

Interview with Josephine Marshall

August 1, 1988

Central Minnesota Historical Oral History Collection

St. Cloud State University Archives

Interviewed by Cal Gower and John Massman

Gower: [\(00:00\)](#):

Conducted by Cal Gower and John Massman, and today which is August the 1st, 1988, we're interviewing Mrs. Josephine Marshall, the widow of Fred Marshall, who was the congressman from the Sixth District from 1948 to 1962. Mrs. Marshall, would you tell us first about your own family background? Were your grandparents born in the United States? Oh, okay. Why don't you start with your grandparents then?

Marshall: [\(00:37\)](#):

Well, my name originally was Josephine Carpenter, and my home was two and a half miles north of where I'm living now on the Marshall farm, and my father's grandmother was Scot, and the other nationality was English, and they were-- The grandmother was born in Scotland, and my mother's family was English, German, and Pennsylvania Dutch, so I'm a combination.

Gower: [\(01:17\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(01:17\)](#):

And they moved from-- The Roaches moved from England in the early 1800s and settled in Pennsylvania, and moved into southern Minnesota, and then eventually up to Paynesville, Minnesota.

Gower: [\(01:34\)](#):

Those were your grandparents.

Marshall: [\(01:34\)](#):

Yes.

Gower: [\(01:37\)](#):

And then, what about on the other side?

Marshall: [\(01:38\)](#):

Well, that was my-- The Roaches were on my mother's side, and the Carpenter's was my father's side.

Gower: [\(01:43\)](#):

Oh. And when did they come to Minnesota?

Marshall: [\(01:47\)](#):

Well, in the early 1800s, because my youngest uncle on the Carpenter's side was born in the grasshopper year in 1877, and they called him the grasshopper baby.

Gower: [\(02:03\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(02:04\)](#):

So they were here in the 1860s.

Gower: [\(02:05\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(02:05\)](#):

About 1864, I think. [inaudible 00:02:11] to Olmsted County first, and then they came up to Sweet Grove, and now I'm in Union Grove.

Gower: [\(02:18\)](#):

Union Grove, is that in-

Marshall: [\(02:19\)](#):

That's our township here, in Luther County.

Gower: [\(02:22\)](#):

In Luther County. Okay. So both your grandparents, both sets of grandparents were-

Marshall: [\(02:27\)](#):

Local.

Gower: [\(02:27\)](#):

Were local people. They came into this county and even this township?

Marshall: [\(02:34\)](#):

No. The Roaches settled in Paynesville, which is Sterns.

Gower: [\(02:37\)](#):

Oh, okay. But it's very close here too.

Marshall: [\(02:39\)](#):

Yes, that's right.

Gower: [\(02:44\)](#):

Yeah. And what about your parents then? They were born, both of them right here in this area?

Marshall: [\(02:48\)](#):

My father was born in Olmsted County.

Gower: [\(02:53\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(02:53\)](#):

And then they moved up to Sweet Grove, when he was three years old, and then they moved to Union Grove Township in Luther County when he was 14.

Gower: [\(03:01\)](#):

And what was your father's name?

Marshall: [\(03:03\)](#):

George Carpenter.

Gower: [\(03:04\)](#):

George Carpenter.

Marshall: [\(03:05\)](#):

And my mother was born in Pennsylvania in 1860-- No. My mother was born in Paynesville in 1869.

Gower: [\(03:20\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative). So she was born right in this area.

Marshall: [\(03:24\)](#):

Yes. Yes. Her father was a lay preacher in the Methodist church in Paynesville, and he also served in the Indian uprising.

Gower: [\(03:36\)](#):

Hm. And what about your father? Was he a farmer?

Marshall: [\(03:40\)](#):

Yes. He farmed all his life.

Gower: [\(03:42\)](#):

And he farmed in Union Township?

Marshall: [\(03:45\)](#):

Union Grove Township.

Gower: [\(03:45\)](#):

Union Grove Township.

Marshall: [\(03:45\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Gower: [\(03:50\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). And you had a sister. You have a sister?

Marshall: [\(03:52\)](#):

I have a sister, Mildred Kalbau, who now lives in a retirement home in Paynesville, Minnesota.

Gower: [\(03:57\)](#):

Hm. And what-- If you don't mind, what was the date in your birth?

Marshall: [\(04:04\)](#):

July 13th, 1936. One of the hottest summers we ever--

Gower: [\(04:04\)](#):

No.

Marshall: [\(04:09\)](#):

Or no no.

Gower: [\(04:09\)](#):

Of your birthday.

Marshall: [\(04:10\)](#):

Oh my birthday. July 13th, 1910.

Gower: [\(04:13\)](#):

July 13th, 1910.

Marshall: [\(04:14\)](#):

And we were married in '36, which was one of the hottest years we had until '88.

Gower: [\(04:20\)](#):

Were you born in the town? Or--

Marshall: [\(04:24\)](#):

No. I was born in the home.

Gower: [\(04:26\)](#):

In the home, out on the farm?

Marshall: [\(04:26\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(04:31\)](#):

And this was--

Marshall: [\(04:31\)](#):

Union Grove.

Gower: [\(04:31\)](#):

Union Grove, okay.

Marshall: [\(04:31\)](#):

Meeker County.

Gower: [\(04:32\)](#):

And you grew up there then? Went to the school--

Marshall: [\(04:34\)](#):

Yes. I went to the rural school, which was a mile and a half east, through the eighth grade, and then I went to Paynesville High School, and then I went to teacher's college from 1928 to '30 in the St. Cloud, Minnesota.

Gower: [\(04:50\)](#):

Okay. You graduated from teacher's college?

Marshall: [\(04:53\)](#):

Yes.

Gower: ([04:54](#)):

1930?

Marshall: ([04:54](#)):

A two-year course, and then I taught in rural schools. I was supposed to teach intermediate grades, but teachers were a dime a dozen in that time, so I got a country school in District 19, in Union Grove around Lake Koronis, and then I taught in what is my home school district now, 36, where I'm living, for one year, and then I was out two years because I couldn't teach music. And so, of course, when I applied, they usually wanted an all around teacher.

Gower: ([05:32](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([05:33](#)):

So I tried changing my handwriting for penmanship, for a teacher that could teach music, but I didn't get a job for two years, so then I taught two more years in Stearns County.

Gower: ([05:51](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([05:52](#)):

And down at Rice Lake, near Paynesville in Eden Valley, between that. And then I got married.

