Allegany County Local History Program

Oral History Transcripts: Illustrated

Volume 3

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Acknowledgements

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ACC Sports—A Former Basketball Player's Viewpoints
Rick Scaletta interviewed by Michael Matese

MM: Hello. Here we are at Rick Scaletta's house on South Allegany Street, and we're going to interview Rick about the facilities at the old ACC versus the facilities at the new ACC.

Rick, can you tell us a little bit about the old ACC?

Allegany Community College on Frederick Street

Scaletta: That's a good question, Mike. First of all, let's start off by saying it was a high school at first, therefore, the facilities were limited. Your classrooms were small and they didn't have the atmosphere that the more professional, the more modern classrooms they have now at the new ACC. The student lounge that we had was sort of like a basement type of thing. It was below the gymnasium floor. It wasn't modern at all. Next, I guess you get into the seating capacity at the old ACC. The seats were lined up on the side of the basketball court; not many fans. Then they had a small stage where they set up bleachers and that type of thing for fans to come in. I guess the capacity for the fans was anywhere from 250 to 275, and I guess you'd call that jammed packed. It had fan-shaped backboards, which they don't have now. They have the modern glass backboards at the new ACC. I guess that's about all you can say about the old facilities. Two floor, story high school is now the old ACC. I think it's used for a kindergarten now, but the new ACC has definitely brought a lot of new things to the Cumberland area.

MM: Rick, could you tell us where the old ACC was located at?

Scaletta: Yeah, it was located on Frederick Street, Mike. Like I said before, it's a kindergarten now. I don't know the name of the kindergarten school off hand, but it was located out on Frederick Street. [Cumberland Kindergarten Center]

MM: Can you compare the sports programs, then and now?

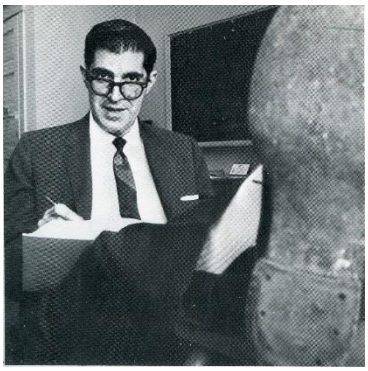
Scaletta: Yeah, I can, I don't know…you know how things change from era to era. The sports program at ACC, it was good during the time. They had basketball, baseball, soccer, and tennis. I'm sure they have that now at the new ACC. I know for a fact that the new ACC is growing. Like I said before, the era at the time that we played basketball and the other sports I mentioned, was good. The sports program has definitely grown in the years. We have the new ACC gym. I don't know what the seating capacity is now out there. It's been a lot of good for the community. It's growing every year, and I can see that ACC is definitely going to be real strong in the years to come.

MM: Speaking of the community, how did they respond to having the junior college? And how did they respond to the building of the new facility?

Scaletta: Well, I think the community accepted it real well. Going back to the old ACC and then jumping to the new ACC, which I believe was the only community college around at this time. And now, they have Garrett Community College now, I think that's up in Oakland. They have Potomac State, which was there also, but the new ACC located off Willowbrook Road, the community accepted it real well, and is going to accept it in the near future. It's growing more and more each year, and I just think the community overall accepted it real well.

MM: Rick, when you moved to this new ACC, was everything open? And how did this change affect any of the students?

Scaletta: Well, as far as things being open, they were still doing work on the new ACC. I'd say it was a real thrill for me going to a school like the old ACC and then jumping into the new modern Allegany Community College today. They had their Olympic size swimming pool which they have now, a new gymnasium, the student lounge is I guess like walking into a big hotel room. Some of the buildings they have up there now, they didn't have the automotive type building out there when we were there. They're building more facilities out there now than was there when I was there in '69 and '70. There's not much more that I can say about that because I haven't been out there for some time. But the people that I talk to…I know the enrollment is definitely increasing year after year, so therefore, there actually has to be something good about that school out there.


James Zamagias

MM: Yes. Can you tell us about some of the teachers out there?

Stanley Dougan

Scaletta: Yeah. Right offhand, Mr. Zamagias, James Zamagias. I believe he is still teaching English out there. I had Mr. Zamagias when I was at the old ACM and new ACC. I think Mr. Dougan is still out at the new ACC. He was at the old ACC. I think Dr. Tichenor is still out at the new ACC. He was also at the old ACC. As far as any other teachers, Mike, right offhand, I couldn't tell you. I think, they're not going to change in their teaching ways. I always run into Mr. Zamagias, and everything. I just think he's one hell of a good guy, and I'm glad I had him as an instructor while I was there.

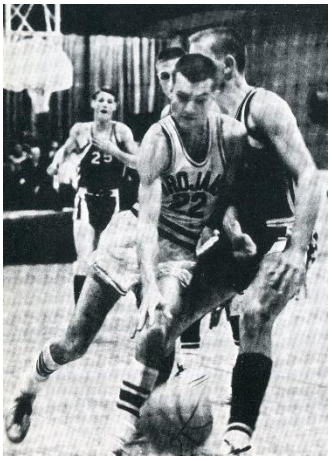
MM: Can you tell us any stories about Mr. Zamagias?

Scaletta: Well, I could, but…Some of the stories we used to have in the classroom, I don't want to say them here on tape, but he's a fine gentleman. He's done a lot for the new ACC out there. He's one hell of a man in the community. He works hard for this community and at ACC. I really admire the guy. I respect him a lot for what he's done. Like I said before, I'm glad I had him.

MM: Were the relationships between the teachers real good out there at that time?

Scaletta: Ah, definitely. ACC was small. You had that student-teacher relationship. You weren't just a number like so many colleges are—you just go into a big auditorium, they call out your number, you raise your hand. No, it's definitely a family, togetherness type of thing out there. I feel today it's still like that with talking to some of the kids that I know that go out there. The relationship is great; they work hard for you; they don't send you off and put you in a corner; they help you if you're having problems, which is good. It's definitely a great tradition that's been there from the old ACC to the new ACC.

MM: Can you compare the basketball then and the basketball now? Do you think it's getting better?


1966 basketball game

Scaletta: Oh, I definitely think it's getting better, it always grows, there's always changes—defense, offense, that type of thing. Your men is always bigger, and everything. When I played basketball at the old ACC, we had two boys, Dave Donahue and Wayne Sloan, which were our biggest men, and they were 6'4" and one was 6'5". Now at the community college out there now, you have guys that are 6'7" and 6'8", and you have bench strength to go with it. If you took out a guy that's 6'5" they put in a guy that's 6'5" also. We didn't have that. We were small, but the competition we played, was good. It was good competition. And the ACC playing the competition they have now, they're playing more colleges, more powerful junior colleges: Vincennes, right offhand, Boyce, of course, the Community College of Baltimore is always strong. He's always done a good job with the Red Devils down there. As far as your big men are concerned, they're definitely getting bigger each year, but don't underestimate the guards.

MM: Do you think it's good for the community for the college to be growing like it is, I mean as far as the sports program?

Scaletta: Oh, definitely. I feel that it's really helping the community, drawing more fans, they're seeing good basketball. The better it gets, the better the rankings of the community college is going to get. You're going to put a name in the Cumberland area, which this new ACC has done for us with the basketball record. Of course, you don't want to take out the tennis record. They done well in tennis. They're doing well in baseball. We never did *that well* in baseball but we held our own at that time.

MM: Speaking of the fans, how was your support then, compared to now?

Bob Kirk Arena in 2024

Scaletta: Well, like I said earlier, going back to the old facilities you'd get anywhere from 250-275, 300. You get those jam-packed crowds. Now out at the new school…I don't know what the seating capacity is out there…1,100, 1,200…something like that. I'm sure it's been jammed before and it's going to be jammed again. Our crowd followed us…16-6 the two years I was there. We had the crowds with us, and the publicity was good from the Times-News. They followed us real strong, also.

MM: Rick, what made you go to ACC?

Allegany College of Maryland in 2020

Scaletta: Well, I'll tell you, that's a good question. In the back of my mind the first thing that points out to me is that I wanted to get oriented to college life. Going in as a freshman…most freshman usually fail out of their first year going into a 4-year college or a 4-year university. They're not oriented to the programs; they get lost in the shuffle. By going to a community college, it helped me adjust grade-wise; what courses I wanted to set my foundation on for the rest of my life. As you know, many times freshmen and sophomores change their minds each year. They don't know what to major in. By going to community college, you know where you want to go the next two years to finish your education. You take the courses you want to transfer to that college, and that sets your goals in life for you. When you graduate you have that diploma, which is something they cannot take away from you, and that's what's going to put the bread and butter on your table for you. I recommend that people go to community college if it's a *good* junior college, or community college, whatever the case may be. I recommend that they go there to get oriented. I think that's the first, and strong, points of going to a junior college.

MM: Speaking of transferring, I know you transferred to Ohio. Can you tell us what school you went to?

The James F. Dicke Hall on the Campus of Ohio Northern University

Scaletta: Yeah, I went to Ohio Northern University located in Ada, Ohio. It's about an hour and 50 minutes north of Columbus. It's a college…a university made up of four colleges, which is liberal arts, pharmacy, college of engineering, and college of law. It was recommended highly academically-wise. Of course, I had the fortune of, like so many other athletes that come out of ACC, to get a scholarship. That's something that ball players look for today so they don't have to have their parents have the burden of paying for their education. This goes all the way back to my childhood of growing up in a sports-oriented family. I like to say this time here that I'd like to thank my mom and dad for doing this for me because it definitely took a burden off of their shoulders. I'm glad I had the opportunity to receive a scholarship to go out there and play ball and get a fine education. And I'd recommend to everybody to go to Ohio Northern University, also.

MM: Rick, speaking of education, how did it compare to ACC?

Scaletta: Well, first of all, let's define education. I guess you're talking about teacher to prof relationship, or are you talking about the courses that were offered at this particular time?

MM: Well, I…how about both?

Scaletta: Okay. Well, the teacher-prof relationship was basically like ACC. Ohio Northern was a small university; it was made up of 2,800 students. The thing I was looking for here is I don't have to make a name for myself again. I can walk down frat row, fraternity row, and say, "How are you doing, Bob?" or "What's going down?" to somebody else. I don't have to go down and say hi to somebody I don't know. It was small. I got to know people; I got to know profs. The education was fine. It was mostly doctors out at Ohio Northern University; they have a PhD degree. I learned a tremendous amount from all my profs out there. I think the education here at ACC is basically the same way; they're out to help you. They want to do the best they can for you. I appreciate the opportunity I had to go out there.

Ada, Ohio

MM: Alright, that sounds very good. You said the community in Ada, Ohio is just like the community in Cumberland? They reacted to the college the same way?

Scaletta: Oh, definitely. They had a high school in Ada, Ohio. It's called Ada High School. I guess the fans in Ada, Ohio reacted the way the fans do here. Ohio is a state that…sports-minded. I don't know if it's basketball; it's probably football. But it's (?) basketball. It's very competitive. I met a lot of fine outstanding ball players in the years that I played out there under coach Larry Michaels at Ohio Northern University. I've seen high school competitive basketball. I've seen the university level and, of course, the community college level, also. The fans reacted to it very well. They supported the high school; they supported the university; they supported the sports going on in a particular time of the year.

MM: When you transferred out there, was the change hard?

Scaletta: Yes, at first the change was hard here. I'm getting away from home. I've been around this area, now going out on my own, it was hard at first. The first month or so, I wanted to come back. In the back of my mind, I didn't want to do this, but my mom and dad said, "No, no, stick it out and give it a chance." And I did and it paid out for the best.

MM: Okay, Rick, lastly, I know you set a lot of records at ACC and maybe wouldn't want to talk about it. But, if I set all those records, I sure would. Could you tell us some of the records that you set?

Scaletta: Well, I can't really recall offhand some of the records that I set. I know my brother Tim has a record out there of the most points in one ballgame at 47, and I think that record might stand for quite some time. I had the career scoring mark of 1,050, which was just recently broken by an outstanding ballplayer in Jay Hurtt in the two years that he was here at Allegany Community College. That's about all the records that I can think of offhand. I would have to get the booklets out and go through them. Records are made to be broken and I'm sure they're going to be broken. But the one I want to see stand for a while is the most points in one game by my brother stand. [Editor's note: Tim's record stood for 52 years until Imhotep George scored 50 points against Butler County in February 2020.]

MM: That says what kind of guy you are, Rick. Now, we sure do appreciate you for giving us this interview. And I'm sure that anybody that comes into the library and listens to this tape will surely benefit from your recollections of old ACC compared to the new ACC. So, we thank you a lot.

Scaletta: Well, thank you Mike. It was a great opportunity and I'm glad you asked for an interview. I hope I did help in some way or another. Thank you very much.

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Allegany High School: The Case for a New One
Name: William Eichelberger
Interviewer: Jeffrey Clayton
Date and Place of Interview: Nov. 26, 1979 in LaVale, Md.
Typed by Celeste Bartlett 12/2007

Mr. William Eichelberger: November 26, 1979. His current address is 16 Helman Drive, LaVale. The topic of the interview is the Allegany High School Controversy.

JC: How did you become interested in the Allegany High School Controversy?

Allegany High School on Sedgwick St.

Eichelberger: Well, at the time I first became involved, which was probably the fall of 1973, my son Bill was a sophomore at Allegany High School, and I had a daughter in grade school. He was my oldest son, so naturally I was interested in where he was going to school, and what the school was like and everything. Of course, well, he was playing football and baseball--so I became quite aware early of the inadequacy of the outside athletic facility at Allegany; and of course, later, going through the school, became aware of the inadequacies of a school that was built in 1926. I just couldn't see how renovation of the existing school would solve the problems that they had. As a matter of fact, one thing--I got an article here from January 9th of 1974--one of the early things that struck me was the inadequate acreage: where at Allegany they had approximately nine acres of land for, at that time, approximately thirteen hundred students, and at that time they were planning to build a new Cash Valley grade school in LaVale. And I read here, and I'll quote, "An option has been secured by the county to purchase forty-five acres of land on Cash Valley Road for the school, which would have nearly five hundred students." In my mind, I couldn't put together how the School Board could say that nine acres would be adequate for thirteen hundred students when they were purchasing forty-five acres for five hundred grade school students. In the same article--this was the first time I came across this--it said under the state guidelines a minimum of thirty acres is needed for a secondary or a high school; in addition, for each hundred students another acre, which comes to forty-three acres which would have been required for a school the size of Allegany. So, this and a number of other things has really piqued my interest in this whole business.

JC: Alright, when was the subject of the new school brought up in the local government?

Eichelberger: Well, the first that I recollect was in the spring of 1973, I believe it was; at that time, we had an appointed school board, not the elected school board we have

Aerial view of Allegany High School on Sedgwick St.

now. They had determined that something had to be done about Allegany High School, so they said, “we’re going to conduct some public meetings to get input from the people concerned, and what they want done.” Well, at each of these meetings the people overwhelmingly said it’s foolish to spend the money on renovating or remodeling the existing high school--we want a new school. In spite of this, the appointed school board turned around and said no, strictly they weren’t going to renovate, what they were going to do at that time...their plan was to build a new wing, attach it to the gymnasium wing, run it across Sedgwick Street, and then later tear down the old part of the school. But they were not going to have any real increase in acreage, or increase in the site, and as you probably know there is no place to go up there—you’ve got the cemetery behind you, you are completely surrounded by property, and it’s just a bad situation as far as acreage goes. That was the first time that I remember, and of course then later on in the fall of ‘73, is when I got more involved in it.

JC: Are there any other reasons why a new school needed to be built, besides the acreage or the athletic facilities?

Eichelberger: Well, there are a number of things bad about the situation up there, as you probably know. No room for expansion, no room to add additional acreage, the fact that they intended to use--even after the new wing would have been built--they were going to bus students from Fort Hill and Beall in succeeding years into that same area to use the old part of the school, while Beall and Fort Hill were being remodeled. So, if you are aware of the present situation, it’s very bad as far as traffic in and out of that area right now. Inadequacy of parking space, inability to handle traffic; it would have really created what I would consider an intolerable situation. And that is one reason, there’s numerous others.

JC: What were some of the reasons why the members of the Board of Education were opposed to building a new school?

Senator Ed Mason

Eichelberger: Well, that’s hard for me to say, that’s a very good question, and at the time I asked myself why, why were they not even considering going to another site, especially when they had an option on land out on Cash Valley Road in LaVale, adjacent to where they have now built the new Cash Valley grade school. There was plenty of land out there, there’s plenty of land at a lot of sites in and around the city where it could be built. We kept hearing, “well, the opposition doesn’t want it built there--or doesn’t want it moved.” But when I tried to pin people down as

to who the people were that wanted to have it kept there, I'd only get vague answers. I'm sure, well some of the people naturally live in the immediate neighborhood, and their children are able to walk to school, they're going to, that's going to be a primary consideration to them. But when you consider that over half of the kids that go there are bused in from Cresaptown, and Bowling Green, and LaVale--outside the city. I think that should be a consideration. But as to why the Board was really so opposed, and I really--I'm only guessing--I'm sure the businessmen, downtown Cumberland had some influence. It seemed like the, well the newspaper was obviously strongly opposed. It was obvious in their editorials and the way that they reported on the news, like School Board meetings, they were very much against it. It seemed like the Democrats for some reason seemed more opposed to it than Republicans. I can't help but feel the fact that if a new Allegany were built it could possibly harm Bishop Walsh had to play some part in the controversy. At that time none of the members of the local delegation: Taylor, Burns, Commiskey, or Mason--was in favor of it, they were all trying to throw cold water on the deal. Of course, later on Senator Mason turned around and supported the school, but he was the only one that really strongly did. So, Jeff, I come back to the basic reason that I don't really know, I can only speculate.

JC: How do you feel they handled the controversy in your opinion?

Eichelberger: Well, of course in my opinion I think they handled it very poorly because when they go out ahead of time and conduct public meetings to solicit the opinion of the people concerned, and then they totally ignore it, they are putting themselves in a bad situation. So, I don't think they handled it well at all, and eventually of course they were ousted when it came to a referendum as to whether we would keep an appointed school board or go to an elected school board. People voted overwhelmingly to get rid of the appointed board and go to an elected board, and I can't help but think that issues like this played a part in that, in that vote.

JC: Do you feel there would have been any advantages to remodeling the old school?

Eichelberger: I can't think of any, really, when you consider the disruption that would occur in the education of the children, the students, during a period of maybe three years, not only at Allegany, but possibly at Braddock and other schools--even Fort Hill that they may have to have been farmed out to, doubled up or going in split sessions and so forth. I really can't see any advantages--if you're looking at it from the standpoint of the education of the children. Now, if some parent that lives there two blocks from the school thinks that, okay they're willing to make that sacrifice so their child can walk to school, that's their own feeling. I wouldn't feel that way even if I lived on Fayette Street.

JC: How did the local election of 1978 affect the outlook of a new school?

Eichelberger: Well, it really wasn't an issue as far as the local delegation too much. Senator Mason of course had come out before the election in favor of the new school, and I'm sure that cost him votes in Cumberland and gained him votes elsewhere, and of course it was a real issue in the race for the school board. As you probably know, John Long and Matthew Skidmore and Del Proudfoot were running for reelection. Phil Wendt and Dr. Williams were not running. And these three men had all been opposed to a new high school--in favor of remodeling--so most of their opponents--well, I'll say some, were in favor of the new school, some were sort of noncommittal. Maurice Miller and Jean Lewis of course had been strongly in favor of a new high school, and Mary Robb and Margaret Hamilton, they didn't take any strong stand one way or the other--although those two got elected, as you know, and John Long and Matt Skidmore were defeated. And then later on after looking at all the facts, these two women went along with the previous view that it certainly was more desirable to build a new school than to renovate. So as far as the effect of the 1978 election, I'd say it was definitely an issue in the school board, and it could have played a part in Senator Mason's getting reelected. It probably cost him votes someplace and helped him someplace else. I'd like to think it helped him more than hurt him.

JC: Did you play an active part in this election?

Eichelberger: Well, I didn't play that big of a part. I worked for school board members, naturally--Maurice Miller and Jean Lewis, whom I know well, and that I'd worked with in efforts to get a new school. And I had the feeling that Mary Robb and Margaret Hamilton probably if elected would go along with it. So at least I didn't actively oppose them. I got involved in helping mainly those school board candidates and also Senator Mason; I wrote articles, and helped put up signs, and make plans for Election Day. My wife and daughter in a way got more involved than I did because they went out to the polls on Election Day and passed out literature, and so forth. This was a new experience to me; I've never really been involved in politics before. I would have to say I was mildly involved, if you want to put it that way.

JC: How was the site for the new school chosen?

Eichelberger: Well, a site selection committee was picked, I'm not sure exactly when--back in...I guess it was about '75 when the school board at that time decided they were definitely going to go with a new school. I had been asked to serve on the site selection committee, but due to my controversial involvement in this thing, I asked that I would rather not, rather than throw any bad feelings on it. So, a number of other people, including some school board members and interested parents and so forth, were put on the site selection committee. They decided they would first look at sites in the city, and they looked at seven different sites within the city limits, and for one reason or another, they decided that none of those were satisfactory, I think principally because they just were too small--there is not that much land available in the city. They looked at thirteen sites outside of the city limits surrounding Cumberland, and of all the sites they looked at, the most obvious one was across from the VoTech center on McMullen Highway, where they could combine the facilities: build a new high school there, and the kids who

were taking VoTech courses could benefit from it, the kids who were taking the so-called academic courses at Allegany could benefit from VoTech. It would relieve an overcrowded situation that supposedly existed at VoTech--and what they were pushing then was the so-called Career Center concept, what I think was an excellent idea. There were other reasons of course. It's level land, there was a chance to get additional land donated from Celanese and from the Cresaptown Civic people, which eventually of course they got, because those people were behind it. It would require a minimum of hookups for utilities and highway--road facilities because of the location; it was just a good spot. And I'm sure that this committee carefully considered when they looked at twenty sites and came up with this one.

JC: How might the new location affect busing and redistricting?

Eichelberger: Well, nobody knows of course how it would really affect busing until you know what the new districts are. The new district lines cannot be drawn without school board approval. There's been a lot of speculation of course thrown out by various people with various motives to try to discourage support for a new school by saying this or that area would be excluded from the new school and would have to go to Fort Hill--which seemed to upset some parents, why I don't know. I think I would rather have my children being moved to Fort Hill that's not being torn up than to be going to Allegany that's torn up, and having their education disrupted in the event of remodeling. As far as the way it would affect busing, I can't help but think that when you consider that children from Bel Air and Rawlings and from a distance quite a bit south are being bused past this area--and almost past the area where the present Allegany High School is situated--clear across town to Fort Hill. And those people would logically have to be put in the new Allegany High School; the net result could be a reduction in busing cost, really. Most of the kids that go to Allegany now are bused there. Of course, there would be children in the Cresaptown and Potomac Park Area that would be close enough to walk. So, it's something that is hard to speculate on right now.

JC: How much has the cost of construction increased since the original estimate in 1973?

Eichelberger: Well, it's kind of odd because the net change has been really zero. In 1973, the appointed board was given seven million dollars to go ahead with their plans. Later on, the director of the interagency committee on public school construction, at that time Mr. Alfred Carey, told them he thought it was foolish to spend that money at the present location, and he would support them to the extent of thirteen million dollars to build a new school; this was in 1974. Thirteen million, and the school board said "no, we don't want it, we just want our seven million and we're gonna build right here on the present site". Well, since that time the amount of money has dropped to as low as 2.6, up to 4.6, up to 5.5, which was the last figure that they said they would grant: five and a half million. And now it looks like seven million is going to be required, and of course the present school board has gone back to the IAC and asked for an additional one and a half million, so it is kind of odd that here we are six years later saying we'd gladly settle for the same amount of money as we would have six years before, in spite of inflation.

Of course, the key thing here is the different type of--the construction management principle that is being used at the new school, which of course enables you to build for much less money than the old system. But it's kind of odd that after all this time the net change--although inflation has gone skyrocketing--we'd still be satisfied to get the same amount of money that we were originally offered back in 1976.

JC: What are some possible uses, if any, of the original building?

Eichelberger: Well, that problem of course was brought up by the appointed school board. That was one of their reasons for wanting to stay on the present site. However, that to me is a phony issue because once they decide to build a new school, the old school building is turned over to the County Commissioners, and after that time it becomes the problem of the County Commissioners as to what to do. Many suggestions have been made: it could be used for a senior citizen center, it could be used for a community center, you have the auditorium and an excellent gymnasium. The gymnasium of course would continue to be used by Allegany for their games, even if they would move to a new site, and as far as I'm concerned, I see no reason why they have to spend a million and a half or two million dollars to build a second gym up at Fort Hill when you have this gymnasium available--why can't both high schools use it the same as they have to do with the Greenway Avenue, or so-called Fort Hill Stadium, where we at Allegany have to bus our football players clear over there to play our home games. There's...it could be used for office space rather than building new city or county office buildings, you have that room. It's been suggested that it could be used of course for--still for educational needs, for grade school children--which I would not be in favor of, because if it isn't adequate for high school kids, and it's over fifty years old, I don't see where it really should be used for that purpose at all. But I'm sure that a use could be found for it. It wouldn't sit there and just decay in the middle of the Westside neighborhood, I feel certain, certainly not with the gym and the auditorium available.

Greenway Avenue Stadium, Cumberland, MD

JC: What is the present status of the new school?

Eichelberger: Well, right now it's kind of up in the air: as you probably know, the cost estimates came in that we figured would come in at five and a half by Mellin and Stewart, they came in seven million; so, the present school board has appealed to the IAC, or the interagency committee, for an additional million and a half dollars to make the new school possible. But no one knows what can happen there; the IAC could say

After decades of getting nowhere, a ground-breaking ceremony for a new Allegany High School was held on May 23, 2016. The new school opened for the 2018-2019 school year. The total bill of the new school was $49.2 million

well, no we're not going to give you that, you can take the five and a half million and do what you can with it, build a school as far as you can, a new school, or use it for remodeling or whatever you decide; or, they could come along and say well, we will grant you the additional money. There is no telling right now. It's really in the hands of the state agency right now.

JC: Are you satisfied with the present decision?

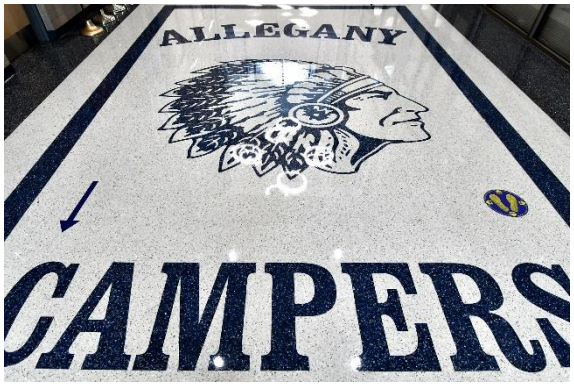
Eichelberger: Are you referring to the decision of the school board?

JC: The location of the school.

Eichelberger: Oh, you mean out on McMullen Highway, the new school--yes, I certainly am. I think it is a very good site, and I would really like to see the school built there. Another thing for consideration is, the center of population is definitely moving in the direction toward the east and the south--toward LaVale, toward Cresaptown; the logical location would be in an area like that, or LaVale or somewhere in between. Although I live in LaVale, I don't strongly feel that the school would have to be located here--to me, Cresaptown would be an excellent area. I just hope that someday I live long enough to see it come to fruition [laughs]. I would agree with the school board, but the key decision now is up to the Interagency Committee. I've seen this take so many ups and downs and flip flops, I just hope that it doesn't end here, and they throw it back in the laps of the school board, and they say--like they did once before—well, if this is all we're going to get, we're going to have to renovate or remodel. Because when they do that, they don't need to make a concrete plan as to how the money's going to be spent, as they do in the case of a new school. You can just take the money and say well we're going to renovate, we're going to paint walls, and we're gonna tear things up, and we'll fix it as far as we can go. And then what have you got--you've still got a school that is fifty-three years old on a nine-acre site that's been renovated, and you've missed a chance to do something because you're building a school now for twenty-

Auditorium of the new Allegany High School, which was ultimately built on the site of the former Sacred Heart Hospital on Haystack Mountain.

five or thirty years from now—it's something that is going to be around for a long time. And to me when you look, when you travel across the state of Maryland, and you look at



schools that are built in the other counties, particularly down in the eastern part, well you can even go up here in Garrett County and look at Northern and Southern. You don't see anything like the existing Allegany High School as far as antiquated building, and cramped quarters, and no place to expand, no room to go, bad traffic problems. To me, to spend any money at all up there on remodeling is just throwing money down a rat hole. You've got to get off that site and build in an adequate site, and so I would say I just hope that the IAC--I agree with the school board's decision--I hope that the IAC makes the right decision.

JC: Have anything else you would like to add?

Eichelberger: No, I think I probably said about enough [laughs].

JC: Well, I appreciate you taking your time to give me some information about the Allegany High School Controversy. Thank you.

Eichelberger: You're welcome.

