

**Interview with Edward Schuett (Oral History #36)**  
**Saloons & Blind Pigs in Gross Point**  
**March 4, 1999**

Narrator: Edward Schuett (born 1911)

Interviewers: Kathy Hussey-Arntson, Wilmette Historical Museum  
Jane Textor, Wilmette Historical Museum

KH: Today is Thursday, March 4, 1999. This is Kathy Hussey-Arntson from the Wilmette Historical Museum, and I'm here today with Edward Schuett, long-time resident of Wilmette and Gross Point, and Jane Textor from the Wilmette Historical Society, and we're going to be driving through old Gross Point to look at where the saloons and blind pigs used to be. So here we go.

ES: Right there is where the John Bleser saloon was [615 Ridge]. And he lived on the corner to the north, the corner of Birchwood and Ridge. Later after he had to close the saloon here, then he started a blind pig around the back in the basement. And that was one of the blind pigs.

KH: So the saloon was actually at about 615 Ridge?

ES: Right here. You have pictures of it, don't you?

KH: Yes we do. Okay.

ES: Then it was a gas station and a florist shop and now it's a retirement spot.

ES: That's where John Bleser's home was. He ran a blind pig in the back.

KH: Okay, that was at [southwest corner of Ridge and Birchwood; house no longer there].

ES: Right there where the dentist's is there, that building right there. That was the old Gross Point Forester Hall.

KH: Oh, that's at 723 Ridge. I didn't know that.

ES: They had a saloon. Had a lot of drinks there.

KH: Oh, I didn't know that.

ES: This one where the Brandt Upholstery is now was John Huerter's saloon. The Eagle Club they called it. [801 Ridge]

KH: And John Huerter was the owner at the time?

ES: He was the owner.

KH: He wasn't the original owner [Schuett later explained that John Huerter was a son-in-law of John Schaefer]?

ES: Right there at 809 Ridge was the Zeuschel saloon. Albert Zeuschel ran it first and then later his son Henry who they called Heinie Zeuschel ran it.

KH: After Prohibition, were they out of business?

ES: They were all out of business on Ridge here. Except John Bleser who moved over to his house.

JT: Do you remember what the building looked like [809 Ridge]?

ES: It was kind of like, it wasn't real stucco but it was kind of plaster material like and it looked like about a two-story but I don't know if anybody ever used the upstairs. I never went up there.

KHA: Was it white?

ES: Yeah, white.

JT: Is this a remodeling of that building?

ES: Oh no, it was torn down.

JT: It was torn down.

ES: Most of these were torn down you see. That's the sad part.

ES: The one ahead where the Creaney Floors are I had been told [815 Ridge]. Oh, incidentally, Adam Bauer built that Eagle Club building and his name is still up on it, I think. His name is still on it or it was the last time I looked. Adam Bauer. Then later he built the building where the Creaney Floors is, later to become the Busscher grocery store. And he was up on top of it working on the roof and he fell off and broke his neck and died.

KH: How old was he at that time?

ES: He was a pretty young man.

KH: So that was where 815 Ridge is now. So is this the same building, the same building as the Adam Bauer tavern?

ES: Well, it's all been, originally underneath you'd find a lot of the old stuff but it's all been remodeled.

KH: Okay. I think that one of the Busscher sisters told me that where Creaney floors is was an addition. Have you ever heard that?

ES: Now, wait.

KH: You know where Creaney floors is.

ES: It had a second floor way back because my mother used to work when she was a girl for Mrs. Busscher who ran the grocery store. But I think to the left of it was all added.

KH: That's what I meant.

ES: Yes, that's right.

ES: Adam Bauer, I told you fell off the roof. I had been told through the grapevine, it was before my time, that he ran a tavern there for a while or intended to. But I never saw it. That was before my time. I just mention it to you. I'm sure he did because he built the other place at the corner too, the Eagle Club.

Now, while we are sitting here, it's just as easy to look here as it is to pull out to the busy intersection. The corner where the restaurant is, that was the Golbach saloon [southwest corner of Ridge and Lake, 827 Ridge].

KH: Oh, we have a photo of that.

ES: Golbach saloon, and then later when he retired his son-in-law, Mr. Kloepper, took it over. And it was Kloepper's saloon for a while. [Schuett later added that a man named Bill Parks had a confectionery store in the Golbach building, later than Kloepper.] Then the other corner is, where the pharmacy is, that's still one building that still has the original appearance, that was John Mick's saloon [northwest corner of Ridge & Lake]. He was the one that sent to Evanston to have my dad come and pitch ball for him.

KH: He sponsored a baseball team?

ES: Yes, he sponsored a baseball team, and they played on Lake Avenue; about a block and a half west was the baseball field.

KH: On which side? The north side?

ES: On the north side. And I used to go to the games there and remember vividly all the little things.

KH: So your Dad pitched and where did they get the other players from?

ES: Quite a few came from Gross Point here but a few Mr. Mick sent out for that he knew were good players. They were quite successful. I guess they won most of their games.

KH: Who did they play against?

ES: Mostly towns. Every town had a baseball team. The towns were far apart like Half Day and way out to Wheeling, and then they played some of the Chicago teams. I don't know whether you heard me tell, Kathy, that my dad came up here pitching ball and then later he married my mother and he started pitching woo.

KH: [Laughter] Yeah, you told me that.

KH: Ed, I have a question. What did these saloons looked like inside?

ES: Well, they had long bars and high stools. You have some of the pictures, don't you, of them sitting on stools?

KH: Yes, a couple. Was that pretty typical, the pictures we have?

ES: That was quite typical.

KH?: They weren't real big inside would you say?

ES: No, no, they weren't real big.

This was one of the larger ones [Mick's]. And this one too. That whole building has been demolished and don't look anything near like it did.

ES: Just about at the end where the grocery store is, Treasure Island you know, that was the Joe Lauermann's saloon. And that also had big high steps. Do you have any pictures of that?

KH: We have, I should show you. I think the only pictures we have are of people sitting outside on the steps. There were quite a few steps going up, is that right? Was it a wooden building, looks like?

ES: It was a wooden building. Almost everything up here was a wooden building.

JT: Would you say that the interiors of the bars were elaborate and ornate?

ES: No, very simple.

JT: Did they display the varieties of alcohol, alcoholic beverages?

ES: They were on the bar in the back, on a shelf. Then you could take your pick from there. You'd spot, oh, I like that brand, give me another one of those.