Gower: [\(06:00\)](#):

I always ask this of graduates of St. Cloud State. Did you think you were well prepared there at that institution for your teaching?

Marshall: [\(06:08\)](#):

Yes, I think so at that time.

Gower: [\(06:10\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(06:11\)](#):

We had some very good teachers.

Gower: [\(06:13\)](#):

Do you remember some of the teachers' names?

Marshall: [\(06:15\)](#):

Well, Blanche Atkins.

Gower: [\(06:15\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(06:18\)](#):

Was an excellent teacher. I was scared to death of her, but I learned quite a bit. And Mr. Bemis.

Gower: [\(06:27\)](#):

He taught math?

Marshall: [\(06:32\)](#):

Yes. And I was trying to think of my biology teacher, but I can't recall his--

Gower: [\(06:37\)](#):

Mr. Fredrick or--

Marshall: [\(06:38\)](#):

No.

Gower: [\(06:39\)](#):

Oh. Okay.

Marshall: [\(06:39\)](#):

But anyhow--

Gower: [\(06:41\)](#):

Did you have any history classes from Mr. what was his name? Darius something?

Marshall: [\(06:46\)](#):

Oh, I had a history class from Jerde.

Gower: [\(06:46\)](#):

Or Mr. Cochrane.

Marshall: [\(06:46\)](#):

Jerde.

Gower: [\(06:50\)](#):

Oh, from OJ Jerde

Marshall: [\(06:51\)](#):

Yeah. And he campaigned against Fred one term.

Gower: [\(06:54\)](#):

Yes, that's right. Was he a pretty good teacher though?

Marshall: [\(06:59\)](#):

Yes, he was.

Gower: [\(07:00\)](#):

Yeah.

Marshall: [\(07:00\)](#):

Yes he was.

Gower: [\(07:01\)](#):

I knew him because when I came there, he still was there, and he was really a nice person.

Marshall: [\(07:01\)](#):

Yes, he was.

Gower: [\(07:01\)](#):

I mean, I don't know how he was as a campaigner, but he was a very nice person.

Marshall: [\(07:09\)](#):

Well, he was courteous, and he was good.

Gower: [\(07:15\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sure. Okay. You taught for six years then, or four years.

Marshall: [\(07:21\)](#):

Four years.

Gower: [\(07:22\)](#):

Because two years you were--

Marshall: [\(07:22\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(07:25\)](#):

Right. Mm-hmm (affirmative). John, if you want to step in here any time, just go ahead. Did you know Fred from early on? Or--

Marshall: [\(07:33\)](#):

I knew him from-- Well, he knew me from birth almost.

Gower: [\(07:39\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(07:39\)](#):

Because his parents and my parents were good friends, although there was quite a bit of difference in age, because my parents had been married 15 years before my sister was born.

Gower: [\(07:51\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(07:52\)](#):

And Fred's parents were quite a bit younger, but we always went back and forth in those times with horse and buggy at least once a year, and had dinner and spent the day, and Fred always told about he could remember me when I was about four years old, of trying to get up into my high chair. Probably three would be more like it. And his father felt sorry for me, trying to scramble so hard to get in, and my dad says, "Well, never mind." He says, "She's got a mind of her own. We can't help her anyhow." And I always wore a big ribbon on the top of my head, so he was always teasing me about the big ribbon on my head.

Gower: [\(08:33\)](#):

How much older was Fred than you?

Marshall: [\(08:35\)](#):

Three and a half years.

Gower: [\(08:36\)](#):

Oh, so not too much older.

Marshall: [\(08:37\)](#):

He was born in 1906, and I was born in 1910.

Gower: [\(08:39\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative). And when did he start courting you?

Marshall: [\(08:46\)](#):

Well, he had his cap set for me, so he told me, for many many years, but I wasn't suspicious of it, but we were always good friends, and, oh, they had tough times, and money was scarce, and so it was after he was into triple A work, agricultural adjustment administration, and we really went together about two years before we married.

Gower: [\(09:18\)](#):

About two years. Okay. He was 30 years old when--

Marshall: [\(09:23\)](#):

He was 30, and I was 26.

Gower: [\(09:23\)](#):

When you got married. Yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative). And you got married right here in the church near [crosstalk 00:09:31]

Marshall: [\(09:30\)](#):

No. No. We had-- We went to the parsonage in Paynesville. Reverend Pinsky.

Gower: [\(09:38\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(09:39\)](#):

No, I'll have to take that back. Reverend Paybee, was our minister at that time, in the Methodist Church, and we were married there. Then we took a honeymoon out to the Black Hills.

Gower: [\(09:51\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(09:52\)](#):

In South Dakota.

Gower: [\(09:53\)](#):

And at that time, he was working for the triple A.

Marshall: [\(09:57\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(09:59\)](#):

And how long had he been working for them? Since its-- In 1933, or-- When it started?

Marshall: ([10:07](#)):

Yes. Well he started farther back than that. He graduated in '28 from Paynesville High School, same year as my sister did, and--

Gower: ([10:21](#)):

'28? I thought you graduated in '28.

Marshall: ([10:22](#)):

'24. I'm sorry.

Gower: ([10:23](#)):

Yeah, okay.

Marshall: ([10:23](#)):

I'm sorry. And then he went into what they call the Corn Hog Program. It was a local program to help out the farmers, because they were producing too many pigs for the amount of profit, as he thought it.

Gower: ([10:43](#)):

Was it run by the government you mean?

Marshall: ([10:45](#)):

Yes.

Gower: ([10:46](#)):

The state government or the national government?

Marshall: ([10:50](#)):

No. I think it must have been state.

Gower: ([10:52](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). That was in the '20s. Oh, [crosstalk 00:10:57]

Marshall: ([10:56](#)):

Yeah. It was about-- Because he was out of high school just a little while, '24, so it was a late '20s or early '30s that he was into that, and then that developed into the triple A.

Gower: ([11:10](#)):

That led into that. Now, had he been involved in politics any before then?

Marshall: ([11:16](#)):

No.

Gower: ([11:17](#)):

Was his-- Were there any Democratic Party leanings or Farmer Labor Party leanings in his family?

Marshall: ([11:24](#)):

They were staunch Republicans.

Gower: ([11:24](#)):

They were staunch Republicans.

Marshall: ([11:26](#)):

But Fred's father had gone to the university when he was a young kid, and he was the only one in the family that had really branched out in a higher education.

