



## LITTLE BROWN JUG ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

The Reminiscences of Mitchell and Cheryl Ross

March 3, 2020

Delaware County Historical Society  
Delaware, Oh

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## PREFACE

The following oral history is the result of a recorded interview with Mitchell and Cheryl Ross, conducted by Richard Leavy on March 3, 2020 at the Delaware County District Library.

Readers are asked to bear in mind that they are reading a transcript of the spoken word, rather than written prose. The following transcript has been created by Richard Leavy and has been edited for clarity only.

Transcriptionist	Richard Leavy
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Interviewer	Richard Leavy
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## Mitchell and Cheryl Ross Transcript

Leavy: This is an interview in relation to the Little Brown Jug oral history project being done by the Delaware County Historical Society. And we are meeting with Mitch Ross and Cheryl Ross and today is March 3, 2020. [The interview was done in the Delaware County District Library in Delaware]. So we're going to start with how old you were and what year it was when you first visited the Jug? Mitch, do you remember?

Mitch: I actually don't remember my first Jug. I remember being very little and being at the track with family because we had... I had an uncle who was the stall manager, a great uncle, I guess, who was the stall manager for the horses and then my aunt, I believe at the same time, was the outrider. Er, my cousin was the outrider for the races for a long time. I just remember being up there but I can't tell you. My first memory of my very first Jug, I think, and this goes back to what I was saying [before the interview began] I don't remember if I remember it or it's a story. It was probably 1965, the year they did the whole mud... They raced in the afternoon after they peeled the mud back. By the end of the day they were putting water on the track. So I think I feel like I remember being there ten but I know that vintage is about the time I would have been there.

Leavy: You would have been about how old?

Mitch: Oh, 8, 7 or 8. Yeah.

Cheryl: Well, I've got a lot of memories about the Jug before I ever got there 'cause I didn't really get to actually be at the Jug until 1971. By that time, my grandfather had won two Jugs and my father had won one Jug. I wasn't there for any of those. The last story... but, my father had passed away and my mother moved... we lived in Cincinnati and she moved, she came back to, with five children, we moved back to Delaware so my grandfather and grandmother could help raise us. Or help with all the kids. So I got to my first race, it was '71 and I had no idea what I was going to see at this first race. And my grandfather, being Curly Smart, he parked a truck on the fairgrounds because they had a box seat but it was only for my aunt and my grandmother and, you know, the older generation to sit in the box. So he parked the truck there and my cousins and I sat there and we were in a crowd of people you couldn't even believe. It was packed. I mean, that Jug Day, was so many people there. And the horse, Albatross, was running that day and he was the favorite by far and he lost the race to Nansemond. It was Herve Filion that won that day. But the crowd was just, it was exhilarating, so many people and just a lot of fun. Parties going on. It was just a big festival.

I really realized how important my grandfather was at that time. He was the track superintendent then, and it was a shock to see that many people. It was a great day.

Leavy: It's a very big event, and for a little county fair. It's really impressive. Since those, have you attended most years, some years, all the years? How often have you attended?

Cheryl: Probably most years, if we've been in town. We were away for a little bit, but most years, if we're in town, we'll be at the races. We still have the box my grandfather...we get that each year. So we till, family and all, we still will go to the races.

Mitch: I think the only time I would have missed would be because my work with the fire department until I have enough seniority where I could take the day off. If it fell on my duty day I would probably work, but usually able to finagle a way somehow. We brought our daughter home on Jug Day.

Cheryl: Yes, when my daughter was born in '84 on Jug Day, he dropped Megan and me off at the house and went to the races. [Laughs]

Mitch: Well, not exactly. [Laughs] Actually, I had an emergency run near our home and I made with the squad because the volunteer fire department sent somebody over to Grady to pick me up and I said, "Hey, the race is about to run; let's swing by there. [Laughs] So I got to see the race. 'Cause I don't think I've missed very many.

Leavy: So you have a lot of races, a lot of experiences. If you were picking out things that are most memorable, exciting --- whatever adjective you want to use--- what comes to mind?