JT: And they had taps for the beer?

ES: Yes.

JT: Did they have bar maids or were they generally just run by the family?

ES: Just by the bartender dished it out and you could carry it over to a table.

JT: Did they serve food as well?

ES: No, not to my knowledge. Maybe snacks or something, I don't know.

JT: Whatever they were cooking that day perhaps.

ES: Yeah, I don't ever remember eating there. We were on a liquid diet.

ES: I was pretty young, of course. My uncles would take me in. In them days they didn't ask any questions how old you were to serve you a drink. So I got my start when I was pretty young.

KH: Ed, it sounds like most of these saloons around here were owned by local families.

ES: Most, yeah they were.

KH: And they were the people that worked in the saloon then too, the families?

ES: Yeah. They would hire some people. In fact, I think I gave you one up where the Eagle Club was, where it was Harry Schwall tending bar. He was later killed in an auto accident down at Main and Crawford. Which wasn't called Crawford in them days, of course.

JT: I assume that alcohol prices were, we've seen advertisements, relatively inexpensive. Beer was a nickel or something like that, a quarter maybe. Do you remember?

ES: Beer was a nickel when I first remember and then it went up to a dime. Then a shot of booze was, I'd say, a quarter, twenty cents or a quarter.

KH: What about, did you see women, were women ever in these bars?

ES: Some of the daredevils went in, yeah. [Laughter] No, it was mostly men. It was a man's world, then. Now it's a woman's world, do you agree?

JT: Absolutely, right on brother.

ES: Right at the end of this building [Treasure Island, 900 block of Ridge, west side, about 929 Ridge] was the Schaeffgen house, and they ran a so-called blind pig, right up against the fence there, where the fence started [Mallinckrodt fence]. And they ran a blind pig in the basement after Prohibition came.

JT: Was Schaeffgen an officer of the law?

KH: It's the same last name, I don't know if it's the same family.

ES: What's that?

JT: I thought Schaeffgens were police officers.

ES: Well, they were a little of everything, you know. [Laughter]

KH: Sure, why not. So the house was not on Mallinckrodt property, it was stopped at that fence that you pointed out.

ES: What was that?

KHA: The Schaeffgen house wasn't on Mallinckrodt property. It was just to the south of it?

ES: On yeah, it was away from it. Of course, Mallinckrodt expanded. You know, I mean, as time went on. They didn't come this far at the start. In fact, we played ball in-between there when I went to St. Joseph School across the street.

KH: Oh, really. I didn't realize that they expanded. Okay.

ES: That was the Keil saloon. Part of the building is still intact. Naturally, it has changed some. But they lived there and they had a tavern there, too. Keil – K-E-I-L.

KH: This is at Elmwood and Ridge. Is it the same house?

ES: Part of it, yeah, the front, in fact the whole thing.

ES: I remember Grandma Keil. She would always be real nice to us, give us something special when we went in there with our uncles.

JT: 1131 Ridge Road [location of Keil tavern].

ES: Yes, 1131.

KH: Was the saloon in the front there?

ES: Yes, you went in sort of a side door, facing Elmwood but it was right at Ridge.

ES: Go a little slow and I'll show you a blind pig here. The house is still there. Pete Gross ran it. See the yellow house.

JT: 311 Ridge Road in Kenilworth.

ES: Yeah, that was a blind pig. Pete Gross and Albert Meier, Huggie Meier, they called him, ran it. They had some of the darnest names for people, nicknames you know, Huggie and Snuggie.

KH: So the people who ran the blind pigs, did they have other jobs?

ES: Now you can go a little slow again. I don't think, yeah, the Wagner house is still living. John Wagner lived here but he couldn't have a saloon here so he had it across the street. He had it right across the street.

JT: So this gray house is the one you are talking about? Or is it the white one?

ES: The white one. No, wait, yeah, but it used to be... No, but it used to be, no, no, what am I thinking. This one.

JT: The gray Dutch Colonial.

KH: He couldn't have a saloon here because it wasn't Gross Point?

ES: This was the Kenilworth side at that time.

JT: What was the penalty for having a blind pig if you were caught? I mean, were you shut down? Obviously, there were a lot of them.

ES: Nobody ever bothered them that I knew of. Even the lawmen went in for a few drinks. And they'd get it free because they didn't tell.

JT: How come there were so many blind pigs? Was there really that much money to be made?

ES: Well, we were a thirsty bunch.

ES: Now this here, this John Meyer house, the tall one, is still the original. I had word, too, that he had a tavern there but it was not in my time. It was prior to that.

KH: It is 1343 Ridge.

ES: John Meyer, Jr., the Sr. was John Meyer. John Meyer, Sr. who went to school with my brother. He died years ago, but I think his widow is still there. She might have some information 'cause I've been there a couple of times and gathered information from her. Now we have to watch when the clubhouse comes.

[Conversation about looking for the Keil warehouse on the Indian Hill Golf Club grounds]

KH: He [Mr. Keil] kept liquor in the warehouse?

ES: Yeah, it would be shipped in from Chicago and he supplied the saloons around here, including his own on Ridge and Elmwood.

[Continuing to try to find the old Keil warehouse.]

ES: Otherwise at Keil's there's still a granddaughter living there. She was a nun who dropped out of the order and lives there alone now. She's pretty good, too. She could give you a lot of information.

KH: What's her name?

ES: Steinhoff and I forget her, I knew her...

KH: Arlene, right? I've met her.

ES: Right. She can give you some information.

ES: It (Keil warehouse) should be right on the right there. That's it.

ES: That's the old building, the old original.

KH: We're at the very south end of Indian Hill Country Club. The building fronts right on Ridge Road.

ES: It's the original building. I'm glad to see that.

KH: This was the warehouse. This was before Prohibition?

ES: This was in the saloon days when he [Nick Keil] ran the saloon.

KH: He was a supplier then in addition to running his saloon?

ES: Yeah. There were a couple of brothers, Keil brothers. Many a barrel rolled in and out there.

KH: What were the brothers' names? Do you know?

ES: Pete and Joe.

KH: And who was Nick? Nick Keil?

ES: It's related.

JT: Was it always a brick building?

ES: Yes, that's the original brick, just painted. But they had an unloading dock there, too. I see that's been changed.

KH: Where was that?

ES: Where we just pulled away from [on the north side].

KH: And they didn't use it for anything else other than a warehouse?

ES: Not to my knowledge.