Gower: ([11:43](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([11:44](#)):

And he was interested in implicating what he had learned, and it was almost too early for the local people to grasp what he was trying to develop.

Gower: ([11:57](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([11:58](#)):

And then he did go to a Republican convention in Kansas City at one time. I'm not sure who it was against. Anyhow, he felt that the Republicans had rebuffed him slightly. Then he changed, and became a staunch Democrat.

Gower: ([12:21](#)):

This was his father.

Marshall: ([12:21](#)):

This was--

Gower: ([12:21](#)):

Fred's father.

Marshall: ([12:23](#)):

Fred's father.

Gower: ([12:24](#)):

Oh.

Marshall: ([12:24](#)):

And so, Fred was always a Democrat.

Gower: ([12:25](#)):

Oh, then he became a Democrat all the time.

Marshall: ([12:25](#)):

That's right.

Gower: ([12:25](#)):

Sure.

Marshall: ([12:30](#)):

But the rest of the Marshall's retained their Republican--

Gower: ([12:34](#)):

Now, did Fred have-- He had no connections then with the Farmer Labor Party though.

Marshall: ([12:40](#)):

No. No.

Gower: ([12:40](#)):

Not until it became the Democrat Farmer Labor Party.

Marshall: ([12:42](#)):

That's right. That's right.

Gower: ([12:47](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Okay. Yeah. And he continued with the triple A work for a while after you got married or--

Marshall: ([12:51](#)):

Yes. And then--

Gower: ([12:52](#)):

It didn't continue for too much longer, of course.

Marshall: ([12:55](#)):

No. I'm poor on dates, but I think that it was about 1935 when it became Farmers Home Administration. Early '30s.

Gower: ([13:13](#)):

Maybe '37? Possibly. Was it after you got married?

Marshall: ([13:18](#)):

I don't remember. He was gone so much on business that I just don't remember.

Gower: ([13:22](#)):

Sure. Anyway, next you went into this Farmers Home Administration?

Marshall: ([13:26](#)):

That's right.

Gower: ([13:27](#)):

And he was associated with that on into the 1940s?

Marshall: ([13:32](#)):

Yes. In fact, he resigned from that to be a candidate for Congress.

Gower: ([13:38](#)):

Oh, so he continued until 1948.

Marshall: ([13:41](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). He was always in government work.

Gower: ([13:42](#)):

And that was-- How did he get those jobs? Was he appointed to those jobs? Or--

Marshall: ([13:52](#)):

Yes.

Gower: ([13:52](#)):

Did he have to apply for them, and then--

Marshall: ([13:56](#)):

No. He never applied for a job his life that I know of.

Gower: ([13:59](#)):

He was asked to do this by somebody who knew him?

Marshall: ([14:01](#)):

Well, his father was in Farmers Home, and he was troubled with arthritis, and he was trying to slow down, and so when we took over the farmer in '36, when we were married, why-- I just don't remember the exact facts, but his father became a local-- Worked for the local Farmers Home.

Gower: ([14:01](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([14:37](#)):

And Fred was appointed for the state, so--

Gower: ([14:42](#)):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([14:43](#)):

Fred was over his father in seniority for quite a while.

Gower: ([14:52](#)):

Oh. And what exactly did he do for the Farmers Home?

Marshall: ([14:55](#)):

Well, he traveled the whole state, and he had people organize that worked under him, and--

Gower: ([15:05](#)):

Was it to help educate the farmers? Or was it a financial thing too?

Marshall: ([15:13](#)):

Well, yeah it was financial loans and--

Gower: ([15:13](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([15:13](#)):

I don't know. I can't really--

Gower: ([15:14](#)):

Yeah, okay. That's okay. And what were you doing during this time? You were staying at home.

Marshall: ([15:30](#)):

Staying at home, raising a family of two boys.

Gower: ([15:32](#)):

When were your children born?

Marshall: ([15:34](#)):

Frank was born in December of 1938, and George was born in June of 1941.

Gower: ([15:45](#)):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([15:48](#)):

And then we had at least two hired men most of the time, and sometimes we had kids from the Cities that wanted a glorious vacation to earn a little money, and one summer I had five, and I never worked so hard in my life. I did have hired help occasionally, but not continually. A hired girl.

Gower: ([16:11](#)):

But you were on the farm all through that period.

Marshall: ([16:12](#)):

All through the time.

Gower: ([16:13](#)):

And your husband was off traveling much of that time.

Marshall: ([16:16](#)):

That's right. That's right. Sometimes he didn't get home in the wintertime for three weeks at a time.

Gower: ([16:19](#)):

Hm. Hm.

Marshall: ([16:21](#)):

So I bought machinery, and I paid the bills, and did the best I could.

Gower: ([16:28](#)):

So you were running the farm in many ways.

Marshall: ([16:31](#)):

He gave me credit for it.

Gower: ([16:32](#)):

It sounds as if you were really. As if you were running the farm, yeah.

Marshall: ([16:37](#)):

I bought green wagons, and other implements when we needed them.

Gower: ([16:43](#)):

Let's see. 1936, you started with that. What kind of years were these for the farmers?

Marshall: ([16:51](#)):

Well, some of them were lean, and some were pretty good. It depends upon the weather.

Gower: ([16:57](#)):

Okay.

Marshall: ([16:57](#)):

But we were in debt, definitely.

Gower: ([17:00](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([17:04](#)):

Until I remember, during the war in '41, lots of times I'd go to the town and buy groceries, and come home with 15 cents in my purse.

Gower: ([17:14](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([17:15](#)):

We hardly ever charged a thing. We spent what money we had, and if we didn't have the money, we went without.

Gower: ([17:21](#)):

It still was pretty difficult on into the World War II period.

Marshall: ([17:26](#)):

That's right. It surely was.

Gower: ([17:28](#)):

Yeah. And, John, you have anything to ask her? Or--

Massman: ([17:30](#)):

I was just wondering, you talked about 1988, about the drought and the hot weather, and the '30s were kind of bad. Do you want to attack it all? Or [inaudible 00:17:46] the drought and how you survived in farming starting out, in rather not only the Depression, but that time and those years.

