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Francis and Roy Miller interview for the Lest We Forget Collection of Oral Histories

Francis Miller

Francis Miller

Judy Leasure

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**WRIGHT STATE
FRANCIS AND ROY MILLER
TAPE 25**

QUESTION:

Just tell me about you, you know, who you are and where you live and I know you said something about infamous 60 years or something. So talk about, you've been together 60, you know, something about your life and, uh, where you live here in the community and that kind of thing and just whoever wants to talk.

FRANCIS:

I'm Francis Miller I have a daughter Nancy here at Apple Creek and, uh, my husband Roy. We've been married 60 years, we have 3 other children, we're active in Apple Creek and the PVA and the CAC and do a lot of volunteer work here. And, uh, were active in our church and we do volunteer work there. We vote and we do our duty there for voting and, uh, I worked in the school system for 20 years before retiring.

QUESTION:

And, Roy what did you do before you retired?

ROY:

I was a carpenter I've been all over the... almost all over the world. Uncle Sam sent me in the South Pacific back in the early 40's. I survived that thank God. I married her while I was in the service and sent her home to my parents. They took care of her till I got back. They just about ruined her though she wouldn't pay any attention to what I said until I got back. So... so the first-50 years we were married I was boss, after that she's been boss and brother have I paid for it. But, she's... she's a mighty fine person. Good Lord didn't make enough of them.

QUESTION:

That's a good thing to say after 60 years isn't it?

ROY:

Yeah, she's (AUDIO OVERLAP) had to put up with me and boy I'll tell you she's got a crown for putting up with me I'm not an easy person to get a long with. When I left the United States to be in the service I was a nice young man I didn't talk back to anybody and by the time I got back from the people that I took orders from and the things that I seen I said this world's in a hell of a shape I hope it gets better. But, it hasn't it's... its gone done hill.

QUESTION:

Were you in the Army?

ROY:

Yep. But, uh, I don't know... I just don't understand people anymore. When we were young people you could leave your doors unlocked and people never came in your house. Now you can't even leave your car unlocked they'll break out the window. So, there's something the matter with this world. I don't know what it is but it sure needs a big change.

FRANCIS:

We live in Akron.

QUESTION:

Do you live in Akron?

FRANCIS:

Summit County.

QUESTION:

Summit County — O.K.

ROY:

Almost out of Summit County. We live well pretty close to Stark County.

FRANCIS:

Our baby will be 50 this year, a senior Citizen.

QUESTION:

Tell me about all your kids. You say you've got... you have 4 all together.

FRANCIS:

We have 4 children. 2 girls, 2 boys. The 2 girls were born first then the 2 boys. And, uh, well of course, our favorite is our little one here because she's special.

QUESTION:

And, what's her name?

FRANCIS:

Nancy. And, uh, we have one that put in 20 years in the military and retired. He's the baby that's turning 50. And, then we have one that's an over the road truck driver for gasoline hauler. And, then our daughter she's, uh, well, she doesn't do much of anything now. (AUDIO OVERLAP) Well, I mean professionally.

ROY:

Well, they spoiled her. They spoiled her. My wife and my mother and dad had her while I was in the service and they spoiled her I couldn't override that. The other two the boys and the youngest daughter she's the one that lives here. She does just about as she pleases too. But, the two boys they were pretty well to mind, but I was a pretty rough father. They done what dad told them. And, I told them when they got old enough to go out the door and not come back then they was their own boss but as long as they stayed under my roof I was the boss. And, I had a boss. She was a boss so she told me what to make them do, so.

FRANCIS:

We have 5 grandchildren. And 7 step grandchildren. We have 4 great grandchildren and 1 great-great grandchild.

ROY:

You're wrong on the grandchildren mother. We have 6 grandchildren. Barbara had 5 and Tim had 1.

FRANCIS:

And, Roy had 2.

ROY:

That's 8. (LAUGHTER)

FRANCIS:

I was counting Barbara's and didn't count the others.

QUESTION:

Do they... most of them live still around here or something?

FRANCIS: No.

ROY:

Most of them. 5 of them's in Texas. 1 of them's in Maryland. And, 2 of them's in Ohio.

FRANCIS:

Our son lives close to us. One of them.

ROY:

The oldest son.

FRANCIS:

Yes, and uh.

ROY:

The one that carries my name stayed around.