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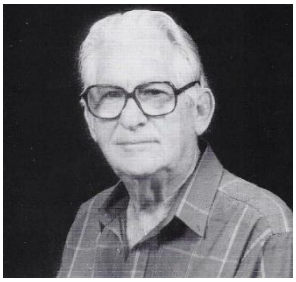
Barnes Custom Jewelry Store
I'm Kathy Baker here on April 27, 1978, at 7 North Liberty St. to interview Mr. Merrill R. Barnes, who's a designer and manufacturer of jewels. Mr. Barnes was born on March 6, 1920, in Cumberland, MD. I'm going to talk to him about making jewelry.

Mr. Barnes, how did you first get interested in making jewelry?



Barnes: I grew up in scouting, and liked to carve wood as far back as I can remember. And through scouting I taught swimming, lifesaving, and woodcarving and crafts; so as I got older, I kept at the back of my mind the thought perhaps I'd like to be a jeweler. At one time I thought I wanted to be an engineer, but having won a scholarship to Stevens Engineering College, and they tested me for engineering, they said I would not make a good engineer. So, I fell back on the jewelry idea and decided that since I could do anything well working with my hands, I better stick to that field.

So, I started to check out schools, and after graduating from high school, I finally ended up going to Bradley University in Peoria, IL, and took anything connected with the jewelry industry—designing and manufacturing. Since that time, I have worked as an apprentice in different shops, and went into the Service. After coming out of the Service, I decided to work for myself so I opened up a trade shop on Pershing St., and had that for seventeen years before I decided to open it to retail--the retail business which we have now on Liberty St.

KB: Where did you get your training in making jewelry?

Bradley Hall, Bradley University, Illinois

Barnes: Well, the basic part of learning metals and so forth was at Bradley University, and then whenever I found out about doing anything new I would do it there. I worked model making in New York, and mold making, in different shops, and I went to the West Coast and learned what methods they use on the West Coast as compared to what we use back here on the East Coast. That's how I still learn today—wherever I find out something new, I go do it.

KB: How long did it take you to get all that training in?

Barnes: Well, I'm still learning and I'm fifty-eight, and I started when I was twenty-five.

KB: Do you have some kind of classes you still go to now?

Barnes: Yes, the American Gem Society has classes every year, on mostly gemology--and anything connected with the jewelry business; some designing. The best thing you can do is check what they're doing in New York, and traveling—which we go to Europe,

we've been to Europe about eight times, and I have connections with the stone companies over there where I buy; and all the time I'm there, I check to see what they're doing with European designs. So all designing is is a good idea of your own, other people's, and anything you can come up with.

KB: Do you get ideas from…well, where do you really get most of your ideas from?

Barnes: Ohhh, everyday life, I guess, as much as anything. Some people like freeform, some people like antique style—so all the old antique methods and pictures that they had, they used; textures you learn from bark on trees, sand-eaten(?) finishes…many people like animals, we carve animals….So, it's just really what the *person* likes, as to where the idea comes from. I usually question the people if I'm going to make them something, see if they like modern jewelry, or antique jewelry, or something of that nature.

KB: Do you share your ideas with anybody—does anybody…?

Barnes: I have a very close friend in California, that I met fifteen years ago or so in New York, and we've become very good friends—so we swap ideas; if he finds something new that's working well on the West Coast, and I find something new back here, I send it to him, and he gives me ideas from out there.

KB: What's involved in when you make a piece? What's involved in designing it and making it?

Barnes: I usually talk to the customer first to see what she really likes; sometimes she's seen something that we've already done. I keep a catalog of a lot of--anything new that I do in color, pictures, and show the customer these; once they arrive at what they like, then I either sculpt the ring in wax and cast it into gold, or saw it in tiny parts and weld the parts together—constructing the piece, putting it together that way. There's two basic types: sawing small parts and assembling them, and sculpting and casting; that's the two main ways of making jewelry. So, we have to design it first, and then decide which way we're going to make it, and then actually process it: cast it, set the stones in it, weld parts on, and polish it last.

Modern wax ring mold (right) in 2019
Finished gold ring on left

KB: How long does it take you to make a piece?

Barnes: A very simple ring you could make in an hour; a complicated ring could take a week or two weeks. The face that I carved that won the first national award that I had took me a day just to do the basic part of the face. I spent a half a day just on the mouth, around the mouth and the nose. And so you can see if it's a complicated piece,

if it's a large piece of jewelry or a lot of setting going into it, you can spend days on just constructing it alone, without setting the stones in it.

KB: I saw that piece that you won the award for that you were talking about, the woman with the hair; where'd you get the idea for that?

Barnes: I just had it a long time—I don't know why I decided to do it in gold. I did several other faces in gold, and decided to do that and put diamonds in the hair--so I called it "Diamond Ecstasy", just for the sake of something to call it. And the other award was two faces—a man's face and a lady's face—in a circle with a sunburst of diamonds coming out from it, worn on the collar. And the last award I got was a diamond bow tie clip, with nineteen diamonds--clips on and off a bow tie. A diamond dress piece, really.

KB: I love that one with the hair, that's beautiful.

Barnes: I also made that same thing into a ring for a lady that's in Arizona now. She just likes a big ring, so she bought it as a ring. I didn't like it as a ring, I like it as a delicate cameo, which is a pin.

KB: Who has the pieces that you won the awards for, did you sell them?

Barnes: I have two, but I sold one to a doctor in Kentucky—the double face. He's an excellent customer of mine, he's bought many, many of my pieces. He said he'd buy the others too, but I was always sorry I sold *that* piece, since I didn't have to sell it. But if anybody was going to get it, I would rather it be a real good customer that buys an awful lot from me--I made him an awful lot of jewelry over the years.

KB: The bow tie clip that's downstairs—would you sell that if somebody…

Barnes: No, I wear it myself once in a while. It can be broken up and put on a large lady's dome ring, too, like a fashion ring, cocktail ring—but I have no reason to break it up, so I just use it once in a while myself.

KB: What's the most unusual piece you ever made?

Barnes: Well, I made a submarine tie clip once, I made a tractor-trailer tie clip with diamond wheels, I made a palm tree engagement ring with a diamond in the top of the palms, I made a necklace with a bull head on it—Taurus the bull—with an emerald and diamond collar on it last year; and I'm in the process right now of carving a gorilla—for a neckpiece for a man. I think it's a gift from a lady to a man. It's going to be in gold, too.

KB: I'm wondering how long that'll take.

Barnes: It'll take several days just to carve and set up to cast it.

KB: How do you…did she have an idea…did she give you some…?

Barnes: She brought me a little plastic gorilla! She said duplicate it, and then [unclear] in gold, and mount it on a disc; he's going to wear it on a chain.

KB: Is that going to be heavy in gold?

Barnes: It'll be medium-heavy. It won't be too heavy to wear. So, we get all kinds of unusual requests. I made a set of wedding rings for a couple in Michigan last year with acorns and oak leaves all the way around the bands. I don't have any idea why they wanted oak leaves and acorns, but she just loved it. I last year at Christmas made a daisy ring, with daisies all around—fellow said his wife loved daisies; he wanted an eternity ring with daisies on it. With a little one-point diamond in the center of all the flowers.

So, see, really, people is where the ideas come from, people themselves—they have their own ideas; they come in and tell *me* what they want in many cases. And we're very fortunate because some stores, if they didn't have what they want in stock…if *we* don't have it, we can make it. That's a little bit of an advantage we have. Besides, making our own expensive pieces--one-of-a-kind—we can make that with no competition, and say what we want for making this; and it gives us jewelry that other stores don't have.

KB: What areas of the United States do you have customers in; do you have them outside of the United States?

Barnes: We have customers in almost every state of the Union, mostly from word of mouth. Either they were relatives that lived here, or somebody told them, they were friends, and they said they could trust us with their gems….so we either make jewelry with their stones or furnish them. And it's strictly word of mouth that gets us the business; I've run ads in other papers in other cities, but we just don't get much return from that. I had an ad in *The New Yorker* magazine a couple years ago which we didn't get any return off of it.

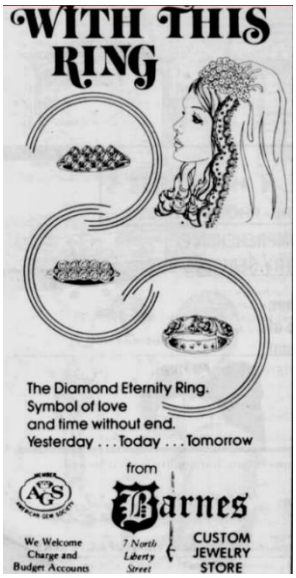
KB: That's hard.

Barnes: Of course, that's the best advertisement you can get—you can't buy the advertisement on the radio or the newspaper every week, but when somebody tells you…besides, they also *show* the ring to somebody. Almost every unusual ring that we make for somebody, we'll get one or two more rings from somebody else seeing it, which is the best advertisement you can get I guess.

KB: Is there ever somebody who wants something made, and then doesn't want you to make it, like….

Barnes: Only one of a kind?

KB: Right.



Barnes: Oh, lots of people! Right. So, we do this too. Now, if it's an inexpensive ring, up to $100 or something, they use their head and realize that there are probably going to be more of something like that. But if they say they want an original, and are willing to pay the price for their own ring, we make lots of those—we have many, many pieces that are one of a kind. But it's like the lady will go into a store and pay $100 for a dress—she's not going to have an exclusive dress for $100. We don't…it's not mass-produced, like much of the jewelry now in the jewelry stores—they're mass-produced through factories—but we might make another one or two of small, inexpensive pieces.

But we do make some very, very expensive things, and medium-expensive, which there's only one of a kind--we don't make any more of them. We don't make a mold of it, we make it as we go. So, it's just strictly one piece.

KB: Do you have a favorite piece that you ever made? That was your favorite design? Or you don't really have a favorite?

Barnes: I've made some very expensive things….Ummm…I guess the most expensive piece was a $20,000 ring we made a couple of years ago, and I've worked on some very expensive stones that were not mine; I know of an emerald that I worked on, I made the mounting for, the emerald's worth about $150,000. But it was not our emerald; it was a customer's emerald. We got a nice return for making a platinum mounting with that. I guess I liked the lady's head that I won an award on as much as any nice piece of jewelry.

I've made some interesting necklaces, a bracelet last year or a couple years ago was fairly expensive--$3,500—and a matching necklace for $3,000 went with it, many of our rings are $1,000 rings….I'm fortunate to have some pretty big officials in other industries out of Cumberland buy from me, have me make things; come back once a year or so, and I make jewelry for them even today. I mainly see them when they may call me on the phone once or twice a year, so I feel good about that, when they come back to Cumberland. Many, many customers move to Washington and Baltimore, and come home or will call me from down there—we furnish their jewelry even today, after they've been gone away for quite a few years.

KB: I thought it was interesting, you mentioned before that you had a customer you'd never seen before—you just….

Barnes: Right. The woman sent me her diamonds one day in the mail, and she sent me some sketches—or some pictures out of a magazine—and the fellow that she met said that she could trust me; so I made her some designs and sent them to her, and she ok'd it, I made the ring, and since she trusted me, I trusted her, and she sent me a

check. On another occasion, I made a ring for a lady that lived in Chicago that I met in Morocco three years ago, who saw my wife's wedding ring….[tape pauses]

KB: Where do the gems come from that…? You were saying a lady sent you the gems, or….how do you get them, or how do they get them?

Barnes: Oh, right. I made this lady a ring who lives in Chicago that I met in Morocco at dinner. And so, over a year later, the lady called in from Chicago, said, "I'm so and so, do you remember me?" and I said the name is familiar but I don't really remember. She said, "well I had dinner with you in Morocco a few years ago, and I saw your wife's ring and I couldn't get it off my mind, so I mailed you my diamonds this morning." And since that time, I've made her two or three rings and pins.

KB: Well, where did she get them?

Barnes: From other rings, her wedding rings or whatever. See, they want a redesign. And we buy stones from all the major stone companies of the world: the chief colored stones come out of--or are cut in--Idar-Oberstein, Germany; and Columbia; South America; Australia for opal; Burma and Ceylon for rubies. And we import a lot of our own stones, which we get with less expense involved than if we came to a wholesaler in this country—so I have connections in Europe which helps a lot, and I can pass it on to the customers.

Rubies that were heat-treated to enhance color

It's a fun business: the study of gems is a lot of fun, and designing and making jewelry is lots of fun, which I think is very important. In high school this aptitude test that I took with Stevens Engineering College [now Stevens Institute of Technology]—while I was still in high school—said it was so important to do what you like to do. I hit the niche that I should be in because I love to design and make jewelry; I always liked working with my hands, and I loved art all through high school. So you spend so much time at your job, I think it's very, very important that everybody learns and does what they like to do, what they enjoy doing—because you have to do it all your life. And I really enjoy mine. I get…like everything else, the deadlines kill me—there's so much of it at Christmastime—we do a third of our year's business in those last three months of the year, which is ten times over normal. So, if I'm six weeks to two months behind all year, you can imagine what the Christmas season is. So, it is fun to do; the only thing that bothers me is there's so much of it that it gets on your nerves as far as the long hours; I work a lot of evenings. You can't get it done in the daytime.

KB: How many things do you do a day—how many pieces can you make? I guess it depends on when….

Barnes: Ohhh, like I say, sometimes I'll start on one piece and I may be working on it for three days. But I also work in steps; if I'm going to set up, I may sculpt wax all day, you know, several pieces—big pieces, little pieces. And I may set one piece aside and work on it again if I'm tired of looking at it, see, and go back to it the next day 'til it's finished. Then once it's sculpted into wax, then I'll set it all up and cast them into gold. So I cast, and while I'm casting gold I can work with my hands setting diamonds or other things, or welding on other pieces while I'm waiting for the process of casting gold, which takes about two hours. To burn out a mold, see, and actually set it up to cast the gold into a mold, takes two hours, two hours and a half. So I do everything in steps; if I'm going to work with wax all day, I'll work with wax and sculpt it, and that's fun to do. If I'm going to set tiny diamonds half the size of a pinhead, I'll do that the first thing in the morning when my eyes are the sharpest; and it's hard on your nerves if you have, say, fifty of those little things to set. So I do all very tedious things early in the morning, and then I do flunky jobs in the evenings—you know, like filing, or getting up and making rubber molds, or setting up molds for casting, I do in the evenings--and then do the most intricate things in the mornings, when your judgment is a lot better too.

KB: For the intricate things, what do you use—I mean, do you just use big magnifying glasses?

Barnes: Oh, yeah, you work under about a ten-power magnifier all the time--six to ten power most of the time. I wear a double binocular all day, and if I set tiny diamonds, I wear these tiny eye loupes that blows it up up to twenty times.

Many jewelers, many people…once again, it's strictly an aptitude. You can say you might like to make jewelry, but if you can't stand to sit for hours and hours and hours—and regulate your breathing, even; say you've got to put tiny diamonds into a ring, you have to regulate your breathing because your hand moves as you breathe, and if you've got to hold a little diamond the size of a pinhead, and tweezers, and you've got to drop it into a hole—just your breathing moves your hand, you can't do that.

So, if you're the type of person that can't sit still and do this, likes to work outdoors, you would probably hate jewelry work. Now, I personally like both! I like…I *love* working with my hands--but the long hours get to me, and the back of my neck, and your eyes—eyestrain, after eight to ten hours your eye muscles get very tired. So that's why I hit golf balls, and ski, and whatever—to break it up. I would be a *terrible* accountant, working in a bank, a clerk, or whatever because I'd hate every minute of it. That's once again why it's so important to *really* check out what you like to do; I think that all schools should spend much more time in the guidance area seeking out what each individual is cut out to do, and help them go toward that goal. Because if you love it, you're automatically going to do well at it, because you don't mind spending time at it—and I think that's what it's all about, really.

KB: Do your hands shake?

Barnes: Nope! They don't shake at all—I'm fifty-eight and they don't move at all. And my eyes—for years, and years, and years I did not use a magnifying glass, even to engrave inside--put names in tiny rings. But my eyes would get more tired all the time, so the doctor said, well, he would probably advise me to get glasses just to relieve the strain. Now, of course, I can't see without them because I have bifocals. But I can still see very, very well; without my glasses I can see a golf ball two hundred yards away. But I can't read the scorecard without my glasses, close to my face—it's blurry. Of course, I use all kinds of magnifiers to work under, all day long. And of course, our tools are quite sophisticated tools; they're from everywhere, mostly German and French--and a good many from this country, but mostly the better tools are German and French tools we use.

Polishing jewelry

KB: I was wondering—you said you make a lot of your things out of gold; you have to melt that, right? To put it in the… how do you get it—do you have a machine…?

Barnes: We have a torch, we have torches that we can melt it with, to both cast and weld—but my casting machine is electric; it has centrifugal force, and it has the controls to the furnace on the wall, and you can run the temperature up to…the average gold is cast around 1700 degrees. And when it reaches the temperature, I can just release it and it flies around, it spins real fast and shoots the gold out into the mold. We have large equipment: big heavy rolls for rolling gold thinner, and sand-blasting machines for putting a sandy finish on jewelry, we have all kinds of engravers that look like wood-carving tools that you carve with. Of course, we have files, and punches, and hammers, and saws, and the normal foundry-type equipment.

KB: Is all that right here in this building—do you do it all here?

Barnes: No, we do fifty percent of it here and fifty percent of it [out of shop?].

KB: Oh. How did Miss America 1975 get ahold of your work?

Barnes: A friend brought her in, and they asked me if I would come over when she was speaking in town, and during so I gave her a gift of one of my rings; and since then, she wrote me a letter, and she came back and bought all of her wedding gifts from me. I heard she's from Denton, TX. She was in town just for a quick visit. Joan Fontaine was in town when Peskin's had their fashion show; and she had one of my big genuine aquamarines on that she wore at that fashion show; just that night, you know--one of my original rings.

KB: She didn't end up buying it?

Barnes: No. She didn't buy it, no. I still have it.

KB: Tell me about your demonstration at the Smithsonian Institute.

Barnes: That was an unusual thing. It's been a long time ago; I forget the girl's name that came in and asked me if I would do it. She said it's somewhat of a craft type thing.

Sen. J. Glenn Beall

Of course, they wanted some samples, so I sent them photographs of about ten or fifteen of my pieces, and they invited me to come down and demonstrate it, and also display them. So, Senator [J.] Glenn Beall was there, and came over, and there were thousands and thousands of people that came to the area to look at the display. And I guess I must have had $10,000 worth of jewelry on display down there during that time—much of it was pieces that I've made for people that came back to me so I could display them. And I have a picture of Mrs. Nixon up there at the time….It was a fun thing to do….there was a large brochure—which I still have—printed up on it that I was there, and I had a lot of advertising in local papers, and down there too, and it was in the Baltimore Sun, and different places. And there have been quite a few write-ups; I have a lot of parts for scrap books from different papers that won some national awards—papers in other cities. Oh, I had a write-up in what we call the jeweler's bible, it's the Jewelers' Circular-Keystone, on designing and wax sculpting a few years ago in our national magazine, which I was kind of proud of.

KB: I know you entered your things in competitions and you won your awards, but how do you go about doing that--are there different divisions? I don't know anything about the competitions.

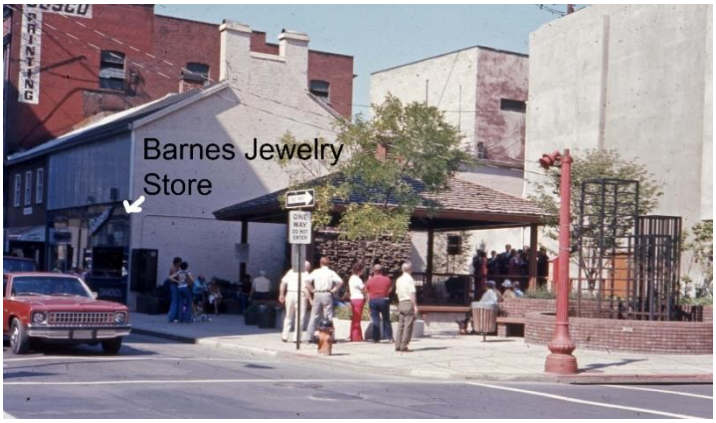
Diamond mine in South Africa

Barnes: The Retail Jewelers of America have a competition every year for diamond jewelry designs; it's put on for De Beers Consolidated Diamond Mines, but it's open to all the retailers in the United States and all the jewelry designers. And there are hundreds and hundreds of pieces entered. So, I was lucky to win it three times; it was a competition that's unbelievable. And it's hard to come up with a new idea that hasn't already been thrown at you. And of course, they pick four or five top-notch people in art, and industry, and fashion that are the judges who decide. And then they call you on the phone if you win. It's good…it helps sell jewelry, you know; people realize it's that type thing, but it's a lot of fun to do, too. My son also won an award his first year in business, which is *really* lucky. He has a store in Frederick, doing the same kind of work—designing and making jewelry.

KB: Do you get anything special from winning the competition?

Barnes: They just give you a saying you won it, and from whom, why, and so forth. There's one bigger than that that I would love to win, it's Diamonds International, so the whole world--but you're up against stores that are worth several million dollars, that employ five designers, and it's very, very tough. I've entered it four times, but so far I haven't come close to winning it. I'd like to do that just for myself.

KB: I know—I never really knew where the designs…like, I look at a ring…I never knew really where they came from. Do all jewelry shops have somebody like you?



Location of Barnes Jewelry Store on N. Liberty St.

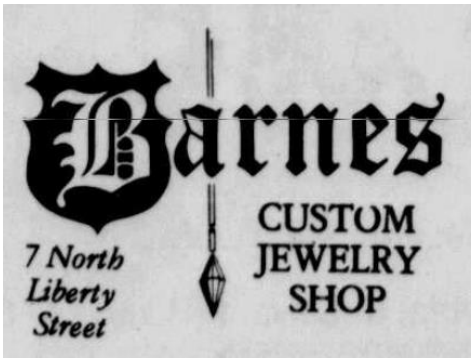
Barnes: No. This surprised me; I thought all jewelry came out of factories. I had to have Red Cross lifesaving when I was in my teens to become an Eagle Scout, and the fellow that taught me lifesaving worked for a retail jeweler. And he had an unusual ring on, and I admired it, and he said, "well, I made it"—and that's when I found out that there are individual manufacturing jewelers. And that is their trade name: a manufacturing jeweler, because the finer stores--larger stores—in big cities have them like that, so. But in Baltimore, Washington there're just a few; New York has a lot; Cincinnati has quite a few; St. Louis has some. But it's a dying field, too, because most students do not want to apprentice long enough to learn it; it takes a good five years to become fairly proficient at it--to run across all the things that can happen, and what you have to learn. Most children today want to learn fast and make money right now. So, it's very complicated.

KB: Are you the only one in Cumberland who does this?

Barnes: Yes, I'm the only wax sculptor and designer that can cast and manufacture like this. I think one other store does some assembly, I don't want to say—like setting into a shank, and this sort of…making a ring. But we're the only one to my knowledge that could do a complete manufacture—design and make it from scratch, from raw gold. We buy our gold in BB shot, looks like BBs in a gun, for the casting machine, and round wire, flat wire, flat sheets….[Long pause].

KB: If I wanted to invest in a gem right now, with inflation and everything—I know prices are going up, they're worth more—what would be my best investment?

Barnes: In Europe the people have always put their money right into gold and gems when they get scared of currencies all over the world. When the dollar goes down, they



buy gold, which is what happened to the gold market; so, we should all have been buying diamonds, and gold, and emeralds, and all gems—expensive type of gems--a year ago, two years ago. Because diamonds doubled just in the past year alone; so, who's to say if it's going to keep going higher and higher? All I know is they are still buying them even though the price is going up; but it would seem that eventually there would be a peak to where they would go—it depends on what happens to the rest of currencies, the currencies all over the world, from now on. If inflation keeps going, so will gems. But littles…I guess diamonds, and gold, and emeralds is the smallest thing you can put your money into and go with if something happens, which is what happened during the wars and this type of thing: the refugees all bought diamonds, and carried them in a little packet and they just left—that's all the possessions they had when they left the country.

So, for that statement, I guess it's a good investment. I would just wonder, you know, what will happen ten years from now. It would depend on the market of the whole world how good of an investment it is. I guess it's a pretty hard thing to explain, or advise, but I don't really know; with the exception of the fact that during tough times, people buy gems, gold, and real estate—something tangible that they can turn over, or swap; turn over for money. As far as individual stones, I guess diamonds and emeralds are about the tops right now, and rubies are getting more expensive too now.

Barnes Jewelry moved to 113 Baltimore St. after S.T. Little Jewelry company closed their store at that location.

KB: You were born here, and you went all around for your training, and then you came back here and established your business; is this a good place to be for this type of business?

Barnes: I came back because the type shop I had before was called a jobbing shop—I did all the work for all the stores in Cumberland. If you took it to any of the stores, they'd end up giving it to me in my shop to work on. Most people don't realize that fact. So, the man that had the shop before me—or had a shop *like* I had—left town, so the town was wide open; and I was only twenty-five years old. So, I thought, "what do I have to lose? I don't have a job"…so I decided to open up a trade shop, what they call a trade shop; so I had it seventeen years. And of course, this is my hometown, I always liked living here. And there are a lot of jewelry stores in Cumberland, even today; when I opened this retail store, there were twenty-three retailers in town, jewelry retailers--and there are quite a few still, and

there are also some discount jewelry houses and that type thing. So I get a lot of business, not only in Cumberland but people that come back to Cumberland, up the creek and down Petersburg, and Romney, and places like that that bring work in, and Bedford….So we're kept very busy—as a matter of fact, that's part of the problem: getting the work out as fast as we get it.

KB: I want to ask you—you don't make everything here, everything in your store downstairs….

Barnes: Oh no, no, no. We only make about 30%. The rest is just standard, you know, buying things….I go to an international show every year and look for unusual things to buy—you can't make it all. I have a hard time even getting out what people special order, what they want us to make. So I would *love* to make most of my own stock, and every once in a while I get to make a piece—I'm working on four or five pieces right now, just for stock, just to leave lying here 'til somebody….I made a ring last month, it was only out two days and somebody bought it—so I would rather make some of my own jewelry to put down here than [unclear].

KB: That's something…something just pops into your head that you'd really like to make.

Barnes: Right--that I'd like to make, and just make it. And I have a half a dozen things…and I have a little Yorkshire Terrier dog, and I've been wanting to carve her and make her into gold for two years, but I'm too busy to do it. But the person who loves a Yorkshire Terrier would buy it.

KB: What do you foresee in the future for Mr. Barnes? [laughter]

Barnes: Oh, gee! I don't expect to ever retire, because I love to do it. My idea of retirement would be to play with it, which I'm starting to do a little bit anyway. It would be to go when I want to go, and work when I want to work, and design and make the things that I love to make—you know, more of what I like to make for stock. The older you get, you have to let up, but I doubt very much I'll ever retire, because it's almost a hobby-type business; I could semi-retire, and do…just make two or three pieces a week, and live pretty well off of it. And it's a fun business, too, if you get rid of the deadlines and pressures. But maybe I'll win another award somewhere, if I ever get time—I'm too busy to really…see, I won it three years straight but I'm too busy with making things that are pre-sold for people to enter anything. You know, it takes time to do it and make it. So…of course when you get a real good idea, that's when you sit down and try to do something. But I don't plan on quitting entirely. My son would like to have three stores, but I'd rather work less and play more. [laughter]

KB: Well, it's been fascinating. I didn't know anything about it, and it's just been fascinating; I want to thank you for the interview.

Barnes: You're quite welcome—thank *you*! As I say, it's a fun type thing to do, and it's also a very fascinating business for people—the study of gems, and jewelry; not everybody likes jewelry, but most people do.

KB: Thanks a lot!

Barnes: Thank *you*!

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N. Liberty Street downtown Cumberland
Photo from a slide that was a part of a group of slides that were donated by the estate of Vernon Penner.

Bauer Garden Center
Interview with James Bauer

…Dale Hankinson, I'm here with Mr. James Bauer at Bauer Garden Center, corner of Christie Rd. and Alt. Route 40.
Mr. Bauer, first of all, could you give me some background information on your company?

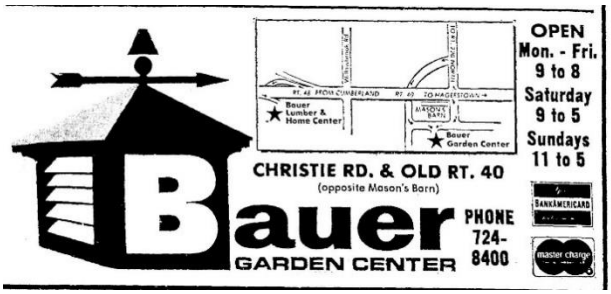
Bauer: Dale, the company was probably started in 1918 to 1920 by my father as a lumber jobber who bought lumber on the west coast and sold it to retail lumber dealers in the east. This went on through 1940, when dad and my two brothers got into the wholesaling of lumber more extensively in the Ohio area. In 1958, I'd say, we opened up our first retail lumber yard in Fairmont, WV. And in 1960 I came with the company, with dad, and opened up the Cumberland store and started working there. Since then, it's just been a steady growth in the Tri-State area; the Tri-State area's been real good to us.

DH: How many stores do you have now?

