

*Ralph Sandora*

Interviewer: Michael and Carrie Kline

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Transcriptionist: Adept Word Management

Michael Kline: **00:00:00** Okay, so, today is November 4, 2013. We're in Doddridge County in a —up a beautiful little creek here. What do you call this place?

Ralph Sandora: This is Center Point, West Virginia.

MK: My name is Michael Kline. I'm here with Carrie Kline, and would you please introduce yourself, say, my name is—?

RS: My name is Ralph Sandora.

MK: And your date of birth?

RS: 7-3-43.

MK: If you would, start off, tell us about your people and where you were raised. I'll hold this. Thank you.

RS: I was born in Clarksburg, West Virginia. And we moved to Center Point in 1957. I was 13 years old. My dad was an immigrant from Italy. He came here when he was 11 years old. My mother was born in the United States. They're both Italian. And I have 2 sisters living and myself, and that's the extent of our family. I have several cousins, nieces, and nephews. I'm a retired school bus driver in Doddridge County and currently County Commissioner.

MK: Since—since when?

RS: 2010.

MK: Wow.

RS: My first term. Still working on my first term.

MK: How do you like it?

RS: Love it. Very exciting.

MK: Wow. Is that so?

RS: **00:02:03** Yes, very exciting.

MK: Can you tell me your memories as a 13-year-old of coming here to Center Point? Tell me what the community was like, what was going on here, how people were living, and—

RS: There was very few automobiles here in '57. This road out here was not paved; it was dirt, mud. Everybody was farming, including ourselves. And back in those days neighbors were neighbors. Everybody communicated with one another, and everybody helped one another. And we worked in the fields together, we done all kind of things together, with neighbors. And that's how you learned, from other people. And that was a much better way of life than we live today.

MK: What do you mean?

RS: Everybody's in a hurry today. Nobody's got time for anybody. They don't even have time for their own family. They're busy. Busy working. They have to work. Things are so expensive. A family today—a married couple today—that has any children, they both have to work in order to survive and have anything that—you know, decent things, and make a decent living. They both have to work. Back in the day, when I was a young man, the women—you never of women going out and having a public job. They stayed home and done all the work and raised a family.

MK: When did that being to change?

RS: My guess is, in the '70s. I seen a big change. That's when I realized a big change, in the '70s.

MK: What did you see?

RS: I seen everybody hustling, fast, moving fast. Nobody had time. They had to go to work, had to go here, had to go there. We didn't have time for our families. Family life anymore, you never hear of such a thing as families getting together on Sunday and enjoying dinner with their family. You hardly ever hear of that. Very seldom do you hear of that anymore.

MK: I guess there had been some gas and oil activity that dated way back into the '50s and even before that, wasn't there? Can you talk about that?

RS: I don't know much about that. I don't know a lot about back years ago. I really don't. Sorry.

MK: But what you saw, your memory, your own memory.

RS: The only thing I can remember is, back in the '60s, the early '60s, I do remember that there was a lot of gas drilling going on in Doddridge County. I remember that. And I don't know all the details about it; I was still going to high school and I didn't know too much about all that at the time. But I do remember that there was a lot of drilling in the '60s.

MK: Did you ever find employment in the industry?

RS: **00:05:43** No, never did. Never searched for any.

MK: Weren't people making pretty good money doing that?

RS: I don't know. I really don't know.

MK: Why—I mean, why didn't you?

RS: I never had the desire to work on that kind of a—that didn't interest me.

MK: So, as a Commissioner for the past 2 years, in your first term, how is this—how is this drilling question taking shape in Doddridge County?

RS: Moving—moving very fast. Moving at a fast, fast pace.

Carrie Kline: What is?

RS: The drilling. Gas drilling. It's moving—it's moving really, really fast. I don't know if the county can keep up with as fast as they're moving. We're trying our best. I don't think a lot of people have seen this much movement this quickly. All the older people that's been in the gas business, they haven't seen this much activity this fast. This is—Doddridge County, of course, is the number one county in the state of West Virginia for gas drilling. We are the number one. We are the hot spot.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative). So it's moving very fast.

RS: Very fast. I can show you, according to our local paper, how many permits that are applied for each week. (shuffling of papers) That whole back page—

MK: Oh my word.

RS: That whole back page is drilling permits applied for. Each week. We have the whole page right there.

MK: There must be—

RS: Drilling permits.

MK: —35 to 45 or 50 of them.

RS: Yes. That's every week.

CK: How many?

MK: 35 to 40. Where—if I was going to come in here and open an operation, what procedure would I go through to apply to get a permit?

RS: **00:08:31** County Commission issues no drilling permits, okay? A lot of people are misinformed of the County Commission. They think the County Commission is the life saver of everybody and everything. We're not, okay? The state of West Virginia—they apply to the state to get a drilling permit. The state of West Virginia issues the drilling permit, okay? Now, the County Commission has a Floodplain Ordinance. We abide by the Floodplain Ordinance, and we expect everybody to abide by it. So, when you get a permit to drill a well, you have to come to Doddridge County Commission and apply for a permit to see if it's in the floodplain or it's not in the floodplain before you drill. Okay, now, if it's in a floodplain, there's a lot of restrictions, a lot. It can be done, but there's a lot of restrictions, and you have to abide by them. And, of course, if it's not in a floodplain, then we grant your permit, no questions asked. We have no problems with that, but if you'll notice where you're at that most everything that you see is in a floodplain. We live right along the river here. Everybody does, okay? That's considered floodplain. And we have a floodplain manager that takes care of all this—this business here. He's well trained, he's well educated, and he does a wonderful job.

MK: What's his name?

RS: His name is Dan Wellings.

MK: He's the floodplain manager?

RS: He is the floodplain manager. He works for the County Commission. And if you apply for a permit, he will go to where your location is, and he has maps, and he has everything, and he'll tell you whether you're in a floodplain or not, and if you are, he'll tell you your regulations that you have to do before you can start any work.

MK: Could you give me an example of what sort of regulations those are?

RS: There are pits that they dig. They dig a pit for their water, and whatever comes up out of the ground when they're drilling, that's got to be so far, you know, out of the floodplain. It's got to be built just—you know, to their specifications, whatever it is, I don't know all the details. And they have to put dikes around different things. It's a lot of details that I don't know all of them. I don't know them all. And if you—if you build something in the floodplain, like if you put fill dirt in or whatever, it can only be so many inches, and that's all it can be. And he may grant you a permit to put more, but it's got to be removed like in so many days. Yeah, there's just a lot of things involved. And he stays very busy.

MK: How can one guy cover 35 to 45 permits a week?