KH: After Prohibition came, they still owned this building?

ES: That closed, yeah. Then Indian Hill Golf Course took it over.

JT: ...before these houses were built?

ES: On my gosh, it was all woods and forests.

JT: Was it swampy and wet?

ES: Not here particularly.

JT: Not on the Ridge.

ES: No, but over west it was, down towards Hunter that way. I'd love to have you talk to this, not only to this Mrs. John Meyer, but also to this Keil girl that I told you about.

ES: [Turning onto Beechwood from Ridge] Here's where I delivered a lot of newspapers, but it was all prairie then and we used to when I went with my uncles with the horse and buggy. There were no houses down here, just a little dirt narrow road. And I'll show you how far we had to go. Otherwise, it's all woods and prairie, mostly prairie in this particular area.

KH: So nobody was farming this area, it was just open land?

ES: I never saw a farm. I don't know way back. See, I wasn't born yet when Abraham Lincoln was here -- shortly after. [Laughter] I remember all the names of all these people I served with the newspapers. Made a lot of friends. But all the way down here, imagine, with horse and buggy.

KH: So where were you headed when you were going down here?

ES: I'm going to show you in a minute. I think that there is still a home here on the right, a rest home. Isn't there?

JT: No, I think not.

ES: Is that ripped down too?

JT: Well, let's take a look.

ES: Yeah, that was about in here. At that time, it was called Kenilworth Sanitarium. Kenilworth Sanitarium. I didn't know that that was all ripped down.

JT: Is that one reason why this street does not go through? Was this part of the Sanitarium property?

ES: No, no just back there, going back.

JT: So it was just a little further north from Beechwood Avenue and 22<sup>nd</sup> Street.

ES: Yes, it went way back in 'cause we delivered papers to the chauffeur and gardener back there and then the guy that lived across the big fence, he was on Indian Hill property. That was Joe McBorn. I used to get out, my uncle had me jump off the buggy and run over and toss a paper over the fence for him. And I never broke a window.

KH: So you never had a complaint?

ES: Complaints, yes, especially in wet weather. Now you can make a right.

JT: Now we're on Kenilworth Avenue. (Pause on tape)

We're at 2619 Kenilworth Avenue. And it [Peekels] was in this area?

ES: It was a little bit ahead here.

KH: What was the last name?

ES: Peekels. And the wife was a Schmidt, which was an old saloon name, Schmidt.

JT: Now we're at the corner of Locust and Kenilworth Avenue.

ES: Now we'll make a left.

JT: So where was Peekels?

ES: It was the middle of this last block here. (some unintelligible words) They had a son who was killed in a car accident.

ES: Now wait. Here's an important one. This was Beisel's. Wait a minute. I think we're here.

KH: Is this Beisel's here? [Illinois Rd. and Locust Ave.]

ES: Yes, but this is a new building. And it faced Illinois Road which was Reinwald Avenue. I'll show you when we go around the corner here.

KH: Did they also run a farm?

JT: We also heard it was a stagecoach stop at some point or another.

ES: I think Beisel's was, it was. I had a picture of that too. I wish I could find it. Did I give you my story, Kathy, that 15 page?

KH: Yes.

ES: Do you remember where I said my uncle stayed in the tavern too long and the horse breaks loose? That was from Beisel's here. Then he had to walk from here all the way to 2101 Birchwood on a cold winter evening. Then he found the horse, the horse had found his way all the way home. I wrote the story, you know. It's all true. You should read it sometime, Jane.

Then he had to come all the way back with the horse and buggy to take up his route and finish delivering the papers 'cause he had to walk all the way home to get the buggy and bring it back. So he finished late that night.

KH: [Now we are at Illinois Road and Locust Road, the old Beisel property, although the original buildings are gone] Beisel's, the picture I've seen, it was a big white farmhouse. Was it white actually?

ES: It was white but it wasn't a farmhouse, it was a saloon and a stagecoach. In the back, no doubt, they had their equipment and barns. Yea, they did have barns, and they had a big shed where fellas tied their horses while they went in to drink. I was in that a couple of times.

KH: Do you remember where the shed was on the property?

ES: I can show you better from the front, I think. But it was right behind and a little to the east of the saloon. I can show you better from Illinois Road. It was a pretty long one 'cause there were a lot of drinkers and they all had horse and buggy.

KH: Did the Beisel family live on the property?

ES: Yes.

KH: Did they have a separate house?

ES: In the same building, in the back. It was quite large.

JT: And people actually would stay there overnight if convenient for them to do so?

ES: Oh sure, oh yeah.

ES: This was where the entrance to Beisel's saloon was and the shed was off to the right a little.

KH: Was there any kind of fence in the front?

ES: No.

ES: The barn was quite a bit behind the saloon itself. It set pretty far back.

JT: This is an inordinately large piece of property by today's standards. Do you think they kept the entire Beisel property intact?

ES: Oh, I don't think so, no. Well, they owned everything up to where the house is on, but not the other adjoining houses. To my knowledge. Maybe they did for their farming, sure.

ES: This was one of the most important ones. I was in that one pretty often.

JT: Was it considered more elegant than some? Or just bigger.

ES: They were all very plain, really.

KH: Did they have wooden floors when you went in?

ES: Oh yeah.

KH: I saw a picture of one they looked like they had spittons along the bar?

ES: Oh yeah, they had the spittons by each stool. Sure. 'Cause when you drank you had to spit.

There were a couple of blind pigs back in there, but sometime when we have time on our hands maybe we'll cover some of the blind pigs.

KH: How did the blind pigs work? How did they know you weren't the police or maybe they didn't worry about it.

ES: Apparently the police didn't care. It was only the big shots from the Federal or something and usually they'd be alerted, I guess, if those guys were coming out to look around.

JT: Did they prefer to know their customers? Were you unwelcome if you were a stranger in town?

ES: Oh no, I never saw them turn anybody away. As long as they had enough quarters in there to pay for the drinks.

KH: Did they serve liquor or did you buy it and take it away?

ES: Some you would just go in and buy a bottle like my dad used to do. I'd go with him, that's how come I found out about it.

KH: And where were they getting the liquor from? The blind pigs?

ES: They didn't have liquor stores.

KH: Were they making it themselves or were they buying it?

ES: Some made it themselves that ran the blind pigs. Before Prohibition came, it was all made up and they bought it in barrels and whatever you know, kegs.