Bauer: At the present time we have eleven retail operations—home centers—and one manufacturing plant in Morgantown, and then a second warehouse in Morgantown.

DH: What year did you open the garden center?

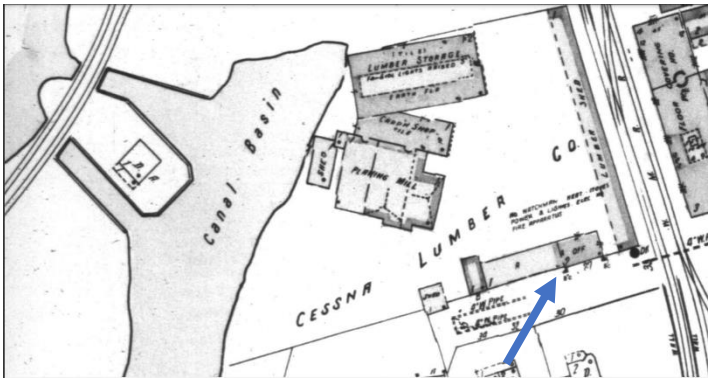
Bauer: We opened the garden center in about 1971—I think it was late 1971 when we opened.



DH: How long was it in the planning stages before 1971, before you decided to open it?

Bauer: Dale, I'd say that probably…I'm trying to think of how much time it took to plan the garden center…I would say it was probably a year. I started out with a fellow by the name of George Smith, who was working for me and who was very enthusiastic in the business. He was working for me at the home center downtown, and he felt that we would have a good opportunity to do the landscaping, and then also get into the retail end. So I would say that for a good year before that we planned and tried to find the locations, to come up with the right place to get into a retail garden center.

DH: Now, is this your original site?



Location on Howard St. of original operation.

Bauer: Yes. This was—well, we had a very small operation down at 27 Howard St.

DH: At the home center.

Bauer: Right, at the home center, and just more or less to get our feet wet, to find out whether what was there was any good—and it was, and it seemed to be a very viable business. So at that time we hunted for a location; we probably looked at, I'd say, fifty places in the Cumberland area to come up with a good retail location. We finally ended up getting this because of the acreage, and because of the buildings, and what we felt that I could do with it.

DH: Well, that was my next question: you say about the acreage and the buildings—but it really was nothing but a farm. So you just looked at it and…?

Bauer: Yeah, I guess you can say that I just looked at it, over and over and over and over I looked at it, and dreamed…I guess it's like anything else—that a business, no matter what it is, is nothing more than a dream come to life on a piece of paper and then on to stick and wood. And trying to figure out what we could do, and how you could expand, and where the best retail part of it was. This is really what I did here: you do layouts, and more layouts, and more layouts until you get the one that says hey, this is the way to go--try that and you go from there, that's all. That's really what we did.

DH: And you even put the other layouts of this place after you had chosen the site.

Bauer: I've probably laid this store and the whole three acres out a hundred times in a hundred different ways—with parking and entrances here, and [garden] beds here, and your retail merchandising display areas; change them and we probably, since the original one, we've probably changed it twenty times since then.

DH: Since you opened in '71, the place has really expanded; now, what did you start with when you started your retail business—did you start with the showroom, did you build it right away?

Bauer: Yeah, the first thing we built was the showroom. The part that's in the barn was still an old stable, and we used it strictly for storage—but like Topsy, it just grew; every time we had a storage place that we thought we could make into a retail place, and add to our display area, we did.

DH: What about, like, the greenhouses—when did you add that? Was there any greenhouse there to start with?

Bauer: Well, the greenhouse was probably one of the first things, along with the showroom. But the greenhouse that we put up was only twenty by sixty. The greenhouse we have now is probably thirty by a hundred and seventy, the one is, and the other one is forty by sixty. So it's just like everything else—you add five feet this year and fifty feet next year, and try to get that much more retail space.

DH: You and your brothers, your lumber business is highly successful—why a garden center? Why did you want to get into a garden center?

Bauer: The name Bauer in German means farmer; and as divorced as my two brothers and I have been—and my father—from farming, it's been the basic love, you know, for all of us. My dad was a devoted gardener to his home, and my brothers and I all feel a love for the soil. The garden center is strictly a hobby, I guess you might say; it's experimental. We have garden shops in the home centers, and before we put a product into the home centers we sell it through the garden center to find out if it's going to work, whether it's going to be something easy to take care of or hard to take care of. So it's just been a sideline that has worked itself into the business—and worked out well.

DH: Between lumber and gardening, what is the tougher business?

Bauer: They're both the same, really. The amount of hours that it would take to make a successful garden center is no different than the amount of hours that it takes to make a successful lumber business.

DH: What you're saying's no matter what business you're in, it's going to take you some time and you're going to have to work at it.

Bauer: Definitely—you've really got to, you've got to do something that you love and work that in, because it takes a lot of love but it takes a lot of work to make a successful business.

DH: Before you opened the garden center, how much did you know about the gardening business?

Bauer: [laughs] Nothing, absolutely nothing.

DH: Did you go out and get some extra training?

Bauer: No, I guess I really did it the hard way; like I said, when I started out I had a fellow by the name of George Smith who was in the lawn and garden, or the nursery

business, all his life—his father owned and operated a very successful garden center in this area. And George came to work with me, and I guess through trial and error—a one-time trial and error, because that's all that we can afford; you can afford to make one error, but that's it—George got me the start of it, and then George went on to another business, a different type of business altogether, and left the company. When he did that, I was sitting here with the retail business and a lot of people working for me and a lot of equipment—and I didn't know anything about it and I guess the only thing you can do is, you know, either say you're going to or you're not going to, and I said I'm going to and we did. And it's been very successful.

DH: That's good. Mr. Bauer, I know you have a manager here, since you have so many duties with your other stores—what all do your duties include here at the garden center?

Bauer: Well, if you were going to say specific duties at the garden center, why, my duties are anything from unloading trucks, to selling, to buying, to financing, to…anything, really. It's hard to say; Bonnie is doing a fantastic job—she had the same amount of experience and knowledge that I had, which was zero, when she started, but she's doing a great job. We do all of our advertising here, do all of our own promotions here; they're not tied into corporate.

DH: How many people do you employ here?

Bauer: We have about six full-time; in the summer we'll probably go as high as twenty to twenty-five part-time people. It's a very seasonal business; that's one of my main goals, is to try to level that out. But in the season, we employ a lot more.

DH: Sure—but January and February, though, it's way down.

Bauer: Oh yeah. In January and February we go down to about six people and could probably close up altogether—many "garden centers" do this: they close up January, February, March, go to Florida, relax and have a good time because the other nine months of the year you work from the time the sun comes up 'til it goes down and then some. But in this business, being tied into the home centers, it means that we have to try and keep our overhead down and our costs in line during these months.

Doug, Shelley, and James Bauer in 1991

DH: What's the most people you've ever employed?

Bauer: At this location? I really don't know, but I would probably say twenty to twenty-five would be the most that we've ever employed, and that was when we were very active in the forestry camp—using the boys from the forestry camp.

DH: Even with all the talk of inflation and higher prices this year, business as far as I can see this spring is very good; why do you think people are going ahead and buying these things that they really don't need—they're luxury items—even with higher prices?

Bauer: Well, Dale, I guess that I'd have to say that our business, the garden center business, flourishes when there is a dip in the economy. The reason for that is that people who normally would go to the beach or go on a long driving vacation, or something like this, say "I can't do it this year, the costs are too high, we're going to stay home, we're going to fix up the house"--you've put it off too long, now you're going to do it and will have a real showplace at home because it's too expensive to go anyplace else. So during this stage or this type of an economy, our business really does flourish.

DH: You probably see that even with the home centers too—you do home improvement.

Bauer: Well, we're fortunate that we are very strong in the home centers to the do-it-yourself-er. We have a very good contractor business but our do-it-yourself business right now is what is holding up a very good portion of it, and this means the same thing: that people are wanting to fix up their home and spend the dollars there rather than go out and spend their money in other ways. So it has been good for us.

DH: You do a huge Christmas business; you sell woodstoves and power equipment, your business is diversified--do you think this has really helped your garden center business prosper while others have failed?

Bauer: Oh yeah. Sure. We've probably been at some times *too* diversified. We have been into *major* power equipment--into the large tractors—and at the time that we went into it there was a strong demand, business was good--but then everybody started to handle them; and if you can't be a specialist and do a good job, you shouldn't be in it. So we dropped out of the major power equipment line. The Christmas shop that we have here I feel is strictly a dream, a figment of imagination; it's what you try and do, and if I felt for one minute that we were the same as everybody else was, I wouldn't want to be in it. But we are different and offer a good line of merchandise and imports to the people, and being that we are different I think we've been very successful at it.

DH: Ok. You mentioned being a specialist; you consider, obviously, your garden center to be a specialist type of business.

Bauer: Yeah, it's a specialist business. There are a lot of good retailers in different businesses that have a garden shop; these are strictly for the individual that wants to come in, pick up an item, they like it and they go. There's no specialty in that because it's just merchandising and purchasing. Our store is set up that I've sent all of our employees to schools to learn, to get the knowledge that they can pass on to people; because I guess in any business you've got to have somebody that you can go up to and get a truthful answer to a question. In the meat market you can go up to the case and pick up a piece of meat—but when you want something special, and want to know, you go to the butcher. And he is a specialist by far. So I would say that our business is a specialty business and we try to give a specialty service.

DH: Ok, good. Just speculation: what are your plans for the future of the garden center?

Bauer: Continued growth through better management. I would like to be able to open three or four more in as many years, probably. We've looked at locations in West Virginia close to our home centers--areas that have good population that do not have an aggressive garden center. There is a lot of room for growth in this business. There's a lot of knowledge and improvement in the business that can be made. And I guess I'm just hoping that we can improve, we can grow and be of benefit to the communities that we're in.

DH: Ok, fine—thank you, that's about all I have. Anything else you'd like to add?

Bauer: No, not really Dale, I just appreciate the opportunity to talk with you.

DH: Ok, thank you very much Mr. Bauer.

Bauer: Ok!

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Editor's Note: The Bauer's consolidated all their operations to the 27 Howard Street location in 1991. In 1995, they sold their property to the Canal Place Preservation and Development Authority, and the Shops at Canal Place were constructed at that location.

Bishop Walsh High School: a history
Name: Irene Ley Grabenstein
Occupation: Administrative Assistant at Bishop Walsh High School
Birthdate: August 18, 1922
Residence: 604 Greene Street, Cumberland, Md.
Date & Place of Interview: December 5, 1978 at Mrs. Grabenstein's office
Transcribed: by Stephanie Wilmes on July 30, 2004

My name is Jean Detrick. The topic for my oral history report is Bishop Walsh High School. For recording purposes, will you please state your name?

Grabenstein: I certainly shall. My name is Mrs. Irene Ley Grabenstein.

JD: And your address?

Grabenstein: 604 Greene Street in Cumberland, Maryland.

JD: And your date of birth?

Grabenstein: Date of birth, well, we have to go through with this, don't we dear?

JD: Yeah.

Grabenstein: All right, I can't lie, it's August 18, 1922.

JD: And your place of birth?

Grabenstein: Place of birth is also Cumberland.

JD: And could you please tell us where we're at, just for the interview.

Grabenstein: Yes, we're at Bishop Walsh High School in my office.

JD: Okay. How long have you been employed here in relation to the number of years Bishop Walsh has been in operation?

Grabenstein: Well, my occupation is administrative assistant. Bishop Walsh opened in September of 1966. At that time, I was the executive secretary at La Salle High School prior to the opening of Bishop Walsh. I transferred to Bishop Walsh in September of 1966 when the school opened. I might mention that La Salle High, along with Catholic Girls' Central High School, Ursuline Academy, and

La Salle High School

St. Peter's High School in Westernport all closed their schools to form Bishop Walsh High School.

JD: That's interesting. When BW was still in the planning stages, who were its main backers?

Grabenstein: Let's see, the main backers would be Cardinal Sheehan, who was then Archbishop of Baltimore, and along with Cardinal Sheehan would be the Department of Education of the Archdiocese of Baltimore, together with local and area parishes and Catholic community leaders.

JD: And who designed the school?

Grabenstein: The designer was Gaudreau Architects, and that's spelled G-A-U-D-R-E-A-U-- very French, very fine people.

JD: Well, it's very beautiful up here but were there any other possible sites?

Grabenstein: Well, I remember years ago they had considered an area out at Nave's Crossroads; now, for anyone who's not familiar with what Nave's Crossroads is to us veteran...[laughs] people, that would be called the Bedford Road area, and they had considered that at one time, but that was many years ago.

JD: And how was the money raised to build this school?

Grabenstein: The Archdiocese of Baltimore made all the arrangements, and they were supported through a memorial fund drive in the Cumberland area by parish solicitation.

JD: This high school was named after Bishop James E. Walsh. Could you tell me why he was chosen?

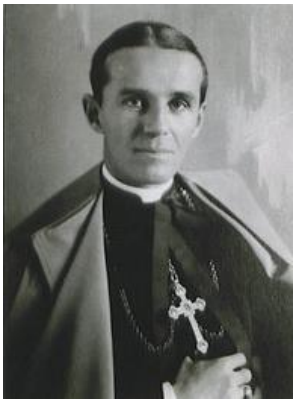
Father James Walsh

Grabenstein: James E. Walsh was then a prisoner of the Chinese in his missionary country. Bishop Walsh is a Maryknoll missioner, he's a native of Cumberland, and it was feared he would never be released as a prisoner in China. He *was* released, however, in 1970, and returned to this school for a homecoming celebration that same year. He's currently alive and he's in residence at Maryknoll, New York, which is the headquarters for the Maryknoll missioners. He has two sisters living in Cumberland, and his grand-nieces and nephews have been and are currently students at Bishop Walsh; in fact, one student we have now is James Walsh.

JD: Oh, is that a relation to Betsy, who graduated...?

Grabenstein: That's right, Betsy's also a grand-niece.

JD: Have you ever met him personally?


Bishop James Walsh

Grabenstein: Yes, I did. I met Bishop Walsh when he was here for the homecoming celebration and it was absolutely one of the most thrilling events and the happiest, well, the happiest events I've ever seen in our school, to know that Bishop Walsh did return; and of course, now the students keep saying how they wish he would come back, but his ill health is such that he is not able to come back to visit the school as the students would like him to visit. I'm sure he just can't make that many public appearances, he's in very... failing health, for his age...but a fine, fine man and one of the most impressive ceremonies. I do recall they were playing "The Battle Hymn of the Republic" for the recessional coming out of the school gymnasium; and how many times all of us have heard "The Battle Hymn of the Republic," but that's one time that no one could ever have heard it, just the way that was...tears coming down people's eyes, including his family, and it was really one of the most inspiring and impressive sights I've ever seen.

JD: He was a very impressive man.

Grabenstein: Oh, he was. And is.

JD: Do you feel that there was a need for a Catholic high school in this community?

Grabenstein: Oh, very definitely. We really did need it, and still need it, and are happy that we have it.

JD: I liked it.

Grabenstein: I'm sure you did, Jean.

JD: Could you tell where the next closest Catholic high school is?

Grabenstein: The next closest Catholic high school would be St. Maria Goretti in Hagerstown, if you're going east. Going west, I'm not sure, I guess Uniontown, if there is a Catholic high school in Uniontown that would be about the closest going west. So, Hagerstown would actually be the closest. So that's why they call us the only Catholic high school in Western Maryland, and we *are* the only Catholic high school in Western Maryland, so we're unique in that respect.

JD: What distances do BW students travel to attend this school?

Grabenstein: Well, I would say twenty-six miles, because they come as far as Westernport and Keyser. Now we have, right now, a student from Washington;

however, he is boarding here. But as far as traveling distance, daily, the greatest distance would be those students coming from the Westernport-Keyser area, and that would be about twenty-six miles; so they do have to leave their areas early, as compared with those of us who live so close to the school. So transportation-wise, we depend on our buses to get those students here in time.

JD: You mean buses pick them up...?

Grabenstein: The buses pick them up, yeah...

JD: Ohh.

Grabenstein: So, they have to get up mighty early, earlier than many of the teachers, I'm sure; so I think that is a sacrifice also on the part of the parents, to make sure that those students arrive on time.

JD: Well, that shows that people think this school is great.

Grabenstein: They certainly do, they certainly do.

JD: Is there any special requirements that a freshman needs to enter BW?

Bishop Walsh School, 2023

Grabenstein: The requirements, let's say, of freshman...all incoming freshmen take a placement test. Now, that's not an entrance test, that's a placement test. The upperclassmen who transfer are interviewed for their graduation requirements, and then the students are given an opportunity to select their courses under the direction of the person who is doing the interviewing. So, this is the way they do it: the freshmen take their placement test in the spring, then the families come in for interviews with faculty members later in the spring, after they get these test results, and then the student is placed and given his proper subjects that he needs for his next school year.

JD: Presently, how many students are enrolled here, and how many members are there in the faculty?

Grabenstein: Well, we have 618 right at this present time, as of this date; faculty members would number 42. We have lay teachers, we have the three religious orders--the Ursuline Sisters, the School Sisters of Notre Dame, and the Christian Brothers--and of course, one of the Christian Brothers is always the principal of the high school. [phone rings] Will you excuse me, Jean, I have a telephone call.

JD: Sure...[tape resumes] In talking about the faculty, is this higher or lower than other years?

Grabenstein: No, we average about the same. This year's graduating class is the largest graduating class, but we average, basically, about the same each year. We have increased, and then we would decrease a bit, but it will fluctuate just as it does in public schools--but right now, I'd say it's an average.

JD: Does the school receive any support from the County or State Departments?

Grabenstein: No, we do not. Sorry to say.

JD: So, it should?

Grabenstein: I certainly do, I certainly do. As a citizen in the county all these years, I certainly feel that we could use support.

JD: Wasn't this a big issue last year? Weren't we writing letters to our congressman?

Grabenstein: Yes, you see, one of our big issues is also trying to get bus transportation because we feel that we are entitled to that, but this been a battle since I was in grade school; we've been trying for years and still we have no results.

JD: How is the school really supported then?

Grabenstein: Well, we have our tuition, we have our fees, we have partial archdiocesan subsidy, which will be phased out very soon, we have support of our athletic activities, and we have various fund drives. So, with all, we do our bit to try to stay alive and that's what we're doing right now, staying alive, just hanging in there.

JD: In retrospect, what did the Catholic and non-Catholic student pay in tuition in 1966, and what do they pay today?

Grabenstein: Well, in 1966 we started out, believe it or not, with a hundred-and-twenty-five dollars for Catholic students and two-hundred-and-fifty dollars for non-Catholic students. In this current year of '78-'79, it is four-hundred-and-ninety dollars for Catholic students and seven-hundred-and-fifty dollars for non-Catholic students, which is still peanuts when you compare tuition costs in Cumberland as compared with tuition costs in the Baltimore area; because the schools, the Catholic schools in the Baltimore area, or Pittsburgh area, or any metropolitan area far exceed the amount that we charge here.

JD: I think it's worth it, having gone here.

Grabenstein: Oh, my heavens, yes.

JD: What do you think this high school can offer that a public high school can't?

Grabenstein: Well, our phase elective program, which is designed to meet the students'...the needs of the students of varying abilities. Students can also be taught there is a God, and are able to pray in the classroom. We have individualized instruction and specially-designed program studies. We try to meet the needs of special requests of the families. We are not so large that we can't do things like this, and I think that's why so many students from public schools prefer to transfer here. I'm sure there are many students who transfer because they are most happy with our situation and there are probably others who would like to transfer but for financial reasons cannot. And we get quite a percentage from the public school system, from our eighth-grade families who enroll our students here as freshmen.

JD: Is there anything you would like to add to this interview?

Grabenstein: Well, it has always been our aim to have our students be provided with, be provided with free bus transportation, as I mentioned before. We feel we are deprived of this privilege that transportation costs the citizens of Allegany County. We feel we have a school that is tops in many respects, the support that the students give is commendable, and we strive to have our students become involved in community projects as well as school-oriented projects, and that is one of our greatest aims: that the students do become aware of needs of citizens in, in the county. Right now, we even have some of our students who are cleaning homes for some families who don't have...help along that way, and they're working with the Red Cross Youth Council, they're doing so many things and, well, I just feel like this school is--it's great, that's all.

JD: I agree with you.

Grabenstein: Jean agrees, I'm sure.

JD: Thank you for taking time out of your busy schedule to talk with me.

Grabenstein: Oh, that's all right. Jean, it's a pleasure always to talk with you, and I hope that what I've given you is of help to you because you deserve help, too.

JD: It will be.

Grabenstein: Thank you, Jean.

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Bishop James Walsh
Archive Perraud

School Bus
https://pixabay.com/photos/school-bus-school-bus-transport-4406479/
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Special thanks go to Connie Milligan at Bishop Walsh for providing the recent photos of the school.

The Bistro Restaurant, Cumberland, MD
Interview with Dr. Nicholas Giarritta and Joseph Groen

This interview is taking place at Dr. Nicholas Giarritta's apartment over top of the mini-mall on Centre St. on April 26, and my name is Mark McCunn.
Could you tell me some background information about yourselves, like where you were born and where you went to school?

Giarritta: Well, I was born in Brooklyn, NY, in Nineteen twenty…I'm not telling you.

McCunn: Well, they'd like to know….

Giarritta: [laughs] In 1925. I went to high school in New Jersey, and went in the service during World War II; spent a little time at the Naval Academy, and resigned when I found I wasn't really meant for military life, and I went back to school. I went to the University of Pennsylvania in Philadelphia for my pre-med work and from there I went to Switzerland, the University of Zurich, for my medical school.

University of Zurich Main Building

MM: Now, you're a doctor of pathology at Sacred Heart Hospital?

Giarritta: Right. I did my training, internship, in New York and my residency training in New Haven, and from there I came to Cumberland. And I've been here ever since, sixteen years ago.

MM: When did you first become interested in a restaurant, a little bistro?

Giarritta: I think about six years ago, maybe seven years ago. It was about six years ago.

MM: What was the name of that restaurant then?

Giarritta: It was The Bistro. It's always been The Bistro.

MM: I mean, when you bought it—was it The Bistro before that?

Giarritta: No, it was called The Steak House, and some of our official papers had the name "Steak House/The Bistro"; however, the actual name is Bistro.

MM: Who did you buy the restaurant at the old location from?

Giarritta: Mr. Carolan was running the Steak House at the time; he sold it to Ozzie (sp.?) Gigliotti and myself. We ran the restaurant without making any alterations for about two or three months; then we closed down and remodeled….

MM: Is that when you decided to make it gourmet?

Giarritta: No, it was always gourmet.

MM: It was, when it was Carolan's?

Giarritta: No. When *we* took it over. [laughter] We took it over, we felt it was gourmet food. Then we remodeled the whole restaurant, closed down for about a month and a half, maybe two months, and reopened. The restaurant was fairly successful, then we found that the building was needed for the Queen City Drive.

MM: Is that when you decided to get this building?

Giarritta: Well, at that time we were told that we'd be leaving. And, you know, look around for somewhere, for a new building. So, we had looked at several locations—we had looked at an old house in LaVale where there might be some parking available, etc. However, the mayor and a few of the downtown people suggested that I remodel the old Lear building. I was a little *leery* of the old Lear building. They felt that the downtown area needed a good restaurant. Walking through the building I saw some potential in it, and I really enjoy being downtown; however, the parking situation and the fact that you're remodeling an old building--it doesn't leave you much leeway in the size of rooms, and kitchens, etc.—it makes planning a lot more difficult. But in the end, I decided that probably it was best to be downtown.

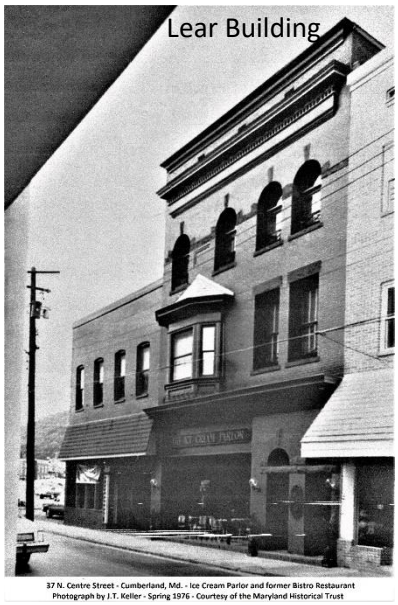

Photo courtesy of Albert and Angela Feldstein

MM: What was the Lear building used for—was that a corporation or something?

Giarritta: It was Lear and Oliver; the building was built in about 1910 and it was an ice cream parlor with small ice cream-making facilities; the family lived on the second and third floors. Later, they expanded and added on what is now the…[MM: Cumberland Electric?...]. No, it's the back of the building, and they covered over an alley and used this area for huge freezers and compressors and so to make ice cream. I don't know exactly when they moved out of the apartment upstairs and when they stopped their ice cream making business, but following that Ren-Roy Flowers moved in and primarily just the front end of the first floor was used for the flower shop.

MM: Lear came in and…did they go out of business when you bought this?

Giarritta: No, Lear owned the building until urban renewal bought it from them; and I bought the building from urban renewal. They had planned at first to tear the building down, and that's why Ren-Roy Flowers moved out; however, after a few newspaper articles chiding urban renewal about tearing old buildings down, plus some engineering reports that it was one of the best buildings on the street—and was holding up the two adjacent buildings—they decided to leave it there.

Part of urban renewal, the construction of the downtown mall. The Lear Building is on the left.

MM: So, after you decided to take that building, who did most of the work, remodeling and everything? I saw you every day or two, doing….

Giarritta: I suppose I was what you'd call the general contractor; the major contractor doing most of the work was Mattingly Construction, Glenn Wright did the electrical work, and Services Unlimited took care of plumbing, air conditioning, etc. A lot of the tile work was done by Duckworth—I suppose they were the major contractors.

MM: How long did it take to fix it up before you reopened?

Giarritta: We started tearing the insides out in July of…I think it was 1973, and we opened up in June of 1974—so it took approximately a year to remodel the place.

MM: When you were back at the old place, was Alvin Snodgrass the chef down there? Or was Nora Blubaugh still the chef?

Giarritta: Well, the history of the chefs goes like this: Nora was the cook for Carolan's; and when we started the new place, I was doing a good deal of the cooking together with Nora. After about three or four months I felt I just couldn't do that with all the other responsibilities I had, so I looked for a chef and found a good chef in the person of Ron Davidson, who stayed with us for approximately six months and then took a job with his mother-in-law. At that time, we had a guest in the restaurant named Alvin Snodgrass, who told us he was a chef and would like to come and work there, and so on. And this is how he came into the picture.

Culinary Institute in New York

MM: He was from the Culinary Institute—did he graduate from there?

Giarritta: He went to the Culinary Institute, and so did Ron Davidson.

MM: Where did you learn to cook?

Giarritta: I learned it on my own, and from eating in restaurants. Well, Alvin worked for us, I suppose, for approximately a year in the old place and then for approximately a year in the new restaurant.

MM: And now Nora…that's when Nora started…

Giarritta: Well, Nora's always been with us; she just took over the major part of the cooking.

MM: Where did most of the recipes come from? I know there are a lot…I looked in there and it says all Bistro, Bistro, their own recipes—are they your own, or…

Giarritta: Well, most of the recipes are well-known recipes and none of our dishes are really fancy dishes--we just specialize in best-quality food prepared in a simple manner with our own modifications as far as spices and wine, etc. go; and this is why we tag on the name "Bistro". The dishes that are well-known dishes are just called by their known name.

A wedding party reception in one of the ornately decorated rooms

MM: You decided upon how everything was going to be set up, to correlate the different rooms, how they're set up, the Garden Room--you decided everything like that?

Giarritta: Yes.

MM: Where did you get most of the antiques, the plates, and the pictures?

Giarritta: I had those.

MM: From your house?

Giarritta: Uh huh. I had them stored, I guess. I couldn't fit everything in my house.

MM: When you first bought the old Lear building, did that building next to it which is now the café, the sidewalk café…

Giarritta: That's part of the same building.

MM: It's the same building? When you bought that—the whole building—Al Phillips opened the ice-cream parlor?

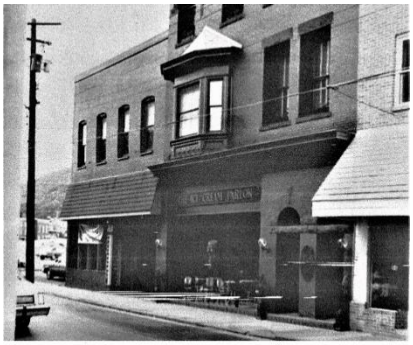

Photo courtesy of Albert and Angela Feldstein

Giarritta: It was Allan Phillips and Butch Leath--Huston Leath--rented the lower front end of the building and opened an ice-cream parlor. After approximately a year, Butch sold out to Allan, who then realized that an ice-cream parlor can make it in the summer but in the winter has very lean months, so that he asked me to take the business over. Which I did, but I converted it into the sidewalk café, which serves breakfast, lunch, and dinner plus beer and wine--and we still have ice-cream, not a big selection, but you can still get an ice-cream sundae.