Marshall: ([17:57](#)):

Well, as I remember it, we didn't have much money to do anything with. Of course, we had a garden, and we had our own chickens, and we had our dairy, so we always had meat and eggs and milk, which tided us a through. A lot of the farmers don't have nowadays, and we had our own fruits, apples, and raspberries, and some strawberries, but when you have all that that means a lot of extra work, so I put in some pretty long days. And then of course, the weather played a big part. But when my father lived with me for the two years after Mother died, why he did help me with quite a bit of the garden, which I'll give him credit for. And we managed. But in my research, I found the doctor bill that we paid when our oldest son was born in '38, and I think the doctor bill was 41 dollars and some cents. So some things were accordingly-- Other prices went along with the little that we made, and we managed.

Massman: ([19:24](#)):

Did you have your children at home or at the hospital?

Marshall: ([19:26](#)):

No, at the Litchfield Hospital.

Massman: ([19:28](#)):

Litchfield.

Gower: ([19:28](#)):

That had changed from when you were born.

Marshall: ([19:28](#)):

Oh yes, yes. Definitely.

Gower: ([19:37](#)):

Yeah. Mm-hmm (affirmative). Now, I think probably it was a little dryer before 1936, and a lot of it-- Wasn't it in 1934 and 1935?

Marshall: ([19:47](#)):

Yeah, that was terrible.

Gower: ([19:48](#)):

Yeah.

Marshall: ([19:49](#)):

I remember the dust storms of '36 too.

Gower: ([19:55](#)):

Hm. That was in '36 then?

Marshall: ([19:57](#)):

Wait a minute. No, that had to be earlier than that.

Gower: ([20:01](#)):

Yeah, I think a little bit earlier.

Marshall: ([20:02](#)):

Yeah. And that had to be about '32.

Gower: ([20:05](#)):

Oh.

Marshall: ([20:05](#)):

Because it was the two years that I wasn't teaching.

Gower: ([20:07](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([20:08](#)):

From '30 to fall of '33. I was substitute teaching at Granite Falls for six weeks, and I remember driving to Granite Falls one day, one Sunday going back, and I had my lights on the whole time, and I could hardly see 50 feet ahead of the car at times, the dust was so thick.

Gower: ([20:08](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([20:35](#)):

But being younger then, I didn't know what effect it had upon the crops really. I mean, I wasn't concerned at that time, but I do remember when we prepared a meal, we didn't dish up anything until we saw the men coming from the house. And then we all hustled to put the dishes and food on the table, and we ate because the dust was coming through the poorly built houses at that time, so you could wipe your finger in dust almost anytime.

Gower: ([21:07](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([21:08](#)):

So that stands out in my mind as one of the worst things.

Gower: ([21:11](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.

Massman: ([21:13](#)):

What kind of car did you drive?

Marshall: ([21:16](#)):

I had an old Chevrolet that I'd bought from a neighbor for \$50, and I drove it and drove it, and I think I got \$50 when I sold it.

Gower: [\(21:16\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Better depreciation then, by far.

Marshall: [\(21:32\)](#):

Well, it was a relative that had come up from the Cities, and it turned cold that weekend. They were visiting a neighbor, and they left the car out of course, and it cracked the head, and he thought that it was worse than it was, and so I don't remember how he got back to the Cities, but he left his car there because he didn't want to stay over with the neighbors that long. So then he said to them, he said, "We'll sell it for \$50, if you can get \$50 for it," and it was teaching at the time, and I needed a car, so I bought the car.

Gower: [\(21:32\)](#):

And somebody fixed that head for you?

Marshall: [\(22:10\)](#):

I got the head fixed, and by cementing it up somehow with tar or something. I don't remember. Anyhow, I didn't even have to get a new head.

Gower: [\(22:20\)](#):

Oh.

Marshall: [\(22:20\)](#):

Which this fellow thought it would cost him a new head.

Gower: [\(22:24\)](#):

Sure. Yeah. Right. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(22:26\)](#):

So I had some breaks in my life.

Gower: [\(22:28\)](#):

Yeah. [inaudible 00:22:30] But the farming was touch and go on into the middle of the 1940s maybe, or at least into 1943 or '44, or--

Marshall: [\(22:43\)](#):

Farther than that.

Gower: [\(22:43\)](#):

Farther than that.

Marshall: [\(22:45\)](#):

I ran across an old letter where I had written to Fred when he was in the Cities in '48, when he was campaigning, beginning to campaign for Congress. And I told him I needed-- I said, "You usually give me a present for my birthday," and I said, "I need a house coat so badly in case you win." I said, "Could I buy myself a house coat?" And he thought enough of the letter that he saved it.

Gower: [\(23:16\)](#):

Oh.

Marshall: ([23:19](#)):

So we were still poor.

Gower: ([23:21](#)):

What were the crops that he raised?

Marshall: ([23:23](#)):

Wheat, oats, some barley.

Gower: ([23:28](#)):

Did you have livestock?

Marshall: ([23:29](#)):

Yes, we had feeders, and we had milk cows.

Gower: ([23:32](#)):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([23:33](#)):

And we had hogs. And it was diversified, haying and--

Gower: ([23:37](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([23:39](#)):

Baling of hay, or baling of straw.

Massman: ([23:43](#)):

Did you have electricity when you started farming?

Marshall: ([23:46](#)):

Yes. The home that I moved from, my parents', did not have electricity. REA came through about in that era, and my father was old, and he said that he wasn't going to spend the money.

But Marshall's had had a Delco light--

Gower: ([24:02](#)):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([24:07](#)):

Operation before that, so they turned theirs into REA soon.

Gower: ([24:07](#)):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([24:14](#)):

And so, I was fortunate to have an electric stove, and electric washer and so forth when I got married, which I wasn't used to.

Gower: ([24:21](#)):

That was in 1936, right? On the farm right across the--

Marshall: ([24:21](#)):

Right across the road.

Gower: ([24:29](#)):

Road here, Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah. So the REA must have-- This must have been fairly close to where they were starting out and extending out into the countryside too.

Marshall: ([24:37](#)):

Yes. It was. There weren't too many farmers through here, but that was one thing that the Marshall's learned at the university, was progress, and so they generally reached out for all the new things. They were some of the first to have a car, and I think their first car was a Page, which was considered quite an expensive car, but they had a big family of five children, and then they generally had relatives that lived with them, because there were two houses on the place, two until-- I remember that was-- People kind of criticized them for buying such a big car, an expensive car when they didn't think they could afford it, and so on and so forth.

Gower: ([25:32](#)):

Did they have a tractor early too? Tractors?