That's where the Willie Thalmann saloon was, on the corner, here. [Southwest corner of Illinois Road and Lake Avenue]. Maybe if you pull by the fire station. It was right on the corner. This [the fire station] is set back a little. He was one of the few that had a big place in the back for people to go back and sit at tables. And then adjoining that was a great big dance hall. And that was Willie Thalmann's place. His daughters are still living over here, less than a block east on Lake Avenue. Florence and I forgot the other one's name, both old maids.

KH: Now, you said it had a dancehall. Is this the place you referred to as the Million Dollar Ballroom?

ES: Yes, that's what they called it. Sure. I hadn't heard that for a long time.

KH: You're the one who told me that.

ES: Yes, that's right, the Million Dollar Ballroom, but it wasn't worth a million, you know.

JT: Did you also tell us it was somewhat collapsible? They would lay the floor down on nights for the dances or something? Did I remember you telling me that?

ES: Oh no, the dancehall was just there all the time. Same as the hall where you are up there on Ridge [Gross Point Village Hall]. The dancehall was upstairs. You've been told that by many people.

KH: Jane, maybe what your thinking of was behind Golbach's at one time. There was a dance floor [outdoors].

JT: That's it.

ES: That's right. They did, but Mick didn't have one. John Bleser did, next to the hall [Gross Point Village Hall]. He did. Yeah.

KH: Now, what about these bowling alleys? John Bleser had one. That was before your time, I know. We have a picture where he had a bowling alley. Maybe he turned that into a dancehall.

ES: After Prohibition came, that saloon went out of business. Then it was a bowling alley for a while. I had forgotten about that. It's a good thing you brought that up. Then it was moved over to Birchwood Avenue [1912 Birchwood]. I pointed that out to you one time, just a half a block west of Ridge on the right-hand side, the north side. And that building, of course, has been changed a little, but that was the original John Bleser building that was next to you up there at the Hall.

JT: What kind of music was played at the dancehalls?

ES: Good old fashioned guy with a drum and you know, the horns.

JT: Was it mostly local musicians?

ES: Mostly local guys, yeah.

JT: Was it the Gross Point Band or no?

ES: The Gross Point Band would play at special occasions up at their own hall, mostly. But they would be invited out, too. And then they always had a parade on Memorial Day and they would all march with that. You must have pictures of that. My father-in-law, my first wife's father, and the Schneider Band. You've heard of that, I think. It was called the Gross Point Band and it was mostly Schneiders on it.

KH: Willie Thalmann had other people playing?

ES: Yes, but they were mostly local people.

JT: And was it just classic dancing, what we would call ballroom dancing today?

ES: It wasn't nothing fancy and it wasn't that wild stuff now – boom, boom, boom. It was just the good old-fashioned dances. First they'd play a waltz and then a fox-trot.

JT: A polka?

ES: Uh, they didn't (pause) yeah they did polka. But that crept in later to my knowledge.

JT: Was this for married couples or teenagers or dance girls?

ES: Little of everything -- whoever wanted to shake it up, you know.

JT: Sounds like fun. Was it only on the weekends or every night of the week?

ES: No, mostly weekends at those places.

KH: Now Ed, Willie Thalmann, after Prohibition, what did he do with his property?

ES: Had a grocery store there for a long time. That's about all I can remember. The girls [Thalmann sisters] would love to talk to you. They live in that house right through there, that white one. Florence used to work for the Village of Wilmette, down at the hall. They're wonderful. They would be so happy. And they might come up with some pictures for you, too.

Now back here was a blind pig. Kroeschel Fran it. Right here. I guess that building was smashed down too [2416 Birchwood].

KH: Not the same building?

ES: No, not the same building. But right where that one with all the funny stuff on it, right there. It was a real big two-story building [2416 Birchwood]. And then Karl Schwall had a blind pig over on this side later [2419 Birchwood]. That Kroschel place was a blind pig too. That wasn't a regular tavern at any time, to my knowledge.

KH: Now this part we're in now, is it still considered Gross Point, out here?

ES: Yeah. Now the stuff west of here was just open country. Where we're going to go now. I'm going to show you where Matt Hoffman lived before he was killed by the mob.

ES: Even when saloons were hot on the Gross Point side, Wilmette already had some of these, like where the bowling alley was down at Central and Wilmette Avenue there.

KH: That was a blind pig?

ES: That was a blind pig. There were a number of them. Pete May had a blind pig at 212 16<sup>th</sup> Street. Not too many people would know about them, but I was the lucky guy that had uncles that drank and they would go there. {Laughter and general comments, driving directions}.

Over on the left about 2000 [Crawford/Hunter] was a guy had a blind pig. I can't think of his name, maybe it was come to me later.

JT: The blind pig was on Crawford at the time?

ES: Yeah, they didn't call it Crawford. It was just a dirt road, you know, and it led over to Mike Loutsch's farm. That's where the Centennial Park is.

Now in here was Morrie Smith's blind pig, and it was a big one, everybody knew about it, and he never got nailed on it. [2400 block Wilmette Avenue] Just shortly after the two roads separated, on the left there.

KH: What was his name now?

ES: Morris Smith [later moved to Glenview]. And then Tom Fry [Thrie? name?] had a blind pig in here somewhere just before we get to Locust [on Wilmette Avenue]. It would be about, one house back from the highway there, from the street. [Brookside]

JT: Now these were all farmhouses, there was no other development, correct?

ES: No other development. It was all farms from here up to Glenview Road. And Frisch ran the tavern. He was married to a Roemer, and the Roemer farm ran all the way back here, all the way to Old Glenview Road. It was all farms.

KH: There were not very many houses?

ES: Hardly any. You could count them on the fingers of one hand.

JT: Did you deliver papers to all those?

ES: Yeah, with the horse and buggy. Boy, it took a long time.

SIDE B

ES: In the morning with the *Tribune*, there was the *Herald-Examiner*. Then we had about 75 *Abendpost*. That was the German paper.

Now, we are at Locust. Down Locust here there were a couple of blind pigs. Do you want to just take a short run down there? My brother, Wally's father-in-law... Incidentally, I didn't tell you when we looked at the Zeuschel saloon up there [on Ridge], where Albert Zeuschel and then Heinie [Zeuschel] took over (turn in here – Greenleaf and Locust). Right back in here was, let's see, I've got the name written down what they called it. That was also run by this Heinie Zeuschel after he was out of business on Ridge.