MM: Why did you decide to build the mini-mall?

Giarritta: Well, I suppose parking was the first reason that the mini-mall came into my mind. Several of the businessmen in the neighborhood wanted to buy the corner lot and put in a parking area, but urban renewal insisted on the government regulations that any parcel sold would have to have a building on it. So, it came into my mind that if I put up a narrow building it would still leave me enough parking area in the back to accommodate some of the patrons of The Bistro.

Mini mall with Bistro on the far right

MM: So, who built the mini mall? Who was the contractor?

Giarritta: Costello, together with the architect; it was a design/construction type of contract— Mario Dini was the architect and Costello was the contractor. And the two together formed the DDC, which is a design…I've forgotten the name…Design, Develop, and Construct Company, or something like that. Together they took care of all the designing and constructing of the building.

MM: Do you plan on anything other—like maybe another store anywhere, or adding on anywhere along here?

Giarritta: Not at this time.

MM: Not right now? Cumberland is pretty small—well, compared to a city, it's a small city--and it's slowly losing its population; why does the Au Petit or even The Blue

Noodle—and The Bistro—how can a gourmet restaurant like that be able to function in a town this small?

Giarritta: Well, I don't know if they can. Now, I don't know if the population is going down, and I don't know if all the restaurants can function—I hope they can. But it does mean that more people *will* have to eat out, and I think more people *are* eating out. I think what we've done is just upgraded the restaurants in town; we haven't really added more restaurants in town. A few have closed down, but I think the ones that have opened up are a better quality restaurant.

MM: Now, I've asked you before: how does The Bistro compare to the Au Petit or, say, The Blue Noodle?

Giarritta: What do you mean "compare"?

MM: Are they similar restaurants?

[tape pauses, resumes]

Giarritta: It's a question that I suppose I could answer with no bias at all: I do feel we're all good restaurants. The Au Petit is a gourmet restaurant, and has always had good food, and I think still does a very good job; but they're in Frostburg and we're here and I think there're enough people in the area that can support two good restaurants. The Blue Noodle is now out in the country, it's got a beautiful location, beautiful décor—I think the food is less gourmet, but it's still very good food and for the price and everything else, it's a good place to eat.

MM: Do you think The Bistro's going to be around, say, ten or twenty years from now? Is there going to be enough people that are going to support it, with the other restaurants?

Serving lunch to the downtown mall construction workers. (Photo courtesy of Albert and Angela Feldstein

Giarritta: Well, I don't know; it's hard to say. It's all a financial thing—if I can support it, or if it can support *itself*, I suppose it will be around, but if not, it won't be…[laughs]

MM: Is it going to…do you think it will change much? Or…

Giarritta: You can't really change the basic structure, there's not room for it; space is limited. The décor can be changed, the immediate decor—drapes, and maybe wallpaper, or carpeting, or anything like that,

of course. Certainly, the design could be changed so that...you know, there'd be something new rather than…. As long as I own it, I don't really foresee any major change.

MM: Are you…do you have anything to do with the downtown mall that they're going to put in? Are you on the committee or anything?

Giarritta: I'm on the committee, on the downtown mall committee.

MM: How's that going to…say, like, the fact that they started…? I know this main street will be closed off for….

Giarritta: It will affect it in that it'll just keep the front door clean, [laughs] and the windows, and everything else. And remove a good portion of the traffic and the trucks, and put in concrete pavement, and bricks—it'll improve the appearance of the whole area, plus it'll improve the air quality around and the cleanliness of the whole downtown area.

MM: Think it'll bring in more people also, to the restaurants….?

Giarritta: Oh, I think so.

MM: Well, that's about all I have to ask you; if you have anything that I might have left out that you might want to say about The Bistro…?

Giarritta: Not really. I think it's a…I've enjoyed being in the business--even though the restaurant business is not the greatest business in the world these days, with the cost of food and the *really* large overhead that goes with a business like that. And also, the limit on what you can charge and still expect people to pay for it and patronize the place makes it difficult. But all I can do is to try.

MM: Ok. Thank you very much.

[interviewee switches to Joseph Groen]
Could you give me some background information about yourself, like when and where you were born, and where you went to school, and, you know, how you…got around?

Wehl, Netherlands

Groen: Ok. I was born in 1951 in the Netherlands, the very eastern part, close to Germany, in a small town in the country. The name of the town was Wehl. Like I said, this was in the Netherlands, and that's where I went to school. The school program that I followed was not too much different from

growing up in the United States. In other words, from four to six, I went to Kindergarten; after that the elementary school; after that, there's a high school in the Netherlands that specifically educates students for University-type of work. This is a five-year program, and that's what I followed too. After that, I was about twenty years [old] I guess, I went to a four-year program, a four-year college, professional college at a school of social work—they call it the Academy of Social Sciences. I majored in a field that is described as social work, which deals with cultural enrichment of persons and groups.

MM: It's like guidance work?

Groen: It's guidance work. In American terminology, I can best compare it to a field of social work—peer counseling, social group work. After that…I had met a girl from the United States in a summer camp, and we both went to the United States—basically, for her to finish school. She was from the area of Baltimore; but she did not feel like finishing the school in Baltimore, so we went to Western Maryland and she finished at ACC in nursing.

MM: That's Connie?

Groen: That's Connie. And she also found a job in nursing. After a few jobs that I made a living at, places I didn't really like, I guess, I finally found a job that I do enjoy here at The Bistro.

MM: When you first came here--you'd been working at a couple different restaurants, right? Which restaurants did you work in before you started at The Bistro?

Groen: I worked for a very short time at the Algonquin here in Cumberland, and after that I worked for a few months at Cas Taylor's, and after that I started at The Bistro; this was the old Bistro, close to the Viaduct, on Centre St. Shortly after I got started here,

the restaurant opened in a new location, closer to Baltimore St.—at this location that The Bistro is at now. My position on the job description is that of maître d', or some people prefer to call a head waiter. I think by the fact that this is a French restaurant, I guess the term maître d' is more appropriate. What it basically entails is being the host, being the wine steward, and more or less being in charge of the dining rooms.

MM: Supervising the waiters and busboys?

Groen: Training the busboys, supervising the waiters; in other words, doing all the work that somebody else cannot do on a shift. [unclear] a lot of times it means that you're the one person that just should do anything or everything that is being done.

MM: When you first started at the old Bistro, did you start as the maître d' or as a waiter?

Groen: No, I started as a waiter.

MM: How did you become the maître d'?

Groen: I don't know, he just told me once I was the maître d'! [laughter] I should say I really didn't have the qualifications that a maître d' should have.

MM: Then or now?

Groen: It's hard to say. In the European way of thinking about restaurants, not only being a maître d' but being a waiter is a profession, and people go to school for this, and it's a job that is thought of as a profession, that you do need certain skills and knowledge for. And it's not so much a job that you do just to work your way through college, like happens now in the United States. So here at The Bistro they let me try to think of the waiters as professional waiters. And I think it works better that way.

MM: I think of myself as a professional waiter—if someone asks me, I say "well, I'm a waiter and I get paid so that makes me a professional."
You said earlier that you didn't really like the other jobs at the Algonquin and Cas Taylor's; do you really like your job as a maître d' here, at the new restaurant and even at the old restaurant?

Groen: First of all, it's enjoyable work; it is a nice job with convenient hours for me because I'm a night person. I'm in close contact with a lot of different people—that's one thing I do enjoy—and I also enjoy working together with the staff of young people that we have here. On the other hand, I also should mention that I would not like to do this for the rest of my life; although it's very instrumental right now, and I do make nice money, and like I said, it is an enjoyable job, I would like to find something else in a few years—maybe two years, maybe even a year, I don't know.

MM: Like in counseling, what you went to school for?

Groen: Well, what I'd like to do is get a Master's in one of the social fields, one of the Social Sciences. And here again, this job might be nice for me this way—that it would enable me to go to school in the daytime and still keep my job for a few nights a week at night. So, I'm really pretty happy right now, but I still would like to look at my future and realize some other possibilities.

MM: You said you weren't sure about being qualified at first when they told you you were the maître d'…like the wine list, you probably know the most about the wines here—how much money does the doctor have in wines just right here at the restaurant right now, like upstairs in the cooler…?

Groen: In stock? Well, we have a wine list of two hundred and sixty different wines, in a price range from $4.50 a bottle—we're only talking about the full bottles, now—to the

Sample wine list

most expensive wine that we sell for around $48. One of the Baron Philippe de Rothschilds. If I may say that the average price of a bottle of wine here is around $8, $9, $10. Calculating that we have about ten bottles of most our wines, stored, multiply two hundred sixty by ten; that's $26,000—our selling price, but of course we didn't buy the wine for that price. We bought that wine probably for around $13,000, maybe $12,000.

That's what's in stock. But of course, to get a better picture financially, you also have to realize that a lot of this wine, in order to be kept well, has to be kept at a certain temperature in a room at constant humidity; that's also an investment right there--it does cost money to store wine, in other words. But still, all in all, it's a business that should make some money for The Bistro because when people buy wine in our restaurant, you may say that the wine that they do consume is on top of what they normally would consume; in other words, it's extra income. And it does not have a big overhead other than the storage: it does not take three people to prepare the wine before it gets to be served, it does not take much equipment to serve the wine—a few glasses are sufficient….

MM: Now, you say an average bottle costs like $10, say you went to a big city—say you were down in Baltimore or Washington—and you went to a restaurant; the same bottle of wine, would it be more or would it be around the same?

New York wines

Groen: Oh, it would definitely be more. $10 a bottle might be a scary amount for a few people, but these are the finest wines that are available from all over the world: American wines—California, New York State—as well as French, Portuguese, Italian, German wines, Spanish wines, Swiss wines, Greek wines. And there's quite a selection. I believe that all the wine that we sell is definitely worth the price. We do sell a few very, very nice bottles of Italian wines, to give one example, for $8 a bottle; and this particular wine I'm thinking of is a wine from vintage—or in other words, grow year—1965. It should be clear to anybody that a wine from 1965 that has been kept for over thirteen years and is then sold for $8 couldn't be too bad of a rip-off if it's a quality wine.

MM: Right. We had a customer come in this evening and he had the champagne; now, he said he drank the vintage bottle, which is $25 a bottle—if it wasn't vintage, if he had another bottle, say, of a later year, would it cost as much?

Groen: Very few champagnes are vintage years--vintage means that that particular wine is made from grapes from a certain grow season, in this case 1969. Very few champagnes are made from vintage grapes, because champagne is one of the wines that is blended. A lot of growers blend certain grapes from different years; therefore, they can use an average quality grape, and by a skillful blending can still come up with a very good champagne. However, if there is a very, very good year in the grapes that are used for the champagne, like 1969 was, in that case the better vineyards might decide to produce a vintage champagne—in other words, only use the grapes from that particular year, 1969. This champagne is on the high side—like you said, it costs $25 in our restaurant for a vintage 1969. A non-vintage champagne from that same vineyard I believe costs $18. So even there the difference is not very very big.

Dom Pérignon Champagne

Talking about champagne, maybe I should mention that that's one term that a lot of people don't use correctly; because there is a big difference between champagne and sparkling wine. Some people talk about American champagne—and there is really not such a thing. A lot of American sparkling wines…

MM: Is that like Korbel, Great Western, Asti Spumante…?

Asti Spumante

Groen: Like Korbel, Great Western—Asti Spumante's Italian, and then again that also cannot be called champagne because what makes the sparkling wine in champagne is the area where it comes from; in this case it has to come from the Champagne area of France, which is the name of a certain province. Only then can it truly be called champagne. I'm not saying anything derogatory about other sparkling wines.

MM: But most sparkling wines are cheaper than champagnes?

Groen: Most sparkling wines are cheaper than champagnes—but also most sparkling wines are sweeter than champagne. An educated wine taster will always prefer a dry champagne to a sweeter champagne. Of course, there are a few exceptions--a few people do prefer a sweeter wine—but generally speaking, according to the theory, according to the book, according to the etiquette about wine, a drier champagne is a better champagne. We can drink several glasses and not get sick of it. [laughter]

MM: You mentioned earlier, if you go to a large city to a restaurant, the wine would be more. Now, would you be able to find, in most restaurants, a wine list of close to three hundred wines—as large?

Groen: I would venture to say you would not. I've never seen a restaurant that has a selection as wide as ours—all wines. I can easily say this because I don't have to credit myself for this. I have to sell all of this wine, and I guess along the way I know more about the wines than anybody else, but still, this wine list is really built up, and supervised, and most of the wines are bought—the wine list is devised—by Dr. Giarritta, the owner of this restaurant. He's really the man who taught me most of the things that I know—a few customers did too—then of course some self-study, and some reading had helped me too; but still, Dr. Giarritta is really the big man behind the wine list. I guess the fact that I am from Europe and I did visit several of these wine districts in Europe—in France and in Germany—this helped me to come to a better understanding about each wine, and to come to an easier [unclear] of the names. I do speak French a little bit, and I do speak some German, and I guess it's easier for me to read a wine label because I know what the words mean. I enjoy working with wine this way; I do think we have a very good wine list; I do not think many restaurants do have a wine list like ours--I know for a fact no restaurant in Maryland does. And it's nice; I just enjoy working with it this way.

MM: Does anybody have one of the larger…we've got a really exceptional menu also…how do you think a restaurant like The Bistro can function or work in a town let's say as small as Cumberland, or not as modern, I should say, as the big city?

Groen: First of all, I think we still have to prove that it's possible to have a restaurant like this in Cumberland. We're not really operating under a profit as of yet. Also, we get more compliments from people from out of town than people from Cumberland. Our job, then, I would see as proving to Cumberland that Cumberland does deserve a nice restaurant like we are. And that we do have a function in Cumberland: that people can come here and enjoy a good meal professionally prepared, well served, in a nice atmosphere, nice surroundings, for a price that is maybe only two or three dollars higher than some of the other restaurants in town. And I can just hope that they do realize that the price is still not as high as they would pay for a similar meal in a similar restaurant in one of the bigger towns on the Eastern Shore.

Example of a bistro

MM: Now, how much, say…how much money did we bring in this evening?

Groen: About $800 in the dining room.

MM: Ok, now, usually, in the dining room, how much do we usually bring in in a night? Or, say, how much do we have to bring in 'til we break even? Or what would be a good night for the restaurant?

Groen: In order to cover the overhead—electricity bills, accommodation, rent, equipment, salary (especially salary), utility bills—we should have an average of about forty dinners a night. This is an estimate--I do not regularly see the books; I do not pay the bills; I do not see all the bills. But this is what I estimate based on talking with the rest of the management, and the bookkeeper, and the accountant, and the owner. In terms of money on the register, forty guests should spend about $450 on food, and on top of that—this is very different every night—some money on wine and some money on bar. This would be bar drinks: liquor, highballs, mixed drinks. So, forty people, before taxes and before gratuity, probably should spend around $600. That's an average night. The problem with a restaurant like ours is that one bad night with only fifteen dinners may consume the profit from four or five good nights. In other words, the profit from a good night is so small that it is a lot less than the loss that you take on a bad night. Because every night the salary has to be paid, and all the lights will burn, and utility bills will be virtually the same, and the whole building has to be heated, etc. In other words, in order to keep the restaurant running we have to try and not have any bad nights—not to have any nights with less than thirty people.

MM: Say you're saying that you need forty people to break even—say one night you have sixty, and the next night you have twenty, so in two nights you have eighty people; but it's not necessarily going to break even because of that one bad night.

Groen: Right; then it will not break even. This is getting very technical maybe but like I said, a bad night will take up more than one night's profit--this is what it boils down to.

MM: Now, how does a restaurant around…The Bistro does make sense in Cumberland…how would it compare to, say, a restaurant in, say, Holland—or, you know, maybe some other place in Europe…are they a lot similar, or are they completely different?

Groen: I guess The Bistro in Cumberland is more similar to European restaurants than any other restaurant in Cumberland would be, because it's a more European-oriented restaurant. It's a European menu, European wines are also dominating on our wine list, and [laughs] there's no plastic here, there's no fast food here, there are no French fries here—which are not very French, but it's very American. So, in that way The Bistro is more of a European type of restaurant than indeed most Cumberland restaurants. Still, of course it's a big difference--like I mentioned before, European waiters are generally better schooled…and there is probably a bigger variety in different European restaurants than you can represent in one restaurant like The Bistro; in other words, there is a tremendous difference between a French kitchen, a German kitchen, a Dutch kitchen, a Danish kitchen, or a Greek food restaurant.

MM: But there's no…like, fast food restaurants—so, like, not necessarily a McDonald's, but something like a…somewhere in that line, they're not too prevalent in European countries….?

Groen: Unfortunately, I think, McDonald's now has taken over some of the downtown areas in the bigger European towns; it kind of hurts me to see the golden arches of McDonald's, however humble….

MM: How do you say "Big Mac" in Dutch?

A McDonald's in Germany

Groen: I don't know how to name it—but what I'm saying is, there are already European McDonald's—they look the same way as the American McDonald's (with may be a few different details)--right in the hearts of the historic centers of the bigger towns in Europe. In other words, between the nice, medieval cathedrals, and city halls, and older European homes--you can now find McDonald's. And I'm afraid it's a trend that cannot very easily be stopped because Europeans buy it, they do. I guess time is money in Europe too, and their lunch hour is very short too, and some of them don't like to wait, and some of them don't like to take the time to eat good food. Just like Americans! I hate to see it. I'm not saying I'm never eating at McDonald's—I'll go too, and there are times that I'll buy a hamburger. But still, it's a trend I don't like to see.

MM: You say before they had, like, McDonald's or some other "fast food" restaurants, would they most likely—say someone is going to have a lunch, what they might consider fast food would be like a sidewalk café, or something—where it would be a sandwich or something, and it would be a little speeded up, but it would still have somebody waiting on you, on your table?

Groen: There are such things, yeah. But formerly, people did not eat out as much as they now do, especially before the Second World War. People hardly ever ate out; those who did went to a finer restaurant. And those did do a good business. People that were traveling went to a hotel, and the hotel had their own kitchen. But having your lunch on the street, or leaving your office or your store in the afternoon to pick up a little something to eat in town was something that people did not do before the Second World War, and even for a long time after the Second World War. Fast food *is* a coming thing; it still should be prepared right, in my view.

MM: You say there's McDonald's over in England or whatever—how much different is living in the United States and living over in, say, the Netherlands? You were there last summer, last year, last fall—how much difference, you know…is it really that spread apart, or is it somewhat similar?

Groen: Just in general, in terms of the food, in terms of public life—what do you mean?

MM: In general, in terms of…just everything. Economic….

Amsterdam, Netherlands

Groen: We are both part of the western world, so there are more similarities than differences, I think. Both are industrial nations, both are densely populated—Europe more so than the United States—so looking at it from that side, they're very similar. But of course, Europe has a very different cultural background, different historical background; people are probably more aware of their roots and therefore accordingly of their heritage. People are not as affluent as in the United States as of yet. In Europe I also believe there's less alienation—there's more of a sense of belonging to a certain group…but if I get into specifics, I'd like to know more specifically what you would like to know.

MM: I just…you know, like, the United States would be more…a freer culture; sometimes it's more… in general, how much different it is.

Groen: I don't believe the culture is freer, or would be more free here. Matter of fact, I believe especially people in Denmark, Sweden, The Netherlands, Belgium are much more liberal in terms of accepting somebody else's lifestyle. Of course, politically there's quite a difference too. Economically there's quite a difference. I could go into this, but it would take quite a long time to explain—to do it justice.

[tape pauses, resumes]

MM: Well, I just want to ask you some specific…you said you might consider leaving in about a year or so if you had a chance to get a better job—do you think The Bistro is going to change much, if it stays around? Or do you think it will just continue on like this? It's been here for two years, and change is slow, but there's no major adjustments; do you think it will last in Cumberland? Say, Cumberland's population is slowly going down, and say they might lose one of the—they might lose Kelly [Springfield Tire] or somebody—do you think it'll still be able to stay in Cumberland?

Groen: Well, yes, The Bistro will have to change as well as need be because of economic necessity—I hope it won't have to change because of that reason. The last two years we were able to maintain ourself. A few other restaurants did disappear, a few other restaurants turned into more of a fast-food type of restaurant. On the other hand, there's also another restaurant that opened up. I think the last two years did prove that there is room for The Bistro…that since we can slowly but surely increase our clientele, that there will be enough basis for a business in our community; more

and more people recognize it, more and more salesmen, more and more not only industrial groups but also different social groups do think about The Bistro if they want to have a dinner party. I think it will stay unless the whole town falls on its back economically—which I don't hope will happen, which I don't think will happen. I should not venture to say much about the economic future of Cumberland, because I really don't know much about it, but I would hope that [the coal?] can keep the town alive enough for the next ten years.

MM: Well, I think we're running out of tape anyway, but do you have anything further to say? I appreciate you talking to me about The Bistro.

Groen: Well, I could take this chance to say that I do enjoy very much living in Allegany County and working here, and meeting a lot of people through The Bistro and also, of course, on our streets and otherwise. Through meeting them, I feel at home here after three years, and I hope to stay in this area. I wish people realized that this area really has a lot to offer, I do think, although a lot of people think badly about Allegany County because of economic, financial, and professional. But still, I think it has a lot to offer: there's a lot of nature here, it's a beautiful area—it looks nice—the people basically are friendly. If you really want to, you can make a lot out of it: if you don't sit still, if you use both your hands—if you really want to make something out of it, it's a beautiful area of the country. I'm glad I don't live in Baltimore--I choose not to live in a big town--I enjoy the country…

MM: This is really a good place to raise children because there's a low crime rate, it's really beautiful around here—especially during the changing of the seasons and everything.

Groen: Indeed. And I sometimes think it's just a pity that that many people think negatively—have an almost negative self-esteem about their own area, where they live in. It's not healthy. That's one thing I did want to mention. Thank you.

MM: Thanks a lot, Joseph.
This interview has taken place on April 26, 1978, in the foyer of The Bistro restaurant; my name is Mark McCunn, and I was born in Cumberland on February 13, 1958.

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Nick Giarritta Park, located just up the block from where the Bistro was located on Centre St. The park was dedicated in honor of Dr. Giarritta on November 16, 2005, his 80th birthday. A plaque reads: The city of Cumberland and its citizens proudly recognize Dr. Nick Giarritta for being a catalyst in preserving the architecture of Downtown Cumberland by refurbishing many buildings, for his patronage of the arts as the founder and benefactor of the Cumberland Theatre, and for his care of citizens throughout the tri-state area during his distinguished medical career at Sacred Heart Hospital.

Browning's Foodland Markets, Inc.
Interview of Donald Browning; interviewer Jean Scheermesser and another student interviewer.

JS: [tape starts abruptly]…the first Browning's Foodland started?

Browning's Foodland became Browning's Shop 'n Save until it was sold to new owners. Photo: 2023

Browning: Now, the first Foodland store was in Oakland; we went with the Foodland organization with the Oakland Foodland store—it's the present store in Oakland now, the present Foodland store on Route 135, East Oakland, MD. We had a store prior to that, but we didn't go with the Foodland organization until we opened our new Oakland Foodland store, and that was in June, 1964.

JS: Could you tell us how your grandfather got started in this business?

Browning: Ok. He got started as a delivery boy—he drove a horse and buggy and delivered groceries in Deer Park. Deer Park was a tourist town; before they had automobiles, you had the train. People from the cities came to Deer Park because it was cool--it was a nice place to relax, mainly because it was cool. They got out of the hot cities that way, and they didn't have any other way to travel any distance other than the train—the train was the best way to do it. So, there was a store, I can't think what the man's name was—Dickson/Dixon, I believe. But he had a store, and my grandfather started as a delivery boy; he drove a horse and buggy and delivered groceries. So then, he eventually bought the owner of that store out, and he had his own operation. And he was quite successful there in Deer Park.

Grocery Delivery Wagon in Seattle circa 1913. MOHAI, Seattle Historical Society Collection, Image number SHS15724

As things rolled on, he felt that Florida was the place to go—he was always thinking, growing bigger, doing better, so he thought Florida would be the place to go. During the Depression, he went to Florida—or just before the Depression he went to Florida. And then the Depression hit and he lost everything he had. So, then he came back broke, and then he took different jobs: he worked for the railroad, he worked different jobs until right around the time…just right after the Second World War began, he decided to get back in the grocery business. I respect him a lot; because during that time when he was busted, my dad has a note that my grandfather had that he owed somebody four hundred dollars. And he had that note for forty years before he ever paid it off. So, four hundred dollars, forty years is a long time. But he had

to keep…it kept changing hands, kept changing hands…in fact, people never thought they'd get paid, and my grandfather, he'd walk down the street and people would cuss him to his face. But he couldn't pay, he just couldn't pay. But he wouldn't go bankrupt--he wouldn't sign a bankruptcy note. He said he'd pay them back someday. And so that was his direction. And he kept heading in that direction.

Then during the war, he finally got to the point where he had saved up enough to get into his own business. He, with the help of my uncle Bob and my dad…they were both in the service, and they were sending money home so that he could get started in this business. And my uncle Ches was not in the service, he had a family--he was working for another small retailer, grocery retailer, in town. The competition, in other words….And my uncle Bob then was killed in the war, and my dad came back; and when he came back, he got into the business right away. Grandpa started rolling along pretty good, and then Ches decided that he would leave Smouse's Market and come with the infant company; then they got into it together and things really started rolling good. One of the reasons it did was my grandfather was able to…he knew a lot of people, had a lot of friends, and he was able to get product that people couldn't buy, couldn't find--he scrounged around, drove around, and got it. He had it in the store for people when they came in. And people didn't forget it. It was a service that he did for his customers; because of that—I think that was one of the major reasons that it started growing. Then, as I say, after the war, by the time they got back from the war, my dad, and Ches was with the company, then it was starting to grow.

An A&P Supermarket in Quebec, 1941

But then the A&P came to town. When the A&P came to town, A&P was a big company—A&P was a giant. And they put a store in. It was a new store, and prices were as good as ours, it had the same facility as we had…they didn't have many parking—we had parking—but basically it was a pretty close situation as far as when you compare the competition to us. And during that time, or right after they opened--A&P opened--our business just dropped off to nothing. And my dad said that that was the one point in his life that he thought about just saying "to heck with it", and quitting—going to something else. Because he had to take, actually take the cash out of the register to do the day--to go put in the bank to make the checks good that he wrote that day; that's how close they got the second time to bankruptcy. Well, not a second time to bankruptcy because my grandfather, he never did sign bankruptcy, he paid everybody back that he owed. But this time, when the A&P opened, the store just about went under.

But then people started coming back. The only reason that we know that they came back was because my grandfather knew everybody in the store; he talked to the people, he knew where they lived, he knew their family—he knew their children—he was personal with the people. The A&P wasn't—the A&P people were cold, and people just didn't like to shop there; they liked the atmosphere at our store. So, the business started coming back, and it started building. And from that point on, we had a long list of firsts: our company was the first company to have a self-service grocery store in Garrett

County—you know, they used to go in and you'd need to order over the counter, and they'd get back to you with five pounds of flour—they'd dip out five pounds of flour. But our company was the first company in Garrett County, first grocery store in Garrett County, to have self-service. Our company was the first company in the area to have trading stamps—well, I'm not sure that they were first in the area to have trading stamps, they were first in the area to get *rid* of trading stamps. But from that point on, we had a long line of firsts, and being able to read--my dad was the man in the company who seemed to be able to read the future, seemed to be able to have a head for what was going to happen, and which way it should go. My uncle Ches was a man who was…he was more the operations man; he was more making sure that what we had clicked. And my grandfather at that point, he was pretty much turning things over to the sons, at that point in time; he just enjoyed more talking with the customers when they came in. But he did help make the decisions that made this company grow.

S&H Green Stamps

Being first…being able to…like, we were the first company to move out of town--the first grocery business to move out of town—people said, well, the Brownings have finally lost their minds, and they'll go out of business. We moved out, and the first two years it looked like we *were* going to go out of business. My grandfather never lived to really see the business prosper. He died in 1964, right after our store opened up as a Foodland, in the new location outside of town, in a freestanding unit. We opened in June and he died in September. But at least, towards the last five years of his life, he was able to enjoy life a little bit, get a little bit ahead; at least he knew that he'd won the battle: he paid everybody back. But the new store, then, that everybody said would fail, it sure looked like they were right in the first two years. Then after that, it started to climb; and now that store is the top store of all the Foodlands that are serviced out of Belle Vernon, and does the best job as far as sales is concerned. And it's been growing ever since.

JS: I remember going up—we went to the Oakland store long before the Foodlands Store down here came; a lot of people went up there from around here. How many stores do you have now, and where are they?

Browning: Ok. Now we have…in Oakland, we have two stores: we have one Foodland store, and we have a discount warehouse outlet store. It goes the discount route--it doesn't have the service that the Foodland stores do--full-service stores do--it doesn't have the variety, it doesn't have the facility; but we decided the customers in the area were wanting a discount operation as an alternative. So, we had a facility where our old location was, and we decided to turn it into the warehouse outlet store—and we did that. And we have a Foodland store, the one I've been talking about in Oakland; and then we moved from Oakland to our second store, which was in Westernport; and then a third store, which was in Elkins. And now, on April 9th this year, we'll open our fourth Foodland store, in Charlestown, WV.

