

On the Farm with Michael Meunier

Interview Date: Friday April 3 2026
Writer: Miles Leo Pund
8th grade, Heritage Hills Middle School
 I interviewed my grandpa Michael Andrew Meunier. They are about 71 at the time of the interview. The interview mostly focuses on technology and work in the 1950s to today and a lesson he wants young people to know about his time. The stories he has said show that growing up in his time (on a farm) is a lot different than today.

Q: What were some of the chores you did when you were younger?

A: Well I had to help with the garden, help with the farm. I'd pitch hay when I got old enough. As I aged, it moved up to drive and track, all that stuff. I also milked cows

though I did not like it.
Q: What was the first job you had and got paid?
A: Probably the first job was to pitch hay for my uncle. We didn't get paid there. Because then we also pitched for some other people and we did. We also walked bean rows and chopped weeds out of them. The first full time job I had was to work for a farmer down at a pig farm. You had to clean the pigs house out every Saturday morning. I did that for about two years. Steve and I usually went to all of them together because we were both very close in age. Then I worked at a factory that made chipboards, which is basically a type of plywood, for a year. It was a good place to work but they didn't pay very well. Then

I worked in the road business until I retired.
Q: What type of office equipment did you use?
A: We had a phone and we had a radio. when you wanted to talk to someone on the road or in Evansville you had to use the radio. But the problem is that everyone with a radio could hear what you said, so you usually did not say a whole lot. You didn't say anything silly there. It was all with a pencil and paper. There were no computers. You couldn't just look something up and hit a button. I had spec books on several things. The way I could find anything out was to go through it or go through the appendix till I found what I was looking for.
Q: What was some types of farming

equipment did you use
A: Maybe a plow, But most of the technology was just basic. Some of them were pulled by horses, but some were pulled by tractor. Most of the stuff we had for the farm was used but my dad had bought one tractor new because another one sometimes just shut down in the middle of a plow or harvest.
Q: What do you wish young people today understood about growing up in your time?
A: It was a lot slower paced. I wish they understood that it wasn't ever hurried. And you only had a couple of activities after school, I know that today everybody has so many. Which is fine but you know slowing down once in a while is good for a person.

Growing up In Wisconsin, Marge Schaff had a very fun background and childhood

Interviewee: Marge Schaff
Interview Date: April 7
Writer: Samuel Seger
8th grade, Heritage Hills Middle School
Q: What were your parents like as people?
A: My Mother was a very good person. She spent her whole life helping people and was a nurse. My Father was not the best person in the world. He told a lot of stories. He thought he was better than other people. That pretty much sums him up.

Q: Who was the funniest person in your family?

A: Me! Obviously it was me!

Q: Did you have any siblings? If so, what were they like?

A: I had two sisters. One was 10 years older and one was 14 years older than me. My older sister Rose-Mary treated me like she was my mother because of how old she was. My other sister Sally was 10 years older than me and we were very good friends.

Q: Are there any stories about your sisters you remember well?

A: I was staying overnight with my sister Sally in Jamesville Wisconsin and her husband worked nights. They lived in a second story apartment and the steps to the apartments were along the outside of the building. We had a person walk up the steps one night

and then stood there for a while. We never saw the person but my sister shoved me into the room first. I was about 12 and she was standing behind me. So you know, she really should have been taking care of me, not me taking care of her. Another time, my sister Sally and I a different night had a person come into the basement in a different house. And she heard the hood of the washer machine slam down. My sister got up on the bed and was running around the house yelling "Marge, somebody's in the basement somebody's in the basement!" I got a hold of her and calmed her down. Eventually, she got me in front of her and we went down the steps with me guarding her once again. She really should have been taking care of me.

Q: What kinds of food did you eat?

A: Oh, we had so much food! Roast beef, steak, mashed potatoes, homemade noodles, chicken, green beans, corn, and my mom made a lot of pies. She made a bunch of cream pie, coconut cream pie and chocolate cream cup pie. I would say that we ate very fatty foods.

Q: What did you do for fun?

A: We went on vacation every year for 2 weeks to Northern Wisconsin and went fishing. I also went swimming everyday at the swimming pool in the summer. I played kickball up at the playground with the other

kids. You know, just normal kid stuff in those days.

Q: Did you ever get into trouble? What was the worst thing you did?

A: Yes, in fact I was a very naughty kid. The worst thing I did was kill the fish from my neighbor's pond.

Q: How big was the school you attended?

A: It had kindergarten through 6th grade and there were probably 25 kids in each grade.

Q: What was school like?

A: Well I don't know if it was a lot different from your school. We did history, reading, psychology, math class. We had gym 3 days a week.

Q: Did you play sports or do any clubs?

A: I was a Girl Scout, I did kickball, and I was on safety patrol.

Q: What was the first vehicle you ever drove?

A: 1958 Pontiac.

Q: What was your first job?

A: My dad had a dry cleaning business and when people would come in and drop off their clothes to be dry cleaned I had to sort them. I was 13.

Q: What kind of tools, machines or technology do you remember?

A: My dad had a big dry cleaning plant. One big machine cleaned the clothes and then another you tumbled the clothes in after they

were clean. It pretty much helped dry them. Also the telephone was a really cool invention. We had one in our home. We had very small TVs and typewriters.

Q: Do you remember a major event everyone was talking about?

A: It was the 7th hour and I was in my English class the day that John F Kennedy was assassinated.

Q: What do you remember people saying about it?

