She was going to get a job as a ... She practiced a lot classical music, but she got real tired of that, I think, because after she came here she didn't use her ... She learned to run this organ in here. She had an organ, but she'd given the organ away, to the Arch family. Sue kept care of the kids. She raised them well and sent them off to school when the school bus came right by, and load and then took them to school. They no longer went to Valley View, that old country school that I went to. They did go to Longfellow school in Salida. Then they went to junior high there, Kesner Junior High. Then also Salida High School. All of them graduated there. Sue made sure they were always well clothed and clean. She made them, when they came in and had to study, she made them study. They were all pretty good students. Art became Student Body President and he was on the football team.

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[00:48:00] Andy was kind of a track ... He went out for football a little but a friend talked him into running, so Andy competed in running. I don't know that Andy was the president of his class or anything.

Kathy: What about Lisa?

Wendell: Lisa though, yeah she was pretty active in school, school affairs. I think she was on the student council. I'm not sure whether Andy ever ... He might have been in there one year. Lisa was in, I think she was in the student body, she was never president, but she competed there, or was in there. She also had a lot to do with when they made the school annuals. Lisa had a lot to do with getting it done. She also had a chance to be the queen one year but she was voted out.

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Kathy: That's quite a deal just getting that far though.

Wendell: Getting that far, yeah.

Kathy: Do you think they felt like out-of-towners because they had to get the bus, or were there a lot of other kids that lived out of the Salida city property?

Wendell: Yeah, yeah there were quite a bit. I was on the school board incidentally during this period for 28 years. I was president 18, on the Salida school board.

Kathy: Wow. No wonder they were so popular.

Wendell: Now I think they only let them stay 2 full year terms and then they're out. I had some real fine school board members that really helped make my tenure there easy and they had some good superintendents too to work with. There was Charles Melien, John Ophus, Robertson, Jim Robertson. Anyway, I had good

[00:50:00]

people to work with.

Kathy: What kind of big decisions and changes and projects were you a part of in the 28 years, on the board, on the school board, when you were on the school board? Can you recall any of them?

Wendell: Yeah, one of the big things was about half way during our term, the school burned, the old high school. The old original high school burned and then we has to build this present high school that's there now. Then we also converted a hall upstairs, Melien Hall, named after a glee club man who ran the glee club for, oh I don't know, 40 years I think. Charles Melien. No, John Held, John Held ran the glee club. Charles Melien was one of the superintendents.

[00:51:00]

Kathy: It's his wife that's still alive today.

Wendell: Yes. His wife is still alive.

Kathy: Yes, she comes in the library.

Wendell: Does she?

Kathy: She's pretty energetic. Yeah.

Wendell: Been there every day?

Kathy: No, I said she's pretty energetic.

Wendell: Oh, yeah she is.

Kathy: She comes in probable every other week or so.

Wendell: She taught English for years too.

Kathy: How do you spell that last name again, M?

[00:52:00]

Wendell: Melien. M-E-L-E-I-N, I think. Melien. But her husband was, he was superintendent for quite awhile. Then there's one of the halls down there, is named Melien Hall, after Charles Melien. John Ophus was only president about a year and then he died, as a young man. He was a very good friend. He was quite a historian. He went around all the grave yards I think in the region, photographing the graves. That's a good way to get the dates of their birth and death, the people he wrote about. He still has files of them. His wife is a teacher, John Ophus's wife is.

Kathy: Still, yeah.

[00:53:00]

Wendell: She won't let anybody ... several people tried to get those, some of those files she had but she won't let them have them. I hope someday she does something with them. Maybe she's getting near retirement. She teaches in the high school. Maybe she'll let somebody get in there and take some but that's a good source for a historian. It would be a treasure trove because John went all over the state photographing tombstones.

Kathy: Wow, what a hobby. Yeah, that is valuable. Well Hutch, should we conclude this little conversation?

Wendell: Yeah, I suppose so.

Kathy: Yeah, I think we're both getting tired. It's about 10 minutes to 9:00 now.

Wendell: Yeah, you get tired.

Kathy: Two old fogies can't stay up so late.

[00:54:00]

Wendell: One day, and then I could probably ... Maybe next time I could talk about some of the different vet calls that were interesting.

Kathy: Oh yeah, that would be great! Yeah, we'd love to hear about that. Let's just close by one little memory that you have of your whole family gathering? Did somebody ever play guitar? Did you all sit and watch television together or you know when you had the three kids and Sue, what was a fond memory that you have? Or the kids were all in bed and you and Sue were watching television?

Wendell: On almost every Christmas, most of the family would be here.

Kathy: Right here at this table?

Wendell: Yeah.

[00:55:00]

Kathy: When you say most of the family, you mean not just your immediate family but ...

Wendell: Sue, yeah Sue and I, Erin and Abby and Art, and her mother for many years, Sue's mother, Blanche. Blanche Swallow. She was here usually at those gatherings. Each Christmas, they were memorable. I don't know whether I could pick out on over the other.

Kathy: Yeah, they all were memorable. Well, great. Thanks again. It's about 8:50 and we're going to conclude this session with Hutch. Anyway, as usual, it's been fun. We'll get back to something interesting next week.

Wendell: Good, that's nice. Nice that you do that.

Kathy: Well, I've been enjoying you too, I want you to know.