FRANCIS:

Most of the grandchildren are grown. We have 2 that's ten, the rest are grown. And, uh, we don't get to see them too often because they are either in Texas or Maryland where they live.

QUESTION:

And, that's a long journey?

ROY:

Yeah, they got as far away from the old man as they could.

FRANCIS:

And, that's the reason we spend a lot of time here working with the individuals and all... and, they're such a great group of individuals.

QUESTION:

Tell me... are you comfortable telling me about Nancy and her early life... about can you remember... I think particularly one of the things I've been interested in when I've talked with families and all is, uh, you know, right from the beginning of ... of how they were told that their child had a disability. And, some of that. Can you go back to that? Is that too hard to go back to?

FRANCIS:

Our daughter was born at the hospital. And, at the time...

QUESTION:

What year was she born?

FRANCIS:

Uh, 1951. And, she had a port wine stain on her face and the stain covered... and you can see how it covers her and all. And, umm, the doctor came in and, uh, I went home the day she was born in the hospital and he said, oh, she's just got that little port wine stain, says

nothing matters. It's all right. We went home and I guess 10 days later she started to shaking vibrantly and, uh, looking odd with her eyes and everything. So, I called the doctor she sent me to this neurologist. So, he did an artillery (SP??) gram and at that time he come out he had blood all over his shirt coming right out of the room where he had done this procedure. And, he says, well... he says the child's not going to live to be a year old. Said, you might as well just get rid of her place her somewhere and forget you even had her. And, he walked out of the room. He didn't let us answer a question; ask him anything or anything about it. So, I called the family doctor and told him. And, he sat down and explained that she has a Sturge Weber Disease and that is a 1,000 in 1 has it. At the time she was born they didn't know what to do or anything about Sturge Weber it was so unknown. So, we had her and she got an infection in her throat where the doctor had stitched up wherever he had run this test. And, they took that out and they said, oh, you're feeding her too much she's so fat and all you can't...Well, I took her home and we kept her and worked as much as we could with her and everything until she was eleven years old. She would be sitting on the floor next to me, I'd be ironing me and everything and she'd be sitting on the floor next to me... she'd jump up so fast the minute I saw her starting to move I'd put my iron down... walk over and throw her head through a plate glass window. She broke 23 windows and 1 plate glass door. Got cut once right across the bridge of her nose and that's the only time.

QUESTION:

Tough head?

FRANCIS:

Yeah, we took her to the hospital and blood, you know, pouring and everything and they stitched it up and he come out and he says, uh, uh, well, uh, I know, she's retarded. He

says, oh, o.k.. And, we worked with her. So, finally the doctor told us we that we had to place Nancy. We couldn't... I had 3 children besides her. 2 others in diapers.

ROY:

2 younger than her.

FRANCIS:

And, uh, he says, you just can't take care of it. O.k. We went... we came down here and looked and it was before they cleaned Apple Creek up... before the Sidles (SP??) law suit. And, I said, no way is my child going in there. If you haven't seen off the cement floor.

QUESTION:

What did you see when you came here when it was an institution?

FRANCIS:

It's terrible. (AUDIO OVERLAP) We went into a building and here's room after room with the doors... they're were a bunch of them laying on beds, sitting on the floor soiled and all not taken care of or anything. And, I said, no way I don't care if it kills me I'm not putting her in a place like that. So, I kept her and fought them. And, the Sidles lawsuit went in to clean Apple Creek up and some how or other they talked me into finally going to Columbus and seeing that one. Well, I went to Columbus.

QUESTION:

Was the Orient?

FRANCIS:

No, (AUDIO OVERLAP) Columbus Developmental Center. And, at that time I went in, beautiful building. Oh, it was so beautiful, clean, smelled clean, you didn't have any odors or anything. And, they wanted to diagnose her and see, so I left her for one month I couldn't go see her or nothing because of the diagnosing and everything they didn't want any

interruptions or changes. And, we went back after that and she wasn't in the building. They had put her into another unit. Weil, it was nice it wasn't as nice as the one they had her in but it was nice, so I said, o.k. I'll try. So, (LAUGHTER) we left her there...

QUESTION:

Tell us what you're laughing about?

ROY:

Well, she was going to leave her there, so I come home from work one day, she wasn't home. About an hour later she pulled in she had Nancy she come down and got he she didn't leave her. So, she kept her for...