Marshall: ([25:36](#)):

Well, Fred and I always had a tractor. We had an old Model T, I remember. I suppose Marshall's did too, but they loved horses. They had a lot of nice horses. They had some Morgan horses, and work horses and--

Gower: ([25:51](#)):

Did they have horses still after you got married?

Marshall: [\(25:54\)](#):

Oh yes.

Gower: [\(25:56\)](#):

Oh. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(25:56\)](#):

Yes.

Gower: [\(26:08\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(26:08\)](#):

Up until, oh, 10, 15 years probably.

Gower: [\(26:08\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(26:08\)](#):

But we had some other equipment too, but Marshall's liked horses, so we usually had some.

Gower: [\(26:09\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(26:11\)](#):

Fred was gone, so we sold them.

Gower: [\(26:14\)](#):

Now, Fred-- When did he begin thinking about running for Congress?

Marshall: [\(26:23\)](#):

Well--

Gower: [\(26:24\)](#):

Now pardon me. He had never run for an elective office before, had he?

Marshall: [\(26:24\)](#):

No. No.

Gower: [\(26:27\)](#):

No. Okay. When did he begin [crosstalk 00:26:31]

Marshall: [\(26:31\)](#):

Well, he called me up one day, in late June or July. I don't remember which it was, and he said some people had pressured him to run for Congress. He was still in the Cities and called by telephone. And he wanted to know if I could come to the Cities and meet with them. And we would discuss it, and I said, "Well, I had some cabbage plants that I had to put out first." And he says, "Well, get them in the ground tonight," and he says, "Come tomorrow." So I went to the Cities, and they talked it over, and he decided to run for Congress.

Gower: [\(27:07\)](#):

That was in 1948, in maybe the summer.

Marshall: [\(27:10\)](#):

In the summer of '48. He really started campaigning pretty much in August. By that time, they had it organized.

Gower: [\(27:18\)](#):

Was there anybody else that was interested in the DFL nomination?

Marshall: [\(27:23\)](#):

Oh, no.

Gower: [\(27:24\)](#):

He was the only one.

Marshall: [\(27:25\)](#):

They were running against Harold Knutson, and that had been in for 32 years. Nobody thought that Fred would win, not even his mother. She had the longest face the day of election. She was so convinced that he wasn't going to make it.

Gower: [\(27:38\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(27:39\)](#):

And I was in the hospital at the time with gallbladder surgery because I needed one, and the doctor said, "Well, you'd better have it early, and in case Fred's elected, and then you'll be in better health to go back," so I voted by-- What do they call it?

Gower: [\(27:39\)](#):

Absentee ballot?

Marshall: [\(27:58\)](#):

Absentee ballot on '48. That was my ballot that helped him win.

Gower: [\(28:05\)](#):

And his campaign was essentially to win all kinds of votes from various people. I mean, he didn't stress just being a DFL'r, right?

Marshall: [\(28:19\)](#):

No, he certainly didn't, and he went out and met in every town. He walked up and down the streets, and campaigned, and made himself known, and he was a firm believer not to criticize his opponent or hardly ever mention his name even, and people became interested in him, and they thought that he could explain the issues well, and it was a tremendous victory.

Gower: [\(28:51\)](#):

Now, did you do some politicking then? Or--

Marshall: [\(28:54\)](#):

No, very little. I didn't have time.

Gower: [\(28:57\)](#):

Of course, you also had your gallbladder there at the end anyway.

Marshall: ([28:59](#)):

Yes, that's right.

Gower: ([29:00](#)):

Sure.

Marshall: ([29:00](#)):

No, I didn't go out at all in '48. And then--

Gower: ([29:07](#)):

You supported him in all of this though?

Marshall: ([29:08](#)):

Oh, yes. Yes. I went along. There wasn't much else to do.

Gower: ([29:19](#)):

What-- Did he tie himself to the national activities at all in 1948?

Marshall: ([29:27](#)):

Well, he had a lot of connections. He knew a lot of people, because his father had always been interested in politics, and he-- Well, probably some of the people wouldn't be known on this tape, but Wickard and--

Gower: ([29:27](#)):

Claude Wickard?

Marshall: [\(29:47\)](#):

Claude Wickard from--

Gower: [\(29:47\)](#):

He'd been the Secretary of Agriculture.

Marshall: [\(29:57\)](#):

Agriculture. They were good friends, and quite a few people that were faithful to him in all of his other work, like triple A and Farmers Home, and they worked hard for him.

Gower: [\(30:12\)](#):

Now, you said that he'd been a good friend of Henry Wallace, and also Henry Wallace's father?
Or at least knew them?

Marshall: [\(30:19\)](#):

His father and Henry Wallace's father were friends, I'm quite sure.

Gower: [\(30:20\)](#):

Oh. But did Fred know Henry Wallace?

Marshall: [\(30:20\)](#):

Oh yes.

Gower: [\(30:26\)](#):

The younger Henry Wallace?

Marshall: [\(30:27\)](#):

Yes. Yes. He did.

Gower: [\(30:28\)](#):

Now, but he wouldn't go along with him there in 1948, right?

Marshall: [\(30:33\)](#):

No, but they stayed good friends.

Gower: [\(30:34\)](#):

They stayed good friends though.

Marshall: [\(30:36\)](#):

Yes they did.

Gower: [\(30:36\)](#):

Oh, that's nice to hear.

Marshall: [\(30:38\)](#):

Fred had a lot of staunch Republicans that supported him.

Gower: [\(30:44\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(30:45\)](#):

And every year that he campaigned, he won more votes.

Gower: [\(30:48\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(30:49\)](#):

And if it hadn't had been for his health, he probably wouldn't have quit.

Gower: [\(30:49\)](#):

Oh is that right?

Marshall: [\(30:49\)](#):

Oh yes.

Gower: [\(30:54\)](#):

Oh, I'd never heard that. I thought that he had--

Marshall: [\(30:57\)](#):

Well, he had hearing problems. His balance wasn't good. It was Ménière's Disease that affected his hearing.

Gower: [\(31:05\)](#):

Yeah, I knew he was having some difficulties, but I didn't realize it was that early, and so on.

Marshall: [\(31:10\)](#):

And then he had diabetes, was affecting him, although we learned of that after he'd retired, but his general health was going down.

Gower: [\(31:20\)](#):

I think we'd better stop. So you went to Washington DC in, what? December, 1948? Or you almost had to leave through--

Marshall: [\(31:33\)](#):

Yes. Yes.