JS: Do you plan to expand any more after these stores?

Browning: Yes, we have another one that's already built—the shell's done, they're working on the inside now—and it's planned to be open sometime in the late summer or early fall of this year. And that's in Frostburg. And it'll be the same type, same size store as the Charlestown store; they range…now, the new stores that we are building, that we're going into, are 24,000 square foot stores. That's more about the size of Oakland. We are also, in our plans, we are definitely moving into a new location in Westernport. Now, that store will be one of the largest stores that we have--Oakland is about 25,000-27,000 square foot, and our new location in Westernport will be about 27,000 to 27,500; about the same size as Oakland, a little bigger. The newer stores are about 24,000 square foot. So, they're all in that range. After that point, the only expansion that we…we don't have anything now on the drawing board, but we want to look into--well, first we want to continue to explore locations for new markets but we also are interested in the fast food business, because the fast food business seems to be a competitor of ours now. More people are eating out, and less people are buying groceries; so, grocery sales, where they used to peak every year—on a graph they would be showing an increase every year—they're starting to level off, and now it's the fast foods that are showing increases every year.

So, we just opened a new restaurant in Elkins; we haven't had the grand opening yet, but it's a fast food operation. And then we have a restaurant in the Oakland store, and it is not a fast food operation--so we have one of each. And we now have a man with our company who is an expert in fast food, so we'll find out; what we want to do now—see, what is the best way to go: is it best to have a freestanding unit, is it best to have a unit in a store, is it better to go with a name company, or can you develop your own? All these questions we need answers to. And we hope to open our new fast food operation in Frostburg within, I would say, the next year. So, we're expanding in markets and also in the fast food operation of the business—or are planning to do that, at this point. Now, in the fast food part, there's nothing really concrete there—just the planning stage; in the grocery part of it, it is, of course, concrete, at Frostburg.

Interviewer2 (second interviewer): Since Foodland was the first store in the Tri-Towns Shopping Center, why did you decide to put a store in Westernport?

Browning: The main reason that we decided to put a store in Westernport is that we had a lot of shoppers from this area come in to Oakland, and these people would talk to us and tell us how much they would like to have a store like the Oakland store in Westernport. Well, always before, my dad drove by this site down there where we are now; he liked the site, even before the customers started coming up from Westernport. When he drove by, he'd always say, "That would be a good place for a store." So, as I said, he has kind of a sixth sense about things like that—he's fortunate to be able to see ahead.

But anyway, the main reason we came down here is because the competition in this area—the chain stores--had the area locked up. A&P, specifically, in Westernport had a very small, inadequate facility: it was not a modern facility, it was a backward facility, they let it run down, it wasn't a clean facility. The prices—they took advantage of the situation that there was no competition—the prices were very high here in Westernport at that time. Also, very much the same conditions existed in Keyser with the A&P there [words unclear]. But the chain stores in the area not only had poor facilities and higher prices, but they also had very poor service--so people were tired of that. You go into a store and you know that you're paying too much for your groceries, you know that it's dirty, you know that you can't find what you want—the variety's not there—you know that the employees don't care whether you're there or not, or whether you get out or not—those are the type of things that existed here. Well, whenever we've ever expanded anywhere, we look at the area; because if we find that the job is not being done in an area right, that someone is taking advantage of customers—not answering what customers want, not even bothering to find out—when we find that to be the case, then our risk factor of being successful in the new area is lessened. So, we felt that we could do a good job in Westernport because people didn't have any good place to go shopping—that people were being taken advantage of and they didn't like it. And even the ones that weren't traveling—and many of the people up here travel, as you said your people did, you did, many people did—but even the ones who didn't travel didn't like where they were shopping. They didn't like what was being done.

When we came here, our grand opening was the largest grand opening that year of any Foodland store. So, it appeared as though we read it right: people wanted an alternative, they wanted someplace to shop, they wanted a modern facility, they wanted a clean facility, they wanted competitive prices, they wanted service. And that's basically it. We read it, and we've been trying ever since that time to find out, and listen to our customers, to what they want—and to try to answer what they want. Because that's what it takes to have their business; and having their business is what it takes to be able to grow. So, the main reason we came here is because we saw that it was wide open as far as the grocery business was concerned—that there was a need for a store to come in and do the job right. And that because of the circumstances that existed, because of the…poor job that was being done, we felt that we would be successful in this area.

Interviewer2: Would you try to influence your children to follow in your footsteps?

Browning: (no hesitation) No; because I think that there is a case where we have—this is a family-owned and -operated business, and we have.…We're fortunate--in our family we've always gotten along; even some of the board meetings at some times might even—man might even raise his voice to somebody else across the table, but when we're done, we come to a vote and whichever way we go we all support it. That's

always been the case. That's one reason why, again, that we've been successful to this point.

But I wouldn't try to encourage my children to come into the business because it has happened that others of my family—other members of my…not my immediate family, but other members of the Browning family—have encouraged their children to go into the business…not only encouraged, but discouraged anything else. And as a result, people end up doing what they don't want to do: people end up doing what they're not interested in, people end up doing things for the wrong reason. And it doesn't work. And it can really be an unhappy situation for somebody to be pressured into something that they aren't really interested in, don't really want to do. Now, if my children were

interested, then I would do all I could to help them; but if they're not interested, then….If my son wants to drive a truck, then that's what he ought to do because that's what he's going to be happy doing. If my daughter wants to get married, that's what she ought to do, she's going to be happy doing it. If she wants to be a nurse, that's what she ought to do. That's important, I think—because somebody does something that they're not…for whatever the reason is, because of whatever influence there was, if somebody does something for any other reason than that they're interested and they want to, it can end up in a very unhappy situation. I've seen what it can do to people, and I don't want to see that happen to my children.

Interviewer2: Do you feel that a partnership has more benefits than if you owned your own business?

Browning: I feel a partnership does have more benefits, in a growing business. Now, as far as a one-man show….see, if a company's small—our company's certainly small, it's not a large company, it's certainly a small company; it's a growing company, but it's still an infant business--but there are companies that are smaller than us, who have, like, a one-store operation or maybe two stores. But if a man owns that business, and he has a one-store operation (or a two-store operation), unless he is not an autocratic individual—which is pretty rare, from what I've seen, because it seems to me most of the people I've seen who are in business--if they only have one store, they're a one-man show. They're doing everything themselves, and they're involved in everything, they're not delegating out to other people, they're not training people—they don't have the systems available to train people—they end up being autocratic and they can't really grow. They take care, they're really interested, it's fun to them that way—I'm not downgrading that, that's fine if that's what the person likes to do. And it doesn't have to be a bad situation for the employees or the people in the company either, because if the one guy wants to handle all the important things, handle all responsibility and be involved in everything—have his finger in everything—that's fine, it can work real good if it's a small operation. Then really, I can't see too much benefit in having a partnership, if it's a small operation.

But if it's a *larger* operation or a growing operation, *yes*—the benefit's there for having a partnership because…like, with our family: I'm in charge of operations in the company, ok. I've got all I can handle. My brother Rob is in charge of personnel; he has all *he* can handle. My cousin Sonny is in charge of research and development—he has all *he* can handle. And then there's finance and other areas of the company. If you're growing, then a partnership's great—because you've got more help. That's why at this point in time we choose to be a closed company, a family-owned and -operated company, as far as stock's concerned. And we encourage the younger people in our family to get in the business. But if there're younger people who are interested, and show by their work that they're interested, then sure, we'll help them all we can because we'd like to have them growing into our business; we'd like to have their help.

Browning family: Donald, Thomas, Cheston, Jr., and John

Now, it could be that this company may not always be a closed company—it may not always be a family-owned and -operated business; it's possible. In our particular company at this point, there are not enough family members to handle the areas of responsibility. We have people outside the family: we have one man who is a director of operations, in charge of all our specialists; and then we have specialists who are outside the company, and these men are in charge of, like, the meat departments for the whole company, you know. And then we have meat department managers and it goes down from there. So right at this point, the family members have vice president jobs—but from that level down, it's other people. I think that in some point in time there'll be either a junior board in this company of other than family members, or there may be even other than family members on the board. As we continue to grow, there are not enough Brownings who can handle the job areas to be able to continue to grow and *not* be more dependent on people outside the family. If you see what I'm saying.

Interviewer2: Ok. In this day of escalating food prices, has your business been affected in terms of sales, profits, etc.?

Browning: For the most part, the inflation causes…I would say that it has been our experience that—well, we've experienced it both ways. I'll give you an example of what I mean: things like sugar used to be always sold at a below-cost price—we always lost money on sugar, which is a big factor because we sell a lot of sugar—it's an "image item", what they call an image item. Well, when all this inflation really got moving and we had our first wage and price controls, retailers didn't lose money on items anymore—they brought the cost up….I think that the wage and price controls spurred that on because they were afraid that if they were stuck at a certain wage and price…(tape glitch).

I think maybe wage and price controls shook retailers awake; I don't blame wage and price controls for retails going up. I think what happened…retailers in our business

have always worked very close; it's been a very aggressive, competitive business. And I think what happened--for the past five years, particularly five years, I can see a trend where less emphasis is placed on price by our people in our business; because if you get a customer because of price alone, your days are numbered in this business. Because if you're getting them with price alone, you can't be making enough profit—and I want to make sure that I'm understood: profit is not a dirty word at all; you have to make a fair profit in order for your business to be able to grow—in order for you to even *have* a business. People get into business because they have money they want to invest; and if the person has money he wants to invest, he could go to a bank and invest it—that's pretty secure, you don't have to worry too much about the banks; you get a service at interest rate. Well, if you're going to invest your money in the business, you certainly want to get better interest, or return on your investment, than what a bank pays you—because there certainly is a lot more worries. So, I don't see profit as a dirty word; I think that fair profit *ought* to be made, it *has* to be made or I don't think we would have people in business—why would you *be* in business? You couldn't *stay* in business.

So, I think that if a person is in the business for price only, then I think his days are numbered, because he cannot keep up with the times: he cannot expand, he can't buy new equipment—he doesn't have the money to do it. He can't take care or answer the needs of his customers; he'll lose them, and he'll go under. And the people he keeps will be people who end up just going there for price. There's no way he can move that way—you have to make a fair return; you've got to make a profit in order to have a business, I don't care what business it is. So, I think the wage and price controls, that period of time, made retailers think…made the chains think…made everybody in the business think that maybe what we should be doing is…we have the finest food distribution system in the world—the United States has a better food distribution system than anybody, by far, anywhere; I don't care what country you check. And I think you can see the trend of retailers thinking, "Look, let's concentrate on…let's take a look at what our customers want again; let's read them again. Is it just price that our customers want?". No, they found out that that's not true; they found out that customers want location, they want facility, they want variety, they want cleanliness, they want service.

So, there are other things that you have to have besides price; price, of course, is important--but it is not the number one item on the list. I would have to say that *value* is what people want. That's what people want. And you can have price without value; I can sell you something cheap, but if it's not any good--the quality's not there—then what did you get? Did you have value? You didn't have value. But if you get a quality product at a competitive price, that's value. So, I think that probably these inflationary times--I don't really think that inflation has caused any greater profits. I believe that there *are* probably better profits at this point in time than there were—for the past five years, I'd say, there's probably better profits than there was the first five of the past ten years. But there is not unfair profit—it is just that the industry as a whole has taken another look, and figured that, "Look, we'd better be looking at reading our customers right, so that we can continue to have the best distribution system in the world"—and if they went just strictly price, not

value, then that would not be possible. And it would end up, I think, setting our distribution system back years.

So, I don't really think the inflation has caused us any more than a lot more work—because you're getting price changes all the time, and it causes labor to change; you know, you're changing…you're having to…it's record keeping; it's new books; the insurance with your company, with your businesses—you insure your businesses and of course inflation causes the values of everything to go up, and you have to keep up with that inflation. It causes…if anything, I would think that there are probably a lot of people in the business that inflation might have caused to go out, or go under, because they hadn't kept up with the rising costs. Yeah, sure, inflation is there on retail prices—but so it is on cost; so, if you're not watching, and you're not making sure that you're making a fair return, you know with all this changing and moving, you can end up out. And that means it puts a bigger importance on budgeting, it puts a bigger importance on planning. So, I think it's caused us to be smarter, to be sharper—or to go out. So, I think that's probably really the only effect it's had; I don't think it really has had any effect on profits one way or the other, except for what I said.

JS (original interviewer): This isn't a question, but…you said about service—it had something to do with it: A&P went out of business, and a lot of people said that it was because Foodland had a service to carry bags out for people; do you think that's one of the reasons why Foodland went in there?

Browning: I definitely think service was one of the reasons that A&P went out; but there was a rumor going around that Westernport Foodland put A&P out of business. I don't buy that—that's a cheap shot. I think that's an excuse. If our company goes out of business, it won't be because somebody put us out, unless of course it'd be a monopoly or something like that—I mean, that's a possibility, but—it wouldn't be because somebody *put* us out, it would be because we put *ourselves* out, because of our operation, ok? So, I don't buy that rumor…because, why did we come here in the first place? You know, if A&P had been doing the job down here, if they'd have been taking care of their business, their customers—would we have been here? Probably never would have been here. But because the job is not being done, because customers wanted a store to shop in, because we thought we could do the job--we came down here. And we did the job. And the people…A&P lost their credibility with the customer. They could never get it back. You lose it with your customers bad enough, and you can't get it back--it's very *difficult* to get back, but it's even more difficult if you've got an aggressive competitor who's doing the job right--it's next to *impossible* to get it back. So, I think our company made a mistake in Westernport by not expanding sooner, now; but it's nice to be a Monday morning quarterback, you know—it'd be nice to be able to do it over again. But we didn't, and the A&P came in, and they saw the mistake, and they built a big store, a better facility than what we had. But they never got the business back, and they never took our business—

they never got the business back, even though we should have expanded and didn't when we should of.

We never lost our business; they never got our business—they never got enough to have a profitable operation in their big new store. But the reason they didn't is because they lost their credibility with their customer; because when they had this area, as far as being…when they had an *opportunity*, that's really the way I mean that, not when they "had an area"--because I don't think anyone ever *has* an area. I think that they had an opportunity, they had business coming in, and they had an opportunity to care for that business and make it grow—and they decided to abuse it. So, I believe that they put *themselves* out of business. But yeah, I think things that we did—I think our prices, I think service was a very major factor—a key factor—in why people chose our place to shop over the competition.

Interviewer2: What does the future hold for Browning's Foodland Markets?

Browning: Well, hopefully we're continuing to grow. We'd like to continue to grow; we're setting ourselves up, we're building a structure in our company—organizational structure in our company—by hiring and developing key people, to be able to handle the growth that we are definitely having this year. This didn't just happen; we've been working the last two to three years--really the hardest the last two to three years we were affected the most—in preparing for growth. And now we're building the type of, again, organizational structure in the company *for* growth—and we'd like to continue to grow in the grocery business. Also, again, we are interested in pursuing the fast foods business; so, we're hoping to continue to be able to answer the wants and needs of our customers, and keep an open ear, open lines of communication with them so we know what they want, and do our best to give it to them in the best way we can. And continue to grow, continue to get strong. We'd like to move in new areas, areas just like Westernport, where the job's not being done and where we think we can do it—and because of that, be rewarded for our efforts with the business in that area. That's, I guess, about it.

Interviewer2: Thank you very much for your time.

Interviewer1: Thank you, I learned a lot!

Browning: Sure! I enjoyed doing it. It does you good to think back once in a while and look what's happened; it's like a philosophy of doing business: you want to have a direction, you know--what is it you're trying to do? And I think our company has a pretty clear understanding of what we're about; that's important. And we're now…we feel that our most important asset is our people—we've got a lot of good people, a lot of good people made all this possible: our employees, our people that are….you asked a question that was about people—we have a lot of people that have been with us since we've begun. We have a lot in the Westernport store—we have a lot of people down here that have been: (list of people's names)—a lot of people have been with us since that store's been there. We're putting more emphasis in the area of people; because, you see, the competition can get the same registers we can get, they can get the same

locations we can get, they can get the same facilities, they can get the same product—they can get the same everything. But if you have *people*, and they don't, you've got what it takes to be able to excel in your field, prevail in your field—and that's the way we read it now. A&P—one major part of their problem, I think, they didn't have the people; and if you don't have it, I don't care how much money you've got—and they had plenty of money—they didn't have to go borrow money to grow, they had it—well, they were the giant. And when you say "giant", I mean, our company (laughs), our company isn't even…there's no way you can't even compare—they don't even know we're around, it's that kind of a size comparison. But they lack people; and that lack of people—eventually, you lose. And they're losing: we got word today that they're closing up several divisions. And I think they have been bought out, or are in the process of being bought out, by a German company who's interested in their manufacturing, the manufacturing part of the business. But, you see, why would a German company be interested in buying a company in the United States right now? Well, which is worth more, the mark or the dollar? The mark—by a long shot. So, they come over here and buy a company; it's a pretty good deal for them, is it not? Because they're buying with the mark. Right? What they're doing is converting marks to dollars, and mark makes a lot more--one mark makes two dollars. Then they're getting it for half price. So, it makes good sense, good business sense, to do that. And I think that what they are looking for is they are looking for—that they're more interested in the manufacturing end of these businesses than the retail end. So, they can get their product, take it to Germany and sell it, or sell it here, or whatnot—but that's what they're interested in. So, it makes sense. But A&P's problem has got to be in their people, it has to be.

Interviewer1: It's impersonal there.

Browning: Cold--you walk into a cold store and you know it, you don't have to feel it, you know it. And customers…people have too many places to go shop these days, they don't have to come in your door. Sometimes people say, "well, does it upset you when someone says that they shop other places?". No, it doesn't upset me. Does it upset me if someone says they don't shop at our store, they shop at A&P? Not at all, it doesn't upset me at all because you have the right to shop wherever you want to shop. And it's *our* job to fix it so that you choose our store to come into, and that's what we've got to work on. No, I don't feel bad about it at all, because you owe the customer, they don't owe us anything…not at all.
Well, I'm glad you came up, and I had the chance to talk to you.

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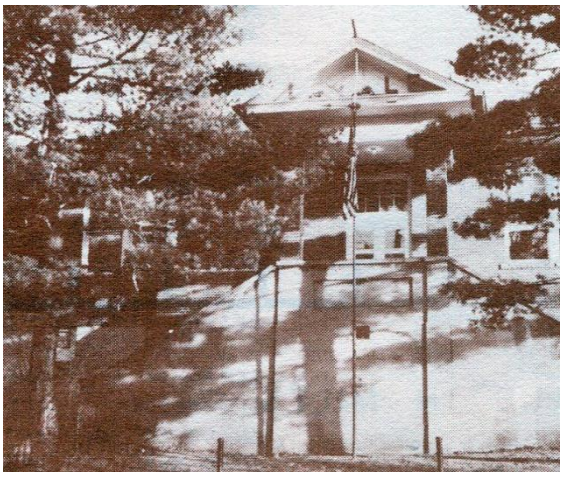
Cash Valley Elementary School: A History
Name: Jane H. Mease
Occupation: Principal at Cash Valley Elementary School
Residence: Rt. 1 Box 100B, Cash Valley Road, Cumberland
Birth Date: March 25, 1933
Date and place of interview: Nov. 2, 1978 at Cash Valley Elementary School
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 5/13/08

My name is Phyllis Zimmerman. I'm attending speech class at Allegany Community College in the fall semester of 1977. I am interviewing Mrs. Jane Mease, first principal of the new Cash Valley Elementary School located on Cash Valley Road, LaVale, Maryland. The interview is being recorded in the new school.
Mrs. Mease, can you tell me about some of the planning that had gone into the building of the Cash Valley School?

Mease: I first became aware that there would be a Cash Valley School, or that there *might* be a Cash Valley School, one evening about six years ago when I attended a meeting at Corriganville School. Attending that meeting were parent representatives of the Ellerslie School, Corriganville School and LaVale School, which are three small schools located in those communities. Mr. Ted Floyd, who was then assistant superintendent of schools, presented the idea of merging the three school districts and building one new school. Apparently the old LaVale Elementary School had been condemned and something had to be done about that; and about the only way they could fund a school of sufficient size to get all the facilities they wanted was to get about 550 students--and the only way that they could do that would be to combine the three school districts. So, he presented this idea of a merger of two to three communities, and as you can imagine there was lively discussion that night and many questions; but the consensus of that group seemed to be that although they were very reluctant to give up their small neighborhood schools, the larger community school presented obvious advantages for the children.


Old LaVale Elementary School

After that meeting I was involved with the principals; I was then principal of Corriganville School. I was involved with the principals of Ellerslie and LaVale, and the elementary supervisors, in drawing up the educational specifications for the school which were then presented to the architect. I was also involved in several meetings with the architect and the contractor, at which we were able to view the plans in various stages of completion; and although we were unversed in reading plans and looking at school plans, we were able to point out several flaws which were corrected. The original group of parents who met that first night that I was aware of Cash Valley School, met

several times during the intervening years and were able to view the plans for the school, the architect's plans.

The communities were very interested, naturally, in these schools and the PTAs of the three schools sponsored presentations and discussion about open space education. Some of the parents organized into groups and visited other open space schools which were already open in the county. Then last year the three PTA executive committees started a series of meetings in which they reorganized themselves and became Cash Valley PTA. Now as far as the faculty--and the staffs of the schools--was concerned, naturally we had a lot of planning and preparation to do. Last year the three schools were combined, and one principal was appointed over those three schools. We did a lot of ordering together--we ordered materials, that is, for preparation for the new school. We also had various kinds of faculty meetings together. Grade-level groups of teachers from the three schools went out to other open space schools and observed and spent the day with teachers who had experience with open space. I guess the highlight of our plan was the three-week workshop we had this past summer, which we organized the schools, we drew up our goals for the school and organized in accordance with those goals. We also had a lot of preparation for the handicapped wing which we were going to have in our school. We needed some preparation to deal with that, which was new to all of us.

PZ: Is the school completely finished now?

Mease: No, there are still some things that are not complete. There was a counter in the art room which was warped and that has yet to be replaced. The kiln in the art room has not been connected. Neither has the stove nor the refrigerator in the art room. The hydrotherapy tank is still not operational. Just minor things, other than that.

PZ: You mentioned about the handicapped. Can you emphasize a little bit more on that?

Mease: We are the special ed center for the county; and this school has multi-handicapped, which includes the orthopedically handicapped and some children who have some other system malfunctions. We also have the severely and profound handicapped, and so we have many children in wheelchairs and walkers, and of course our building was designed to handle these children. It is completely ramped; there are no steps in the interior of the building. We also have the hearing-impaired children and the visually-impaired children, and people who are trained to deal with these handicaps. The wing which houses our special programs contains a physical therapy room and a hydrotherapy room. Then there are a series of eight small rooms which surround a commons area, which houses a kitchen-like center and also a climbing area, which is designed to help the children use their muscles in the proper way.

PZ: How are the children adjusting to the handicapped?

Jane Mease

Mease: The children in general education at Cash Valley have just handled it beautifully. Of course, we did spend some time preparing them for this. In fact, we started that last year. And...it has just been great for all of us. I think it puts a different perspective on all our lives, when we see how fortunate we are, when we see some children who really have some handicaps. As often as we can and as much as we can the handicapped children are mainstreamed into the general classroom area. The children all eat together and have playground together if nothing else, although a great many of them do take some classes with the general education children.

PZ: Do you have any idea approximately how many teachers and aides are working in the school at the present time?

Mease: Well, at the present time we have four hundred and thirty students. There are fourteen general education teachers and one aide. We have seven special education teachers and eleven aides. Those people I just mentioned are here regularly, every day; now, we do have some resource teachers. We have a speech pathologist who is at this school four days a week and a physical therapist who is assigned to Cash Valley three days a week. We have a teacher for the visually impaired who also serves as a Special Ed resource teacher who comes three days week. We also have art, phys. ed, vocal music, instrumental music, and string instrumental music teachers who come here during the week.

PZ: Well, that sounds like everything is coming along real well.

Mease: Well, we think so; there's a lot yet to be done. We're not satisfied with Cash Valley, naturally, but it's getting there.

PZ: Well, I want to thank you, Mrs. Mease, for the time that you have given me for this interview, and I do appreciate it. Thank you very much.

Mease: You're welcome.

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art supplies
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Jane Mease photo
Cumberland Evening Times, May 18, 1983

Casselman Hotel and Restaurant

This interview was made by Tammy Humbertson on March 14, 1977 in a sitting room of The Casselman Hotel Restaurant. I'm interviewing Mrs. Ivan Miller (Della), who with her husband owns and manages The Casselman. The topic covered is the history and origin of The Casselman Hotel.
In the beginning of the tape, I would like to cover the early history of The Casselman before you owned it.
Mrs. Miller, what is your relationship to The Casselman Hotel?

Miller: My husband and I own The Casselman; I do most of the managing.

TH: How did your family become interested in taking over The Casselman?

Miller: One of our sons, then thirteen years old, was with a local bus tour. When they came by The Casselman, he noticed the "For Sale" sign on the front lawn. The same evening, he told us about it, urging us to buy it.

Construction of the National Road

TH: Could you tell me something about the history of The Casselman, such as when it was built, who previously owned it, and its general purpose?

Miller: The Casselman was built by Solomon Sterner in 1824 (note: states 1842 on the National Register of Historic Places sheet) and served travelers on the National Road, which is now U.S. Route 40. Daniel Grant, from whom the town of Grantsville took its name, acquired 1,200 acres of land in 1774 through an original certificate of survey. He called this tract Cornucopia; The Casselman and most of Grantsville are situated on this land.

At first the National Road was an Indian trail known as the Nemacolin Path, over which George Washington traveled a number of times. The Path was made into a military road when General Braddock marched west from Fort Cumberland on his ill-fated expedition to Fort Duquesne, which is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, in 1755. This rough military road was the main artery of travel for more than a half a century between the east and the Ohio Valley. In 1811 to 1813 the Federal Government rebuilt the road, and it then became our first National Highway. The Casselman

furnished lodging and meals to those who traveled by stagecoach, covered wagon, horseback, and on foot.

TH: Earlier, was The Casselman used only for a hotel, or both hotel and restaurant?

Miller: The Casselman is the only inn on the National Highway in continuous use since 1824 [sic]; with the exception of several short periods, meals were served to the public.

TH: When did you originally buy The Casselman?

Miller: We bought The Casselman in 1964.

TH: Have you tried to preserve The Casselman's original décor, or have you remodeled considerably?

Dining room that was added in 1973

Miller: We've done very little remodeling. On the second floor we added some baths to private bedrooms. In 1973 we added a new dining room capable of seating 120 people. We also added a bake shop and an antique shop. The addition does not detract from the old building; we were careful to preserve the historic atmosphere.

TH: Could you date some of the antiques that still remain here in The Casselman?

Miller: Some of the furniture presently in use dates from the previous century; various pieces were made by local craftsmen.

TH: Originally, how many and what type of rooms did The Casselman contain?

Miller: The original building had fourteen rooms plus a basement. Besides the bedrooms there was the combined kitchen and dining room, two parlors, and a bar. Each room had its own fireplace. There was no added provision for cooking or heating.

The Dorsey Suite in 2024

TH: Can more than one person stay in a room?

Miller: Bedrooms vary as to accommodations: some have one double bed, some have two, others have two single beds.

Bathroom in the Dorsey Suite in 2024

TH: Does each room have a bath?

Miller: Some have a private bath; some have a wash sink only; a few have no running water.

TH: Would you compare the changing rates for a room from when you first managed The Casselman to now?

Miller: When we acquired the hotel, the room that now rents for twelve dollars and fifty cents was seven dollars, as an example.

TH: The Casselman is famous for its good food. Presently, what foods are still homemade?

Miller: We bake our own bread, rolls, and pies for the table. We use our own recipe for baked beans, salads, soups, and apple butter.

TH: What would be the average price for a breakfast?

Miller: The average price for a breakfast is one dollar and fifty cents.

TH: And a lunch?

Miller: Lunches average one dollar and seventy-five cents.

TH: And a dinner?

Miller: Our dinners average close to three dollars and fifty cents.

Baked goods for sale in 2024

TH: Are your only employees waitresses, or do you have others such as cooks, dishwashers, or maintenance personnel?

Miller: We hire more waitresses than others; but we have cooks, dishwashers, table clearers, [salad?] girls, bakers, laundry, general cleaning, room maintenance, and bookkeeping personnel.

TH: Do your working hours remain the same throughout the year, or do they change during certain months?

Miller: Except for three months in the summer, we open at 7:00 in the morning and close at 8:00 in the evening; but during June, July, and August we are open until 10:00

in the evening. The work schedule for our employees is fairly stable, but we make seasonal adjustments.

TH: Business-wise, could you tell us when the best time of the year is?

Casselman Inn in August 2024

Miller: We find that July through October are the best months business-wise.

TH: What about the best day of the week?

Miller: Saturday seems to be the best day of the week for us.

TH: During The Casselman's history, could you describe any disasters that have happened such as fires, power failures, floods, and snowstorms?