RS: Yeah. He's busy. (laughs) He's busy. Okay, yeah, that's all I can tell you. He's very busy. And a lot of them, he visits—he can do several of them, you know, because a lot of them are

really close together. And he can visit a lot of them in one day. And these permits that they're asking for here are all—they're not all granted at one time. Okay?

CK: And he visits them all?

RS: Oh, yeah, he has to visit them all. Yeah. That's his job. Yeah.

MK: **00:12:20** So when the state issues a permit, they don't know whether it's in a floodplain or not?

RS: They don't.

MK: Why don't they know?

RS: Because each county takes care of their own floodplain. The county takes care of it. Just like Harrison County takes care of their floodplain. They have different—they have a different ordinance than we do. Just about every county's different. You know, some of them are the same, some of them are totally different, totally different. And some of the counties that don't have a very strict floodplain ordinance, that's what people want to see us adopt. But we adopted our own floodplain ordinance. We took a year to adopt a new one, and the whole state is kind of following our guidelines. We spent a lot of money adopting this policy, a lot of money, and a lot of time.

MK: When was that done?

RS: Last year.

MK: Last year.

RS: Yeah.

MK: 2012.

RS: We did.

MK: And how is it different from what came before?

RS: Before, we actually had very little of nothing. We discovered that when the gas companies decided to drill, and we were involved in a lawsuit. And we soon discovered that our floodplain ordinance didn't amount to nothing. So, we drafted a completely new one.

MK: And are you satisfied with that one?

RS: I'm very satisfied.

MK: And do you feel it offers protection to—?

RS: Yes, it offers protection to the land owner and the gas company. Each individual is protected.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: It's a very good ordinance. A lot of different counties are adopting our same ordinance.

MK: **00:14:24** But until now, this responsibility has been up to each individual county?

RS: Yep. It is. It's up to each individual county floodplain. It is.

MK: Does the state require the counties to come up with the—?

RS: FEMA does.

MK: Oh, FEMA.

RS: FEMA controls—I'm sorry—FEMA requires each county to have that, yeah, yeah. They have regulations, and if we don't have a floodplain ordinance, nobody in this county will have flood insurance. You'll not be able to get it. So, yeah. There are strings attached to everything you do. Yeah, it's funny how the government works, isn't it? (laughs) Funny.

MK: Strings.

RS: Strings, yeah, yeah. We—you know, you will have a floodplain ordinance, or nobody will have flood insurance. We won't issue it. So, there you go.

MK: So if FEMA's involved in it, then it must be primarily focused on residential issues? Is that the idea?

RS: Yeah, mostly residential, yeah, mostly.

MK: So what's been the push back in—over this—in the county? Do you know what I mean?

RS: I'm not understanding your question.

MK: The opposition—is everybody for the—all the—is everybody for the drilling?

RS: No.

MK: Some people for, some people—tell me—

RS: Some people's for, some people's against. I don't know just what the percentage is. I don't know. I don't know what the percentage is. You know, I understand they're frustrations. I can understand some of them. I can't understand them all. You know, we're making progress. We're

in a position here where the county is going to benefit financially here, the state is benefitting financially. Some people don't want to see this county moving forward. They want to be at a standstill, like we've been for I don't know how many years, and that's the way they want it. That's what they want. They don't want to see no improvements. That's their opinion, you know? They entitled to have that opinion. And other people, they think differently, and that's their opinion. So. You know, everybody can't get along. If everybody agreed, it would be a dull—it would be dull around here. You wouldn't have nobody to argue with. (laughter)

MK: **00:17:34** Does the drilling industry, as some people have suggested, pose any public health issues? That you know of?

RS: Well, that's—I'm going to assume they do pose some public health issues. I won't disagree with that. But I think they're very responsible of what they're doing. Some people disagree with that. I understand, you know, they'll disagree. (coughs) Excuse me. So, what's the answer to all this? I don't know the answer to all of it. You're not going to stop the drilling. That's impossible. You're not going to stop it. When the state issues a permit, it's issued. Now, the only thing you can do as a county is make sure that they abide by all the rules and regulations. There's a lot of people have come to the Commission meeting wanting the Commission to stop all the drilling in Doddridge County. We can't do that. We don't have the authority to do that. And, yes, our roads get tore up. Everybody complains about the roads tore up. Yeah, they're tore up. Well, the Commission needs to do something about it. Well, the Commission can't do nothing about it. We don't control any roads. That Department of Highways. The County Commission controls all the funds in the county. And we see that all the laws are supposed to be taken care of or whatever. We don't control roads. We don't control hunting or fishing.

MK: But you do control the laws.

RS: We see that the laws are abided by.

MK: Including the weight limit—

RS: Yes.

MK: —laws on small roads?

RS: Yes. We work with the Department of Highways. And they work with us, very well, very well. We have no problems with those people. But as far as us going out and stopping people from driving on the road, we can't do that. We can't do that. I know there's a lot of people upset in Doddridge County about drilling. You know, the traffic—we've got so much traffic here, it's unbelievable. Water trucks and drilling rigs and whatever, you know, and that's just part of life. That's part of it. We have to accept it. So what do we do about it? We do the best we can. We try to live together and get along.

MK: Do you get the feeling that some voters in the county see the County Commission as their only salvation?

RS: Yes, I do. Yes, I do.

MK: That they voted you in because they wanted you to protect them and their families?

RS: Yes. Right.

MK: And their future?

RS: **00:20:37** That's exactly right.

CK: What's that now?

RS: Yeah.

CK: I didn't hear that. What's that now? What was "right"?

RS: What he said. (laughter)

CK: What he said?

RS: Yeah. That the people voted—they voted people in the County Commission—they voted me in that office—so we would protect the people. We're protecting them as much as we can. As much as the law allows us to protect them. I think some people would like to see us go out and go to a drilling rig and tell them to shut down and get out. We can't do that. We're not authorized to do that. I don't know—I don't know what to tell the people that live in this county that are protesting all this drilling. I don't know what to tell them. Okay? We can't stop it.

MK: Even if you feel that there are public health issues and other—what would you say—threats is kind of a hard—strong—word—but threats to people's quality of life? And too much—you can't do anything about too much traffic?

RS: No. I don't understand what they mean by their quality of life. I don't understand what they mean by that. I really don't. I don't understand what they mean by quality of life. I don't understand what they're wanting.

MK: Well, say somebody wanted to open up a drilling pad across the road here.

RS: Okay.

MK: What would that involve?

RS: Well, that would involve a lot of dirt moving. A lot of noise.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: A lot of traffic.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: You know?

MK: And what effect would that have on your quality of life do you think?