Gower: [\(31:33\)](#):

Sure.

Marshall: [\(31:34\)](#):

We were packing between Christmas and New Year's.

Gower: [\(31:38\)](#):

Did you buy a home down there or--

Marshall: [\(31:40\)](#):

Well, we rented. We stayed in the Burlington Hotel for four days, and went out from there, and Fred went to Congress, and then we'd take some hours off and hunt for a house, and we finally found one that we rented in Alexandria, Virginia.

Gower: [\(31:57\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(31:57\)](#):

In the nice area, close to Shirlington. And then, as they went to work, the few mornings after that, why it was a house that they went by a for sale sign. We went and looked at that, and we bought it.

Gower: [\(32:13\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(32:15\)](#):

And it--

Gower: [\(32:16\)](#):

That was in Alexandria also?

Marshall: [\(32:18\)](#):

Alexandria in the Beverly Hills area, where there were a lot of Army people located. That was a very pretty area, and nice, well educated, and good principled people.

Gower: [\(32:29\)](#):

Now, were you quite excited about all of this and so on? Was it real exciting and interesting to be there in Washington?

Marshall: [\(32:38\)](#):

Yes. Yes. I always try to adapt myself to the situation, whatever occurs, and I was thrilled of course because I'd never thought of such a thing as going to DC to live, and--

Gower: [\(32:52\)](#):

Had you ever been in Washington DC before then?

Marshall: [\(32:55\)](#):

No. No. Never.

Gower: [\(32:56\)](#):

And what about your husband? He had been maybe?

Marshall: [\(32:58\)](#):

Oh, yes.

Gower: [\(32:59\)](#):

Sure.

Marshall: [\(32:59\)](#):

He'd been there several times.

Gower: [\(32:59\)](#):

Right. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(32:59\)](#):

On government business.

Gower: [\(32:59\)](#):

Yeah.

Marshall: [\(33:04\)](#):

And the boys were eight and 10 at that time. Well, in fact, Frank's birthday-- We left the Cities on his birthday, which was December 29th, and he didn't adapt to Washington. He used to be so homesick, because he loved the farm.

Gower: [\(33:23\)](#):

He was 10 years old when you went there, and he was--

Marshall: [\(33:23\)](#):

11 actually.

Gower: [\(33:23\)](#):

11, oh. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(33:28\)](#):

And George was eight. And he wasn't as attached to farm things as Frank was, and he was younger, so he adapted and enjoyed it very much. But as soon as school was out, Frank was sent home to work on the farm, and he drove a tractor from the time he was 10 years old anyhow, so he spent his summers on the farm.

Gower: [\(33:54\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(33:55\)](#):

And then, when he got in to be a sophomore, by that time, then it didn't work out well for him to spend half of the-- Then we stayed here until Christmas as a rule.

Gower: [\(34:08\)](#):

Oh.

Marshall: [\(34:08\)](#):

And then went back in January, and that didn't work out good with the school system.

Gower: [\(34:13\)](#):

At that time, Congress usually wasn't in session after, what? Mid summer or so?

Marshall: [\(34:18\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(34:19\)](#):

Or late summer?

Marshall: [\(34:19\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(34:19\)](#):

Sure.

Marshall: [\(34:20\)](#):

Yeah.

Gower: [\(34:20\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(34:20\)](#):

They generally adjourned about in August, and sometimes if they had a special session, well then Fred would go back and--

Gower: [\(34:28\)](#):

Just on his own.

Marshall: [\(34:29\)](#):

On his own, and he'd either rent a room in a hotel. He stayed one year with Senator McCarthy in the Willard Hotel, I remember.

Gower: [\(34:39\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(34:42\)](#):

And I think he steady in our house one fall. Quite often, we rented our house out to some Army person that was there for a few months, so we could make connections and have it by January. So he stayed in various places.

Gower: [\(34:59\)](#):

But beginning, when he was a sophomore, then Frank was staying here all the time.

Marshall: [\(34:59\)](#):

Both of the--

Gower: [\(35:02\)](#):

Oh, both the boys?

Marshall: [\(35:06\)](#):

[crosstalk 00:35:06] boys here.

Gower: [\(35:06\)](#):

Oh.

Marshall: [\(35:06\)](#):

Because the school year was only-- Well, the new school year started the third week in January back there. And so here, he'd be only half through his book, and back there, they would be starting a new book, so he never finished the subjects that he'd started in Litchfield in the fall, so it didn't work out.

Gower: [\(35:30\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). With whom did they stay?

Marshall: [\(35:34\)](#):

Their grandparents.

Gower: [\(35:34\)](#):

Oh.

Marshall: [\(35:34\)](#):

In Litchfield.

Gower: [\(35:34\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(35:39\)](#):

And the kids were both good students, and so they made their grades. It worked out all right.

Gower: [\(35:46\)](#):

That worked out okay. Now, let's see. Did you know some of these people, like Mrs. Truman?

Did you ever meet Mrs. Bess Truman?

Marshall: [\(35:57\)](#):

Every year, they invited the congressional wives to a tea, and I generally went to the teas, and then some other occasions, I would meet them. Yes.

Gower: [\(36:09\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(36:10\)](#):

And at that time Truman's were living in the Blair House, which was across from the White House, because the White House was being repaired.

Gower: [\(36:18\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah. Did you get to know her any other time other than those teas?

Marshall: [\(36:28\)](#):

Not necessarily.

Gower: [\(36:29\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(36:31\)](#):

We went to some functions in DC that we were both invited to, but we didn't go to everything. A lot of people think that they're free, but they aren't. You have to give a contribution.

Gower: [\(36:50\)](#):

Oh, okay.

Marshall: [\(36:50\)](#):

And Fred just didn't like-- His hearing was poor, so it was hard for him to visit, so we didn't attend nearly as many as a lot of people did.

Gower: [\(36:50\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(37:01\)](#):

But if it was something that was connected to something that pertained to Minnesota like the Banker's Convention, or VFW, or some of those things where he would meet Minnesota people, then we went. But we weren't socialites by any means.

Gower: [\(37:24\)](#):

Did you know Mrs. Eugene McCarthy pretty well?

Marshall: [\(37:27\)](#):

Yes. Yes. I knew her.

Gower: [\(37:28\)](#):

Because he was the congressman there along with Fred, right?