A: Oh very sad, very sad. Everybody thought it was really terrible. People really like the Kennedys. They really liked him. He was the youngest president we ever had. They liked his wife very much.

Q: When you were young what did you want to be when you grew up?

A: A mom

Q: Do you think your life would turn out the way it did?

A: I got to be a mom and I got to be home with my kids everyday for 12 years before I had to go to work, so I liked that. I was a hairdresser, but I didn't want to be a hairdresser. My mother and my sister decided I would be a hairdresser because my sister would get a \$50 bonus because she was going to Beauty school. So, yeah, my life did turn out how I wanted it to.

The best hotel ever

Shealyn Bender
Grade 4, Lincoln Trail
Ms. Fleetwood

Have you ever been in a hotel? Well this one is the best hotel ever. It's in Alaska. It

is 2,900 to 3,700 + miles away. But it is actually 3,760 if you drive. The hotel is called Stillpoint Lodge. The reason why you want to go there is because there is an ocean by it that you can go kayaking

in. If you don't like to go kayaking then you can go in the hot tub and relax there.

First, you can go kayaking in the ocean. If you like the ocean then you can go kayaking in it as long as you want.

Another thing is only if you like to go in the ocean but if you do then go right ahead. According to the article, "You can have mental relaxation, and you can see wildlife up super close."

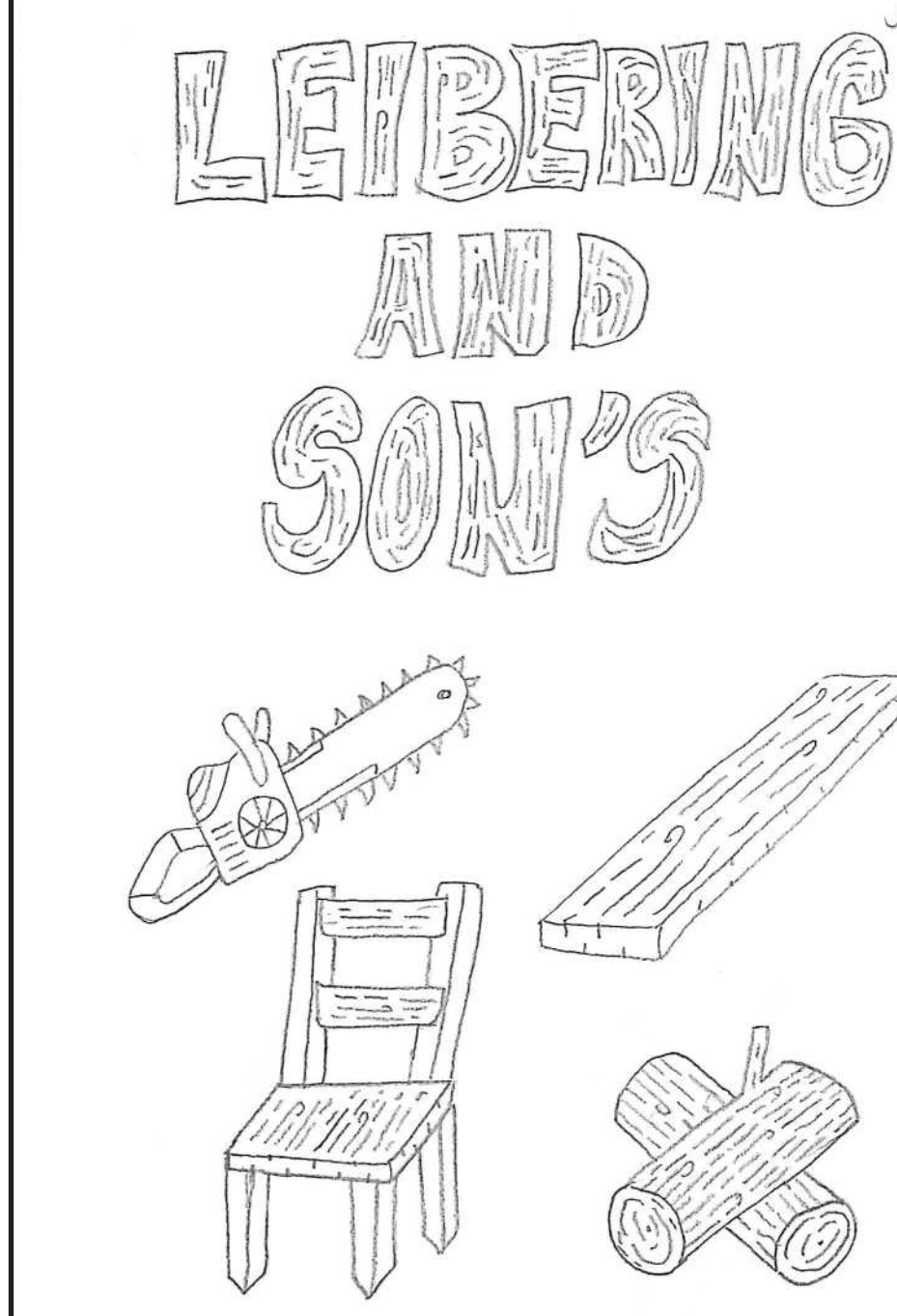
NAME: Abram
GRADE: 5 **SCHOOL:** Chrisney



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 www.sinpwr.com

NAME: Breyden M., G
GRADE: 6 **SCHOOL:** Lincoln trail elementary



LEIBERLING AND SONS, INC.
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 Lamar, IN 47550
 Phone 812-544-2523
 Fax 812-544-3054
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