FRANCIS:

1 year.

ROY:

1 just shy of 1 year. And, she about that time she weighed about 78... my wife weighed about 78 maybe 80 pounds. She had Nancy in diapers, she had... well we had the other 2 boys then... they were getting up to where people were making fun of Nancy. You've got an idiot sister and all that crap. So, we finally placed her and every month we went to Columbus. We went down on Friday evening and picked Nancy up. We went to a motel and we kept her overnight. Well, on Sat... Friday night and Saturday night and then we took her back Sunday afternoon and mother cried all the way home. We done that for quite a few years I don't remember how long. So, they told us that she could come to Apple Creek. So, we come down... she came down... I didn't get to do none of this because I was working. Trying to make a living to pay for all this crap going on. So, she come down and looked at Apple Creek, she says, I like it. That was after they started cleaning it up. So, the moved

Nancy back here. And, she's been in the same building... not on the same unit but in the same building since, when, 1960??

FRANCIS:

1982. September 1982

ROY:

1982

FRANCIS:

They brought Nancy from Columbus to Apple Creek. And, she was in Jonathan Hall when she came. At that time they had the women on the East side of the building and the men on the West side of the building. And, she was there for quite some time, then they just rotated. The men went to the West side and the women and she's been on the West side every since.

ROY:

And, we had two floors at that time... upstairs and downstairs. Then some bright person down at Columbus or somewhere says you can't have... they have to all be on one floor. So, they scooted them around until they got everybody off of the second floor, kicked some of them out until they got everybody on the first floor. But, now that's fine for Apple Creek, but now you can go down to Mt. Vernon and they got 3 stories buildings down there. They got 2 story buildings down there. We couldn't use the second floor of our buildings; we had to keep everybody on the first floor. So...

QUESTION:

Did they tell you why or anything?

ROY:

They don't know why.

FRANCIS:

No fire escapes.

QUESTIONS:

Oh, no fire escapes.

ROY:

And, the one that, uh, Mt. Vernon, no fire escapes and they got people on wheel chairs on the 3rd floor. Now, if that's, uh,

QUESTIONS:

Now, is that still today?

FRANCIS:

Yes.

ROY:

Yes.

FRANCIS/ROY:

That's still today.

ROY:

And, they want to move our daughter to Mt. Vernon, they can go to hell.

QUESTION:

Can you talk a little bit about what it was like for them, you know, having Nancy when she was at home and what it was like living in the community, you know, when people weren't as accepting and weren't as understanding as hopefully some are today. Uh, what was it like for them growing up?

ROY:

None of our kids ever said anything wrong. They never said anything. We never knew anything about it until, uh, I don't know, Nancy and her mother was at, uh, swimming pool

one time and she heard one of the kids holler... hey Roy, there's your idiot sister. Well we didn't know that. They never told us. We didn't know that was going on.

QUESTION:

So, they were protective of her?

FRANCIS:

They were protective of her.

ROY:

So, after that we didn't take her out with them in the public. When we took her out they stayed at home. And, when she came to Apple Creek and we... we took her home weekly then. At Columbus it was every month or every two weeks whatever we could get away because it was expensive. And, we weren't rich people but we managed to make it there at least once a month. When she came to Apple Creek we made it once a week. Now, it's as high as six times a week we're here. We've been here....

QUESTION:

It's your home away from home.

FRANCIS:

Yeah.

ROY:

We've got better... we've got more time in here than some of the... some of the staff do.

(AUDIO OVERLAP) And, uh, this is a great place for them. There's no place like the developmental centers. I don't know of all of them, but I do know of Apple Creek and it is an ideal place for them. These people do not need to be out in the public because the public do not understand them. They might be highly educated people, they might be great students, they might be great people but the good Lord left common sense out, they don't understand that everybody's not like them, thank God. Because this would be a horrible world if

everybody was all educated and everybody was so smart and nobody had to take care of anybody else. This wouldn't be a very good place to live.

FRANCIS:

No, we pick her up and take her home every week for the day she will not stay overnight at home anymore. When we take her home we take her out to Rolling Acres Mall and push her in the wheel chair. She can't walk now, she's to that stage. And, you'd be surprised at how they accept her. The walkers out there, they all know her name and they'll come by and they'll say, well hi Nancy how are you today? Or, come up and shake hands with her or something and even the working staff they come in and they talk and everything to her.