Casselman River Bridge in the snow, 2018

Miller: A few years ago, the week after Thanksgiving we had a heavy snowfall amounting to thirty inches. It was a wet snow that clung to wires, weighing them down until the minute the electric and telephone wires tore. People could not travel because of the deep snow; Route 40 became impassable. Although Sunday is our day to be closed, and hundreds of tourists were stranded in Grantsville, we opened the doors to the public on a Sunday afternoon. In a short time, the rooms were all occupied, and with family help only we had more than fifty people in the dining room—and suddenly we had no electricity. The power failure continued for three days. With all the other restaurants closed, we managed to maintain a limited restaurant service to hundreds of people daily. Similar emergencies have occurred at various times during our severe winters here in Garrett County.

TH: Has The Casselman ever been recognized as a place of historical significance?

Miller: Yes, the Tri-County Council of Western Maryland designated The Casselman as Site #2 on the Bicentennial Trail of 1976. Ten historic sites in Garrett County were so designated for the Bicentennial celebrations. And in 1979 [note: 1976?] The Casselman was accepted on the National Register by the Maryland Historical Trust.

TH: Thank you very much Mrs. Miller.

PHOTO CREDITS:

“The First American Macadam Road” (1823) by Carl Rakeman, courtesy Federal Highway Administration.

General Braddock
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Old photo is from the Allegany College of Maryland Donald R. Alexander Library Appalachian Collection Picture and Clipping file.

Special thanks to the manager at the Casselman Inn for allowing Margie to go upstairs to photograph the Dorsey Suite in August 2024!

The Casselman Inn Dorsey Suite, August 2024:

The “parlor” at the Casselman Inn

The original dining room

Beautiful landscaping outside the Casselman Inn

This photo and the photo on the first page of this transcript were taken by Leo Beachy (1874-1927). Leo Beachy took thousands of photographs in Western Maryland, as well as nearby areas in Pennsylvania and West Virginia. To see more of his photos, visit the Garrett County Historical Society Museums page at https://garrettcountymuseums.com/photos/

Coal Mining in Pennsylvania—Life in a Mining Town
Frank Kalp, interviewee; Kalp's wife, Anna Brown Kalp, is also present.
Vickie Ritenour, interviewer

VR: How many years did you work in the coal mine in Melcroft?

Kalp: Oh, altogether maybe ten years. From the time it start.

VR: When did it start?

Kalp: What year was that now? I can't…

VR: Way before you worked in it?

Kalp: No, I started when it first started. I worked from then on til I didn't work anymore.

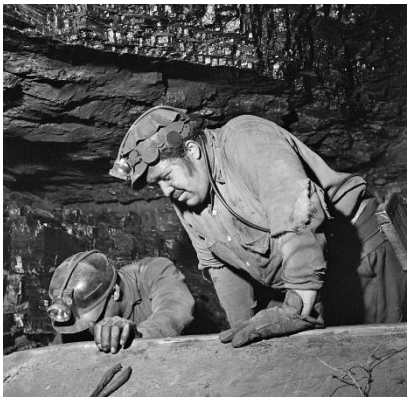
VR: Did you like it?

Kalp: No, I did not.

VR: Why?

Kalp: I was afraid them stones would drop on my head.

VR: How high was the coal?


Men repairing equipment in a Pennsylvania coal mine

Kalp: Oh, it run three to four feet. You had to creep around on your knees.

VR: You're pretty tall—you probably had to crawl, huh?

Kalp: Oh, yeah. At the head you could walk in, when you went to work; when they broke those rooms off, why, they was low, so you couldn't stand up or anything. You had to do it on your knees--you had to shovel on your knees in your wagon.

VR: How did you get the coal out of the mines?

Kalp: Pushed it out to the headings, then the….motors come in and got it.

VR: So you would pull it out in buggies.

Coal mine motor

Kalp: No, there was no buggies in them days—it was wagons. We pushed it out, then coupled it together on the headings, then the motors would come and take them out on the tipple.

VR: In those times, did you use just pick and shovel, or were there other machines?

Kalp: Well, the machine cut it and then we shot it down—but we had to do all our work with our picks to take that coal down above; there was a—they called it a boney (?) on there, and it was oh, maybe six inches thick. And then we had to take our picks and just pick that and tear it down and shovel it back.

Coal waste (boney)

VR: Was it hard work for everyone?

Kalp: Oh yes, yes, yes it was hard work, you bet it was, yes.

VR: How many hours a day did you work?

Kalp: Ten.

VR: Every day, seven days a week?

Kalp: Yes, yes.

Anna: [whispers] You didn't work on Sunday.

VR: Did you work shifts at that time, or did everyone go in at one time and come up?

Kalp: One time. We didn't come up; there was no shifts.

VR: How did you get to the mine—did you walk down?

Kalp: Oh yes.

VR: How far is it from your house?

Kalp: Oh, straight through the woods here it's about a half a mile.

Anna: [whispers] It's more than that.

VR: What's "jinky tin"? Is it some kind of coins that you used in the company store?

Kalp: Ohhh, jinky tin--why, it was little brass money, brass money it was; it was no real money.

Merchants Coal Company Store in Somerset County, PA

VR: What did you use it for?

Kalp: We had to buy at the company store.

VR: You couldn't spend it any place else?

Kalp: No, no, no, no.

VR: Is it true that the miners owed their life to the company store? You know that old saying?

Kalp: [words unclear]

VR: Who built the company houses?

Kalp: I helped; that's what I told them when they first come down there—I started in there to work on that, and then when they got to working the mine, then I worked in the mine. I dumped coal three years and a half on the tipple there; I dumped coal.

VR: How long did it take you to get the company houses up?

Company housing at a mine in West Virginia

Kalp: Oh, I really couldn't tell you exactly, but it was maybe eight, nine months til we got them all built. See, number two and number one is down below, and it took us a long while.

VR: Why did you make them all the same style—the same shape of house?

Kalp: Well, it's because they had this blueprint, and they had to be all built the same.

VR: Was it cheap to live in a company house? Was it cheaper than if you would buy your own house—you know, if a miner lived in a company house?

Kalp: Oh, I can't tell you that, I never lived in any of them; I always lived here. I couldn't tell how their rents was there on them houses.

VR: Inside the mines, was it dangerous work?

Kalp: Sometimes.

VR: What happened?

Kalp: Well, rock would let loose and fall; I went in one morning, was in about…well, I just got into my room and got fixed up—and here come a guy down the heading running and he said “the roof broke in on Bill [redacted].” And we went up, and he was under the fall.

VR: Was he ok?

Kalp: Nooo, smashed—killed him. We dug and got him out from under—he was dead.

VR: What were some of the other accidents in the mines?

Kalp: Oh, well, they run the motor on that boy—I can’t think of his name now. He was gathering up the cars, brakeman on the cars. They run him through the door—through a door where they had in there to turn the air in the rooms. He was supposed to stop—Elroy Keslar--he didn’t stop, and they run the wagon through and just tore him to pieces. Killed him. Different things killed some: rocks fell on their back--[name unclear] over here, rocks fell on *his* back and he’s all crippled up *today*.

VR: Did anything ever happen to you, or almost happen to you?

Kalp: Oh yes, pretty often. Me and my brother that’s dead, we pushed a car out of the heading in the room, and where we’d just come out and got straightened up right—down come the rocks, over our heading, you know—fell. As big as that there refrigerator. I said gee, we made it out. Yeah, it’s all….dangerous.

VR: Were there fires in the mines?

Kalp: Fires? No, no fires. But they had to keep it swept and cleaned up or they would have. Dust explosion, they called it.

VR: Were there ever a group of people—a group of men—in the mines who got trapped, where they couldn’t get out?

Kalp: No, not in this mine, no men got trapped.

VR: Was there ever anyone who was lost in the mine that they never found?

Kalp: No, no. No one was lost.

VR: The water behind the mine—was that all sulfur water?

Kalp: Yes, yes it was sulfur water.

VR: And that made drinking hard?

Polluted creek showing mine runoff

Kalp: Yes, they couldn't drink it. No, they couldn't drink it, and they built a place there to purify it; the company had to put lime in this place—fixed it up to purify the water.

VR: Alright. In your school days, did you ever get punished really hard?

Kalp: No, no.

VR: Not one time?

Kalp: Not one time.

VR: You were a perfect little boy.

Kalp: Perfect *good* little boy. [laughter]

VR: What kind of grades did you make?

Kalp: Well, we didn't make no grades—we had no grade to make. We just went til we got too old to go.

VR: What was your farm life like?

Kalp: Pretty rough sometimes.

VR: What is your fondest memory from the farm, when you worked on the farm?

Kalp: Ohhh….

VR: Did you enjoy it? [tape stops, resumes]
Were the good old days the best for you?

Kalp: Well, yes. Yeah, they was the best.

VR: Why?

Kalp: Well, because there wasn't so much going on. Killing one another, shooting and fighting—I don't think much of it.

VR: They're not doing that *today*. And they did that then.

Kalp: Well, you didn't hear of any of it them days. Everybody seemed to be good.

VR: Except the Indians, huh?

Kalp: The Indians, yeah. They had a cause for that: our people was going to kill them, and they was working to kill us. So I didn't blame them for fighting.

VR: Were there a lot of people in Melcroft that made moonshine.

Kalp: Well, some in Melcroft; up on the mountain here there was the most.

VR: Did they keep it secret?

Kalp: They had to keep it a secret, or they got arrested!

VR: Yeah, but most of the people knew about it, right?

Kalp: Yes, people who wanted to drink it knowed, or they'd have gotten no business!

VR: How did you make it?

Kalp: How did they make it? Put it in the kettle and cooked it! And then put in the water, cools it off and they'd have liquor.

Captured moonshine still in the Smoky Mountains

VR: Did anyone ever get caught?

Kalp: Oh yes, lots of them.

VR: What happened to them?

Kalp: Well, some got put in jail, some paid their fines and got out.

VR: How much was it, moonshine?

Kalp: Moonshine? Oh, ten dollars a gallon.

VR: A gallon! That's expensive, isn't it?

Kalp: Well, a little expensive, but not as bad as it is in the liquor stores. You pay that nearly for a fifth.

VR: Did anything funny happen while they were making it?

Kalp: Oh yes, sometimes.

VR: Like what?

Kalp: One fellow was making it one time, and he finished up, and cleaned up, and went to quitting—he was so drunk he laid down to go to sleep and he laid his head on [unclear]. He said the cops come in and wakened him, and he said "I said to the cop, 'have you got [unclear]'". [words unclear, laughter].

VR: What'd the cop say to him?

Kalp: [answer unclear] They got him and took the whiskey, him and all. I don't know how he ever got out of it, he never told me.

VR: There's not too much of that today, is there.

Kalp: No, no. Not near like it used to be.

End of tape.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Men in mine
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Coal boney
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Coal_waste_pile_west_of_Trevorton,_Pennsylvania_far_shot_2.JPG
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Sulfur water
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Moonshine still
https://npgallery.nps.gov/AssetDetail/EFC9DA9D-1DD8-B71C-07B3D67BDAD25D4B -
Great Smoky Mountains
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Commodore John Barry, The Building of St. Mary's Catholic Church, Lonaconing, MD

I'm Kim Keyes, and I'm interviewing my aunt, Mrs. Monica Mason; her maiden name is Monica Logsdon, and she is an administrator at the Frostburg Village. She was born March 20, 1934 in Lonaconing, MD. She resides at 6 W. Hanekamp St., Lonaconing, MD., 21539. The date is February 25, 1979, and this interview is taking place at my house. We will be talking about my great-grandfather, "Commodore" John Barry, and the Irish folklore as told by him.
Where did Commodore Barry's parents reside?

Mason: Commodore's parents resided overseas. His father, Patrick Barry, was born June 7, 1845 in Yorkshire, England. His mother, Mary Connolly Barry, probably came from Galway or County Cork in Ireland.

Emigrants Leave Ireland by Henry Doyle

KK: For what reasons did Commodore's parents immigrate to the United States?

Mason: I think that Commodore's parents came to the United States because of the hardships that they were facing at that time in Europe. The potato famine was taking place in Ireland, and working conditions were such that the young people were leaving the countries in order to get work. When his parents came here, on the way their ship was wrecked off the coast of Nova Scotia. For that reason, they stayed there for about a year and a half, as his mother was giving birth to another child at that time. Shortly following that time, they came to Cumberland, MD and stayed with relatives until they were able to get work. Commodore was between ten and twelve at that time.

KK: Why did they settle in this area?

Mason: Well, mining was a typical trade and at that time the railroads and the coal mines were major sources of income in western Maryland. Commodore's father, I think, was skilled in these trades, and went to Lonaconing as a young man, and was a mining engineer. He designed and laid the tracks that go into the mines to carry the coal in and out.

KK: When and where was Commodore born?

Mason: Commodore was born in Lonaconing, MD. When his parents moved to Lonaconing, they built a new home on what's known now as Dudley. This was on the upper row, and at that time this was quite an elegant house: it was two stories, and well built, and probably had about twelve rooms, as I remember. He was born in that house in, I think the year was 1875.

Commodore John Barry

KK: How did he come to be nicknamed Commodore?

Mason: Oh, Commodore John Barry was the first great American naval hero—he was an Admiral in the United States Navy, the first, I think. And history lessons in those days emphasized the name "Commodore John Barry". When Commodore was born, his name was John Martin Barry; however, I never remember anyone calling him anything but the Commodore.

KK: How extensive was his education?

Mason: Oh, it depends on what you call education. His formal education I think took place in a little one-room school in Lonaconing, and he went there until the third grade--when he was old enough to be in the third grade. And of course, that's different than it is today; I have no way of knowing, but he might have been around nine years old. He quit school at that point to go work in the coal mines, as all the young men did in those days. In fact, one story I recall is that he was so little when he went to work in the mines that he had to drag his lunch bucket to work with him.

KK: When and where did he meet his wife?

Mason: Well, he told so many tales about where he met Tilly. Tilly was born in Midland. Of course, the social circles were much smaller because transportation and communication was much more limited than it is today; so there was a lot of distance, really, between Midland and Coney. I'm not really sure how he met his wife except…it seems to me, that when I was little my mother told me that they met in church.

KK: When were they married?

Mason: I think that they were probably married in 1898—as closely as I can figure. My mother was born in 1900; and you know, in those days it was very common that you had your first child the first year, your second child the second year, and so forth. I would think around 1898.

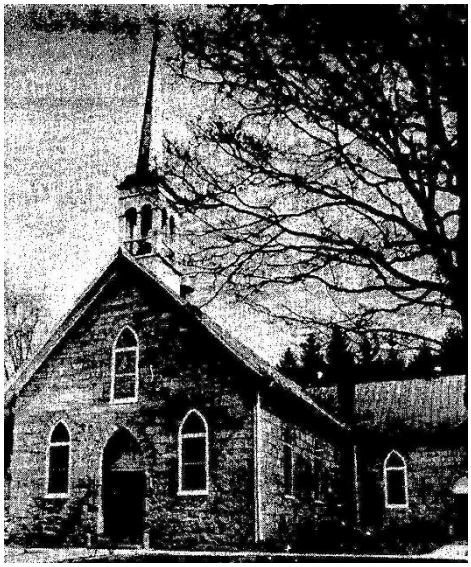
KK: How many children did they have?

Mason: They actually had seven children—and again, mortality rates were higher in those days, and pregnancies were very frequent. Four of those children lived, three died at birth or shortly after birth (one child lived to be six months old).

KK: To what religious denomination did Commodore Barry belong?

Mason: Oh my, they were strongly Catholic. And again, the Catholic heritage is part of the culture of this entire area; it was really frowned upon for a Catholic boy or girl to—and I'll put this in quotes—"mix" with anyone else. Families strongly disapproved of and often disowned children who married outside of their faith. The Catholic faith was not dominant, actually the area was primarily Protestant. But my mother told me when I was a little girl that even when she was growing up, Catholic girls were not allowed to date anyone but Catholic boys, and so on. So the faith was very strong.

KK: What role did he play in founding St. Mary's Parish?



St. Mary of the Annunciation Catholic Church, Lonaconing, MD in 1965

Mason: St. Mary's Parish in Lonaconing is well over a hundred years old now, and he and his family played a very strong role. As Catholics were in a minority, they grouped together much, much more than you find today. Everything centered around the home, the work, and the Church. All social events were connected with the Church, such as picnics, dances—whatever. And the need for a church in Lonaconing, I understand, was very strongly felt by those Catholics, who had to travel to Midland to St. Joseph's Church at that time in order to attend Mass. My great-grandparents, Patrick and Mary Connolly Barry, as well as my grandfather Commodore and his family, all helped build St. Mary's Church in Lonaconing.

When I was a little girl, I can remember my mother talking about the long hours that they put in the coal mines every day, then they would take their carbide lanterns—and I'm sure you don't know what that is, but that was the light that they had on the top of their mining hat so that they could see in the coal mines. They would pack up the children, and heat bricks in the winter if it was cold weather to keep themselves warm, and all of the families would go up to what we now know as St. Mary's Terrace and build the church--after working in the mines all day. And remember, in those days that might have been a fourteen-hour day, it was not our typical work day. The families would stay there well 'til midnight some nights actually cutting, and facing, and erecting the stone church that stands today as

St. Mary's. I also understand that it was not considered drudgery, that families looked forward to this—that they had good times in building the church. And it did create a sense of community in the Catholic community in Lonaconing that prevails to this day; many of those families who built that church still attend it.

KK: How strong is the Irish tradition and folklore in the area?

Mason: Oh my, it was very strong too. [laughs] The Irishmen seemed to have a way of clinging together and remembering the "good old days", and many stories I heard about the potato famines, and about the leprechauns, and about the pot of gold…and the holy days—the holy days were actually holidays. A religious holiday was cause for festivities: dancing, singing, fun-loving kinds of people, and very strong in the Irish tradition. "The wearin' of the green" was literal—people did wear green to designate the fact that they were an Irishman.

The Blarney Stone

The folklore lingers today; it's been mixed and modified, and is different than when I first remember hearing some of it, but….I can remember….My very first memories, in fact, are sitting around the kitchen table and hearing stories about County Cork, about the Blarney Stone; Commodore told me that he personally had kissed the Blarney Stone—although it was his *father* who kissed the Blarney Stone, because he was not in Ireland! But they felt so much a part of what they called their mother country that the folklore went on and on. The one I remember quite well was "The Big Rock Candy Mountain". And I used to always listen to the story of that Big Rock Candy Mountain. And Commodore made everything fun; when he told you a story, you really believed it. I was about fifteen before I knew there wasn't a Big Rock Candy Mountain—because he actually made us believe that somewhere there was a mountain made out of candy and all good boys and girls got to go there. That was just one…they went on and on about the different stories from Ireland, about the dancing and the singing--but basically, "The Big Rock Candy Mountain's" the one I remember.

Then they had a favorite saying too: "when my ship comes in." Everyone used to say, "When my ship comes in, I'm going to…" And they were either going to buy a farm, or they were going to get a car, or they were going to be millionaires, or what have you. And that relates back to the time when they were leaving the impoverishment that they and their families had suffered; and they actually waited for those ships to come in to

bring them to a land of promise. And so for many of them, that “pot of gold” that they kept talking about was fact—they really believed that that ship would come in and they would find a pot of gold. The leprechauns I remember too because it seemed that if you were good, the good luck was coming with you—and if you were weren’t, that the leprechauns would harass you. And many, many adults believed in this; they believed in the leprechauns, and in the stories about the fairies, and the hereafter—there were all kinds of Irish tales.

KK: Could you elaborate any more on some of the Irish folklore and songs often told and sung by Commodore?

Mason: Oh, Commodore sang so many songs, and they were all Irish, of course. “The Big Rock Candy Mountain” was one of my favorites. He taught my brother a song that I especially like—it was called “The Little Shirt My Mother Made for Me”. And Kenny still remembers that; he’s the only person that I know who knows that song. He sang “McNamara’s Band” all the time, and “When Irish Eyes Are Smiling”, and “Take Me Home Again, Kathleen” [sic] was a real favorite. On St. Patrick’s Day, it was a grand occasion and it seemed like, in Coney especially, they *really* celebrated St. Patrick’s Day: everyone wore green, all the beer they drank was green—they put green food coloring in it—and they drank lots of it, too! But there was all kinds of merrymaking with that.

I think that the typical Irish, “I’ll Take You Home Again, Kathleen” especially, is a sad and a poignant kind of folklore in that the people of this culture had always suffered deprivation. And their way of dealing and coping with that was through the stories they told, and the songs they sang, and the hope that tomorrow it would be there, it would be OK. They were a fun-loving, happy kind of people though, who never really ever seemed depressed regardless of what life dealt them. I think the fun-loving is the thing I remember most.

KK: How did people react to Commodore’s folktales?

Mason: Oh my, that’s incredible. Commodore took care of us when we were little, and he took me every place he went, and so I did hear the stories that he told the men. The one funny story that you might like to hear is “he was such a lover”—and he always wanted us to know that he was a *real lover*. He told me one time when I was little that one time in the winter it got so cold that he walked his girlfriend home to Midland, and he kissed her goodnight on her porch in Midland and he was clear to Coney before their lips separated. [laughter] And he considered that cold. Now that’s just an example of some of the stories he told us.

People reacted in a loving way. He was so much fun—loved to play cards, always sang, loved to dance until he couldn’t dance anymore--that through the years—I was thirteen when he died—from then until now, rarely…well, at first it was every day someone always had something to say about Commodore—about the times they spent

in the barbershop, the politics that they formed, the parties that they had, etc. And even ‘til now people still stop me and they’ll say, “Hey, remember when Commodore did this, or did that”--and he did some pretty crazy things.

KK: What kind of man was Commodore?

Mason: Well, let me put it this way: physically he was a short man, and my memories of him, of course, were when he was older. He was a short, little, round man with greying hair around the sides and none on top; flushed red face, an easy smile, and sparkling eyes. He enjoyed life, I can never remember his being unkind to anyone, he exaggerated the truth outrageously, and everyone loved him for it. He could have been an entertainer--he had the gift of wit, the ability to make people laugh and to remember him….I often think had he been born in another generation, he would be compared to Will Rogers, people of this nature—the wise, the witty, but yet the core of society as we know it now—because you have to remember these people were actively making the world we live in now. I think you could best describe him as a loving person--he was warm and caring. I think that’s the best description of him.

KK: What were some of *his* favorite tales?

Mason: Well….he talked about the coal mines all the time, and used to tell me a lot of stories about coal mines. Some of that humor and comradeship that went on in the mines, even though the work was extremely hard, cemented relations for years and years to come. I think that the favorite story he told me—and they say it was a true story, people who knew him told me it was true—was about the time that he went to his friend’s wake. And his friend died…I don’t know whether he died in the mines; I know the one friend did, but anyhow he went to this man’s house who had died. And in those days when you died you were laid out in what they called “the parlor”—that was the room that you never used unless someone got married or…died. But they were having a wake for their friend to send him off in the traditional Irish style, and they had a few drinks—so they decided to get their friend up and sit him in the corner. So they took him out of the casket, took him over and sat him in the corner, and set a bottle in his hand (which they always did)—and the man’s wife came in the room, saw him in the corner, and fainted. They got all upset, and they tried to get him back in the coffin but by that time rigor mortis had set in, and he was so stiff they couldn’t get him to lay down in the coffin. They actually had to break the bones to get him to lay down in the coffin--and they told me that was a true story.

The other one he always told--and I thought…this one too I can’t verify for the truth of it but all his friends swore this was true—was that this man lived on the second floor, and they went to his wake. And the man had had a curvature of the spine—but then they called it hunchback. And they had…you see, even embalming then was different,

very little was known about embalming, and it was a different process. So in order to have this man lay flat in the coffin, the undertaker would strap them down—and he did strap him down. And they were all partying on the second floor, and as they're partying the strap breaks--and the man just gradually sits up. And everybody…they said one man broke his leg jumping out of the window, and the others ran down the steps….And they swore that was a true story, that he actually sat up in his coffin. So as much as they were partying, they knew to get out of there. I think those two were the two biggest tales he ever told, if they were tales.

KK: When did he die? Could you tell of the wake that followed it?

Mason: Yes, I remember well when Commodore died. I didn't really ever expect him to die; it didn't occur to me that he was like everyone else. He was just so much fun, and even as he got older he didn't seem older. But he died on March 29, 1947; I was thirteen at that time. And he had sat around—we had this round dining room table—he had sat at the dining room table that day, and a couple days that week before then he had talked about his wife Tilly. Now, you know his wife died quite young; she was only thirty-three. And he must have been very, very much in love with her: he never, ever remarried, and as far as I know, really never dated anyone else—I never knew him ever to have a woman friend. He always talked about Tilly, and how beautiful she was, and what a good wife she was, and all of that. But this day in particular he talked about Tilly all day—things about how beautiful she was, and how slim she was….

That evening, mother had come home from the Silk Mill, and she had bought Commodore a new suit for Easter—and that was a rare occasion, you know, when you got a new suit, because that was a *lot*. And she had put it away for Easter; and it was shortly, I think, after dinnertime he went out to the kitchen and he said to mom, "get my new suit out, Mae, I'm going to [Still?] Hill tonight." And mom said, "Oh, Pa, now quit that, you know there's nothing wrong with you". And really, in truth he was not sick. But he went upstairs and evening came on, and Kenny and I went up and sat with him, and he kept—he had a breathing problem, he had emphysema, probably what we'd call today Black Lung disease—and Kenny and I went up and sat with him, and he really didn't seem sick, he just seemed to breathe just a little bit harder as time went on. And mother called the priest—because you always called the priest, before you called the doctor or anyone, you called the priest—and then she called the doctor; and we sat with him; in fact, I was holding his hand when he died. And Kenny was sitting on the bottom of his bed.

Death at that time was so much different than the way I think we see it today. I think maybe this is one thing that…it was my first experience with death, and I think what it taught me was that death does not have to be the painful thing that we often see today, with all the extraordinary medical measures you have. His death was very peaceful, I think he knew he was dying, I think that he welcomed rejoining his wife after all those lonely years, and I don't know if the angels sang but it seemed that they did—it was very, very peaceful. As children it was not traumatic to us, only in that we missed him and we were very lonely. But death took on a different perspective, and I do think that's

why today we can deal with it in a way…I think anyone who believes in life after death, maybe, would benefit by that experience. But he died like he lived--he died happy.

Now, the only thing he had ever asked of us was to have a big wake. He was quite popular, he was well known in political circles, he had been I guess you would call it the judge for the Democratic Party for all the elections for years and years, he kept their books; and yet some of his dearest friends were Republicans. Everyone seemed to respect him and to like him, and the only thing he ever asked was that when he died, he wanted to have the biggest wake in town. And believe me, he did. When he died of course, then, again, he was laid out at home and there was a big wreath placed on your front door, and everyone knew that your family was in mourning. The very first basket of flowers, and I can remember this quite well because it seemed so unusual to me, the very first basket of flowers he received was from old Senator Glenn Beall, the young Senator's father. And they had been good bosom buddies all through the years. The Republican Club in Lonaconing I think was the next basket of flowers; and the house pretty soon was like a flower garden, there were that many flowers and people. And then neighbors started bringing in food, and you had all kinds of food laid out. And then all the friends started coming.

Now today when you go to a funeral home, people come in, they give you condolences, and they leave; but at that time they didn't do that, they stayed. And they had parties--and indeed, Commodore's wake was one of the biggest wakes I've ever seen. For three days and three nights, I don't think there was an inch of space in that entire house to move; everyone ate, everyone drank, everyone had a party. The priest would come over to say the Rosary and to console the family, and every time mom would go out in the kitchen the men would put a bottle in Commodore's hands and take the Rosary out of his hands. And every time mom would go back in she'd take the bottle out of his hands and put the Rosary back. When the priest came that night to say the Rosary, of course the bottle was in his hands and mom was *really* upset.

But that lasted, really, for the three days and the three nights—there were people who did not go home at all, and in 1947 there really weren't even that many cars. However, the morning of the funeral we all got up early and we all got ready, and everyone got ready to go to the funeral—and there were cars stretched as far as you could see. I don't think even today, that outside of the big state funerals that you see in Washington, I don't think I've ever seen anything quite like it, because the car I was in—and the family was pretty well up front—I couldn't see the end of the line from the car I was in. And of course, he was buried in a Requiem Mass at St. Mary's in Lonaconing, and buried on April Fool's Day in 1947 in St. Mary's Cemetery next to the wife he lost so many years before that. So indeed, he did—and people today still talk about the party, and about the wake they had for Commodore. In fact, there's the man in Coney who was talking to me about it last week—and said people just don't know how to die

anymore. But indeed, he died and he was buried like he lived—happy. I think truly that's a lost thing--that people lose happiness. Our world becomes so complex that we don't take the time to enjoy the very simple things.

KK: Even Senators came to the wake, you were talking about before?

Sen. J. Glenn Beall

Mason: Oh yes, yes; Senator Beall was one of the first people there…and I think all the local judges, and all the…they called them magistrates, and all of the people from the election board….His friends were so varied that they ranged from millionaires to paupers. And he liked all of them equally well. I don't think that he ever knew the difference between a millionaire and a pauper. I think that's a real tribute to a person; because he was so well respected and so well liked, and yet just a fun-loving kind of person. But obviously his life meant something to those people around him because this is 1979, and as recently as a week ago someone's talking to me about my grandfather.