[Pause]

Mitch: Well, I mean, there's a lot of memorable moments. Obviously, like when she said Nansemond won and that wasn't supposed to happen. I kinda remember that. Obviously, the year that didn't even mean that much time then. They were able to set a world record on a track.

Cheryl: The miracle in Delaware.

Mitch: I did not know Cheryl when her dad won, we hadn't hooked up yet at that point. So probably ...to me...be the year, maybe '95, when her brother who was training at that time also had a horse in the race. And I was helping him in the paddock and stuff like that. I'd go down to Scioto [Downs] once in a while and was helping for a couple years at the races. To me, that was a pretty exciting day. He actually didn't get to the final but it was a big day. We were all shocked that he was staying with us at the house and he told us that morning that he had gotten John Campbell to drive. "How'd you do that?" We knew he usually drove the favored horses and all that. One of the heats he had he didn't have a drive and so he said he was able to get him. Obviously we determined if he had to come back for the final, he wouldn't be driving our horse because he won that year. His horse won that year, but we didn't come back to the final that year. Still... and he had other horses that day that --- he won a breeders championship and stuff-- - so we went in in the winner's circle. So that was kinda fun. But, my memory just...it seemed like my dad worked for the Columbus Dispatch as a photographer at that time and between that

and being on the fire department that had trucks behind the track and having a press pass with my dad. Pretty much be able to get to places other people can't get, into the infield and things like that, it was always pretty exciting to me. I was on the infield the day Nansmond and just remembering. Back there you have all the people who know the horses talking and hearing them, "Oh we're gonna set these records; Albatross, we need to make sure everything's fine for him." And then he gets beat. Those are the things, little things, that aren't necessarily... I'm not one of those guy who could tell you, "Well, in 1997, this horse won and this time or whatever."

Leavy: There are some of those.

Mitch: Right. You know, just being able to be there almost behind the scenes was kinda fun.

Cheryl: I don't have a particular, yeah, other than the races I could say my grandfather. Just hearing the stories, my mother, my grandmother, those races.

Leavy: One of the things you mentioned that we've heard from other people is the intimate atmosphere of the Jug. That you can be that close to the horses, drivers, and so on. And I guess in your cases you have it really close to people who were training horses, when you have them over your house. To what extent would you say the Jug has changed over the years and in what sort of respects would you say it's changed?

Cheryl: The grandstand isn't as full as it used to be. It seem like, I don't know if whether a lot of people are in different places around the track. So the crowds are a little smaller. A lot of Delaware people I know still enjoy going up and having parties and watching the races. Maybe not as many as used to. I don't know. [turns to Mitch]

Mitch: I'm just... probably anecdote...As many people as come to the races now, specifically for the races, the horses. They come because it is an event. But it seems like it used to be that more people came to the race who were, not like me, could tell you what horse won the year before, the races earlier in the week such and such.

Cheryl: A lot of drivers were superstars then. They know all the drivers and they wanted to see how they did in the races. And the gambling. You can gamble anywhere now. They enjoy that. So paremutuals and betting on the races, and I think they still do, somewhat. They can do that in a lot of other places as well.

Mitch: I just think that, it's it's, still located at the Delaware County Fairgrounds; it's still the local, the Delaware Fair. It's not quite the same. I don't know, it's just a different feel since the 60s or whatever. A whole different feel to it. Whether that's good or bad, I don't know.

Leavy: Can you say a little bit about what is the different feel?

Mitch: I don't know. [laughs]

Cheryl: Maybe horseracing isn't as popular as it once was.

Mitch: Yeah, right. Obviously, the crowds are smaller. Not as packed, I should say. Maybe the crowds are the same numbers but they now have more seating around. I remember when I was a kid they used to have to shoo people off the roofs of the barns because they'd climb up on the horse barns back there to be able to see the races where now, if you're back there, you can see the race. It's not seeing the actual race is not as important for some people as before. And even Delaware has changed to the fact that downtown Delaware, if you ever came downtown Delaware on that Thursday afternoon it was a ghost town. I don't know that it's like that much anymore. I'm not usually down there, so I'm not... You get that feeling. And I remember we used to tell people trying to schedule something, "That's Delaware County Fair week!" They're like, "Who cares?" "Well, apparently you don't understand."