RS: **00:22:52** That would probably mess up my sleep.

MK: Okay.

RS: Yeah, and probably would mess up what I'm looking at over there. I'm used to looking at pretty scenery.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: I won't see that no more. But if I do not own that property, I can't stop it.

MK: But it does affect—

RS: Sure.

MK: Your quality of life.

RS: Yeah. It has to.

MK: I think that's what people mean when they talk about quality of life.

RS: Okay.

MK: So, how long would this installation of the pad take then, right across the road here?

RS: Oh, I don't know. I have no idea. Probably weeks.

MK: Weeks?

RS: Probably weeks.

MK: Months?

RS: No, I'd say a week. I'm guessing weeks. Yeah.

MK: As a Commission of—what?—3 commissioners?

RS: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

MK: Do you—does the Commission work well together? Do you guys see eye to eye on this?

RS: We do.

MK: Any discussion among you about the issues of this?

RS: Very little. Very little. Very little discussion amongst the commissioners. We know what we can do. You know, our hands are just tied—we're limited to what we can do. And we're doing—we're doing everything for the people that the law allows us to do.

CK: **00:24:33** What would do if there—if the law would allow you to do anything, that seemed right to you, here in the county? You've lived here most of your life.

RS: Uh, what do you mean exactly?

CK: Well, if you didn't feel your hands were tied, what would you do?

RS: As far as drilling? Well, if you're asking me, would I stop it? The answer is no. I wouldn't stop it. No. This is progress. This is progress. We're making progress here. We buy a lot of gas from other countries, and I think that this—this right here—is going to solve a big problem that the United States has. This natural gas is going to be something that's—that we need—we need and it's going to help us tremendously. And, you know, it's just fortunately that Doddridge County is where it's all at.

CK: How does it serve the county then?

RS: Well, it's going to bring revenue for the county. It's already bringing revenue. It's already bringing revenue in here. And it's going to bring more revenue. In years. It takes 2 years before the County Commission sees any effect on one of these gas wells. By the time they drill the well, by the time they sell gas, blah, blah, blah, it goes through our tax department, the County Commission, and it takes 2 years before we receive any funds. We're just now beginning to receive funds from some of the wells. Okay? And it's going to help us. The revenue is going to help tremendously. And people—the people that's complaining about paying high taxes now? Our taxes are not that high. But if we receive enough revenue, then possibly the taxes could go lower. Is everybody going to be happy about that? Of course they'll be happy. Is everybody happy because they're drilling gas wells? No. Everybody's not happy. But the people that's not happy will take the tax break. I guarantee it.

MK: They'll get happy one way or another.

RS: That's right.

MK: What about the issue of water? The long-range effects of all this on water.

RS: I'm not—I don't have much to say about that because I haven't really put a lot of energy in that. I've thought about it a little bit, and I don't know what the answer is. I hear a lot of

complaints about it. And I hear a lot of people say that there's no effect. There'll be no effect. I don't know. I'm not an engineer. I don't know anything much about all this—this fracking and drilling. I have watched some films, and I didn't like what I seen. And is that going to happen here? I don't know. I don't know. I don't know, you know? I don't know if the films I seen were true, were they staged, I don't know. I don't know.

MK: What did you see on the films?

RS: I just seen where people's water wells were ruined and they had gas instead of water. They had water, but they had a lot of gas. And they claim the gas company wasn't responsible. Well, somebody's responsible. Somebody's got to be responsible. They didn't have it before they got here.

MK: **00:28:48** So, how would that be any different then here?

RS: It wouldn't be any different. I have nobody—I have nobody to my knowledge has come to the Commission and said their water wells have been ruined. To my knowledge, nobody has—nobody has come before us and told us that.

MK: Well, it must not be such a problem then.

RS: I don't know. I don't know.

MK: How do you see this all playing out? When you close your eyes and look down the road 10 years, how do you see this all working itself out?

RS: I'd say, down the road 10 years from now, the county's going to be very rich, and there's going to be some residents in this county that's going to be very rich, and as far as destroying our water and our timber and whatever, they're going to destroy some timber because of their pipelines. I understand that. And, what else can you do? They put pipelines back through here back in the 1960s. I don't see much of an effect of anything. The drilling industry, that's come a long, long way since back in the '50s and the '60s and the '40s. They've got a lot of smart—they got a lot smarter on everything they do, a lot smarter, you know. Everybody's gotten well educated on all this, including you and me, we know a lot more about it than we did before. And I don't think any gas company is going to deliberately try to ruin something for anybody here, deliberately. You know, accidents happen, yes, we all know that.

CK: Does it take very much water to work in this field?

RS: I'm thinking it takes a lot of water, as I've been told, takes millions of gallons. That's what I've been told, millions of gallons.

MK: For each operation?

RS: For each operation. And they're recycling water. They're recycling water.

CK: So where does that come from?

RS: Well, they've been—they were getting water out of our streams. They were pumping water when the water level was up enough. They have limits of when they can pump water out of our streams and they can't. They were pumping a lot of water out of our streams. And they're hauling water from cities—Clarksburg, Salem—you know, city water. Yeah.

MK: They were pumping it right out of the creeks?

RS: **00:32:01** Oh, yeah. Yeah. Yeah. They have—they have a gauge on the Middle Island Creek, and I can't remember what town it's in, but they have a gauge on there that tells the level of the water. And they have to call every day. If you're going to pump water out, you got to call every day and get the reading, and the government—somebody in the government—will tell you yes or no, you can pump today or you can't pump today. And they got people monitoring that to make sure that they don't.

CK: So, how's that working out for the county?

RS: We're not seeing any revenue, I mean, as far as water, which our county's not selling them no water. We're not selling them any water. We don't have the facilities to sell that much water.

MK: So, they're taking millions and millions of gallons of water that they don't have to pay for?

RS: Oh, yeah, out of the creeks, yeah, they don't have to pay nothing for that. The only time they pay for water is when they get it from the city of Salem or Clarksburg or whatever, they have to pay for that. But when they pump out of the stream, they don't pay nobody nothing for that water.

MK: Do the farmers have any comment on that? (laughs)

RS: Uh, yeah, they've got to have permission to go do that, I mean, you know, they've got to give them access. They just can't go do it. I mean, maybe the farmer might get some money where they build a road to go in there—they build a road to go in to pump the water, you know, and gravel it real nice and everything. That may be—and they may pay him something to do that, I don't know. I really don't know.

CK: Is that an issue that the Commission could take on? Whether to charge for its water?

RS: I'd say that there's going to be a lot of opposition there. Who actually owns that water?

MK: I would say the people of Doddridge County.