Marshall: [\(37:32\)](#):

That's right. And our son worked in Eugene's office. Our youngest son worked in Eugene's office for a couple of years or so.

Gower: [\(37:42\)](#):

Oh, later on when he was a senator? Or--

Marshall: [\(37:44\)](#):

No.

Gower: [\(37:45\)](#):

Oh, when he was in the House?

Marshall: [\(37:48\)](#):

George graduated from Hamline University, and then he got a scholarship to go to Cornell University and study economics. So when he graduated from Cornell that next June, why, there were 18 colleges in Cornell, New York. Isn't it New York?

Gower: [\(38:12\)](#):

Cornell is New York State, yeah.

Marshall: [\(38:13\)](#):

Yeah. He said there was no chance of getting a job. So that was in '62 when we came home that year. So he applied to Senator McCarthy, and McCarthy hired him, and we donated some of our furniture to George and Carol to start their apartment.

Gower: [\(38:33\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(38:34\)](#):

So it worked out well that way.

Gower: [\(38:36\)](#):

So it was when, after McCarthy was in the Senate.

Marshall: [\(38:39\)](#):

Yes.

Gower: [\(38:40\)](#):

Sure.

Marshall: [\(38:40\)](#):

Yes.

Gower: [\(38:44\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah. John, what did you-- Do you want to ask about any of the other people there? Or--

Massman: [\(38:48\)](#):

So did you ever meet Mamie Eisenhower or Jacqueline Kennedy?

Marshall: [\(38:55\)](#):

Oh yes. And they also had breakfast besides the tea too, and that was put on by the Congressional Women's Club. I belonged to that.

Gower: [\(39:04\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(39:05\)](#):

And so I generally attend them, and quite often took some friends, because they would think that that was something special to go to, because it was surprising. A lot of local people in DC, they never got to go to any of these, what they thought was special things for congressmen.

Gower: [\(39:26\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(39:28\)](#):

So I would take friends as my guest, and so, I never was chummy with any of them, the presidents' wives. Betty Ford, I knew the best of any.

Gower: [\(39:42\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(39:43\)](#):

Because they had only one car, and we had only one car, so Jerry would call Fred up and want to know if he could ride to the office with him, because they lived close by us.

Gower: [\(39:57\)](#):

Oh. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(39:58\)](#):

And George had a paper route, and he used to deliver the paper to the Ford's at one time.

Gower: [\(40:03\)](#):

Oh. Hm.

Marshall: [\(40:04\)](#):

So Fred would pick up Jerry, and take him to Congress on the hill, and Betty would pick me up in the afternoon, and take me to the Congressional Club.

Gower: ([40:18](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([40:20](#)):

And so we were-- They were really our best friends while we were in town.

Gower: ([40:25](#)):

Oh.

Marshall: ([40:27](#)):

In Washington.

Gower: ([40:28](#)):

Oh. You knew them for a number of years?

Marshall: ([40:30](#)):

Yes, definitely.

Gower: ([40:30](#)):

Oh. Do you correspond with them still? Or--

Marshall: ([40:38](#)):

Yes. Well, of course, my correspondence is cut down now since Fred is gone, but we exchange Christmas cards, and occasionally letters.

Gower: (40:47):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative). Hm.

Marshall: (40:50):

We had a lot of good friends among the congressional people. And there were quite a few people that lived in the Beverly Hills area too, because it was supposed to-- Well, it was really segregated. No colored people lived in the Beverly Hills area. We didn't realize it when we went there, and it probably wouldn't have made any difference to us at that time, because Fred and I weren't prejudiced, as you might say, about the colored people. But it was-- There were a lot of important people in the Beverly Hills area.

Gower: (41:30):

Now, when you-- In all the subsequent campaigns of Fred, did you play any role in any of that then, as time passed?

Marshall: (41:43):

Sometimes I did. Some falls, when Frank, as I've said before, was in like seventh and eighth grade, or then freshman and sophomore, it was more difficult for him to get started, because we realized that it wasn't working out the way schools should. So I and the boys, would stay in Alexandria if Congress had adjourned and Fred had come to Minnesota to campaign.

Gower: (42:15):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(42:15\)](#):

And so, I remember one fall-- I can't remember if I actually came home. I don't know. Anyhow, the rumor got around that first we were separated, and then the next rumor came around that we were divorced, because they didn't see me.

Gower: [\(42:33\)](#):

Hm. Hm.

Marshall: [\(42:34\)](#):

And so then, Fred had to set the people straight on that. Some of these rumors would get out, that has no truth to it, until when I was home here in Minnesota, I went to the dinners especially in St. Cloud, and some of the nearer places, but I didn't enter into politics, because I wasn't versatile enough to discuss things.

Gower: [\(43:02\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(43:02\)](#):

And Fred could meet many more people without having a woman tagging along.

Gower: [\(43:07\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(43:08\)](#):

So he and his secretary who was-- Or administrator-- Secretary. Paul Prisceller, would go on week trips, while I stayed with his folks in Litchfield.

Gower: [\(43:22\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(43:24\)](#):

And they would be gone maybe for a week, sometimes two weeks making the northern rounds, and meeting people. So a lot of those people would come from the north if there was a dinner at St. Cloud, so I would meet them maybe once or twice a fall. But I never did any campaigning really.

Gower: [\(43:45\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative). You were-- Did you mind that when he was off campaigning? Or-

Marshall: [\(43:53\)](#):

I was used to it. I'd always lived with it.

Gower: [\(43:54\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(43:56\)](#):

Because he was gone six weeks after we were married.

Gower: [\(44:03\)](#):

Yeah, right.

Marshall: [\(44:03\)](#):

So I'd always--

Gower: [\(44:03\)](#):

This would fit right in with the previous pattern.

Marshall: [\(44:05\)](#):

Yes, I was used to it.

Gower: [\(44:05\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.

Marshall: [\(44:05\)](#):

So it was an interesting life, and one I enjoyed. But it did separate us, and we had to make adjustments.

Gower: [\(44:21\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). But you always kept your close connections back here.

Marshall: [\(44:26\)](#):

Oh yes. Fred would never have let go of those.

Gower: [\(44:30\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Right. So when he did decide to retire, then he could just very easily fit back in here.

Marshall: [\(44:40\)](#):

That's right.

Gower: [\(44:40\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Yeah.