Cheryl: Everything closes on Jug Day.

Mitch: Especially Jug Day.

Cheryl: And plus now being connected. When my grandfather was here it was so nice because you knew what was going on on the racetrack and we knew a lot of the people that were in the grandstand and different drivers that came into town to race. And they had parties every night. You know, when people were in town. It changed. And since we don't have that direct connection any more. I can see that. I'm still excited. The people that are racing. I'm sure that it's wonderful for them; it's fun to watch but it misses a little bit.

Leavy: Now is a good time for me to ask about your recollections of your grandfather and how you see the relationship of him to the race, the race to him.

Cheryl: When I was thinking about it, knowing the story of that first race. He wasn't really supposed to be driving in that first Brown Jug. It was a driver by the name of Sep Palin and he was driving for Castleton, I believe, and he had been injured in a race a week before and the owner thought he wasn't really up to driving that day. And he didn't either. So went and got my grandfather. I think he was going to be racing that day but they said you gotta come over. You gotta drive this horse for him, Ensign Hanover. And he's like, "Okay." He got over to the fairgrounds and won with Ensign Hanover, the first Jug. It was such a thrill for Delaware County to have that race and grandpa, Curly Smart, to be the winner. It was such a great time. The governor, Lausche --- who was the governor?--- but anyhow, the governor was there and everyone in town. That was just such a thrill.

Leavy: But didn't know the horse.

Cheryl: No. He wasn't. He just drove the horse. He won the race. He was able to be the driver who won the race. So that was just great. My mother had just graduated from high school in Delaware and she was at Stephens College and she got a telegram that said, "Your father won the first Little Brown Jug" in 1946. She was so upset. She loved harness racing and she found out that he had won that first Jug when she was out of town. [Laughs] So that was a real thrill. Just

for the home, for Delaware to get that prestige. My grandfather said he never got any really good horses until he won that race. And then people were willing to give him better horses, and it kinda... He was doing well in his career but he did even better after that win.

Leavy: Do you have any idea how long he had been a driver before winning the Jug?

Cheryl: A long time. I'm thinking he was born in 1904. So when he was driving the first Jug in '46. So he was 41. But he had been in the harness horse business for a long time. He had started out in Ostrander, a little track out there. He had an uncle that raced horses and he taught him everything he knew. So he had been in the business for a long time.

Leavy: Let me just keep going with that.

Cheryl: OK

Leavy: So when he was training horses; when he was involved in that, is that something that you were able to tag along with?

Cheryl: I know my mother went to a lot of the fairs; he raced all over Ohio. They'd go and do a lot of fairs and racing before he got into the Grand Circuit in New York and all over. But they did quite a bit of traveling. At different fairs, I remember one story about one fair and he won three races in one day. When he went to get the pay, he got 300 \$1 dollar bills. And he said, he put it in the glove box and I didn't give anyone a ride home that night. [Laughs]. But he had been in the business a long time.

Leavy: How would you describe your grandfather's personality?

Cheryl: He was a real character. He was about 5' 2", maybe; I think he was about 5 foot when he passed away. But he was a character. He was funny, so laid-back. He knew everyone in Delaware; they knew him. He called everybody "Bub." "Hey Bub"; never could remember a name. My grandmother never learned how to drive, so he had to take her everywhere; take her to the grocery store. And they said, he'd be holding court in the produce department 'cause everyone wanted to talk to him. He was always glad to do that. Enjoyed people so much; just a fun man.

[interruption in the recording]

Leavy: ... wealth of knowledge; reconditioning an entire track. If I understand correctly, he was the track superintendent

Cheryl: Superintendent. Right. For a long time and there were a lot of records made on that half-mile track. He was real famous for it. Other tracks would have him come down, like Pompano, different places. Track conditioning.