RS: Where'd it come from? (laughs)

CK: I don't know.

RS: Somebody had to own it before we got it.

CK: But somebody's taking it.

RS: I know.

CK: And it's—

RS: I know. Yeah. Yeah. Somebody owned that water before it got to Doddridge County. And when it leaves Doddridge County, it goes to another county.

CK: If it leaves. (laughter)

RS: Yeah. Yeah. You got a good point. You got a good point.

MK: **00:34:31** Well, that might help with the county's revenue until such time as the wells kick in.

RS: Yeah. Right.

MK: If they were getting a per gallon fee.

RS: Right. I understand. I understand.

MK: I don't know myself, but it just seems like—

CK: Well, we don't know.

RS: I know. I understand.

MK: We don't anything about any of this.

RS: I understand what you're saying, I do. I understand what you're saying.

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: You know? And another thing. If the county—if we did want to charge for the water, okay?—somebody's got to go monitor this. We got to hire somebody to go do this. Okay? You can't rely on the people that's hauling the water to say, well, yeah, I got X amount of gallons yesterday. Yeah.

MK: But if it's millions of gallons— (laughter)

RS: Oh, yeah. I know.

CK: You could pay someone, I guess, I don't know. (laughter)

RS: I know. I know what you're saying. I do. I thought about that myself, but I haven't mentioned it to anybody. But, you know, they got so many places they can go and get water out of the streams, it's not just one location in Doddridge County, they go all over and get it. How can you keep up with them? You'd have to have an airplane.

MK: Or write an amendment to your floodplain plan.

RS: Yeah.

MK: That would protect the waters of—while they're in this county.

RS: Yeah.

MK: **00:36:03** I know you don't have any headwaters in this county to speak of.

RS: No, no. We don't.

MK: That would protect the waters.

CK: You don't what?

RS: Headwaters. We don't have any headwaters.

MK: Yeah, all right, I don't know myself, but I'm just—I'm struck dumb by these figures. Millions of gallons for one operation.

RS: Yeah. Yeah.

MK: And water is critical all over the world.

RS: Sure it is. Sure it is.

MK: Everywhere. There are states fighting over water now.

RS: Yes.

MK: South Carolina and Georgia are having a battle over water. (laughs)

RS: Yeah. Did you ever think that you would see the day where you are buying water? No. No. Me either. Never in a million years would I ever dream you'd buy water. My grandmother told me when I was a little kid, she said, one of these days a loaf of bread's going to be a dollar. Well, grandma, guess what. It's \$3.00 now. Some of it. Yeah. Back when I was a kid, a loaf of bread was 10 cents. My grandmother would say, ah, I don't know how it got—I don't know how I'm going to afford to buy a loaf of bread for 10 cents. Really. Really. You're not as old. You don't know what I'm talking about. And you're not either.

MK: I know what you're talking about.

CK: I remember when my mother started baking bread because it was too expensive, she decided —

RS: That's right.

CK: Just going to make it myself.

RS: Yeah. Yeah. I can remember when I was a teenager, and my dad—we would go to town to do something—I don't even remember what—but we were farmers and we had to go to town once in a while to do whatever. And my dad made the remark to me, son, I would buy you a bottle of pop if I had a dime, but I don't have it. That's how much a bottle of pop was, 10 cents. We made our own pop at home. We made root beer. We did. We did!

MK: **00:38:24** How do you make that?

RS: You buy extract. I remember how it was all done. You know, you buy root beer extract, water, whatever, and I can remember we had bottles, quart bottles, regular—I don't know if they was pop bottles or what kind of bottles they were. We had a capping machine. You could buy a box of caps. You put that in there and put the cap on, and you had to lay it down on a shelf for so many days. You had to lay it there. You couldn't touch it, until it done whatever it did. Then you opened it up—pshhh (sound of pop opening)—root beer.

CK: And where was your water from then? (laughs)

RS: Water well, same well that's down there now. Same one. The same well. Yeah. That house right down there is where I was raised. Right down there, that next big house down there. That was my mom and dad's place. Yeah. The water well's still there. Still producing.

MK: Have you had that water tested?

RS: Oh, yeah. Yeah, it's been tested several times. Yeah. Never changes much. No, never changes much.

CK: Are they drilling near you?

RS: No. Nobody's drilling near me. Uh, well, now, what do you mean, "near"? Miles? The closest well I know that they drilled here is probably 3 or 4 miles away. That's the closest one I know of. And I know the people that's—the well was drilled on their property—I know the people personally, I know where they live, I know where the well is, and everybody said, oh my God, they won't have no water well. Well, they still do, and it's still good. And they live like, from here down to that next house, that's how close they are to the wellhead. Now, I understand that—well, everybody doesn't understand where you get water out of a well—but there's underground veins, underground, of water, and now, if they're drilling a gas well, and they

happen to drill through that same vein that's feeding your water well—yes, you're going to find some damage. How do they know where that vein of water is? They don't know. I don't know where my vein of water comes from, on my well right there. I have no idea. It comes underground somewhere. You know?

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: I know that neighbors—I know the neighbors and myself are like on the same vein or really close to the same vein of water because it all tastes the same.

MK: **00:41:17** How does it taste?

RS: Mine's not very good. Never has been. Never. It's never been real good. But now that water down at the other house has been perfect all these years. Mine has a little bit of an odor. Always did.

MK: Sulfur, maybe sulfur.

RS: Always did have a little odor. I can't smell it because I've been drinking it for 30 years, but you probably could smell it. If I got a glass of water, you could say, ooo, that stinks.

MK: Well, what haven't we asked you that we should have asked you?

RS: I don't know. I'm thinking. (laughter)

MK: Okay, take your time.

RS: I'm thinking. There's got to be something you should've asked me. When you leave, I'll think of all these things. I'll think of all of it.

MK: Well, we can come back.

RS: I know. I don't know. I've lived here in this—I've lived in this county for 50 years. I haven't seen much activity. We're like at a standstill, you know? Same old Doddridge County, nothing happening. Now, everything's happening. Building facilities over there at Snowbird. They got 2 plants up and running and building 2 more plants to extract this stuff out of this gas and pipe it.

MK: Where are the plants that they've built?

RS: Right there off of 50 at—before you get to Snowbird Road—on the left. They got pipelines coming in there.

CK: So, to extract, you're saying?

RS: They're taking something out of the gas. I don't know just what all they get out of that. They can take propane and something else out of it. And they load it in tankers, trucks, and send it out. They're building 2 more plants.

CK: Talk about that. That's interesting.

RS: Yeah, that's revenue for the county. That's going to be big revenue.

