

OSCAR JOHNSON

Troy; b. 1901

worker at brick plant

.7 hours

minute page

Side A

00

A thumbnail sketch of his life. He worked forty years at the brick plant, is now "cuspidorian" at the bank. Father's brother August gave up farming but encouraged him to come; without equipment, that was the hardest work father did. Farm in Sweden; father's first wife's death. Father's discontent - he returned to Sweden and again to America.

13

Father's purchase of brickyard stock and bank stock. He also loaned money privately. Ole Bohman loaned money to Oscar with his face for security. Troy town fathers. Troy bank may have survived in part because of town industry. Father's concern about dividends. Gradual improvement of conditions. To be foreman meant more responsibility and grief; father's hard work.

25

Firebrick from the plant. Cheapness of management - no money for nails. A mining company made an impractical tunnel to get the clay. Beginning of the fire brick company; some of its history.

Side B

00

Making bricks. Long hours; need for work. Cut in wages after war.

03

Early Troy. Logs under Main Street. Swedish school - after a while young people no longer spoke it.

06

Hays shot by Payne Sly, who would always be haunted by the memory.

09

Paying doctor for birth of first child in depression. Help in the depression.

(12 minutes)

with Sam Schragger
October 1, 1976