

OH2018.003

Beideck, Alton and Lucille

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Summary

*Interviewed by Kayt Gochenaur at Will Rogers. Al and Lucille begin talking before the recorder turns on. Interview audio begins a minute into the conversation.*

Alton Beideck was born in 1921. Both Alton and Lucille grew up in Corfu, a small 600-person town near Batavia, NY. The local school was very small—Lucille had a graduating class of 13. Alton began work at the railroad when he was 18 years old. Lucile and Alton were married in October 16, 1942. He was drafted for service in WWII when he was 22. Lucile spoke about rationing at home during the war. After Alton was drafted, he and Lucille didn't see each other for 2 years. The only communication they had was in censored letters. During the D-Day invasion Lucille didn't hear from him for a month—it was a rough time for her. Alton was guaranteed his job with the railroad back after serving in the war. He spoke about changes in the workforce: now you need a college degree to get a job, and families are more spread out, kids can't get a job around here. They both spoke about the changes in a farming community and how the railroad industry has decreased a lot. The Beidecks moved to Saranac Lake in 1992, after their son moved up. Because Saranac lake is much bigger than Corfu, they think their grandkids have some more opportunities in high school like band, sports, etc than they did. It was a good move for them, but Lucille misses the open farm land and corn fields. They say there have been lots of improvements in Saranac Lake since the 90s: sidewalks, sewers, roads have all been greatly improved. But Lucille misses the dress/shoe shop on Broadway. They have always loved walking around Saranac lake. Alton and Lucille have been married for 75 years as of October, 2017.