KH: Then he ran a blind pig?

ES: Yeah. I got it here. [Laughter] It had a funny name. [Pause] Oh, Skid Inn and then later they called it Mosquito Inn. [Comments about location, Locust near Greenleaf] He was on Locust but it set back a little, you know. So the government guys couldn't see it. No, you could see it in full view.

Then we'll go back to Locust. I don't think we'll go any further north on Locust. There were a couple blind pigs down there but really time won't permit, I don't think. But we can do it again sometime.

JT: Back to Wilmette Avenue?

ES: Yes.

KH: Prohibition went into effect in 1920. So then the blind pigs must have come up after that. How long were they in business? Were they still in business during WWII?

ES: That's just about the time they were getting caught up with and knocked out. Actually, when Wilmette took over then the majority of them folded up at that time. When Wilmette took over Gross Point.

JT: So when Wilmette became an issue, they tried to get rid of these blind pigs?

ES: Oh, yeah. A few stuck it out for a while, you know, and they probably knew the right guys and paid them off. That was the big thing then, pay-off.

There was a blind pig just west of Hibbard, (we're going to go left on Hibbard) but just about a block west. Brown ran it, Art Brown. My dad, and my uncle too, used to pick up booze there.

Now we're on Hibbard Road. My God, how all this changed. I used to live at 231 Hibbard up until the time of my second marriage which was in 1991.

KH: And then you sold your house?

ES: Yes, to some Oriental people.

JT: Is this still Gross Point, Hibbard Road?

ES: Well, this was country. It was just like Gross Point, but it wasn't within the limits of the real Gross Point. But things were the same – saloons were wide-open, there were no rules.

This is where I lived, 231, and there were no other houses hardly around. One other house, coming down from the corner all the way to there. That was my brother-in-law and then I was the second one. Ann and I built this house in 1950.

JT: Really, really nice.

ES: That was all Schneider property, my mother-in-law and father-in-law owned it. On that side of the street too. And it was all farms. These were all Schneiders in here – Joe Schneider, Pete Schneider, John Schneider – all Schneiders.

KH: We're between Wilmette Avenue and Old Glenview Road.

JT: On Hibbard. Schneiderville, we call it.

ES: Yeah, that's a good name for it. And this was their original barn, still standing. I think the old place, yes, see back there? That was formerly where the help could sleep overnight. Those that came here from out of town and didn't have a home. It was a little bigger than that, quite a bit bigger, and they used to have dances in there too. That's where my mother-in-law and father-in-law lived and where my first wife, Ann, was born.

JT: That would be on corner of Old Glenview and Hibbard Roads, northwest corner.

ES: Yes, 3101, uh 3100.

KH: And what were her parents' names? First names?

ES: Peter and Rose [Schneider].

KH: Ed, there can't be too many old barns left, are there?

ES: No, no. That's one of the few.

KH: Do Schneiders still own this property?

ES: Now? No, it changed hands. One of my wife's grandchildren, George Pinkowski, bought it. He was a Wilmette fireman and was injured on the job. He took it over and then he sold it to Jack Chapman and his wife, and I think Mrs. Chapman is still living there.

JT: Were Pinkowskis the florist family, the greenhouse owners?

ES: Yes, they were big greenhouse owners. [Some driving directions here.]

This red brick house, he was married to my wife's sister, Rose. And his name was Joe Everett. And he had a blind pig in the back. You could go sit in the basement and drink or buy it and take it out. Whatever you wanted. That's the house, 3116.

KH: That's the same house?

ES: That's the same house, but it's been dolled up a little bit.

JT: And now it's been added on to. We know about Pierre's Excavating going down here.

ES: That was the Schneider Garage originally. And the Schneiders that ran the garage lived in this house, old Joe Schneider. Also a brother of my father-in-law.

KH: It looks like an 1870s house.

ES: Yes, it's a real oldie.

KH: Do you know who lived in this house?

ES: That was the Schneider home. Originally, they had a house straight across the street here that was ripped down long ago. Then they built this one – 3127 Old Glenview Road. I wish Margaret Schoenbeck was still living. I used to go and visit her a lot and she had a lot of historical things in there.

KH: I know you have mentioned her name before. Looks like somebody fixed up the outside.

ES: Naturally, got to keep up with the Joneses, you know. [Laughter.]

KH: So this was all Schneider land here. Did it go past what is now the expressway [Edens]?

ES: Sure. It ran all the way down, too, to Old Orchard Road. [More directions]

KH: Where did Matt Hoffman live?

ES: I'm going to show you. I should have taken you there first, and I'm sorry.

JT: Not at all.

[General laughter and comments; heading to west of the Expressway now]

ES: We used to right walk back here and hunt pheasants and rabbits.

KH: What a lot of changes you've seen in your lifetime.

ES: Oh my, yes. [General comments here.] I can show you where the Big Tree Farm was. 'Cause we talked about that, remember? The people who took it over, Enderhoffs, were our neighbors, but it was the old Brown house before that, B-R-O-W-N, which was a very common name.

The Big Tree Farm, well we'll see it better when we come back out here. That's the original, that gray.

KH: That gray house over there?

ES: That gray, that was the Big Tree Farm and that's the original but it's been trimmed down and remodeled.

KH: Is it in the same location?

ES: Yes, exactly.

KH: It's hard to imagine a farm being here what with the expressway and everything. That's just as you come over the ramp [over the Edens Expressway] on Wilmette Avenue [traveling west on Wilmette Avenue; the Big Tree Farm house is on the north side, on the west side of the expressway].

ES: If you pull in this driveway, we'd be going right in our front door where we used to live. Right here is where our house stood. Right here. Matt Hoffman's saloon was over on the left here. It was a long wooden building. And our home was, well, if I see the trees here, I can tell. [Ed makes comments in an attempt to find the location of the house.] We lived actually, right here where the big tree is.

JT: Was that near the front door of the house?

ES: Yes, and then the overpass was not there and there was no road there at all, coming east and west there [referring to Wilmette Avenue at Edens]. And that's where his big long saloon was.

JT: Now, they tore these houses down when they did the expressway or they just moved them?

ES: Ours moved over to 3025 Wilmette Avenue, and I sold it to a relative. And then later, my brother, of all things, and his wife bought it and lived there a while, my brother, Harold, who since has died.