Leavy: He was the track superintendent here, but I am assuming he was away from Delaware

Cheryl: Well, later on he did some things. Maybe went down to Florida in the winter and would have helped down there at that time at Pompano, as I understand. He had his horses out at the fairgrounds in Delaware. And he raced down at Scioto Downs as well. You know, always did well there. I remember we would go to the Jai Lai Restaurant. We'd go there and there would be a crowd there and they would say, "Mr. Smart, we have a table for you." And we'd go around every... it was just that fame even out of Delaware because people in Columbus loved to watch him drive and wanted him to succeed. He was such a good guy.

Leavy: Well, we need also to talk about your dad, who was a successful driver as well.

Cheryl: My parents...my mother met him at the racetrack. He... she just loved harness so much and they fell in love, got married, and he a job Samuel Huttenbauer, which was a meatpacker in Cincinnati. So they moved down there and he worked for Sam Huttebauer for his whole career and raced horses for him. And he had a farm down there. So he drove all over to different racetracks, but that was kinda the thrill for my mother to have him come to Delaware and win the Little Brown Jug. And that race didn't; they raced on Friday because it rained and. I read in Sports Illustrated that said that the whole town was at the racetrack that day and having a big party on that Thursday. And when they cancelled, everyone had already had their picnics, everything there. They said it was probably the biggest cocktail party in Ohio that afternoon. But the raced didn't go on until the next day, Friday. He wasn't favored to win. There were like three horses from New York that all the sports writers said that would probably beat Best of All; that he wasn't the best one. My father, they quoted "we showed those big city writers who the best horse was, you know." So, yeah.

Leavy: He was both the trainer and driver.

Cheryl: Trainer and driver, yeah.

Leavy: I don't know whether he was the last of the breed or... 'cause that's not as common these days.

Cheryl: I know. Really he was getting at... He passed away in... he won the Jug in '67 and passed away in '70. But at that time he was transitioning to be just more the trainer.

Leavy: So in 1967, I'm just trying to place... where were you?

Cheryl: Ok. We lived in Cincinnati. With five kids, they would hire someone to stay with us, the five of us, so she and dad could come every year. Delaware was their...they would go to Delaware for the week.

And then to Lexington to race. That was one week my mother didn't want us kids with her.

Leavy: So you were not able to see him win on his big day



Cheryl: We weren't able to see him win that race. We got the call from my that, you know, that my father had won that race but we didn't see it. Of course, my mother was there.

Leavy: Do you get the sense that it changed his life? 1967, I guess that was the high point.

Cheryl: It was the high point. He did very well, but, yeah, that was a very high point. And being another Ohio driver, that was, the crowds loved that. They wanted Best of All to win that race, I think. A lot of support.

Leavy: This is a question for both of you: I wonder how you see the Jug as being something special. And what is it that you think makes the Jug special?

Cheryl: I think it's that small town feel. To think of this small town, Delaware, being able to have a race that big and important, part of the Triple Crown of pacing. And I don't think there is any other small town that has anything even like that. So I think it is really unique.

Mitch: And kinda the whole...especially how before the whole Delaware community becoming a part of that whether it be... all the local people had something to do with it. Whether it be the Rotary Club doing the stuff in the grandstand, the Kiwanis Club selling the tickets at the door, or at the gates. It's still a big community event. It takes the whole community to put it together. And all that. So, yeah, if you've never been to a big track for a big race, even...

Cheryl: Like at Scioto Dows. You'd never get back in the barn area, unless you have a pass and mingle with the ... for a long time you could mingle with the drivers

Mitch: ...it's separate. Has a different feel at a commercial event. Well, for one, to get to the track... well, it used to be you had to almost come through the fairgrounds part of it to get to the track. So it's not like walk up to the front gate, get to your seat, and then you're watching a race. You are coming to a small-town event, which is pretty cool.

Cheryl: In the early days, my mom said, all the drivers would come to town and they would stay the whole week. There was only one hotel at the time, so most of them would stay with local people for that week. And that was kind of impressive, too. Now they can fly in and fly out the same day, probably. They are only racing for that day.

Leavy: Or they stay at Polaris...