CK: How's that?

RS: Well, we're going to get—we're going to get money from, you know, their commercial—their industry. And they pay more taxes. Commercial pays more taxes than just a normal household.

CK: Is that county employment?

RS: **00:43:48** There's some—there are several county employment. Really, there is. There's several, several.

CK: What about health issues related to that?

RS: I don't know, sorry. I don't know.

CK: Compressor stations—is that—?

RS: Compressor stations, the complaints that we have are noise. Okay. Can we do anything about it? No. Who gave them a permit—who gave them a permit to put a compressor station there? The state did. Who sold them the property? Land owner sold them the property. Okay? What can we do about it? Nothing.

MK: Well, you could pass a noise ordinance.

RS: We could pass a noise ordinance, and then what would happen? We would have no compressor station, we'd have no drilling, we'd have no gas, we'd have nothing. I don't know. I don't know the answer to all these things. I wouldn't want to live close to a compressor station. No. I would not want to. The noise—they tell me the noise is terrible. And it's got to be terrible. It has to be. We had a gentleman come to the Commission meeting and says: "Where do I start? Where do I go? They're building a compressor station close to my house. I can't stop them. I didn't own the property. All I hear is noise all the time. I can't sleep. I can't do this. I can't do that. Water trucks go by my house all the time. My property value is nothing. Because of this." Now, his question to the Commission was, do I still have to pay the amount of property taxes that I'm paying now when my property is worth nothing? I said, no, we can't answer that. The assessor can answer that for you, you know? If your property is worth nothing, then the taxes shouldn't be as much as you're paying now, that's my opinion. But you talk to the assessor and see what he comes up with. He says: "I couldn't sell my property. I couldn't give it to nobody. Who would want to live there?"

MK: Interesting point.

RS: Yeah.

CK: Has that been—I'm sorry—?

RS: Yeah, that was at—just a couple of weeks ago—at our meeting. A gentleman came in with that. You know? He said, my property's worth nothing. And, you know, I got to agree with the guy. He's right.

CK: Is that an issue? Population loss?

RS: I don't know. I don't know.

CK: I guess the county records would show that?

RS: **00:46:51** Yeah. Yep.

MK: Well, that's—that's an extreme example of what I was getting at a while ago, when I was talking about the role of elected officials, as protectors—

RS: Yeah.

MK: Of people and of property.

RS: Yep. Right. We have no noise ordinance in this county. We have no noise ordinance, we have no leash law for dogs. We do not. We do not. Now the town of West Union has a leash law. But the county of Doddridge does not. They tried—I've been told—that they tried to have a leash law, and there were so many people—hunters—came to protest. You know, fox hunters, coon hunters, whatever, got dogs. Leash law—that means, got to be tied up. So, well, if you're out hunting, and your dogs—say you go hunting and your dogs take off, and you don't get them when you go home. Next day, you got to go hunt for them, and they're running loose. You've broken the leash law. You'll get fined. So no leash law was ever passed. You know, I'm a sportsman, I like to go hunting, I like animals, and if my dog got away from me and spent the whole night running around or whatever, I would hate for somebody the next day to call and say, well, you got to pay a fine because your dog was loose. That wouldn't be right. That wouldn't be right. And I also know that people have dogs that are a nuisance. I know that. So, how do you satisfy both people? I don't know how you satisfy everybody.

CK: Why in the world did you want to take on this job? (laughs)

RS: I took on this job because I wanted to serve the people of Doddridge County better than they were being served. I said I'd work hard for the people in this county, and I have worked hard for them. I said I wanted to see the youth get something out of this in Doddridge County, and I have helped the youth.

MK: Tell me about that. How are the youth benefitting?

RS: 4-H. Just one little example—I'm not solely responsible for this by myself, the Commission is responsible—but the 4-H needed a place for their officials, their—what do I want to say?—the County Commission has to provide an office space for 4-H leaders and their secretaries. The West Virginia University county agent—we are responsible for providing office space for those people. And they had a chance to buy a building in West Union, and they didn't have the money—all the money to purchase this building, okay? And the County Commission donated \$90,000 to them so they could purchase this building. Now, is that helping the youth? Yes, it is.

MK: Great.

RS: Now, the 4-H agent and all that used to be in our courthouse, and our courthouse is like—we have overgrown it, we don't have room for everything in that courthouse and everybody, so a lot of the agencies we had to move them out and put them in different locations. And the 4-H and the county agent was one of them that we had to move out because we didn't have room for all their activities and whatever they had to do. Okay? So they've got a nice facility now, they got a real nice facility. And the Commission was—we had the money, you know? We had the revenue that we could do that. Now, I'm going to say that the gas and oil industry—that's where we got the money. If they weren't here, we wouldn't have had it.

MK: **00:51:15** I see where you're coming from now.

RS: Yeah. We gave our fire departments a total of \$400,000—all of our fire departments. We gave them money to pay their insurances, their workman's comp, and we bought generators for every one of them, emergency generators, and we spent like \$400,000—all coming from the gas companies. That's where all this revenue come from.

CK: That brings me to thinking about issues of emergency responders. I guess that their line of work must have changed a little bit with all this drilling.

RS: They have. Yeah, they have changed. They've been going to classes.

MK: Who has?

RS: Emergency responders. They've been taking different classes. You know, these gas wells, these fires, are something new. They've got to learn about them. They've got to learn how to put them out. It's not your standard old barn fire.

MK: Which gas fires are you referring to?

RS: Well, there was a couple of well fires here. We've had a couple. We've had a couple. We had—we've had one explosion and a well fire, and people were injured. I know of one—I recall it recently. And I heard there was another one, and I can't recall just where it was at.

MK: People were injured?

RS: Yes. People were burnt—got burnt.

MK: How bad?

RS: Bad.

CK: Were these Doddridge people?

RS: Uh-hunh (negative). No. Nope. They were some—from some other state. They were working on a drilling rig.

MK: Hmm.

RS: Yeah.

CK: **00:53:15** Are Doddridge people getting a lot of work out of this?

RS: Doddridge County is getting a lot of work out of this. The people that can pass drug tests. The ones that can pass a drug test and hold a job, they're getting a lot of work.

MK: As—drillers, or—?

RS: Laborers, equipment operators. Yeah. Truck drivers, that's equipment operator, isn't it?

MK: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

RS: Yeah.

CK: So, there's just been 1 or 2 accidents then, at this point?

RS: Uh-hunh (affirmative).

CK: Oh.

