

KENNETH STEFFEN

Moscow; b. 1902

delivery service, laboring jobs

1.4 hours

minute page

Side A

- 00 Getting money by hauling discarded tin containers to the hardware store in Moscow.
- 04 Early Moscow school that he attended.
- 07 Rough work for farmers.
- 09 Raising three sons by himself after his wife died. His delivery business. Home-owned groceries in Moscow.
- 12 Working for the bakery at twelve years of age. Buying clothes with earnings as a boy.
- 17 Working in Wenatchee apple harvests. An event from military history.
- 21 Mother gave flowers to people who were going to the cemetery. Will Steffen couldn't be buried in Masonic cemetery. Dr. Watkins, like other professionals of the time, didn't have professional training.
- 24 Old cars. Rough roads. Development of Inland Motor freight in the region.
- 30 Moscow wooden sidewalks.

Side B

- 00 Dislike of revivals. Working in Oregon, cutting wood, in 1924; then he reenlisted.
- 03 More harvest work: 33 horses on a combine. Free life of working from town to town at various jobs. Quitting on a farmer before he started. Smut and IWWs.
- 09 Minimum wage putting people out of work. He let son go to jail once.
- 12 Father's livery stable and others. He took farmers' excess hay for his ponies. Wealthier people in Moscow. Patriotic sacrifice carried too far.

Kenneth Steffen

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Side B (continued)

17 Rooming on the road. Entertainment in Moscow – pool, cards, clubs. A fatal accident at the VFW. Delivering around the country during World War II. More about Inland Freight.

25 Knowing Eugene Settle as a boy.

27 Riding the trains for free.

29 Guarding American freight on the Yangtze River in China in the early thirties.

Side C

00 A Chinese boy learned English on the boat and got a bank job. Corruption in Chiang Kai Chek's government.

02 Farmers visited on sidewalks in Moscow – ordinance against spitting on sidewalk. Father always chewed tobacco. Visiting back and forth with a family in the country. Walking to school on crusted snow. Farmers got by by being self-sufficient. The family cow.

08 Father was more considerate of his horses than his kids. Sometimes he was hungry as a boy. Mother worked in town after parents separated. She always went to church, but *members* never visited her when she was old.

12 Father's teamster work after their separation. His own childhood had been tough. Family history – burials at the family plot in Pullman.

16 Will Steffen: his death and character. Father liked to speak German.

20 The Pastime was the local employment agency.

(21 minutes)

with Sam Schrager

January 13, 1976