Cheryl: Right. The Halfway House was the only thing going on 23 there for a long time. We were separated for a bit. And I even remember, like, Wilson's, the clothing store. They'd call mom weeks before and say, "Oh, we've got some new clothes to wear for the Jug or wear for Fair Week. And I'm sure they did that with a lot of other people in town. Just getting ready for that day, how special. People would dress up, even if it was warm, they'd have their new fall clothes on. And really...to dress up and see all their neighbors. It was a prestigious thing, too.

Leavy: So that's maybe another thing that's changed, how people dress.

Cheryl: Right, right.

Mitch: I was just thinking that. Even as late as when we were married and going to the races. If we were lucky enough to be chosen to go up with her mom and everybody in the box, you had to...

Cheryl: Dress for it.

Mitch: You had to dress in jacket, maybe not a tie, but a jacket. You had to be...looking. I mean I still struggle going up there with shorts. [Laughs] The backstretch a little bit different, you know. It's always been. [laughs]

Leavy: In order for the Jug to continue into the future, are there any changes that you think need or could be made to maintain this over time?

Cheryl: We talked about it but didn't come up with much.

Mitch: Yeah, yeah. Not having as much a connection as we did when she still actually had family in the business it's hard to tell. But you hear that harness racing is not like it used to be. Not every county fair has races like it did before. They used to be you could go any weekend in the summer you could find a race somewhere to go to and a lot of people did. So the whole industry is changing. The whole off-track betting and all that they say may be the savior of it but sometimes you feel almost is it taking away from it because I can go here and bet when the race is in... I don't have to see it. I can see it on TV. So it's kinda...I don't know what the answer is. But maybe continuing that small town feel at least to the people that we know I think that's the draw now. The vast majority to keep it alive.

Cheryl: The way it always... To get together for that fair experience.

Mitch: She talked about having the box. This is a little off subject, but she still has the box that her granddad got for the very first year which is right on the finish line. So I didn't know this until she started doing research. So the first three boxes on the finish line. Curly's was in the middle, then the Thomsons had one, and the Nevilles had one. Now we have the one in the middle and the Thomsons have both on either side. But other than that, I don't know if there's people who have had that for those length of period. I don't know. And it used to be that was golden. But now there's empty boxes up there. It's just kinda, I don't know.

Cheryl: Fifty dollars for the week. And my grandmother thought that was outrageous. Been passed down in the family, we've sure enjoyed it quite a bit. And now our children like to go. The next generation, they love to go to the races.

Leavy: Mitch, I wanted to ask you about your relatives. You have two longtime outriders and so Marilyn Evans goes back to I don't know when.

Mitch: I'm not sure either. And I'm trying to.. I'm actually kinda working on her maybe interested in talking to you, but so far, yeah. So... she just lost her husband a little over a month ago. He was...they met with the horses and all that. But I think maybe she will. I don't know.

Leavy: So, were there stories you heard of Marilyn Evans and Diane Winters?

Mitch: Like I said, I remember being up there. It was Marilyn's father who was the stall superintendent for here and for the state fairgrounds. He did the stalls down there, too. So, you know, you just kinda hang out and you hear... I remember helping Marilyn with the horses once I got a little bit older and things like that. Just her talking to the drivers. She, at the time, back then, it wasn't... the outrider now, I think they put a little bit more emphasis on helping with the track. If the horse was loose or whatever. Marilyn's was more of a ... she carried a big flag with her every time she went out. She was in a big silver saddle and all that. But she would talk to the drivers. And some of them would say, "Hey, can I put my horse right up..." I remember her telling about that. The horse is better if he's close to a horse. Can I get him close? And her horse, she had the same horse for years and years. An all-white horse, he was pretty good.

Cheryl: It's kinda pageantry, you know. Putting on a show. When they would parade the horses in front of the grandstand, it was quite a show.