So, his life must have touched many lives. And his generosity was unreal…the generosity in the families at that time I think was so much--we didn't live in a closed society, where everyone was afraid of everyone. If someone came to your door hungry, you fed them. Many times I can remember his friends being on the couch when I'd get up in the morning; they had no place to go. Most of the time there were extra people at our table, people sometimes I didn't know. So it was a different lifestyle; it was a different way of life. It was like people reached out a hand to people in friendship, and I don't think too many times they had to draw it back. I think that it was a freer time, but I think it all is based on the fact that it *was* a simpler way of life and that people depended on each other *for* their lives. If your buddy didn't show up to work the mine with you, that meant that maybe you didn't work that day. And so it created a spirit of care; and I'm afraid that somewhere along the line we've become so independent that we've lost a lot of that very nice quality.

KK: Could you comment on his political endeavors?

Mason: Oh, my, I think his political endeavors were so subtle that perhaps we'll never know how far-reaching they were. I do know, though, that the men of the town gathered together in the barbershop, and in the summertime at the [? log], to discuss the politics of the day. People, I think, were much better informed really on politics than they are today; they kept abreast daily with what was happening in the political arena, they didn't hesitate to call their representatives, because they knew them all….Then again, it was a smaller world and a smaller, less complex system of government; your representatives knew you by name when you walked down the street. I think, yes, that that group did forge a set of politics that were basically sound—they were concerned with working conditions, with…[tape stops, resumes].

To continue with that political era….I think that the real influence of the politics of that time—and this rather reminds you of the town meetings that you heard about in Massachusetts and so forth, because people did take an active interest, and they did get together, and they did discuss the issues—I think that the real influence there was that communication provided a way that legislators could enact and enforce legislation to represent the views of that community. You have to realize that coming from a system that was almost feudal—and Lonaconing *was* like a feudal system when Commodore Barry was a young man; you had to have permission to leave the town from the company superintendent, you couldn't leave the town without that—and then to look through the twenties and thirties and forties, and see that in the forties people were as independent as anywhere. You know that during those years so much had to happen in the way of freedom. I think really that this was truly democracy at work, and that people did have a say in their government; but again, that was because it was small. But if you look back at the history of this county, and see the children of these people, and the grandchildren, and what they're doing….Now, old Judge Smith had a barbershop in Coney, and that was the center of politics. His son Burton Smith served as County Commissioner several times in this county, I think he had two terms. Old Senator Beall—his son was United States Senator and ran for governor of the State of Maryland. Commodore's grandson is a strong Union leader—

KK: Our whole county.

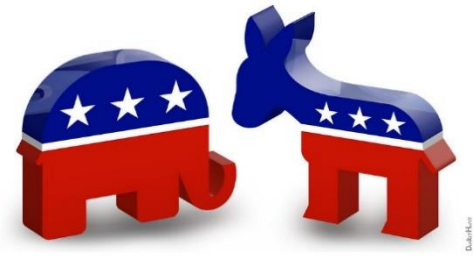
Mason: Sure. And developing Union policy and standards of living in the glass industries—I'm sure that much of that political know-how and drive stemmed from having him as a grandfather. It was almost like you learned how to get things done. My earliest memories of politics were—and remember, we went with him, and we sat and listened to the things they were discussing, to taxation and all of the issues of the day, to the war efforts, to things of this nature—and I think my very earliest education in these fields really took place in that barbershop. I'm not a politician but much of what I do is politically oriented, and would not be possible without that political support. And I don't remember not ever being able to work with these people; I think I've always known how to. But I think it's because I experienced that and lived it as a child. If someone wanted a piece of legislation changed, they worked to get it changed and they worked in an active way. Today we send lobbyists; in those days we did it ourselves. And again, you know, we get used to letting other people do it for us. I really think that if we looked at the county, and looked at the people today who are in government in the county, we would see that many of their grandparents had really passed this on to them, whether or not they realize it. And it's not a bad heritage.

KK: Could you tell me again about the Republican throwing in the towel?

Mason: Now, when was that?

KK: When Commodore died.

Mason: Oh, oh. Well, that wasn't the kind of towel, now, you dry your face with. When Commodore died--and this was interesting because there was a division among Democrats and Republicans that was similar to the division between Catholics and Protestants or what-have-you--he had been….Well, he was unusual for his day, let me put it that way, because while he was a judge forever on the Democrat—of course all my family's Democrat, you know, even now—his best friends belonged to the Republican Club. And every day he walked over to the Republican Club and he stood in one spot at that bar; and when he died, the Republicans got a green piece of tile—t i l e—had his name put in it, and put it right in the middle of the floor, right where he stood at the bar….



KK: Ohh, *that* kind of tile! Is it there today?

Mason: ….and the Republican Club in Coney still has that. Now, they did put in a new floor, but they still have that piece of tile. And it was kind of a monument to where he stood; and again, that's a healthy thing when a Democrat's honored by a Republican Club. And of course you know that Lonaconing typically has been White, it's been Protestant, and it's been Republican. And very strong. And it's strange to think that a man who was White, who was Catholic, and who was a Democrat would be so honored. I think that's unusual.

KK: Was he honored in any other way, like through the church?

Mason: Well, you know, his parents…we were talking a little bit ago about building the church—when that church was built, his parents donated the Blessed Mother's altar and statue. Now, when that church was renovated in 1968, *our* family donated that Blessed Mother statue to the same church. No, I think his honor, Kimberly, came to him during his lifetime—that the real tribute to a person like this is not the monuments and so forth that men erect, but the love that permeates your life and even after you die—your memory. I venture to say that one out of a hundred people who died in 1947 are still remembered and talked about today. That's unusual; that was a long time ago.

KK: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Mason: Well, I think that it's sad that this history was not written before. I would hope that in a small way our family did help forge the history of Allegany County. I think that the deep love that we feel as workers for the county today--and most of our family work

very diligently for this county today—I think that we inherited that from someone, I don't think it was accidental. I think it's sad that this wasn't carried; I can remember our family when unions were not--I can remember them organizing unions around our kitchen table. Religion, yes--certainly we're strong supporters of the Catholic faith in western Maryland. I think that it's sad that so much of your history has been lost by not being written. I would hope someday that through the efforts of people like yourself, and like my children, that we could recapture some of the history of our own county.

KK: Well, thank you.

Mason: You're welcome.

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Day Care Services in Allegany County, Maryland
Name: Helen Jones
Occupation: Day Care Mother
Residence: 4 Boone Street, Cumberland, Md.
Birth date: February 18, 1925
Date and place of interview: Nov. 15, 1976 at Mrs. Jones' home
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 11/2007

My Name is Kathy Jones. I'm here today to interview Mrs. Helen Jones who is a day care mother for the Social Services of Allegany County. The date is November 15, 1976.

KJ: What is daycare?

Jones: Daycare is a program through which the working mothers may leave their children in a home that they know they will be getting good care in. Once a year the home is inspected by the social service workers. This way, they make sure you have room for the children to play, toys for which they can play and entertain themselves. You have to have a place so that if they are at the age where they require naps, they may take one. You are supposed to provide them with a breakfast, a mid-morning snack, lunch, afternoon snack, and their supper if they are in your home for ten hours. And if they're not, then you provide according to the number of hours that they are in your home. Once a year after that, your home is inspected again to make sure everything is the same. You have to renew your license every year to keep your home in good standing.

KJ: Don't you worry about the fact that from the age of birth to six your personality is formed?

Jones: Well yes, but I have raised two sons, and one daughter is in her first year of college and my seven-year-old. So, I think I am experienced enough to handle other people's children.

KJ: When did you start in this daycare program?

Jones: I started in 1972 when my youngest daughter was three. She had no one of her own age group to play with so I, my neighbor was in foster and daycare, so I thought I would try daycare so she would have someone to play with. And I just kept on in the daycare up until now.
KJ: What are the effects of this program on the community?

Jones: Well, if someone didn't watch these children in their home and give them supervision, then we may possibly have juvenile delinquents. If they were left at their own home without proper supervision while their mother worked, we'd probably may be helping to keep some future criminal off the street.

KJ: Did you ever have any problems with these children?

Jones: Only one, one of my earlier boys had an emotional problem. He was the type of child you couldn't control. And we had a good bit of trouble with him.

KJ: What happens when you get somebody like this?

Jones: Well then, you're not required to keep them. The social service will try maybe to find someone who can deal with this problem and if not, then the mother will have to see what she can do.

KJ: Couldn't you be sued if a child got hurt?

Jones: Well, if you're a responsible person and you watch them as close as you can, all children are bound to be hurt in their play, by falling in their play. As long as you're keeping the best tab on them as you can, they aren't allowed to, they couldn't sue you. But now if you were abusing the child and if bruises were found on them to a big extent, then the mother could possibly sue you.

KJ: Do you ever find yourself picking favorites?

Jones: Well, not too much in the daycare children, but it's kind of hard if you have one of your own that's the same age as the daycare children are, you find yourself being pulled towards your own child, which I guess is natural.

KJ: What age group would you rather watch?

Jones: Well, I used to prefer the infants, but now I think I prefer from about two to the school aged children.

KJ: Do you plan to stay in the daycare for a long time?

Jones: No, I don't think so. Maybe I'll keep someone for my little one to have company, but I think I'll quit within the next year.

KJ: So, you believe that this program is beneficial to Allegany County?

Jones: Yes, I do, because otherwise we have a lot of mothers on welfare and that would take a lot of our tax money to pay. And if they can provide for themselves by having someone watch their children while they work, then I think it is beneficial.

KJ: Do you think in any way it prevents child abuse?

Jones: Yes, a lot of cases of child abuse is when parents are worried that they haven't enough money and they abuse their children as an outlet for their own emotions, and I do think that this may help to prevent some child abuse.

KJ: Do you have anything to say in conclusion?

Jones: No, except I guess we need more daycare mothers. Maybe publicized a little bit more so people will know that this service is available in our community.

KJ: Ok well thank you.

Jones: You're Welcome.

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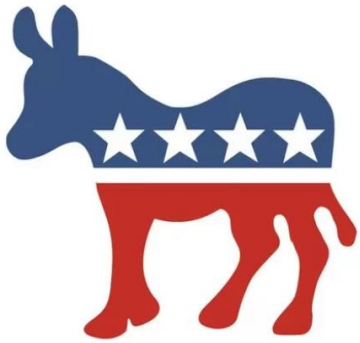
The Democratic State Central Committee of Allegany County
Interview with Frederick J. Hill
Interviewed by Stanley J. Dougan
Summer 1974

SD: Good morning class. We have Mr. Fred Hill this morning, a member of the Democratic State Central Committee of Allegany County. Mr. Hill is a former Police and Fire Commissioner in the City of Cumberland. Mr. Hill would you please explain how members of the Democratic State Central Committee of Allegany County reach office. That is sir, are they appointed or elected to office?



Hill: The answer to that is both. The proper way, the way it is handled now is that first you are elected and this year it will be at the September 10th primary election at which time the citizens will vote on the members of the Democratic State Central Committee that they would like to have elected. This year, we have 15 candidates, of which seven will be elected. Now let's assume after the seven are elected for one reason or another there is a vacancy period. This vacancy then is filled by appointment and the procedure in the past is that the person receiving the next votes, that is of the losers, next highest number of votes is generally nominated to fill that vacancy.

SD: What are the functions of the committee? For example, does the committee make recommendations to the governor concerning nominees for public office, sir?

Hill: A short answer to that question is yes. There are many times that there are appointments or vacancies for official state positions in the county and of course the governor doesn't know just every Tom, Dick, and Harry in the county and he has to depend on somebody up here to make nominations for these positions. So that is a prime function of the committee to screen worthwhile candidates for these positions and send this name to the governor for his consideration.

SD: What relationship does the Allegany County State Central Committee have with the Maryland State Central Committee? That is, do you merely offer advice or do you have a say in policies of the party statewide, sir?

Hill: In this particular instance, I have a little direct knowledge of that. The state is divided into districts as far as the Maryland State Central Committee is concerned. [Representatives of these districts make up] the Executive Committee for the State of Maryland. Our area is represented by Garrett County, Allegany County, Washington County, and Frederick County. About three years ago the person

that represented these four counties on the Maryland State Central Committee resigned and there was a meeting held and an election held at that meeting where a representative of these four counties would be elected and would be placed on the Executive Board of the State Central Committee for the State of Maryland. Happily, or as time may tell, I received that nomination and election, so I represent these four counties on the State Executive Committee for the State Central Committee.

SD: Is the position of Committee member often a stepping stone to another political office?

Hill: It's not intended to be that way, but many times it does happen that way. There are many times when the State Central Committee becomes aware of these openings and the members of the committee while not allowed at that time to be nominated for that position, often resign and then get appointed to it. Now it's my opinion, and I believe this very sincerely, that anybody running for the office of State Central Committee should not be permitted to accept a state appointment during his term of office and I think I would eliminate that stepping stone ability, because the Committee does have direct knowledge generally before-hand of certain positions becoming open.

SD: How is the Chairmanship of the Democratic State Central Committee of Allegany County decided? Is it on the basis of the position going to the person with the most popular votes? Or do other members of the Committee select the chairman?

Hill: The chairman is selected by the members of the Committee, not by the number of votes the man received. There may be certain situations where a person is on the Committee and may not have the time to devote as chairman, so consequently the Committee has a meeting and there's a consensus of opinion and an election and it isn't based on votes but just on the fact that the committee themselves make the recommendation and selection.

SD: Are members of the Committee paid a salary or given expense money?

Hill: The Committee is paid no salary whatsoever. There are times when it is required that there be meetings held in Baltimore or points farther east and the Committee does pay for their transportation and any meals and any direct expenses incurred. They are quite small, because generally, the meetings that I've attended, we'd go down and back in the same day. So consequently, we had no hotel expenses that I can recall over the last three or four years.

SD: Students often ask me Mr. Hill, why are so many Americans politically apathetic. How would you answer that question, sir?

Hill: Well in good times people were generally satisfied with the people that are in office and when you have these good times they become apathetic while they perhaps follow with some interest things the that are going on, they just don't seem to get up enough steam to either try to participate or even vote. But when times get a little tough

House Banking Committee Watergate hearing

and things happen that they don't believe in, I think that's when they rise up and let their wishes be known. This was obvious of course during the Vietnam War when things were very active, and now in Watergate situation you find people are really interested in what's going on and I think while these things are unfortunate that we had these problems it has stimulated interest in government.

SD: I teach in my state and local government course, sir, that usually there are political committees at the municipal level and also at the county level. We have political committees at the county level here in Allegany County, are there any at the municipal level, sir?

Hill: There are various committees at the city level, you have your urban renewal board for example. These men and women are appointed by the Mayor and City Council and many times while politics themselves should not enter into it, no question in my mind that it does happen. You have your Planning and Zoning Commission, you have the Human Relations Commission. There are various commissions and committees that are formed by the Mayor and City Council that actively participate in the city government.

SD: What role does your committee play in raising funds for the party, sir?

Hill: Fundraising these days is really tough. You can imagine why. But seriously, each year the Committee has various functions at which time we attempt to raise funds for county-wide elections. As you well know, we are not permitted to participate in primary elections, because that would be giving one primary candidate a boost over another one perhaps. We are obliged to wait until after the primary is over and then any funds that we raise are used locally to promote local candidates. I'll give you a better example of how we raise this money. Each year there is a picnic that the Committee puts on, each year there is a car raffle at which time we generally make anywhere from $2,000 to $2,500 and our expenses are very minimal and we try to save this money for the forthcoming elections.

SD: As I understand it, Maryland will allow public financing of campaigns beginning in 1978, I believe. Do you have an opinion on that, Mr. Hill?

Hill: Well as far as an opinion is concerned, I find it very difficult in the light of things that have happened over the past few years to be very definite on this answer. I do believe though, that some minimum amount of contributions should be permitted for candidates running for office. It's very expensive as anybody knows and it is literally impossible for the average guy on the street to be able to run for office and commit his

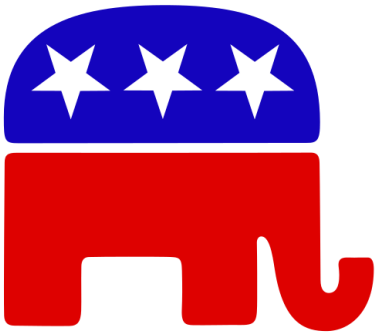
own personal funds. So consequently, it's absolutely necessary for qualified candidates to be in a position to receive funds from various sources. I think they should be limited.

SD: What are some of the benefits of political involvement? For example, the field of education, I especially enjoy counseling students in future career searches.

Hill: Well, the field's wide open right now. There's a number of candidates that are running for the first time. There's a lot of younger candidates running for the various offices. As I said previously, the interest has been stimulated by recent happenings and it's my opinion again that the field of politics is an honorable field. It is only made dishonorable by dishonorable men. So, I do believe that the field of politics is a great opportunity for young people to become involved in government and to be able to help their fellow man.

SD: Does the Republican Party still hold the lead in membership concerning Allegany County? I noticed that the gap is closing rather quickly.

Hill: Don't hold me specifically to an answer here because I'm not exactly sure what the division is, but five years ago or eight years ago, something in that neighborhood, the Republican Party held about a 5,500-vote lead. Today it is down to about 1,700 in the county. You can go back ten, fifteen, and twenty years ago and it was probably even in excess of that maybe as high as 8,000 or 10,000. So again, the Democratic Party has closed in on the Republican Party in so far as its plurality is concerned.



SD: Consumer advocate, Ralph Nader advocates compulsory voting in the United States. Not too long ago, up in New Hampshire the local newspaper editor published all the names of the non-voters in the newspaper; which to say the least ruffled some feathers. Do you have an opinion, Mr. Hill, on that question of compulsory voting?

Hill: Well, this is still a democratic country and I think if a man wants to vote, he should vote and should be able to vote. But to say that somebody *had* to vote, well I think you'd be somewhat in a police state--I can see them coming perhaps to my door because I didn't show up and dragging me down to vote. Next thing you know, they'd probably want to know who I was voting for. So, I'd be opposed to anybody saying you *had* to vote. I think everyone has an obligation and responsibility to vote, though.

SD: By what procedure or procedures does a person get his name on a ballot in Allegany County? For example, is it possible to get his name on the ballot by a write-in procedure?

Hill: Not in the primary election, but in the general election. To normally get on the ballot for the various offices, you have certain procedures that you must follow insofar

as the state law is concerned. You go to the courthouse, pick up your papers there and in case of the Democratic State Central Committee, you just need to fill out a form and have it notarized, and name the treasurer. Now for higher offices, it's necessary to do this formality in Annapolis.

SD: Thank you Mr. Hill for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to the students at Allegany Community College about the Democratic State Central Committee of Allegany County.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Maryland flag
https://pxhere.com/en/photo/537222

Watergate hearing
Leffler, W. K., photographer. (1972) House Banking Committee hearing on Watergate Incident. Headshots of Committee, Wright Patman D-Tex and Bill Frenzel R-Minn / WKL. Washington D.C, 1972. [10/12/72 12 Oct] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2020631033/.

Dr. Cynthia Bambara, President, Allegany College of Maryland

This is Margie Gacki. I'm here today in the office of Dr. Cynthia Bambara, President of Allegany College of Maryland. It is Tuesday, July 30, 2024. I am interviewing Dr. Bambara as part of the oral history project that was originally started back in the 1970s. We hope to restart the project and have more interviews in the future. Dr. Bambara will be retiring at the end of 2024, so we want to hear from her before she leaves.

MG: Okay, Dr. Bambara, let's just start off by having you tell us a little about your education and your early career.

Bambara: Okay, probably one of the highlights of my early education started in high school. I was selected to be a rotary exchange student to New Zealand for a year. I was 15 when I left; 16 when I came back. I left in September of 1968 and returned in August of 1969. And so, it was quite an extraordinary experience. Then I was about to search for colleges in my senior year of high school. My dad wasn't really keen on my going to college; I'm a first-generation student, but I insisted I really want to do this. My brother was already in his first year at Penn State, and so, my parents agreed. They had already set up a college fund. I don't know, he wanted me to go into a traditional career for women, such as a dental hygienist or administrative assistant, or one of those options. And I said, no, I really do want to go to college and I'm not quite sure what the end result will be, but at least I want to get started there. So, he took me around to different colleges. I wanted a small, private school because Penn State was just too big for me and I just didn't have the confidence. I felt if I went to a smaller school, which most smaller schools are private, it would suit me best. So, I did select Juniata College in Huntingdon, Pennsylvania, and I finished my degree there in 1973. I did two summers so that I could finish in 3 years because my option in the summer was to go home to the

Dr. Bambara with other first-generation students at Allegany College of Maryland

Sterman Masser, Dr. Bambara's father

farm and lay irrigation pipes and pick out the bad potatoes in the packing line. [laughter] So, I thought taking some electives like speech and pottery during the summertime, and I was also a resident advisor, so my housing was free, or I was compensated for my work as a resident advisor through that. So, I majored in psychology knowing that I would need to go on for a master's degree related to be able to work in the field. And my thought or goal was I wanted to be in a helping field. So, after college, I also had to prove to my family that a woman with a college degree could get a job, so I went to one interview on campus, at Juniata, and I interviewed with the *only* business that was taking liberal arts graduates, and it was mercantile stores. And I was hired as an assistant buyer in New York City. That was my first job, and I thought, well I like to shop so this is a pretty good match for me. [laughter]

Juniata College Museum of Art

MG: The big city didn't intimidate you?

Bambara: Well, that's another long story because I kind of have always been a bit serendipitous and always quite fortunate, I think, the serendipitous choices that I've made. But I was looking, of course, for a place to live on, like $10,000 a year was my beginning salary. And living in New York City with that amount of money is just not a good fit. So, I went to visit…I knew there was a factory owner in our little town of Valley View, Pennsylvania who lived in New York City, and I got on my bicycle and I rode to the factory on a Saturday morning and wandered my way into his office. His name is Jerry Roth and I introduced myself and I said I need some suggestions on places to live for young single women who are starting off a career in New York City. And so, immediately that afternoon he connected me with his wife, Valerie. They had a farm in the area where they would stay when they came out to work with the factory. And she found a women's boarding home for me, which I just about enrolled in. They came back and said, "You know, Jerry's going to be travelling for the next year extensively and I'm going to be alone in our apartment on the Upper East Side (It was East 87th Street.) and we would love to have you to come live with us for one week's salary." And so, I of course, jumped on it. They had a studio apartment. They rented the two-bedroom apartment and a studio. The studio is what they rented to me and they put a bed in their oldest daughter's room. So, that is where I landed in New York City. My bus stop was right outside Jackie Onassis' apartment. [MG: Oh, wow!] I think I did a week on the subway and it just wasn't a

Apartment building where Jackie Onassis lived

good fit for me. There was a stop on 86th Street, but the one before that was up in Harlem, and you can just imagine that wasn't a pleasant experience to go to work that way. So, I took the longer route on the bus every day. So, that was my first job. I was in the men's department; I bought little boys' underwear; that was my first thing. So, that was very exciting. [laughter] I didn't even know that I would have two sons later! [MG: That came in handy, then!] Yeah. Gender was really big then. Shortly after that, I was there for about 3 months and they transferred me to women's accessories. My buyer, I was an assistant buyer, was Theresa Fanelli and she was a huge fan of Frank Sinatra. She would say when she'd be on the phone with vendors, "It's Theresa, and that's "F" like in Francis, "A" like in Albert, N-E-L-L-I. I'll never forget that. And she smoked Lucky Strikes, and we'd go out in the market and inevitably on the way back from the market, we would have to stop in the Chock full o'Nuts on the first floor of the Empire State Building and she would smoke her Lucky Strikes and drink her black coffee. Fortunately, I didn't pick up that habit, so that was kind of a good thing. So, there, during that year, I was there I think from September until May. And I met my husband at the copy machine. He was also a new graduate of Cornell University. He had taken a little time off to go to Viet Nam. A year with a high draft number, but he also did what I did. He had started off as an engineer, and then finished as a theater major. He also took the first interview of a liberal arts major at Cornell's campus and was selected to be on their management team in training. And we knew we were going to be transferred and we did after 6 or 8 months. Oh, I met him at the copy machine in June and I married him in August. And I'm not compulsive about anything, ever! And this August we will be married 50 years.

MG: Wow! Congratulations! That's wonderful.

Bambara: Anyway, we were transferred to Mobile, Alabama, and I worked in a junior's sportswear shop. I was the assistant manager. On my day off, I wandered out to the University of South Alabama to investigate what types of programs because I knew I wanted to go into some type of counseling, and I was especially interested in higher ed counseling because my whole way through Juniata I was a resident advisor, and I decided I wanted to go into student services through that experience. So, I wandered out to explore their programs and I visited a second time to enroll in their master's program because (?) counseling. I finished my bachelor's in 1973 and I finished my master's within 4 years of this graduating with my bachelor's in 1977. But, on my way wandering to and from my car on the campus, I bumped into a chatty fellow and we got talking. And he knew I was a resident advisor in college and I had just enrolled in their master's program and he was *desperate* to fill an area coordinator position at the university. It was *not* a residential.

Shelby Hall at University of South Alabama

They had strong resident advisors there. It would be a non-residential position over all the resident halls on campus. We called them RAs. So, of course, I jumped on it because the other wonderful thing is if you were an employee there, you got your tuition paid. So that worked out fine! Fast forward to 1976 and my husband was transferred to Fort Walton Beach, Florida. I had one semester left to go in grad school. They had just built new dormitories and had a vacant handicapped suite that they offered to me. I had a graduate assistantship which paid for that last semester of tuition. Then the next semester, I think it was during the summer, I was able to finish my degree with my internship in the state rehabilitation counseling agency in Fort Walton Beach. And, lucky for me, at the end of that internship they had a vacancy for a counselor and they hired me.

MG: Wow. You've been very fortunate.

Geer Hall, Furman University

Bambara: I have been very fortunate. Then, we can fast forward to just another year later. My husband got transferred to Greenville, South Carolina. There, after I got settled into our house, it was probably less than a month, I wandered out to Furman University, and they were just reorganizing their career services, so from rehab counseling I have a lot of training in career services. So, I was hired to be their director of career planning and placement that year. Well, shortly after we moved from Fort Walton, and I was there until the summer of 1981 when my husband decided that he did not want to be in store operations anymore. During that year, he was just trying to find what career he would have. He went into financial planning and real estate, and it was the worst year on earth to be in real estate. Interest rates were double digits. It was horrible. Anyway, and I was now pregnant with our oldest son, Timothy, so the clock's ticking and he decided to enter the real world again and go back to—his sister worked in retail in the northeast—and referred him to an opening in Philadelphia at what was John Wanamaker's at that time, and it's gone through iterations of changes of the name. He left and I was left in Greenville to sell our house with Pitty Pat, our Irish Setter, and I was 8 months pregnant. My dad came down in a pickup truck with a little U-Haul on the back. I had my nursery all set and everything was just perfect. So, we had to pack up the nursery. My husband bought a home in Horsham, Pennsylvania that I hadn't seen, which is kind of not in my comfort zone. But it was new and that was okay. So, I had to stay with my mom and dad because the house wasn't finished yet. We had to put our things in storage and I stayed with them for the last month until my

Wanamaker Building in Philadelphia

son came. I had to change OB/GYNs, I had to change hospitals, I had all those changes…[MG: That must have been hard right at the last minute.] In the eleventh hour, indeed it was. So, Tim came along and we got moved into our house. I stayed with him for 5 months, but at that point in time in our careers, I needed to be working also, and so, we found an excellent in-home child care that took infants. So, when Tim was between 5 and 6 months, I got a position at Prudential Insurance in a management training program because of my rehab training. It was an AARP supplement account for seniors, but it was in claims, and so you had to have a knowledge base of medical terminology and that sort of thing which I did get in my rehab counseling degree. So, it was 5 minutes from my home, the Prudential campus where they set this particular unit up. It wasn't on that main Prudential campus in Willow Grove, but it was just another village over. I went to work there for three and a half years. I got through the management program and they were training me to be a manager, but at that point I made a deal with my husband that we could have a second child if I could stay home with my children because I was not a very good working mother. I was the guiltiest working mother on the face of the earth, and that was not a good match for me. So, we were at a point in life where we were able to do that, and so I worked at Prudential for three and a half years, went on maternity leave almost certain I wasn't going to go back but I didn't want to make that call until the end. And Tom was born during that time and, long story short, I stayed home for eight years with them. We moved out of the Philadelphia area. My husband was employed with a company that did concessions in national parks, and he was a vice president for that company, and we were moved to Virginia because his base was Shenandoah National Park. Most of my eight years were in Virginia. When the boys were in kindergarten and third grade, I thought, you know, I need to kind of put my foot back into the waters again and see what might happen. So, the area school system had just been developing a career center for the community at the high school in town. And I just wandered in. I don't know how I found out about it, just through mutual friends, whatever, and I wandered in on an open house. I volunteered. I told them my background. So, I volunteered for a short period of time and I got to know some people. They were starting a local community college and it was a very small campus. They were working on getting funding to build the campus. But it just so happened…the student services came out of Middletown, which is just in the Winchester area. I was in Warrenton, but the director of student services was going back for her doctorate and had to do a residency at Virginia Tech and that opened up the opportunity for me to be a part-time student services person to service just that campus, or just the small campus. And over the years we grew; we had about 375 students. We were in the barn…

Prudential building in Newark, NJ

MG: Was that Lord Fairfax?