QUESTION:

It's a different world isn't it?

ROY:

It is now.

FRANCIS:

It is.

ROY:

When we first started... when they first built Rolling Acres and we took her out there people would walk into the poles looking at her. People would walk into the walls looking at her. But, we went every week. We went for about 2 years and then all of a sudden you pulled in there one day and here was a great big bus load of mentally retarded children. They were bringing them from the other places to the mall. I don't know about the other malls but they still bring them to Rolling Acres. And, we were the ones... we took our daughter. They got used to her so they brought the others in. And, people don't make fun of them anymore. They... they stare sometimes, but not like they used to.

FRANCIS:

We'd take her down here to Wal-Mart and we'd come down maybe for an afternoon visit or something. We'd take her in... she gets her cup of coffee and we shop a little bit and we'll hand her something, she'll put it in the basket and everybody is accepting them now on it. And, umm, I think that parents really should educate their children that everyone isn't born the same. So, that they understand. You can't blame a child making fun if they don't understand about the disabled people.

QUESTION:

And, that's one of the reasons we want to be doing what we're doing is to be able to tell that story and that everyone is valued. Everyone has someplace. (AUDIO OVERLAP)

ROY:

There are some... there are some mentally retarded people that can be put in the, uh, in the towns, in the cities, in group homes and care takers homes. There are some that cannot be. There has to be places like Apple Creek, developmental centers where they're trained. When our daughter came to this unit. This place.

FRANCIS:

When she came here she could not do anything. She wasn't toilet trained. She couldn't feed herself. She couldn't walk...

QUESTION:

She'd been in Columbus for... how many years?

FRANCIS:

Uh, about 10 years up there. They got to where they just let her sit around. That was it for...

ROY:

And steal her blind.

FRANCIS:

Came here and we had a teacher Bob Jefferies supposed to teach her and then he had Joyce and Joy as his assistants. Well, between the three of them (NOSE BLOW) they taught her how to walk. They taught her how to feed herself. They taught her how to go the bathroom on her own and everything. And, we took her home one day... come down picked her up as usual and all and took her home... I'd put her food on the table for her, laid her spoon and all like I always do and I went to pick up the spoon to feed her... she picked it up and started feeding herself. And, they hadn't told us that she was doing this and we just sat there with our mouths open. We couldn't believe what they had done. She has one bad habit. She, uh, takes snuff and that's the way they trained her here. Bob would say, Nancy if you go do this or if you do that I'll give you a little snuff. She had a bad habit of picking up cigarette butts and throwing them in her mouth.

ROY:

And, she was faster than double geared lightening.

FRANCIS:

And, he felt that giving her a little snuff with the same taste as the tobacco she'd leave the cigarettes butts alone and then he saw how that worked, so he started with the training of it that way. And, she can do things. She's been in the Special Olympics. She's received First and Second and Third Place and ribbons in there. And, for walking and tossing ball and then, uh, she's gone on trips different places, out to eat, all of that. Where she could do none of that until they had trained her here.

ROY:

And, she's got one Gold Metal. She's got 7 Silver Metals and 5 Place Metals. Little ribbons where she...

FRANCIS:

And, they... people just don't understand that some of these institutions are needed for those that are completely incapable of doing for their selves. It's not that the parents like us don't want our children at home or anything we love them as much as our regular children and all, but had I had Nancy at home I could have never trained her like they trained her here.

ROY:

You couldn't have lived.

FRANCIS:

There's just no way I could have trained her to do these things.

ROY:

_____ (INAUDIBLE) that new doctor told me... he said, either you place your daughter or bury your wife. He says, she cannot take her. Because, I'll be truthful, this woman as long as our daughter was home she never got more than 3 hours of sleep at any one time except when she would take the oldest daughter and go to Girls Scout Camp. She was a Girl Scout Leader and I'd stay at home with the 2 boys and Nancy over the weekend. When I didn't have to work. And, while she was at Girl Scout Camp one time Nancy and I burnt the house down. I guess I dosed off and Nancy got away from me and got down... I was building a new kitchen in the house and I had a new stove... a new Roper gas stove. She got all four burners turned on somehow and melted the pilot and it took the whole stove up. The fireman said, we was baking cherry pies because there happened to be a cherry pie in the oven but anyhow she burnt the house down. So, we rebuilt that and kept her at home as long as was... my wife was able. Then she was placed... and this has been her home, now Taft's taking her home. I'd like to go in and take his home. I'd like to go in and take his home and put him out in the street. I can't say what I want this ain't my country.