RS: There's a lot of work in this county. There's a lot of employment here. You can't—you know, everybody's working for the gas companies, gas and oil companies. If you—if you call somebody for just general labor to help you do something, you know, whatever, you can't find nobody because they're all working for the gas companies. They're all making high dollars. They're making big dollars, and they don't want to fool with the common ordinary man.

MK: Go dig your own posthole.

RS: Dig your own hole. Do your own weed-eating. And I'm not so sure about this, but I've heard, okay?—I've heard that our school up in Harrison County—I can't think of the name right now—technical school, okay?—they teach a lot of different things up there.

MK: Where's it located?

RS: It's in Gore, West Virginia, Harrison County. Technical Center. They teach all kinds of different classes to high school kids. I heard—I don't know how true this is—but I heard that they had a class up there—they're starting classes on teaching people how to work in the oil fields and gas fields, you know, the different jobs, training them. Because a lot of people don't know how to go out there and go to work in this—in this line of employment. I wouldn't know what to do. And I heard they've got classes, teaching people that, trying to educate people in Doddridge County so they can get more jobs. But I don't know if it's in effect yet. I just heard them talk about it.

CK: I was trying to think about how it would be to work in these fields. I mean, I've heard somebody say something about radioactivity. Is that an issue?

RS: **00:55:58** I don't know. I can't answer that. I don't know anything about it.

CK: Have you heard that, too?

RS: I've heard that. I know nothing about that. Nothing. I've heard that, yes. I have.

MK: Well, you've been very generous with us today.

RS: Thank you.

MK: Very forthcoming.

RS: Thank you.

MK: And we really appreciate your—your openness and your willingness to communicate.

RS: Yeah, any time. I never refuse to talk to anybody.

CK: That's really nice.

RS: I don't refuse to talk to anybody. I don't care what your issues are.

MK: Do you think you could help us to get an interview with somebody in the industry? Do you know of anybody who has—what would you call it?—the confidence, the sense that they're absolutely right about what they're doing, and would be willing to talk about it?

RS: I'd have to think about it. I don't know anybody (laughs)—I don't know anybody in the industry.

MK: Oh, you don't.

RS: Personally, I don't.

MK: Oh.

RS: Personally I don't know anybody that's in the industry, I don't. So much of these companies are in here from out of state somewhere. I don't know these people. But if I did, I'd be glad to tell you.

MK: Well, if something comes to mind—

RS: I would tell you. I've got your number.

MK: Great.

RS: I will notify you.

MK: **00:57:30** Great. We appreciate you very much and don't want to take the rest of your afternoon.

RS: Okay.

MK: We'll let you go.

RS: I might go hunting.

CK: Okay.

MK: What are you going to hunt?

RS: Deer.

MK: Deer hunting. With a bow? Are you going bow hunting, too?

RS: I might go.

MK: What kind of a shot are you with a bow?

RS: Pretty good.

MK: Pretty good?

RS: Pretty good.

MK: Did you get started at that when you were 13 years old?

RS: Oh, yeah, before that.

MK: Before that?

RS: Yeah, before that. Probably about 8 or 9 years old. I started hunting when I was 6 years old with a gun.

MK: Before you came here, though.

RS: Oh, yeah, yeah. Yeah, we hunted before we ever moved here. We had a lot of places to hunt. Yeah. I was allowed to take the gun and go by myself when I was 10 years old.

MK: Did you have brothers and sisters?

RS: Sisters is all, don't have any brothers. Of course, they didn't hunt. Just me. (laughs)

MK: So, your dad was an Italian immigrant.

RS: Yeah.

MK: **00:58:41** But your mother was from here in West Virginia?

RS: Clarksburg, yeah.

MK: Okay. Who were her people?

RS: They was from Italy.

MK: Oh.

RS: Yeah, oh, yeah. They came here from Italy, yeah.

CK: Did they speak Italian at home then?

RS: Yeah, that's all they spoke. And I can't speak Italian.

MK: But you could understand it?

RS: I can understand it. I can't speak it because they never taught—never made me speak it. And I really, really resented that. My grandmother would speak Italian to my mother and dad, that's the only way she could communicate was Italian. Well, why didn't they teach me?

MK: So you could communicate directly with her?

RS: Yeah. We have kids going to school that speak English and Spanish, don't they? Yes, they do.

CK: Did they teach you to cook Italian?

RS: I watched. I watched.

MK: Tell us about your grandmother as a cook.

RS: I don't remember much about what she cooked. I remember them baking bread. They had an outside oven.

MK: That's what I want to hear about.

RS: They had an outside oven, okay?

MK: How was that made?

RS: It was made out of fire brick and mortar and just—made round—you know, like a—I don't know what you'd call it. But every Italian family had one because we didn't have gas and we didn't have electric. And my grandmother, when they baked bread—this could vary from 1 week to 2 weeks when they baked bread. They baked bread for the whole family, okay? Baked bread for the sons and daughters and their family. And they all got together and they all worked at it. We made—we mixed 25 pounds of flour, okay? When we baked bread—I remember that—25 pounds of flour. And my job was to go around through the woods picking up twigs because this oven had to be fired with wood. You had to build a fire inside this oven with wood. And it took at least 2 hours of a hot fire in there to get these bricks heated up. All right? So the men took care of that. The women mixed the dough. And they had a great big long board, probably 10 feet long, so wide, and when they mixed the bread loaves, they were round. Round loaves of bread.

MK: **01:01:22** As big as that?

RS: Oh, yeah. We laid them on that board.

MK: Two feet across?

RS: Well—

MK: Foot and a half?

RS: Yeah. Laid them on that board and they carried them to the oven. And the men put them in there with a big long paddle, you know, they put them in there and baked them. And everybody divided up the bread, the families. If that lasted you 2 weeks, okay. Then they baked bread again. And, back in those days, you never had refrigerators or—you know, they didn't know anything about, how do you keep bread fresh? They didn't have plastic bags. Never heard of such a thing. So, my grandmother would wrap it up in dish towels or whatever, the best they knew how to do.

Everybody has said to me all my life, why do you dunk bread in your coffee all the time or in your milk? I say, because when I was a kid, I had hard bread—hard frigging bread—hard! I had to dunk it in order to eat it. Yeah. We also had fresh bread, too—the day they baked it. (laughter)

MK: How many loaves would come out of there then?

RS: Oh, gee, probably 20 or 30. Yeah. Yep.

MK: Was it always the same bread recipe?

RS: Same. My grandmother wouldn't use anything but Robin Hood flour. That's it. Robin Hood flour. That's all. Same recipe, round loaves of bread, round.

CK: Ciabatta? With a hole inside?

RS: No. No, just round loaves. My grandmother would get one of them loaves in her arm and a knife like this, and cut them—cut slices off—big slices of bread, big ones! Yeah.

