

Ray Smith as Lyle Eldredge

Good afternoon, folks. Step up a little closer. My name is Lyle –born Lyle E. Eldredge on October 24, 1911. Why, that makes me just about 101 years old and I still don't know much, but I'll tell you what I know.

My wife Marion and I—well, everyone called her Mary -- We moved to Buffalo Center about 1937, maybe it was '38. I worked for Interstate Power then as a service rep and crew foreman for 41 years.

Those were good years. —we worked hard, made good friends and raised our family.

Our oldest son, Dave—he got his education at Iowa State and then went on to get his Doctor of Philosophy in Ohio.

Then Donnie—an army vet.

And Lee –why Lee never even got as old as I did. Left behind some fine children, too.

And little Sally, all grown up with a family of her own. She was a bright one.

Yep, we were busy all right, but still found time to do some community service. I served on the fire department for over 30 years—Bud Olson, Hank Winter, Leon Heiman, Walt Hanson, Jake Kiewiet—we had a good crew. I was the designated electrician on a fire call seeing as how I worked for Interstate. And I was fire chief a few years in there, too. I remember when we had Al Menke and his Orchestra come play for the firemen's dance. That was a great night—a good fundraiser. Anybody want to polka???

And I remember being president of the Buffalo Center Business Mens Club for a while, too. Seems like Vince Steinberg, Larry Costigan, Sid Jensvold, Anton Rank—why I can't even name them all. We all took our turns on Business Men's—organizing the Christmas drawing, getting the decorations hung on the light poles on main street. 'Course that was the designated electrician's job----

We had to rewire the fire siren when the telephone office moved to the Buffalo Hotel. Well, now-a-days you don't even need a fire siren.

Everyone's got those fancy pagers and that nice new fire station.

Seems to me like we didn't have a monopoly on the good old days and you folks still have some good years coming. I wish you the best.