Mitch: But again, for me, it was like now I'm in the paddock where I'm closer to all the action. But even...way off... the race itself. My granddad was the fire chief of the volunteer fire department that covered the track portion, still does, covers the track portion of the fairgrounds. And at some point, I'm assuming in the '60s, the crowds had gotten big enough that they determined they needed to bring a truck up during the races. So he is the brother of the stall superintendent--- more family coming together. Basically a safe place to be to watch, get up on the truck, and watch the races and all that stuff. Just good memories. And back then... I don't know why this just popped into my head...and I remember it could have been your granddad (turning to Cheryl); it wouldn't have been your granddad because it wouldn't have been the right barn, there would be horses that would have goats as companion animals. In the stalls with them, and stuff. I haven't seen that for years. I don't know why that popped into my head. [laughs]

Leavy: Well, it was a fair.

Mitch: Yeah. They actually had goats in to keep the horses calm. A goat. They were buddies or whatever. But people would come back. It's just the memories of that. The drivers were, I don't want to say they were quite like NFL football players, or baseball players or basketball players...

Cheryl: They were kinda...

Mitch: To the horse fans, there was a set of them, I don't know how many, ten, twelve I suppose, people that were

Cheryl: Like NASCAR

Mitch: Yeah. I guess. You have one and you want to follow. I seem to remember when Marilyn was the outrider, initially at least, she didn't even leave... she lived right in town on 36... I think she would just bring her horse in in the morning and do the outriding and take him home to her stall at night. I don't remember if they ever... I suppose at some point they stalled here, too. But I don't remember. Those are details.

Leavy: Suppose that Delaware no longer had the Jug. What impact, if any, would that have on you personally? What do you think it would mean to the county?

Cheryl: It would be very sad, personally, to see that race leave Delaware. I just keep hoping that they can hang on and it remains here. It would be sad, personally, to see that go. I think it's good for the city of Delaware. You know, that so many people get together every year at the Jug and... it would be sad to see something like that go from this town. Because I think it still does mean a lot to many people in Delaware.

Mitch: Probably in the '70s there were always rumors and actually I think there was some actions trying to be taken where the Jug would go to ... it was getting big enough that it needed to go to a private track or... I mean...not being that involved with it at the time, I just remember those rumors being out there. Then I don't know how close that ever was, but it seemed like it. I always felt like city, not the government per se, they probably did too, but the city people and county people would pull together. And I don't know if there is enough of that left in Delaware if that were to happen... I think there would be but, as she said, the people that were super involved in the races back when it was the highlights were are dwindling away.

Leavy: Are there any other topics that you would like to comment on? Stories that you think we really need to hear in order to get a full picture of Jug?

Cheryl: [gets up from chair and looks for notes] [pause] [returns with notes in a folder] I think I've told

Mitch: dad talking to Herve Filion when he beat ...

Cheryl: Well, this is a picture, but...this is my grandfather grabbing my dad around the neck when he won the race. And that's Jimmy Crum over here. Do you remember him? After he won that race, there's my grandfather choking him on the track just as ...

Leavy: That is a wonderful picture.

Cheryl: It is wonderful. A really neat picture. I was reading about that race with Nansemond and Albatross. And they said that Herve Filion went to my grandfather and said, "What do you think we should do? What should I do with this horse? How should I drive him?" He said, "Get to the front, go as fast as you can, and, you know, go right to the front." After that he came back and

said, "You told me what to do and it worked." And grandpa said, "Yeah, but if it hadn't worked he'd be mad as hell at me." [laughs] I don't know whether I told that very well, but there's a lot of strategies in the race

Leavy: Sure, sure. And, of course, if you are giving advice and it doesn't work out ...

Cheryl: ... it could have changed.

Mitch: I remember sitting when Tim, her brother--- I wasn't helping him that year, I was in the box--- and he was racing his own horse. I'm pretty sure it was Jug Day. It might not have been the Jug race, but it was Jug Day, and, I'm trying to remember exactly what happened, but her mom was there and then she was mad.

Cheryl: My mom really knew how a race should be go, and when it was time to take the horse out and go. She was real smart about it. And my brother didn't race the race as well as she thought he should have. She said, "These Hackett men always want to embarrass me in Delaware!" [laugh]

Mitch: I remember she walked to the barn, they were walking with her and the closer we got to the barn the faster she was walking. I mean, I had a hold of her arm

Cheryl: She was... loved racing and everything about it.