CK: Well, you had to have some good marinara sauce to go with that.

RS: Oh, yeah, yeah. And when they butchered the hogs and made sausage—the great big stone crocks, big ones, 10 gallons, 20 gallons—they never had refrigerators to keep anything in, all right? Made sausage cakes, fried them, put them down in that crock, you saved that lard, and you poured that lard over them, and that's how it sealed it all up. So you put them in your cellar. When you wanted sausage, you went back there with a big spoon or whatever, you dug through that lard, and get you a cake of sausage out of there or whatever, put it on the stove, and heat it up, and there you go. You tell people today, that that's how you grew up—they'll say, aw, bullshit—no, it's true. Yeah. You ever live without electric? Have you?

MK: **01:04:06** Not for any length of time.

RS: My grandmother and grandfather never had electric for years. I mean, years. Yeah, no gas furnace, none of that—a wood stove—a wood and coal stove.

MK: And oil lamps.

RS: And oil lamps. My uncle had a sawmill, and—you know what slabs are? Okay? He would bring slabs up to my grandmother's in a pickup truck and throw them off, and I was still in grade school, and I would cut them into fire wood for my grandmother with one of them little buck saws—them little hand saws—I would cut that whole truckload up, not in one day, but I would do the whole truckload, stack it in her woodshed for her. And I got that cabinet right there—that belonged to my grandmother—that cabinet right there.

MK: It's a beauty.

RS: And she had a little ashtray in there, and it's still in there—it's still there—and a little doily, it's still in there, and she had change in that ashtray. I'm talking nickels, dimes, pennies. And when I got that truckload of wood sawed up for firewood, she'd go in there and get a nickel. She said, "Here, I pay you a nickel." That's it. I don't want anybody to come around here and tell me they got hard times. I don't want to hear about it. Not today.

MK: You know about them.

RS: I know about them.

CK: Well, which times was better?

RS: Back in them days. They were better than they are now. Today we got money. We don't know what the hell to do with it, but we got it. We're spoiled. We're spoiled rotten—rotten. Everything we see, we want to buy it. We don't need it—we don't need it—but you want it.

MK: That's true.

RS: Yeah. I'll go back to them days any time.

MK: Well, what are you working so hard for progress for then?

RS: **01:06:20** I don't know.

MK: Have you thought about that? (laughs)

RS: Nah.

CK: But you're such a good thinker.

RS: I know.

CK: Think about it. (laughs)

RS: I know.

CK: You knew the good times.

RS: Yeah, well, it will never be that way—it'll never.

MK: You'll never see that again.

RS: Never be that way. Never.

MK: Never have a granny to give you a nickel.

RS: No. Nope.

MK: I bet you thought more of that nickel than—

RS: Oh, yeah.

MK: Than a whole wallet full.

RS: And I used to pick up pop bottles, okay? Pop bottles, back in my day, you turned them in, and they cleaned them and they reused them. They gave you a penny for a bottle. I used to go around picking up bottles, for a penny. I'd get 10 bottles—I got a bottle of pop—10 cents.

CK: But you can make root beer that was at least that good.

RS: Oh, yeah. Yeah. I still got a box of bottle caps. I still got a capper.

MK: From the old root beer days?

RS: Yeah, I still got it. I still got it. I remember the milk people coming around, delivering milk, in the cities, like Clarksburg. There was 2 women, 2 sisters, they lived on a dairy farm. They drove the milk truck. They would come, stop at my grandmother's house, carry in a quart of milk or whatever, and take the empty quart container back. Because they cleaned them and used them over. I got lids that went on them bottles. I got cardboard milk lids that went in them bottles. I've got brand new ones. Them was the good old days. They had ice. They never had refrigeration units. They had big blocks of ice—50 pounds, 100 pounds—blocks of ice they put in that milk truck to keep that milk cold while they was delivering it.

MK: **01:08:24** Where'd the ice come from?

RS: Oh, now, they got it out of the rivers. In the wintertime. They went—back in them days, we had winters. Now, we don't have no winter. Everybody says we do, but we don't. We had winters. They went to the rivers, and they cut them big blocks of ice, and they put them in ice houses. They had regular buildings built, they called them ice houses. They were really insulated with sawdust. They put them big chunks of ice in there, had them in there all year.

CK: Well, what happened to winter?

RS: Our climate is changing. Our climate has changed. Yeah. When I was a kid, we had winter. When it snowed, the snow stayed on the ground all winter. You didn't have this 50-degree, 60-degree weather, and then it got cold again—no—when it got cold, it stayed cold. That was it. You had winter.

CK: How come it changed?

RS: I don't know. Don't ask me. I have no idea.

CK: Is that part of the whole digging in the ground and—?

RS: I don't know.

CK: And coal and gas and oil?

RS: I don't know.

CK: Is that some of what—what they say in the paper?

RS: I can't answer that because I don't know.

CK: It's like you've got one hand—one part of you is looking back and one hand's on the throttle. (laughter)

RS: That's a good one. Never heard of that before.

MK: Yeah.

CK: It just come to me. I don't know if it makes any sense or not.

RS: Yeah, it makes sense, yeah. You're not saying that I don't know what I want, are you?

CK: **01:10:13** I think what you want is back there.

RS: Okay.

CK: It's what it sounds like.

RS: Okay.

CK: But you think that somehow, what the people want is forward.

RS: Yeah.

CK: I don't know. What do you think?

RS: I don't know. I'm not going to stop progress. Where would we be today if we didn't have progress?

CK: In your grandma's kitchen?

RS: Yeah. No electric. No nothing.

MK: We'd have good families.

RS: We'd have good families, yeah. Yeah, we had Sunday dinner, the family did.

MK: Tell us about that.

RS: I mean, just every Sunday, the family got together and had dinner. That was your family.

MK: How many?

RS: Now, I can tell you right now—I could take a survey—and I'll bet you that you won't get 1 out of 10 families that do that today. If you even ask them about it, they'll say, what are you talking about? Yeah. Sunday, you went to church, you came home, the family sat and had dinner together, and you spent the day together. That's what Sundays was all about.

MK: Singing?

RS: Singing, whatever. Now, Sunday's just another day. Then they'll say—well, ask somebody—when's the last time you sat down and had dinner with your family?—Oh, what? What do you mean? Half of the people today don't even sit down at a table and have a meal. They grab their plate and go sit in front of the television. I respect a meal. I respect a meal. I respect—I'm thankful that I have something to eat. But people today take everything for granted—you know, it'll be here tomorrow. Well, it might be. And it might not be.