Matt Hoffman had his big garage and that's where he kept a lot of his beer. So one night, it was in July of 1931. It was close to midnight, and he got a call, and it was Hackney calling, Jack Hackney. There is still the Hackney's saloon on Harms Road, but that was old Jack Hackney's saloon. It was Jack Hackney calling. Matt used to supply him with the beer and the mob knew that and they didn't want that. They wanted it to be the big boys that did it. It was the Touhy gang at the time that controlled this area.

So it was Jack Hackney himself on the phone and said, "Matt, I know it's late at night but I have run out of beer and I want to stay open yet for a couple of hours. Would you bring a couple barrels of beer over?" Big husky Matt Hoffman, I guess he weighed 250 lbs, big strapping, well-built man, said, "Yeah, I'll be over." So my wife, my wife Ann was the widow of him [she later married Mr. Schuett], she watched from the upper story while he backed his truck out by the driveway, opened the garage door, and loaded a couple barrels of beer in it. Put them in the big trunk. He must have had more of a truck than a car, but the way she said it, it was a car, though. And he drove over there to Hackney's, and he pulled in the driveway. He got out of the car and he saw shadows in the doorway because it was a glass door and he saw shadows. These mob guys they wore big hats, you know, big black hats. He saw that, and he knew he couldn't get the vehicle out of there any more, but he jumped the rest of the way out of the car and started tearing across into the dark. But he didn't know it, Hackney had just put a fresh lawn in and put a string around it, a wire, and the poor guy is running to save his life, and he hit that wire and down he went. By that they were there and they mowed him. He was so riddled with bullets. And that was the days when they laid the bodies out at home, you know, and friends would come. I remember, let's see, how old was I then, 1931, I was twenty. I came out with my uncles to what we called the wake, instead of going to a funeral parlor. And I remember how he laid there, he was just a sight. Big husky man. He was born and raised in the house down here which I think is still standing, the Hoffman house.

But they mowed him down, and then you know what they did with him? They threw him in the trunk of one of their cars and drove him, drove out to Aptakisick Road, off of Waukegan Road up there as you get out near Half-Day, and it was in July, hot, hot weather, and they dragged him out into a field there. I knew the spot. I used to go and visit it with Ann. And they left him lay there. He laid there for a day and a half in that hot sun.

Here's the Hoffman house. Did they tear that down, too? Oh my good God, they did.

JT: It would have been right here at the Old Orchard exit ramp sign. I don't even know what the address is, Kathy. Frontage Road, I think is the only...

ES: This was Old Glenview Road at the time. See this was Old Glenview Road and it went through and you know where I told you where Margaret Schoenbeck lived [address on Old Glenview Road]? That's where it came through. It's all blocked off now with the new highway. That's where the Hoffman house was, with the big barn in the back. (Driving instructions.)

JT: That's where you're house was , right where the Office Court is?

ES: Well, it's further down from there.

KH: Closer to Wilmette [Avenue]?

ES: Yes. When the County took the property to put the overpass in and the highway, they left quite a piece but it narrowed down to a point here and it was kind of useless for building purposes because we didn't own the stuff in the back. So it lay there for quite a few years and then I finally found a buyer for it, the people that put this building up here. They only wanted to pay about \$5,000 for it, but I got them up to \$22,500 with my line of bull, you know. Then I divided it. I took a fifth, gave Ann a fifth and each of her three kids a fifth, \$4,500 a piece.

3330 is where I lived and the saloon of course [was here]. But they didn't have numbers then either, way back, at that time.

KH: Just out of curiosity, Ed, what else was up around here? What was out here? Was this all farm land?

ES: This was all open land, nothing. We used to go hunting. Brown had a big farm. He raised a lot of apples.

That's it [Big Tree Farm]. They had a big porch in front which has all been changed. But most of the building is still standing. This is original back here. See the little latticework underneath?

JT: What do you think the name of the street is? Do you know, Ed? We'll have to go back and look.

ES: It's a Frontage Road, where we just pulled off of. But that wasn't there then. There was no road going down here.

KH: Which way did the farm go from the farmhouse?

ES: That way [north]. But that's the old Brown farm, Big Tree Farm they called it 'cause there was a giant, giant tree here at the time and it stood well into when I was still living over here. Then it finally decayed, and they had to take it down.

KH: Was this the big tree that you could stand in?

ES: No, no, not that one, not to my knowledge. So that's it with the Big Tree Farm. Did we have another question about over by Matt Hoffman's or are we all mopped up on that?

KH: Oh, I have a question about the Curve Inn. Was that the name of his saloon?

ES: That was Curve Inn, I meant to tell you that.

KH: Why did it have the name Curve Inn?

ES: It was right by the curve there, as you will see as we go by. That was the old Bohn farm. It's original, but it's been cut way down [no address].  
[Driving instructions.]

ES: We're going to go right on Hibbard. That's a Schneider home.

JT: This is another Schneider home?

ES: Yes, a son of Tony Schneider built that. Right next door to it was the old Anthony Schneider home, and he was a brother to my father-in-law. He was married to a Doetsch. So was my father-in-law married to a Doetsch. Two brothers married two sisters. Isn't that something? All in the family.

KH: The Tony Schneider house is 3021 Old Glenview Road.

ES: They have given you pictures and everything, haven't they? Barbara and ...

KH: I do believe they have. I didn't recognize the house. I'll check to make sure.

ES: Just a little bit east of here, you skip the house next door, and then right here stood an old shanty, it was a two story and Harold Schwindel ran a blind pig [2701 Old Glenview Road? Can't quite make out the words on the tape.]

Oh, my God, I meant to tell you back at the corner. Across from the old Schneider home, my father-in-law and mother-in-law, they had a vegetable stand, Schneider's Farm, and they sold the vegetables there. And then back, there was a little dirt road leading back about two-thirds of a block, and Pete Engels ran a blind pig there which was well-known by everybody. Pete Engels who was a local guy here. He lived on Glenview Road, too, all his life. I meant to show you that while we were there, but I forgot about that. But this was Harold Schwindel. I used to enjoy stopping there with the uncles, too.

KH: I seemed, Ed, that your uncles spread their money around, so that they didn't patronize just one place.

ES: Oh, they believed in charity, you know. This guy ran a blind pig, and I forgot his name right off-hand here now [2920 Old Glenview Road or so].