Mitch: I was starting to fear for Tim's life [laughs]

Cheryl: "Don't embarrass me in Delaware"

Mitch: I recall that when she got to the barn, Tim was in the barn, and he was cooling the horse and everything. And he just looked at her. I don't think she said anything at first. He said, "Don't start with me! I know!" [laughs]

Leavy: Let me ask one last question: Are there, you had mentioned perhaps me being able to interview Marilyn Evans. Are there other people who you think we ought to talk to because their stories are really important to collect?

Cheryl: I'm trying to think of someone that's...

Mitch: Obviously, I think you should talk to some of the Thomsons which you already probably have them on your list. But, I mean, the sad part is that, you know, like her mom and all those are gone.

Cheryl: You wonder if the next generation. The people that are going out to the races, what's bringing them out? I can't really say in particular, but I wonder the people that are watching the race now, what is the draw?

Leavy: That's a great question.

Cheryl:... in Delaware

Leavy: Sure. "What brings you here?"

Mitch: I'm struggling to come up with someone I personally know. I know you have already interviewed Diane, I think, Winters. I think she ended up outriding as long or longer than Marilyn did as I recall. Marilyn used to come up when Diane was outriding and come up and stay and watch in the paddock with Diane a lot. I remember those. There's gotta be local people that we're just not thinking of that got those histories and stuff.

Leavy: If I'm catching you flatfooted, and I think I am, just know that if somebody comes to mind it would be very, very helpful if you would make some suggestions.

Cheryl: OK, 'cause I have a cousin in London, Ohio that her son has been doing some driving. And I wonder if, you know, ... I'll get in touch with her and see if someone that's actually racing right now, 'cause I know he was at the last Jug. There would be any way to get an interview with...

Leavy: His name is?

Cheryl: I'm not... it's Browning. But, Mary Jo is my cousin. Let me contact her and I'll see if, I think that would be interesting.

Mitch: Maybe too obvious, but Billy Walters. He be a...

Cheryl: That is a good idea

Mitch: because his dad was in the race horse business. Billy raced for years. What McNamaras would still be, still involved enough that they'd be

Leavy: One thing that I have kept track of is doing something like a family tree, because you folks are wonderful examples of intertwined. So Tom Wright is connected to the Thomsons and you are mentioning all of these people who are related to and know... And so when people talk about the Jug feeling like a family, it really is for some families.

Mitch: And this is kind of separate from the Jug but obviously we met in high school but we didn't date or anything at that point, but my first real kind of job was, I worked a local company that made and repaired racehorse sulkies. And did that in high school and out of high school and that's where I would have met her grandfather because he would come in there. And one of the things I would remember about Fair Week for us, was kind of busy week because we would go back and forth to the track picking up stuff and doing things. One of the guys that worked in the shop with me, his dad... no... father and son worked in the shop with me. The father grew up with Delvin Miller in Washington Pennsylvania, so Delvin, who to us was --- probably not like LeBron James--- somebody like that would always stop in the sulky shop the week of the fair. We'd see him. Being in high school it was like, Whoa!. He had a museum over in Pennsylvania

of horse-drawn stuff and everything and we would go over and pick up stuff and take it over there, go to his farm. See what Adios was and stuff. How the whole thing intertwines.

Cheryl: How they even got the Little Brown Jug here. I can't tell you the whole story but that Joe Neville. I don't know whether you've read how I think they decided, I think, that Delaware was not right, couldn't host a race that large. And they were supposed to turn it down, supposed what Joe Neville said was "I forgot to send that..." [laughs] I love that story.

Leavy: You're gonna have the race. Apparently he talked to Hank Thomson who said, "I don't know if we are ready; I don't think we should do this" and so he quotes "forgot" the (unintelligible)... Another strange connection: you know Phil Terry

Cheryl: Yes.

Leavy: and he's married to Katie, who

Mitch and Cheryl: ...is a McNamara. [laughs]

Leavy: And there you have it!

Mitch: Katie McNamara's grandparents ? grandparents lived right next door to my parents. [laughs] When I was growing up. It's a real small town.

Leavy: Well, thank you very much I appreciate it.

Cheryl: Thank you