CK: **01:12:30** How come it seems like—I don't know if it's true or not, I don't live in the county—but this oil and gas thing breaks down into newcomers and old timers for who's fighting it and who's not? Is that true or not true?

RS: I don't know. I don't know.

CK: And the newcomers from—what? from the '70s—are sort of the back-to-the-landers, the ones—

RS: Yeah.

CK: They want to live like your grandpa was living.

RS: Yeah.

CK: More like that?

RS: Yeah, they don't want to progress. They want to stay back in the old days. I don't know. Everybody's got their own opinion of what they want and how they want to live. I don't want to decide how you live or you live. I don't want to make that decision.

CK: But you are kind of making that decision.

RS: Ah, a little bit.

CK: Just a little?

RS: A little bit.

MK: I've gone to the commissioners in Randolph County and asked them to protect me and the people I live around from unchecked development. I don't think it's healthy. The gas is in the ground, right? It ain't going anywhere.

RS: Yeah.

MK: What's the big rush?

RS: I don't know. I don't know what the rush is all about. I guess whoever gets there first gets the most money. I don't know.

MK: Oh, it's a winner take all kind of deal.

RS: I think, yeah.

MK: Winner take all.

RS: **01:13:58** Yeah. I'll get the most.

MK: But that gas will be there.

RS: It's not going nowhere.

MK: It's not going anywhere.

RS: No. I don't have all the answers.

MK: If we took our time and figured out the answers to some of these questions—

RS: Yeah.

MK: We'd probably all be a little bit happier.

RS: Probably.

MK: I'm just guessing. I don't know.

RS: Probably.

MK: I'm like you. I don't know.

RS: I don't know.

CK: You're—I think it's just amazing that you and the County Commission have created this floodplain ordinance that the rest of the state is looking to—

RS: Oh, yeah.

CK: Maybe even more than the state government. They're seeing what 1 county has done.

RS: Yeah.

CK: You could be the pioneers toward making it work for the county.

RS: Yeah. We are. We are the pioneers. And I'll tell you another little thing. We haven't paid our lawyer bill yet. (laughs) I keep asking him, will you please send us a bill? It's been like a year. And we don't want to run out of money, and you send us a bill, and say, oh, wow, heck, we can't pay you. (laughs)

MK: Well, that'll be all right, just give me the deed to the courthouse.

RS: He says, I'll promise you that my fees will be very reasonable. He worked hard on this ordinance. He worked hard, this lawyer did. He said, my fees will be very reasonable. He says, there's other counties looking at this ordinance, they're going to copy it, and blah, blah, blah, you know? And I said, you know, I go to bed at night thinking, you're going to send us a bill, like for \$200,000 or something, and he said, oh, hell, no. Well, he worked off and on for over a year. And he took care of lawsuits—2 lawsuits—for us. We haven't paid him. I mean, he sent us a bill for a little bit of money for something, I don't even know what it was for, it was only like \$10,000 or \$12,000, that's nothing. But, yeah. We're not spending our money. We got a little bit in reserve to pay this guy. (laughs)

MK: **01:16:17** Just give him the deed to the courthouse.

RS: No. (laughs)

MK: That's all he wants. (laughs)

RS: No. No. (laughs)

CK: But you're on the cutting edge, aren't you?

RS: Yeah.

MK: Well, thank you again.

RS: You're welcome.

MK: This has been such a pleasure.

**01:16:29** (end of audio 1)

**00:00:15** (begin audio 2)

MK: —talking about—?

RS: Talking about the gas companies and how much they've advanced in all their things that they do. Their pipelines—everybody, you know, they say pipeline—they don't like the idea. But you got to move the gas somehow. But they have a device that's called a smart pig. They put this into the pipeline. Of course, they have to shut the pipeline down in order to insert this thing in there. I guess it's got cameras, it's got—it's a pretty sophisticated piece of equipment. And they put it in the pipeline, and I guess they turn so much gas pressure on, and it pushes it. It goes through the line. Now, as it goes through the line, it detects anything in that line that's abnormal, okay? So this is a true story I'm going to tell you. We talked about Amish people. An Amish man was digging postholes over there in Holmes County, all right? And he's digging postholes by hand to build fence. And he hits something—boom, boom, boom—he can't dig no further, so he moves to another little spot—boom, boom, boom—he keeps hitting it and he moves. Finally, he gets his hole dug for his post. So, it's time—I don't know just what happened or what decided the gas company to put the smart pig in the line—but when they got all the results back, they about went berserk, these people, when they read all the film and everything. They said, my God, look at these dents in our pipeline. So they know exactly where the location is, I mean, this thing tells you everything. So they go over to this Amish farm. And they go right to the location where this guy is digging fence posts. And they talked to him, and they said, do you know how lucky you are? He says, no, what's the problem? They said, you're digging on our gas line. You're punching your spud bar on our gas line. You dented a steel pipe underground. You know how close you come to causing an explosion and killing yourself? End of story. True story.

MK: Yep, it wouldn't take much, would it?

RS: No. I mean, this smart pig identified the dents in the pipeline.

MK: It probably had the hat size of the guy that was using the spud bar, too.

RS: I don't know. (laughs)

MK: Well, you said it was a smart pig.

RS: A smart pig. They got a pig, and they got a smart pig. (laughter) And I don't know what the regular pig does.

**00:03:16** (end of audio 2)

**00:00:00** (begin audio 3)

CK: I'm sorry?

RS: There's a pipeline up on top of this hill that goes through my property—a 30-inch line—and I went up there, and I know where it is, and I was digging postholes on the edge of the right-of-way, okay? And I was going to put up a pole and a TV antenna. I'm talking 30 years ago. So, every day, there's a helicopter that flies this line, looking for leaks. It just happened to be, I'm digging this hole, and this helicopter flies by. And he goes, and he turns around, and comes right back, you know, because he seen me, doing something, and probably figured, what the hell's wrong with that guy? Is he crazy? So he comes back and he's doing all these motions and whatever, you know, and I'm thinking, what the hell does he want? Well, it wasn't long and there were people here, okay? Gas company people were here, wanting to know what the hell I was doing digging holes up there. I said, I'm going to put a pole in for a TV antenna. You know we got a 30-inch line buried here? I said, yeah. He said, you know you could kill yourself? I said, nope, didn't know that. But I was off the edge of the right-of-way. But they were concerned, you know, they were really concerned. A lot of people badmouth gas companies, I know they do. I'm not taking up for everybody. I'm just telling you some stories.

MK: So they needed a smart pig to keep you in line.

RS: Yeah.

MK: And didn't have it.

RS: (laughs) Yeah.

**00:01:40** (end of audio 3)

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