I started to tell you about when my folks lived in Evanston and I helped on the paper route. Then we would stop for drinks. One of them was at Curve Inn, there, where we were, where Matt Hoffman was. Then we would get home and Grandma would have supper for us. Then instead of doing my homework, we opened up a portable pool table and we played pool table and drank until about 9:30 or quarter to ten and I didn't have much time for homework. And then the next morning I would get up with them at 3:30 or 4:00 and go on the paper route again. Come back and Grandma would have breakfast ready for us, bacon and eggs most of the time, and then ... This guy ran a blind pig too, Schoden.

KH: That grey house right there? I can't see the address.

ES: Yeah.

JT: 2648 – we're on Old Glenview Road. That's one of the few standing that looks old. One after the other they've gone.

ES: So I'd come home rushing from the paper route, have breakfast, and then uncle would put me in his open vehicle and drive me all the way down to Evanston High where I went at the time. I'd jump out and run in just in time for class. And then when class let out in the afternoon, then I'd run all the way down Church Street from Evanston High School to catch the North Shore train down there. It was about, it had to be over a mile. I would run all the way to be sure and catch it. Go back and Uncle would be waiting there with the paper rig and then we'd go on the afternoon route again. So I had a full schedule!

JT: Were you paid anything for your participation on the route, or were you just expected to go along?

ES: They would pay me a little something, and I would take it right down to my folks and pay the rent because they were having a hard time.

This is where Pete Engels lived in his later years [2406 Old Glenview Road]. He was born in that house [2400 Old Glenview Road]. Reimers had the other house [next to 2406].

KH: Is that the same house [2400]?

ES: Yes, that's the original.

JT: [Question not audible.]

ES: That was the Mike Loutsch farm and why they destroyed that old building, I'll never know. That was a shame.

KH: Ed, how long did it take you to deliver the papers? You said you started at 3:30 in the morning.

ES: Yeah, we'd finish about maybe quarter to seven and then by the time I got cleaned up a little bit, not too much, and then have breakfast and then it would take a while to get down there to the high school. I'd get there just in time for school.

JT: I assume this was seven days a week?

ES: Seven days a week. Well, I didn't go to school seven days, not Saturday and Sunday.

JT: Right, but you still had to do your papers.

ES: Oh, Sunday was the toughest.

JT: Are we heading back?

ES: I'm going to show you a few more little things here.

JT: There was never a day off except maybe a national holiday once in a while?

ES: Even then you didn't have off. You had the papers.

That guy ran a blind pig right here. That house has been torn down, and I can't think of his name.

KH: 3600 block of Old Glenview Road?

ES: Yeah, it would be right in there.

KH: [Discussion of street addresses on Old Glenview Road – barely audible].

JT: No, you're right. It's funny. That's 3628 right there but this side looks to be in the 2200. So is this Evanston?

ES: Yeah, these are Evanston numbers.

JT: I'll be darned.

ES: We called it old Gross Point in the old days, you know. Everything changes. I can't think of that guy's name. He worked for the Wilmette Life and then he had a blind pig there.

Bauer had one in his basement, a blind pig. That's the original house.

JT: Oh, wow. Now we're back to Wilmette numbers.

ES: We're back to Wilmette numbers.

KH: 2125 [Old Glenview Road]. Who was this Bauer? What was his first name?

ES: I'm trying to think of it. They called him Gangolf. Isn't that a funny name? I think in English that would be John. The German...Gangolf Bauer.

KH: That used to be a common, well I don't know if it was common. In German families in the mid-1800s. it looked like that it was a common name.

ES: Oh, it was. It was loaded with them.

JT: That's an interesting house. I've never noticed it. It is old. The Bauers seemed to like a certain style. Let's take a quick look at it.

KH: It looks like it's in great shape.

JT: Yes, it's darling.

ES: A couple of the grand-daughters are still living on Laramie Avenue. One is little Ida. She's that little crippled girl. She's only about half the height of a normal person. And then her sister who is a nun, but she took her leave from the ... no, she still works part-time at the St. Joseph's Rectory.

KH: Oh, I met her. I can't remember her first name.

ES: Heavy-set girl. She could give you some run-down on this.

JT: This is a great house. What a strange little street.

ES: Sister Nila, that's it.

KH: Nila, that's right.

JT: And it's Old Glenview and Parkview Court.

ES: Yes.

JT: Interesting. These are streets I've never seen before.

KH: Me either, it's wonderful. It's a great tour of Wilmette or old Gross Point.

JT: It's wonderful.

ES: Blum's, B-L-U-M, they ran a blind pig in there. That's original, too.

KH: 2040 Old Glenview Road.

One of the Blum, oh I don't know, she must a granddaughter, great-granddaughter, she doesn't live around there anymore, Dorothy Weimer, is that her name?

ES: That sounds familiar, yeah.

KH: Yeah, anyway, she told me that whoever built this house, the Blum's, they hand-made those bricks.

ES: Oh, yeah, I guess that's right.

JT: That's wonderful. We should tell the people...

KH: But I'd never seen the house.

ES: Back where that grey house is, my God it's still the original but it's been remodeled, Pete Smith had a ,but don't pull over there, but he ran a blind pig in the back, too.

JT: The recessed house on Wilmette Avenue? It's kind of set back a little bit? That one? [Get Address; near intersection of Wilmette and Old Glenview Road.]

ES: Yeah.

JT: Are we going this way?

ES: Yes, I'm sorry.

JT: We were on the 2000 block [Old Glenview Road] and now we are on Wilmette Avenue proper.

ES: They still serve a lot of drinks here, the old school. My mother went to that school. [Referring to the old Gross Point Public School, now the American Legion Hall] Pull into the gas station if you can.

JT: Whoa! Oops, sorry. That took me by surprise. Do you want me just to pull straight through?

ES: Yeah, I meant to point out something to you there but maybe we'll have to do it when we come back.

The property you just drove across now was the Ed Zeuschel saloon. And that was a bonafide saloon. He was related to Albert and Heinie Zeuschel up there at the other one [near Lake Ave. on Ridge].

KH: Was that also a frame building, a wood building?

ES: A low wood building, one story.

JT: Right here at Wilmette and Ridge? [southwest corner]

ES: Yeah, and after Prohibition then he had a blind pig in the back. No, Ed Zeuschel didn't. Ed Zeuschel moved across the street, and I'm going to show you that on the way back. But he sold it to Heinzen and Heinzen had a saloon here, Pete Heinzen.

ES: Ed Zeuschel had it first.

KH: And then Pete Heinzen.

ES: Yes. Now we go straight. [Driving confusion and laughter] Now go a little slow. [Driving instructions continue.]

