

**I accept and agree to the above statement:**

Signature Gary Kutkat

Date 6/30/2018

Printed Name GARY KUTKAT

**Morton History Questions:**

1. What year were you born (Required)? 1944
2. Where were you born? City/State/Country. Were you born in a hospital?  
At home? Elsewhere? Peoria IL
3. Tell us a little bit about yourself? teacher - 46 yrs education: Manual High and Bradley
4. How many generations of your family have lived in Morton? 1
5. What is your ethnic background? From what countries did your family originate? grandparents - both German
6. How did your family find/come to Morton? What brought them here?  
teaching job
7. How long have you lived in Morton? Did you ever leave? For what reason?  
50 yrs
8. If you did leave, what brought you back to Morton?
9. What is your earliest memory of the Village?  
At age 17 I came to Morton for days at the City Hall (?)
10. What did you want to be when you grew up?  
a teacher

11. How has the Village changed over the years?  
*business has exploded - hotels restaurants*
12. What was it like when you grew up here/first moved here?  
*a small community - very friendly*
13. What do you miss about the way it used to be?  
*used to know almost everyone*
14. Who are some of the local town "characters" or legends from here? For what were they known?
15. Any other great stories or legends to share about our town?
16. Any family members or family member accomplishments you'd like remembered? Why?
17. What were your favorite things to do as a kid?  
*hanging out at South Park - a lot of activities there.*
18. What stores did you frequent that are no longer here? What were they like? What did they sell? Where were they located? What did you like to purchase there? *Widgers Dept Store. ACW root beer stand*
19. What other memorable aspects of the community are no longer here?  
*the variety of food stores*
20. Where was the public library? What would you do there? What services did it provide Morton residents? *downtown Morton mostly books*
21. Where was the grade school located? The High School?  
*all are in the same place Little Brown did not exist*
22. What grocery store did you patronize? Drugstore? Hardware store? Barber shop? Beauty shop? Clothing store? How did you travel to these places? Where were they located? What made them great?  
*did most shopping in Poona where my family lived.*
23. Did your mom and dad work? Where?  
*Dad only - C&NW Railroad*

24. Who were the major employers in the area? Where were they located?  
What did they make/manufacture?  
*Caterpillar School district*
25. Were there community music or theater groups? Where did they perform? What did a ticket cost? What shows do you remember seeing?
26. Where were the favorite spots to gather? Where did you typically see your friends and neighbors most regularly? *for kids - the bowling alley downtown*
27. Was there a neighborhood bar or restaurant where people gathered? Was it a place for gossip or political discussion?  
*The Club 150 and Cliffwood Bar.*
28. What were the troubled spots in town? What places had a reputation and why?
29. What did you do on a Saturday Night? How about on a Sunday afternoon? Where did you go for these activities?
30. What were the most popular local sports?  
*all school sports*
31. Did you follow any professional teams? Which ones?  
*Cubs, Bears*
32. Where did you go on vacation with your family?  
*Florida*
33. How did you celebrate the holidays?  
*with family in Peoria and Williams Field IL*
34. How did the community celebrate Memorial Day, Fourth of July, Labor Day?
35. What newspapers did you read? *Journal Star*
36. Did you rely on the radio for national news? What radio stations did you listen to? *Yes WJRL Radio and WMBD radio*
37. What was the first national or world news event you remember hearing about? How did you hear about it?  
*the Korean War - neighborhood talk*

38. What was the best source of news during World War II?

39. What were your favorite radio programs?

*the Long Ranger Father Knows Best Green Hornet*

40. When did you get a television set? And from where did you get it?

*1954 at age 10*

41. What was the first news event you remember seeing on the television?

42. Anything else to add? Anything you'd like others to remember about the community?

*great place to live - great schools, government,  
and neighbors. And, of course, the Pumpkin Festival*