

Well, there's one place southeast here, and this colored beer joint back here, they hock a lot of things there. They even steal things. They come in your house and say, "Jess, can we use your restroom?" They go in there and maybe they steal my razor and my green glasses, and my shaving lotion--brush--anything they can get a hold of and hock for a nickel or dime. That's happened right in this house. I had just-- when I walk a lot I always have these cramps, like, in my leg. I had a brand new--just used it once--pint of this new jelly-like rubbing alcohol. It was setting there on that chair. I had used it there. Some woman and her daughter come in. They wanted a drink of water. So I walked with them in there. And this girl said, "Could you let us have four eggs?" I had two dozen, so I said I could let her have a half a dozen. So I put 'em in a paper sack. So this girl went out and told her mother to carry that. And this girl was sitting here, and I was back there. I came in here and they was gone. And later on that afternoon I said, "Wh, yeah, I better put that alcohol up--and it was gone! She put it in the sack or put it down her dress (indicating the bosom of the dress)--that's the way they do. I told her daughter, "My, if I'd known my mother done that, I'd of sure made her put it back!" But she'd already hocked it, see. Anything--it's awful!"

(When did it get to be such a problem with the young people drinking?)

Oh, let's see--it's been going on twenty years. After the Second World War. What made it worse was a lot of these world war veterans--well not so much these First World War veterans, as these Second World War veterans--come back home just alcoholics. Beer drinkers. Fixing drinks with these--like shaving lotions and all that--drink anything. That's when that start. Then of course they teach their wives. Then about this last ten years, these same people that's practicing that kind of life--their kids been taken away from them, three or four of them. I