QUESTION:

And, probably some of the things you said, uh, she first started going to, uh, Columbus or something when... maybe 11 or 12?

FRANCIS:

She was 11.

QUESTION:

And, uh, there wasn't, uh, tell me what services there were when she was at home for those 11 years. Was there any place for you to go then? What did they do about schooling and?

FRANCIS:

I went... I took her to... We had a place named Portage Path and that was for handicapped and help. Well, I took her out there and they enrolled her in there and I'd take her and leave her and then I had to go back in 4 hours and pick her up. Well, we did this for about a month and then they said, uh, I think you might as well take her back home and keep her and leave her spot for somebody that we can help. We can't do anything for her. So, we had a friend that, uh, was active in different things like that and, umm, United Way and all of that. And, he helped us to get into another place. Well, it was the same thing. Month or so... well, we can't do a thing for her. Take her home she's taking the place of somebody that could be helped. So, we had no help whatsoever in anyway of training or taking her for daycare or anything like that at that time. Now, you go back... she'll be 53 next month. And, you go back that many years it wasn't as known and organizations weren't formed at that time to do things like you have today to help them.

QUESTION:

You were on your own?

FRANCIS:

Yeah. Yeah, you were on your own. You did... you had one you do the best you can do and that's it.

ROY:

And, then we fight to get places like this for them and then all of a sudden they don't need them anymore. Put them out in the public. They get along better in the public than they do here. Certain people... they do...they die about 6 months after they leave here, sometimes before they leave here.

FRANCIS:

Since this has come up on closing our daughter went from walking to a wheel chair.

ROY:

She can't do nothing anymore. She can't feed herself.

FRANCIS:

She's not feeding herself. She's refusing to eat most of the time.

They're lucky they have her on a health shake to get the replacement of food for her.

QUESTION:

For nutrients?

ROY:

And then these, uh, pharmaceutical companies they couldn't make, uh, make money out of the medication she was on so they quit making it. They didn't have no substitute for it. So this is what her third medicine she's been on now. That they finally got around... it's compatible to what she had but nobody knows anything about them... they... the psychiatrist they had here didn't even know that they made the medication she's on now. We had to look it up ourself. But, if this is the way that the people run our government wants to treat our people. We're in sad shape. Not just... it... they'll put... if go out here... if she could go out

here and shoot somebody they'd put her in prison and take care of her. But, since she can't they don't want to take care of her. She... since she hasn't done anything to harm anybody they don't want to take care of her. But, if she'd go out here and shoot somebody put... or kill somebody they'll take care of her the rest of her life. Now, if that's the way this countries going to run I gave 4 years of my life this country but I wouldn't give 10 minutes again. That's exactly the way I feel.

FRANCIS:

We have, uh, we're fortunate Nancy can see, she cannot talk. But, she does have sight and she only has in the pictures she only has use of her right hand. Her left hand is crippled and the..... she can't us it at all. (AUDIO OVERLAP)

ROY:

Leg is crippled.

FRANCIS:

Her left foot...

ROY:

She's a club foot...

FRANCIS:

Is inverted. And, she can't do. But, still we have them here that are blind and that's going to be hard on the blind to... everything is set here. Furniture and everything is set up for them and it's going to be awful hard on them to... to, uh, and it's going to be hard on our daughter, she's losing people that have taken care of her for 20 years.

QUESTION:

People she's lived with?

FRANCIS:

And, she's lived with these same group of people that long. (AUDIO OVERLAP)

ROY:

This is her family. You're splitting up her family.

FRANCIS:

And, when we go home and take her home we used to, oh, 4, 5, 6 o'clock in the evening sometimes she'd stay overnight. Now, when we take her home we have to kind of find things to do to keep her home to at least 1 o'clock in the afternoon (AUDIO OVERLAP)

ROY:

Because she's afraid that home ain't going to be there when she comes back.

FRANCIS:

She wants to beat them back from school.