Behind where this brick house is now [2767] there was a great big barn. Real fancy barn, too. And that's where Morris Smith ran a tavern. And the reason was it curves here, see. The old road used to go behind the greenhouses over there that divided, so that's why it could be wet here. And then Morris Smith had it and then he later moved to Wilmette Avenue where I showed you when we went out, just a little west of Hunter, you know, on the left. Okay and then Little John took over. I never knew his name, but he was a little short guy. They called him Little John. He ran a blind pig right here for a long time after that. But Morris Smith had it originally. On this sheet I had it mixed up with the names, but I'll explain that later. This is the last one now, going south.

KH: So where was, I know this was before your time, but at one time I heard that Sesterhenn owned a saloon.

ES: Way up at the corner of Central. I've been in that one too. And further up that was Hohs, but that wasn't part of Wilmette. But if you want to see them.

KH: No, that's okay.

ES: Sesterhenn had one there and then who had one further up? Come on, mind, get working. Oh, Pete Hohs, way up the line, past Golf Road.

KH: That was Niles Center?

ES: Yeah.

JT: I think that building stood until about 1960, didn't it? [southwest corner of Gross Point Road and Golf Road,]

ES: Yeah.

JT: It was a big frame thing that fronted, that was kind of a triangle, there's a big apartment building there now.

ES: Yeah. He also sponsored baseball teams like John Mick did.

JT: Was it H-O-S-S or H-O-T-H ?

ES: H-O-H-S but they pronounced it "Haas," why I don't know.

JT: That's the only place I heard that name.

ES: Old German name. Schaefer lived here, old Schaefer. He rented that barn to Morris Smith and Little John. It's the old Schaefer house. That's quite original here too.

JT: It looks like it. So what vintage would that be? 1850s, maybe, 1860s?

KH & JT: What Schaefer lived there?

ES: I'm trying to think of it. It'll come to me – Peter Schaefer. They're either Johns or Petes or Nicks or...(laughs).

JT: Or Georges.

ES: Not many Edwards.

JT: You're one in a million.

ES: I guess they became a little extinct.

Right at the curb on the left here, and that's the original house, too. Weis had a blind pig.

JT: Say that name again.

ES: Weis, W-E-I-S, one s.

[Driving instructions.]

Ed Zeuschel when he left the corner, on the southwest corner, he moved into this building.

KH: The one that says "North Shore Meats [421 Ridge]?"

ES: Yes, but that stood way over where the gas station is now. That building did.

KH: It moved from across the street? No?

JT: It was only moved from the corner, wasn't it?

ES: It moved just from the corner where the gas station is - -oh, there's no gas station there anymore. Pardon me, I'm sorry.

KH: Okay.

ES: Later the gas station came. Joe Lyman ran it.

KH: Do you know, why did they move? Why did he move it from the corner?

ES: That's what Ed Zeuschel wanted. I never knew the reason. He ran a tavern there then.

KH: First he was across the street where the Shell station is now. First he was on, what would that be, the southwest corner [of Wilmette & Ridge]. And then he moved to the northwest corner and then he moved it one lot further north.

ES: So he did a lot of moving. I meant to show you where his home was too, and that's original. That's at, you know where we come in Old Glenview Road and hit Wilmette Avenue? It was that real big house which still stands. Right there. You'd run right in the yard if you didn't make your right turn there to go onto Wilmette Avenue. Right in that big yard. And that was where Ed Zeuschel lived. And incidentally, George Pinkowski, when he left Hibbard Road, the Grandma Schneider home, he bought that one. And then he since sold that, and now he lives up in Northbrook.

KH: Ed Zeuschel house [saloon], the one here at 421 [Ridge], where did you go in? Do you remember going in this saloon at all?

ES: I was never in that one that I can remember. But I was in the one across the street, when he had it across the street.

JT: It was a different building altogether when it was across the street?

ES: Yeah.

KH: Was that building, the building that had been across the street, was it turned into anything else or was it just torn down?

ES: Residence. I knew people that lived there because I used to live right at the end of the Feed Store or whatever they call it now. Oh, it says “gifts” now. How things change. We lived there at 416 Ridge, when I graduated from Evanston High School.

JT: Let’s take a look at that. The Kempe house?

ES: When I graduated from St. Joe’s, I should say. 416.

JT: This little one?

ES: Yes, right there. And this was the Otto Kempe Shoe Shop. He owned this house too. And we lived there for quite a few years until they moved to Evanston in 1926 and that’s when I started high school. But this was Kempe’s Shoe Shop and they lived upstairs [418 Ridge]. Old Otto Kempe, K-E-M-P-E. Incidentally, that Zeuschel name is Z-E-U-T-S-C-H-E-L, one L.

KH: This red brick building with the house behind it. Do you know anything about that? [441 Ridge]

ES: Yeah. Rumors were that once upon a time it was a saloon in front. And then later it became a tin shop. It looks original, I don’t know. I think it is. And then in the back were people living, you know. I remember the people real well, the Farris (spelling?), their name was, and the Streits. They were little kids when we were bouncing around here.

KH: I’m referring to 441 Ridge. What about 435, where these apartment buildings are now? Was there anything there when...

ES: Which apartment buildings?

KH: These brown ones here.

ES: Oh sure. The Kaufmann’s home was in there, and what was the other name? It began with an “S”. Oh my goodness. How these names got away from me. I didn’t think they ever would.

KH: So there were houses there?

ES: There were homes, dwellings.

JT: Farmhouse types?

ES: No.

JT: A little more city?

ES: The Kaufmann home was a big, square-looking thing in two stories with a peak roof on it, wooden of course. Steiner, Steiner was the little house next door. That's a common name, too.

And then beyond where I told you the blind pig was and then later the tin shop. There was a real big house which has been ripped down. That's where Albert Zeutschel lived. He was the father of Heinie Zeutschel, and Heinie Zeutschel of course I told you was my brother, Wally's, father-in-law. He's the one that started the tavern on Ridge, Albert Zeutschel. It's all ripped down. It was a great big wooden house there.

KH: On this corner here over here?

ES: Yes. And at first, there were no streets going through here, like Central and Highland. But later they went through. That was all prairie, clear to Washington here, which was at that time Blum Street. So we're all through with the rounds.

JT: That is a lot of information.

KH: Thank you so much, Ed.

ES: Well, I tried.

KH: This concludes our tour.