Marshall: [\(44:45\)](#):

And we owned extra land that had joined our home place at the farm, which had been-- It wasn't a homestead, but Fred's great grandfather had settled there many years ago, and so we owned some land across the road, and we built ourselves a new home here in 1960 in preparation for retiring in 1962.

Gower: [\(45:07\)](#):

Hm. Hm.

Marshall: [\(45:08\)](#):

So when he retired in 1962, we had a home partially equipped and furnished, and that we moved into immediately.

Gower: [\(45:17\)](#):

So he was planning as early as 1960 to retire.

Marshall: [\(45:22\)](#):

Because he knew his health was not good.

Gower: [\(45:23\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Right. [inaudible 00:45:23]

Marshall: [\(45:23\)](#):

And it was a redistricting that was coming out too.

Gower: [\(45:31\)](#):

Oh, that's right.

Marshall: [\(45:31\)](#):

I'd forgot about that.

Gower: [\(45:33\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(45:35\)](#):

And he just thought-- He was running against H. Carl Anderson, which was a good friend.

Gower: [\(45:41\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(45:42\)](#):

And he kind of hated to do that, but he also felt that he would win, because H. Carl never came back to his district to speak of, but he was well thought of as a Republican farmer.

Gower: [\(45:57\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(45:58\)](#):

And he had a strong leadership. So Fred thought that if he won, he would be dedicated to run again and again and again, because of the faith that the people in the new Second district would have in him.

Gower: [\(46:17\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: [\(46:19\)](#):

So he thought it was a good time to quit.

Gower: [\(46:21\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative). Sure. Okay. John, you got anything else here? Or--

Massman: [\(46:32\)](#):

No.

Gower: [\(46:34\)](#):

Well, I was going to say, then Fred still remained pretty active though behind the scenes after he retired, right?

Marshall: [\(46:42\)](#):

Oh yes. Yes.

Gower: [\(46:44\)](#):

Politics and--

Marshall: [\(46:44\)](#):

He was called on several times--

Gower: [\(46:48\)](#):

[inaudible 00:46:48]

Marshall: [\(46:47\)](#):

To take different organizations, or and take a part in different organizations that were government projects, like Forest Appeals Board, and Rural Area Development, and Food Commission, investigating recruits and so forth. So he remained active from the home base.

Gower: [\(47:19\)](#):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Massman: ([47:23](#)):

One of the things I'd be interested in is, what kind of organizations you've been active in [inaudible 00:47:28].

Marshall: ([47:28](#)):

Well, mostly historical societies. Fred and I try to support them, and we have done some work with-- Or a great deal of work with the Paynesville Historical Society. In fact, we helped organize that, and we helped get it going, and we've worked with the DAR in Litchfield, and we also helped establish the Forest City Stockade at Forest City, and small-town northeast of Litchfield, where the local people fled in the time of the Indian outbreak.

Gower: ([48:14](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([48:16](#)):

And we have worked with the GAR in Litchfield. And I've helped and held offices in a local church group. Formerly, we were Methodists, but our church was closed in 1968, and then we joined Northland Lutheran, which was a rural church. And I continue to worship there now.

Gower: ([48:57](#)):

You wrote a history of your church, didn't you? Of the Methodist Church?

Marshall: ([49:02](#)):

Yes, I did. Fred and I together also wrote a history of our cemetery.

Gower: [\(49:06\)](#):

Hm. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Massman: [\(49:10\)](#):

Where was the Methodist church at exactly?

Marshall: [\(49:13\)](#):

About a mile and a half straight west of us here.

Gower: [\(49:16\)](#):

Hm.

Marshall: [\(49:17\)](#):

And then, it was closed because it was small, and they combined several small local Methodist churches, like the one at Halwick, Paynesville, Belgrade, and Union Grove during [inaudible 00:49:37] And then our church was turned over to the Mennonite people, which is-- I can't think of what they call themselves. Believers. Anyhow, which then they built a school onto their church, and they have a small church, and they're growing. Very good neighbors and friends. So it's better that the church is--

Gower: [\(50:13\)](#):

So the Union Methodist is now Mennonite, and Mennonite Brethren? Or--

Marshall: [\(50:18\)](#):

No. The Methodist was combined with the German Evangelical Lutheran Church.

Gower: ([50:18](#)):

Yeah.

Marshall: ([50:25](#)):

No. German Evangelical Brethren, in Paynesville.

Gower: ([50:31](#)):

Hm. Okay.

Marshall: ([50:33](#)):

So that was the breaking up of the individual Methodist churches.

Gower: ([50:39](#)):

Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([50:41](#)):

It was done statewide. So it's better that our little local church is occupied now, and we're happy.

Gower: ([50:59](#)):

Anything else you'd like to add here?

Marshall: ([51:02](#)):

No. Not necessarily, except maybe, I could say that our son Frank, and his family are still running the farm, and they live across the road from me. And my youngest son, George, is a lawyer in Marshall, Minnesota, and he is a judge.

Gower: ([51:28](#)):

He's a judge?

Marshall: ([51:29](#)):

He's a judge.

Gower: ([51:30](#)):

Oh, I didn't know that.

Marshall: ([51:30](#)):

Of three counties.

Gower: ([51:31](#)):

Hm.

Marshall: ([51:32](#)):

Lincoln, Lyon-- I always have trouble thinking of the third one, but it's in that area.

Gower: ([51:42](#)):

Yellow Medicine?

Marshall: ([51:42](#)):

No. It's farther down.

Gower: ([51:44](#)):

Lincoln, Lyon [crosstalk 00:51:49]

Marshall: ([51:49](#)):

Well--

Massman: ([51:52](#)):

Lac qui Parle and [inaudible 00:51:54]

Marshall: ([51:54](#)):

Lac qui Parle. No, it isn't the three Ls. Oh, that makes me mad.

Massman: ([52:00](#)):

Pipestone?

Gower: ([52:00](#)):

No, that would be--

Marshall: ([52:00](#)):

Not that far. Well, [crosstalk 00:52:03]

Gower: ([52:02](#)):

He's a district judge.

Marshall: ([52:04](#)):

Yes. Assistant. Assistant judge, I guess they call him.

Gower: ([52:08](#)):

Oh, assistant district judge. Wow. Mm-hmm (affirmative).

Marshall: ([52:11](#)):

So he's real busy. Every year he gets busier.

Gower: ([52:11](#)):

Yeah. John, anything else there?

Massman: ([52:11](#)):

No.

Gower: ([52:13](#)):

That concludes this interview.