ROY:

When she... when we drive in this drive down here, she's quite all the way down when she... when we come in this drive. La-tee-da... la-tee-da... she's back home then she doesn't want her mother to leave for a while. She wants her mother to stay till just about supper time and then when the night shift comes in at 4 o'clock about 4 o'clock they give her a little bit to snuff and she sees the girl that takes care of her then mother can go home. But, until that girl comes mother can't go home.

QUESTION:

Tell me, you know, so if somebody was watching here. I know you've told me some things about her, you know, Special Olympics and things, but tell us who Nancy is and, you know, so we would know her. I mean, you know, what does she like to eat? What does she like to do? Does she like to watch television?

FRANCIS:

Nancy is a loveable person. She's a beautiful little girl and she's one of God's special children. She loves coffee. She likes pop and iced tea. And, uh, she loves cheese.

ROY:

And, bacon.

FRANCIS:

French fries, bacon, sausage. Food like that. And, she doesn't care for TV or noise. She does not like noise around. And, she likes to be rocked in the glider chair one on one. Pushed in her wheel chair. Oh, she loves that. And, umm, she likes to go for rides in cars, a lot. She likes to go to parties. She's good at a party for maybe an hour and then the music is so loud, it begins to bother her and she's ready to go. And, uh, when we go shopping she likes to take the items and drop them in... her dad will push the buggy and I'll push her wheel chair up and she'll put the item over in the buggy.

ROY:

If she doesn't want it she'll give it back to her mother.

FRANCIS:

And, if she don't like the looks of it she will. She'll give it back.

ROY:

Well, she's not dumb she's, uh, she can't talk. And, she can't write. And, uh, but she can make you know exactly... but she can give you a look just to cut you down about just like a knife would.

FRANCIS:

Oh, she loves her snuff.

ROY:

Yep.

FRANCIS:

And, now, she loves for them to... she'll sit down in the chair and she just loves for them to brush her hair or maybe braid it or something.

ROY:

She likes to be made over.

FRANCIS:

Things... Attention... she loves to have attention. And, if they're busy and she's sitting in her chair, she has her own special chair and it's, uh, she'll be sitting in there and staff will be with some of the others or something and they don't come around her very often because she's contented like she is. She'll AHFFF, like that... then they go over for a few minutes and make over... she's alright. But, uh...

QUESTION:

I'd like to know a little bit about her time in Columbus. What did you find, umm, frustrating about her being in that facility?

FRANCIS:

Every time we went to pick her up after she left this nice building she would either be wet or soiled just sitting there with it. They lost her shoes. They couldn't find her shoes. Now, these are special made shoes. \$500 a pair for her shoes. They have to mold them and send them to New York to be made. But, she lost her brace that she wore on her one leg for a while. And, they called me and told me... Mrs. Miller please come down... said, they are not feeding Nancy they won't give her any food or anything to eat. Says, they, umm, have set her food down there and told her Nancy if you want that food you'll feed yourself otherwise you're not getting anything to eat.

ROY:

This is... one of the staff called us.

FRANCIS:

We found... we went down to pick her up to take her out one day and she was beat so bad her face; her eyes were swollen, almost closed. She was black and blue. They could never find her clothing. They had her dressed like you wouldn't believe. I always took clothes with me to change her.

ROY:

We happened to get there early that Friday and the superintendent was still there and I took my daughter up to him and I told him to take a damn good look at her because the next time she looked like that he would look the same. And, he says are you threatening me I said; no sure, I'm stating a fact. I don't make threats. But, I said if she's like that you will be. And, I would have done exactly what I said.

FRANCIS:

They said that an individual had done it. And, had done it to others.

QUESTION:

Another resident?

FRANCIS:

And, uh, uh huh.

ROY:

But we found out it wasn't.

FRANCIS:

But, later a staff called me and told me Mrs. Miller it was staff that did that to your daughter and said they have arrested her. Not only for your daughter but some of the others too.
And...

ROY:

She's serving 20 years.

FRANCIS:

It was just... well, I don't cuss. But it was H-E-L-L hole that they had her in up there. It was worse than this one would have ever been.

ROY:

If I'd had found out who it was, I would have killed him.

FRANCIS:

But, they could never find her clothes or nothing.

ROY:

Yet, today if anybody harms my wife or my daughter, they don't have to go to court they're going to go to hell because I'm going to put them there.

FRANCIS:

It... it was a terrible place. And, when they called and told me they had and Apple Creek... they wanted to move the residents closer to their homes. And, they'd like to transfer Nancy here. And, I said, no way you're not putting her in there. That's as bad. And, they said, well, please come down and look at it since the Seidles suite and see what we have done. I came down here and I could not believe what I saw.

ROY:

I had to come down.

FRANCIS:

It was painted. Nice beds. Bed spreads on their beds. And four to a room. You just couldn't believe the difference from the time I came down the first time until I came down this time. The difference in the place. And, well satisfied. And, that of course made us happy too that

she was not only getting a very nice place to stay. But it was closer home and we could be with her more often.

ROY:

And, she was eating like a little pig. Boy, I'll tell you.

FRANCIS:

She's just something, I'll tell you. We were thrilled when we saw this and she came.

QUESTION:

You have been through just every stage that you could possibly be through from the time the doctors...

ROY:

The only thing we haven't been through... we haven't had to bury her. But, I'll tell you I have I was born and raised a Republican; I've been Republican all my life. I will never vote for another Republican... for they run the jack ass against him... the jackass will get my vote. Because this Republican and this Republican congress that we've got in the state has done so much for the poor people... the people that can't fight back. Just like Taft says, I don't want you to take my power. It's my power you're trying to take. I'd like to take his power. I'd like to get in the room with him just... just give me 5 minutes and I'm probably 35 years older than him.

QUESTION:

So this is the... The struggle doesn't end does it? It never seems to end it just takes different forms.

ROY:

No, cause when he gets to hell I'm going to be there and he's going to pay for it when he's gets down there. You bet your bottom dollar on it.

FRANCIS:

We, umm, we have a little _____ (INAUDIBLE) right now with the commission.

They have stopped the moving and everything. But, all we can do is put it in the hands of the Lord and know that he is going to do best for these children. May not be what the parents think are the best but it will be the best for them and that's what counts. To have the best for them.

ROY:

The only way it can be the best for them is he take them home with him.

QUESTION:

What do you think you could, uh, you know, after all your experiences and all, what do you think would be the most important thing you could say to new generations and maybe moms and dad but people that are, you know, just other kids and, you know, other moms and dads and all that you could say to them to make sure that the things that... the bad things that happened to Nancy and, you know, her being beaten and those-kinds of things. That, you could say something, if it could be one thing that we would never allow that to happen to another person because they were different.

FRANCIS:

I think I would tell them if they are unable to do everything they can first to try to keep them with them. If they are unable to keep them with them to be close and active wherever they are. No what's going in. Don't be afraid to go to the staff taking care of them, asking about it... to the doctors. If possible take them to the doctors... you know first hand then what's going on.

ROY:

We take our daughter to all appointments.

FRANCIS:

And, to love them and just because they have to place them, don't forget they're yours. You carried them just the same as you do your other children and love them. They need help too... that they can do. But, be active. Know the building. Go, enough to see if there's been changes or if they have new staff. Don't be afraid to go in and question them on the staff and everything for it. But, uh, just hope and pray that they day will come we won't have these situations for them. That's the main thing.

ROY:

All I can say is give to the mentally retarded as you give to the convicted criminals. That's the only thing I can say.

FRANCIS:

That's true too.

QUESTION:

Uh, sir, I'd ask you as a father I have son he's... I'm blessed he's perfect most of the time... umm, how did you feel those 10 years your daughter was in Columbus, you know, that she wasn't being treated the way you were treated.

ROY:

Well, sort of like... a hurt that couldn't be helped. I'm a strong man I can stand up to anything except my wife and daughter being hurt.

FRANCIS:

There was... he had a lot of question son why she had to be that way and what did we do (NOSE BLOW) to cause the Lord to make her like she was. We felt like we were at fault.
(AUDIO OVERLAP)

ROY:

I couldn't go to church.

QUESTION:

What was that you said?

ROY:

I couldn't go to church because I thought the good Lord had left us. I still don't believe that he has a right to punish people that have never done anything wrong. These people have never hurt nobody, they've never done no wrong and were treated like outcasts. You go and kill somebody or you do something and you serve your time you come back people think the world and all of you. These people... not only my daughter, they are treated like outcasts. They're treated like third world citizens when we should be treating them like angels because that's what they are.

END TO TAPE