Bambara: It is now Laurel Ridge. They had to change the name, but when I was there, it was Lord Fairfax. During the time I was there, we grew to about 375 students. We got funding to build a building and 3 or 4 FTEs. There was funding basically for a director, a counselor, two faculty members. One was history and one was English. That was their full-time; everything else was staffed part-time and adjunct faculty. We had three classrooms in the barn, a computer lab, and the actual library was a corn crib that was attached to the barn. [laughter] So, if you want to learn more about that experience, you want to hear Susan Short talk. She's the person who was the director and hired me when she went off to Virginia Tech to finish her doctorate. So yes, we had a corn crib on the side of the barn…

MG: Well, I've been in the Medical Library at Memorial Hospital that was in a trailer that was only supposed to be temporary. So now, that looks pretty good compared to a corn crib!

Bambara: It was nice; it was fun. It just leaked when it rained. That's all, no problem. [laughter] So, just an aside, one of the funny stories for me at least, I don't think it was for the group. I got to the point…my husband, his company downsized, and he took a one-year *temporary* position as the vice president for merchandizing at the 1996 Olympics in Atlanta. Knowing that this was a one-year temp position, I thought I'd better get a full-time job with benefits because who knows what's going to happen after that. And so, I started interviewing at Northern Virginia Community College. They had some openings and I interviewed at the Annandale Campus and I'm in a room the size of this board room filled with interviewers, right? And they got me talking about the barn experience. And I said, you know, I just really did everything in that barn; I helped to hire instructors; you know, I did from A to Z in student services. I was not a financial aid administrator, but I knew how to guide the students through FAFSA, and you get them to the point where they could talk to a financial aid administrator; just whatever it took. And then I made the mistake, I think, I don't know, but I said, "And I even have to call 1-800-FARMER because we've got cows in the pasture outside the barn and when the cows get out, you got to contact the farmer." And they looked at me like a deer in headlights, "Oh my goodness, you really have a number called 1-800-FARMER?" [laughter] I said, "I'm just joking!" And I thought, OK I just blew this interview, which I did. Anyhow…[laughter] *But*, very shortly after that interview the Loudon campus had an opening and it was a restricted position; it was an 18-month restricted position. And this began my full-time career in community colleges.

There were two counselors who had babies at the same time and they wanted to job share, and the dean agreed to it. He said we're going to do this for 18 months. We'll hire somebody in a restricted 18-month position and we'll see how this goes. So, I was in that position from January, it was (?) unfortunately. It was from January until August. And Dr. Short, Susan, who spoke at my inauguration—pull the video up online—she called me and she said, "Cindy, I need you to apply for this position." They had gotten the full-time counseling position. She said, "We've had two failed searches and I need you back here. So, let's do the interview now and then you get back here." So, that's kind of how I got hired. We did a phone interview that very day and I guess I sent them an application, or whatever formalities they needed. And then I was hired as the full-time counselor at the Fauquier campus of what was then Lord Fairfax Community College. That campus has grown over time to be probably twice the size of this campus. It may be even larger. It just absolutely exploded. [MG: Well, that area has exploded…] Right. So, I started in my full-time role. I was a part-time student services person there, then a full-time counselor from 19…it was 1996, I think. Yes, because that summer I took the boys to Atlanta a couple of times and we did go to the Olympics and experience some of the events there. And then I started at Lord Fairfax, and I was there until I came here in 2011. I was the director for four or five years, and then I became the Vice President of Student Success for the remainder of my time at Lord Fairfax. In the meantime, we had gotten a new president and in my one-on-one sessions with her, I let her know that I had applied for *her* position at…she was the president at Eastern Shore in the Virginia Community College system. And she got wind that I was interested. I thought, "Eastern Shore is a really tiny college and I can do this. I've been around this merry-go-round a few times and I think I can do this." So, I applied for the Eastern Shore position. I didn't get an interview, but she just picked up on that and she said, "You're going to do this. If it's not this school…" She got with the chancellor and before I knew it, I was on every single committee you could imagine systemwide. I was on a re-engineering taskforce; I was asked to serve on statewide search committees. And then I applied for, there were three vacancies in the winter of 2010. One was in the far, far west corner of Virginia—you can't get there from here. You have to go into Tennessee and up to Big Stone Gap.

Groundbreaking for a new building on the Fauquier campus of Laurel Ridge Community College (formerly Lord Fairfax Community College in 2022

Big Stone Gap, VA

MG: Oh, my goodness. One of those…like getting to Wheeling, West Virginia, you have to go through Pennsylvania.

Bambara: That kind of thing, yes. And then I was a finalist at what was Paul D. Camp and a finalist at…not a finalist; I interviewed at Virginia Highlands. So, I was the bridesmaid at each one of those, not the bride. And so…I had all my paperwork in with the American Community College Trustees search firm and over some kind of really attractive position that was on the beach in North Carolina, anyway I submitted it…Anyhow, it didn't go anywhere, but they did call me for a position in very western, southwest North Carolina. There's a whole story around that, but I sat on the tarmac at Dulles Airport and we were within five minutes of the plane being…saying that you're not going because it was lightning and thundering. And they finally let us go. I got into Greenville, South Carolina like 9:00. The rental car was about to close, and then I had to drive to western North Carolina from there. I had the interview at 9:00 the next morning and I was back to the airport as soon as the interview was over. And that night, the woman from the search firm called me. She said, "You didn't get this one and when you see the announcement, you'll know why, but there's one out there for you. I'm happy to talk to you about your interview and what you did well and areas of improvement, and that sort of thing. So, we did. There was follow-up that week. I talked with her, and so my file was active with ACCT. Well, in the meantime, the chancellor called me later in May. He said, "Cindy, how would you like to say 'I've done it' instead of 'I *could* do it.'" He said, "The president at Central Virginia Community College is going to become the chancellor of a community college system in South Carolina and I want you to be the interim president. But keep in mind if you're interim, under my rules, you cannot apply for the presidency." I said, "That's fine. Let me go home and talk to my husband about it." Like I really needed to do that! But you know…I just sort of…do that. And I called him back the next day and said I'd be honored to take this position, which I did. They set me up with a townhome and I was there…part of my obligation there was to conduct the search for the next president *on* campus. And it really was logistical because the selection of who would come out to campus was made at the system office with a search committee. So, I would just have to do the logistics, but I've been through these searches before and I knew what the expectation was and what you should be doing. So, logistically I did that. In the meantime, I got a call early on into my interim presidency from ACCT and the consultant said, "We've got one for you." (I'll go back to my education. I did my doctorate. That was just an aside in between all this stuff.) But anyway, she said, "We have one for you." And it was Columbus Day weekend, I think. So, I was at home an extra day. She said, "I need your

application in by tonight." Okay, so I got to town and whipped out whatever stuff they needed me to send them. A couple weeks later, well, it was more like November, I was asked to come here to interview at ACM, which I did.

MG: That was the year before I came. You started in March of 2011; I think. I started in August of that year, so I was not here for all the presidential search adventure.

Bambara: Right, right. So, I came for an interview in November. I think it was just one that I came out here for and it was the whole forums and 8,000 different interviews. The search committee was 17, but fortunately, I had some experience interviewing for these things and I figured, what do I have to lose. So, then I got called in December…it must have been mid-November…I got called early in December and was offered the position and so there was a bit of going back and forth just to make sure ducks were in a row because I told the search consultant in October, I will not leave my interim position. You have to know that if it had to start before I finish my obligation there, I don't even want to start the process. So, I did tell her that from the beginning. She said, "No, it's perfectly fine. They have an interim president who's completely flexible." I gave them my timeline. I said, "The search is on and here is my timeline. However, if the search fails here at Central, I'm going to stay on because I'm not going to cut my bridges here and then not get that position. So, I just want you to know that up front." And that was perfectly fine. They gave me all the flexibility. Well, fortunately, the timeline went just as scheduled in Central Virginia, and their new president started when I started here. So, I was able to…I think I had a week or two transition. So, that's how I got started here.

Back to the doctorate, because I didn't finish your other question about education. In 2001, I became aware of a program at Colorado State University that did require some in person, but for the most part it was done through technology. It wasn't as sophisticated as what we have today. WebCT was an online platform, and they did require that you attend in person the first Friday of every semester. So, no problem; I had no problem with air…with flying. I'm close to Dulles Airport. The only little thing that happened was that I made my first trip in August. In 2001, you know what happened in September, and I'm thinking, oh my gosh, how am I going to do this? I can't drive to Colorado every first Friday. I thought, you know, I just have to brave up and get on a plane in January, which is what I did. I went every semester that I was in that doctoral program; flew out and *never, ever* got delayed for *anything*. It's amazing. Sometimes you don't even think about that. But, in January, you sure do. I think I had something like 10 plane trips to Colorado. Fortunately, my husband was working for another company that has parks, national parks, and he became their vice president of operations, not operations, but management of the stores, retail management, and he had racked up a whole bunch of airline points. That position was earlier, but he had the points so I was able to use a lot of his points to cover my airfare. [MG: That's helpful.] Yeah. I started in 2001 and the course work finished in three years, and I actually

Colorado State University Center for the Arts

graduated in December of 2007. My dissertation took a little bit longer than expected because of the way I had my studies set up was counterintuitive to what I needed to do. It was about high-risk online students, and trying to reach them through their Blackboard, or whatever the delivery system was for that school was impossible because they had dropped out of the courses already. So, they weren't seeing it through that course system. So, the institutional researcher for the institution gave me email addresses because it was directory information, and I started emailing the list of students I had, and within three days I had enough clients…students for my study. It delayed me about six months because you have to go through human subjects again because you're changing the design of your research, and all that. Anyway, it worked out in the end and I did go out the last time to Colorado to actually participate in my graduation. That takes me up to I don't know which question.

MG: You kind of answered the second one, but I did want to ask you what attracted you to this area? Why did you want to come out here?

Bambara: Well, first of all, I got the call from the search firm, so they had recruited me. It's the same search firm we're using now. And actually, the same person who was working with me. So, they select who they think are good fits for the area. There were a lot of things that appealed to me and I think the smaller sized college was one of them. It was something that I had been comfortable with. I would not have been comfortable going to a college with 35,000, 40,000-50,000 students. Because that wasn't my fit. I was really attracted to the culture when I came here. The student centeredness really appealed to me. I don't know, it felt right, I guess you could say. My goal at that point was really to become a president. That certainly was not what I started out my doctoral program. I did that program just for myself because this is something that I can do. My oldest son was in college; my younger son was a junior in high school. It was finally a time in my life that I could take some time to myself. It was interesting. My husband said, "Why are you doing this? Because it's very time consuming. You work full-time and you spend all your extra time on your studies." I just said, "I'm just doing it for myself, you know." I never did have any aspirations to become a president. That wasn't my ultimate goal. But after working at Lord Fairfax in student services and becoming a vice president, we had a well-oiled machine, I can say, and very effective services. I felt like I had given all I could to that particular aspect of my career and I was just ready for a next step. And I don't think I had gained any confidence to become a president until the current president really encouraged me. She really mentored me along and said, "You can do this; you should do this." I don't know if she was looking to get rid of me or she really thought I could do it! [laughter]

MG: I think she really thought you could do it!

Bambara: Well, anyway, that's really what pushed me to start applying and that's what got me here.

MG: We said it in passing, when did you actually start here?

Bambara: The first day of spring 2011, March 21st. That's how I always remember.

MG: So, what time passed from when you heard you were selected president? How much time did you have?

Bambara: It was announced in early December.

MG: And then you were doing the interim…

Bambara: I was still the interim, so when I went back that's when all the search activity started. Well, that's when the *on-campus* search activity started, in January of 2011. That process wrapped up in February and we knew then what the start date of the new person was going to be and so…it was about 2 weeks earlier in March. It was interesting, I knew…I wasn't any voting member or anything, but I knew him well through my work in the Virginia community college system and he was just a really good fit for that college. I was very happy to leave it in his hands. Then, I just took 10 days, or so, before I came up here. That was to get all the logistics set. So, yes, that's how I got here.

MG: The next question I want to ask is after you started here, you know, you get some impressions before you start, so after you started as president, what were your early impressions of the campus?

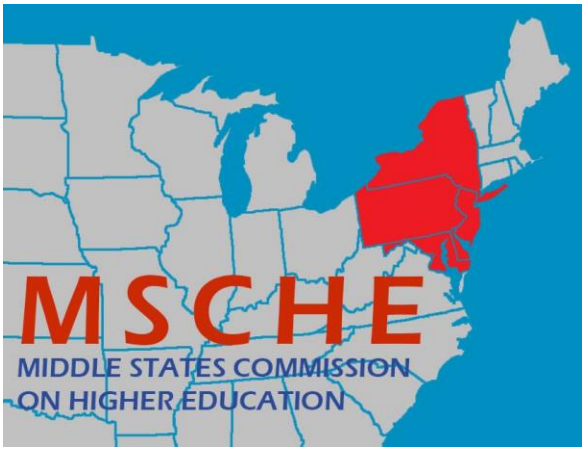
Portrait of Don Alexander that hangs in the Donald L. Alexander Library on the Cumberland campus

Bambara: It was very challenging at first because when you have a small community like this, bringing an outsider in isn't the easiest thing to adapt to. I think there were some common things. I was from Pennsylvania, so that was a good thing in terms of the campuses in Pennsylvania. I guess I felt familiar with them. I came in after a very turbulent time at the college. We had a long-standing president for 28 years in Don Alexander, and then went through a very turbulent time with a person promoted from within here at the college. There was no search, so people in the college community felt very disenfranchised. They welcomed the search, so that was a good thing. I'm the first woman president of the first five presidents and that certainly is somewhat of a challenge. But fortunately, in Maryland, there are more women presidents than there are male, and it's been that way my entire time here. [MG: That's interesting.] It's not a huge thing. We're 16 community colleges; usually you get something like 9 of those are women, or whatever.

It's very welcoming, the board was very welcoming to me and a very easy board to work with. They, I think, learned that you really do need to have some clear boundaries between what the president does and what the board does because during that turbulent period they had to step in and be more operational than a board should be. And so, they did that out of necessity, not by interfering. They had to do it.

MG: That was, again, before I came. I heard a little bit with being involved with the library folks, but I really didn't know what was going on.

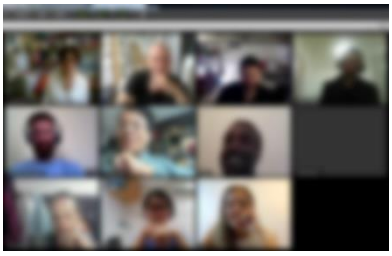
Bambara: There's a trust factor, which is natural, particularly in a small close-knit community where practically everybody is from here. So, you really had to spend some time with trust, and that doesn't happen overnight; it doesn't happen in a year. One of *my* former presidents told me, "It will take you five years until you are really accepted into the community." So, I kept that in the back of my mind all the time and said just be patient with this. There were some difficult times. There were struggles among the constituency groups here. The faculty senate challenged me a lot. I just won't go into that. All that was resolved a long time ago. There were some organizational issues and 2015, which would have been my fourth year here, we had a Middle States accreditation. And I was very active with the southern colleges and universities association, which is the accrediting body for the southern schools. When I came here, I'm in a different environment. Lord Fairfax was a SACS [Southern Association of Colleges and Schools] accredited institution. I was not familiar with the Middle States requirements. Rumor had it that things were looked at a lot easier. They weren't as strict, you would say, as SACS was. I had confidence in the people who were doing the self-study. I had to just trust that things were being done right. I wasn't involved in terms of being on accreditation teams or anything like that. And so, we got a big zap. We got put on warning, which is not a good place to be. And you were here at that time.



MG: I was here, yes.

Bambara: …on three standards, and that's one step away from probation, which is one step away from taking your accreditation away. Which means the college has to close; that can't happen. Well, I had to do some organizational changes, which were received with mixed emotions. [MG: Those kinds of things are always difficult.] They're the most difficult things you have to do…always personnel. But then we got really a strong team effort to put the things in place that we needed to get accredited, and much of it was the assessment piece. Our team here did an *amazing* job of just pulling the whole thing together and by the fall of '16 we had actually accomplished that. You really didn't have that much time. You had 18 months, or something like that, to show

improvement. So, we were able to actually get our reaffirmation in the fall of 2016. [MG: I remember everybody worked hard on that.] It was amazing. I remember walking out of here with the folks who had come back for the visit, and the waiting room out there was filled. Our board chair was there, the VPs were all there, and I had my best poker face on. I just walked right through them. They couldn't read my face for *anything*. [laughter] And I sat in the front row of the auditorium and didn't show anybody my facial expressions or anything. And when it was announced, it was a big celebration. It was probably the first big accomplishment, which was after a pretty big failure. From that point on I decided with the accreditation piece I was going to get deeply involved, not to micro manage, but it was necessary. So, I got the training to be a team member of Middle States. I encouraged all my senior leadership to get trained to be members of evaluation teams. Two years later, I was asked to chair an accreditation team. I wasn't asked just to be on a team and I had never chaired anything before, but I had some really good mentors and presidents here in Maryland who gave me a lot of good…very good guidance. I just sort of followed their game plan of how they organized their visits. So, I had my first one. I had a very good team working with me. So, my first one was in New Jersey and then my second one was in the SUNY system in New York. Unfortunately, that was in 2020, the evaluation visit. I did get to go to the school physically in the fall. But of course, everything was happening in March. This visit was scheduled for the first week of April, and you know, everything shut down. My team *completely* fell apart…completely. People were like, "I can't do this. I'm not going anywhere." Well, they were all virtual, but I had to work with the college to figure out how are we going to do this virtually. None of us had experience on Zoom or anything else. We tried their college platform and it just didn't work. We couldn't get in. It was just clumsy. And so, their Middle States liaison got a bunch of Zoom licenses and set us up. We figured out a schedule. I was still scrambling. I didn't have anybody on the assessment standards, or the pieces of the standards that dealt with assessment. I begged our liaison, I said, "Look, my executive director of institutional research is trained and he is willing." And he said, "Yes, go ahead and we'll put him on the team." And he was able to take care of that standard in that situation. Fortunately, the school was rock solid, and I think if you had a school with some major issues, it would not have been that smooth. So, we did it virtually. We were actually going to work together to do a presentation at the Middle States annual meeting. And that fell in December, but it got canceled. We did a presentation, a virtual presentation, for a group of SUNY presidents. Anyway, it turned out to be a really educational experience. Then the next one I was asked to do was all virtual. That was one in Pennsylvania. And the one I just finished was just absolutely an incredible experience. It was Williamson College of the Trades. They were going for their first



Williamson College of the Trades

affirmation…they were applying; they were a candidate school. It's just a fascinating school. It's six trades, low income, all male between 18 and…they have to be age 20…that's the latest age to enroll. Single…there's a whole bunch of parameters enrollment…completely residential, and then they go into one of the trades. The student's tuition is completely covered: tuition, fees, books, because these are low-income students, and the founding father of the college wanted to help low-income students in the Philadelphia region. [MG: What was the name of the school?] Williamson College of the Trades…Just a fascinating experience, and I had four others on my team, which typically you get one member for each standard. And I pushed back. I said, "Can't I have at least another evaluator?" "Nope. It's a small school." "But there are still seven standards." That didn't carry any weight. But we did it and two of them had no experience evaluating. They were familiar with Middle States because they had gone through the accreditation themselves. But anyway, we ended up with a really strong team and they stuck with it, attended every meeting that we had in preparation. And Michael on the Middle States team, there were horror stories that they'd into the night, like the night before the report. I always had my people done by 7:00 because we did so much prep ahead of time. Then, all we had to do was clean up our report and decide what our report (?) was going to be. That's been just a really highlight…because there's a question in here about goals. But once 2015 rolled around, I don't know that these were original goals, but I had to learn the institution, but there were two things that I wanted to accomplish, and one was the renovation of the theatre, and the second one was to be reaffirmed with flying colors, and we did with this last visit because we had bench strength on…we had something like seven evaluators leading up to the visit. So those seven trained evaluators were really able to mentor the teams along for each of the standards. They knew what was to be expected. So that helped, I think, a tremendous amount.

MG: So, why did you choose the theatre as one of your goals? I could probably figure…

Bambara: You could probably guess, but my husband has a theater degree, my older son has an MFA in theater and an undergrad in theater. His bachelor's is from James Madison University; his master's is from Virginia Commonwealth. My younger son has a theater degree from the College of William & Mary. And so, that was kind of important to me.

MG: I knew that answer, but I figured for this interview, I would…

Bambara: The theatre was not eligible for state funding and David Jones worked hand in glove with me to do whatever it took to finally come through with the monies. There were multiple sources of grant funding to get that theatre.

MG: So, why wasn't it eligible for state funding?

Bambara: Because we do not have an academic program that's associated with the theatre. [MG: Ah, okay.] For the space, it has to be an academic program or…they waffle on the non-credit side, but we'll be able to get state funding to do our continuing education building at some point.

MG: David's a great guy for helping with things like that.

Bambara: He always has a great team of grant writers with him.

MG: Yes. Well, that's great, that's great. That theatre is beautiful.

Corrections Workforce Training Center

Bambara: Yeah. That's probably my proudest accomplishment with the facilities of piece of it. We have gotten a lot of improvements on our facilities to get the workforce training center for corrections built from ground up. In some ways, the pandemic was a very tragic experience for many people who lost lives, but for us with facilities, it expedited so many projects because our state didn't restrict the construction activities like some states did in the early portions of the pandemic. And so, we were able to get the corrections building done; we were able to get the tech building finished, which there were plans to get that building done when I got here, and it swirled; nothing happened. When the next VP of finance came along, things started to roll along and then with the current VP of finance, things got done. We were finally able to get that building finished. I think it's a lot to be proud of in that particular building for all of us. There's a lot of really high-tech features…

Tech Building

MG: It's a little confusing navigating that building, but it does have some beautiful resources. From the rooms I've been in, it's impressive.

Courtroom

Bambara: Yep. The courtroom and the Anatomage Table…

MG: Now that, I haven't seen. I would love to see that in person.

Bambara: That's fabulous. They have one in science, too. When someone listens to this 20 years later it's going to be funny, because that's going to be like "old" technology, but it's new here. I think the courthouse is so cool, and, of course, the sim labs are always great.

Anatomage Table

MG: Yeah, I've seen a lot of photos of those rooms.

Bambara: (?) and whatever. I know this is going to sound funny 20 years from now.

Respiratory Therapy Sim Lab

MG: Some of the ones we listened to from the 1970s are pretty funny now.

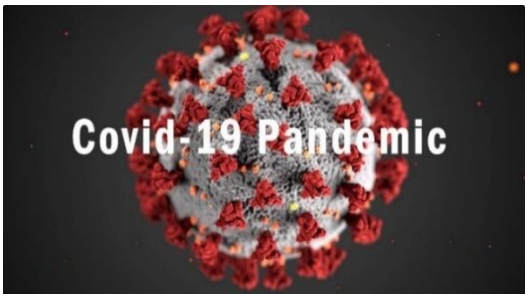
Bambara: Well, that's progress. That's all I can say.

MG: Exactly. Is there anything that you're hoping, like maybe that you didn't *quite* get done, that you're hoping the next president would work on. Or are you happy with the way things are? Although we were mentioning about other buildings and things.

Bambara: I think that was one thing that prompted my, well, there were a lot of things that prompted my retirement, but I had these goals; my two big goals were getting the theatre done and coming full steam with Middle States accreditation. And both those things were accomplished, and I'm thinking…they happened around the same time last year in '23…and I thought, "Well, let me think about this." So, I was thinking about it and thinking about it. This was from about the time the accreditation was complete, the theatre was finished, and then I started looking forward to say, "Okay, I'm finished here; those goals have been met, and it's time for some fresh eyes, you know, to see what is the next step look like. Plus, I have a few other things. I have a new grandbaby in

Chicago and that takes a little extra time to arrange to go…It'll give me some time to do some of the things that I haven't been able to do over the last 13-1/2, 14 years.

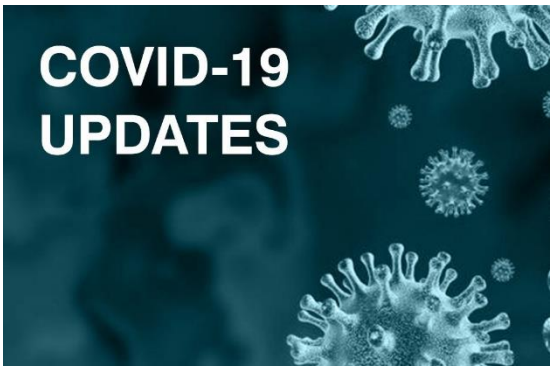
MG: We've talked about so many of these things. Have there been other big challenges that you've overcome that you haven't mentioned?



Bambara: The pandemic was definitely the biggest challenge. But, on the other hand, it was a really, really great experience. I know, I was on campus every day during the pandemic and so were most of the vice presidents, and we quickly learned how to do Zooms and meet virtually. I was alone in this building.

MG: That would be kind of creepy being the only one in the building…

Bambara: It was very secure, you know…And actually, my assistant did come in and we just stayed in separate areas, and she did a lot of work organizing things in our storage area and our files. I was mostly on Zooms figuring out what does the next day look like. I can't say enough about my team; they were just amazing. We had to solve problems together. David's team did amazing work with communication. They did all the research for whatever communication I needed to put out. They put it together for me because I just didn't have time…I didn't have time to do what they could do. And what they could do, they could do that virtually, too. So, they had a great team of writers and helping me with the communication to the college community.



MG: One thing I appreciated is that we were paid through the time that the college was closed. That was very much appreciated by me and a lot of other people.

Bambara: That was priority. It was already budgeted, and we were back on campus by the time the fiscal year ended. You know, there was this varied telework policy which we had to throw together, literally. [MG: I did some teleworking from home during that time.] Right. I think a lot of people did as far as stay up with email and things like that. I mean, obviously, there's a lot that can't get done. But we were able to finish out all the academic programs. We figured out how to do a virtual graduation. I can't even think of all the things. In retrospect, you say, that was kind of…I hate to say fun, but it was because it was different. [MG: It was an adventure.] It was an adventure. And I think we navigated it…people from the community said we navigated it well. I think we did, too. We had very few incidents on campus in terms of outbreaks. Everybody was very respectful and followed the rules. And that was helpful.

MG: Although, I must say, I know it was a necessary evil, but having to sign in every building where you went. People did not like signing into the library. Some people would walk right past the table there.

Bambara: I forgot about that part. But you had to be able to track the cases. [MG: Exactly.] We followed the governor and whatever the CDC was telling us. Most people were respectful with things like that, particularly when we brought students back on campus. We were able to finish out all the academic programs. For some of them we had to go to the summer to finish out because they couldn't…when everything was shut down, they just couldn't do things like auto tech and the dental hygiene. The nurses had finished their clinicals, fortunately. So, they just had their didactic work to do toward the end of the semester. So that was very helpful since we have such a large population of nursing students. Everyone else was able to complete, so we were fortunate about that. And then there was time over the summer to train the faculty on online learning; those who hadn't been trained; and then design the hybrid types of classes that we had.

MG: Actually, those hybrid classes, too, kind of benefit the future. That's the way things are being done.

Bambara: That's right. There was a lot that we developed during that time that are very helpful now.

MG: You already covered some like the improvements that you've seen at the college. You've been talking about that. One of the questions I do want to ask is as part of your job, how do you go about promoting the college? Did you do like speaking engagements? Was there anything formal, or was it more informal?

Bambara: I think in my first couple years, I was asked to speak at different clubs and organizations. But I think mostly it was being involved in the community organizations because I was on the Chamber board over my time…I'd have to look at my resume on the sequencing of things. [looks at resume] So, I was a member of the Rotary Club immediately. One of our trustees made sure that I didn't…I was a Rotarian in Virginia and I immediately became involved here. In 2014, I didn't realize, but I was bumped up on the list to become the president of the club, and served on the board of directors for 11 years, I think it was. I was invited to the Greater Cumberland Committee because I was asked to chair the education group…education workforce. And that led me to become a member of that board. The Cumberland Economic Development Council I was invited to become a member of. Things like that. Just getting involved in community organizations, and then of course, the Middle States work. That's not

necessarily specific to this local community, but it is very relevant to the world that we live in in higher education. I became active in the Maryland Council of Community College Presidents and served as the chair for whatever term it was…2 years. And as an incoming member on that board, I served on that board for 5 or 6 years because you become a member…they select people from different sized colleges to be part of the executive committee. And then eventually you chair the president's group, also. Anyway, there's just a lot of things that way. I was on the Western Maryland Advisory Committee. Anyway, those kind of community things that are typical of what presidents do is what I was involved in.

MG: Now, going to switch gears here a little bit. The idea for this interview came from…there's a community person that Barb and I talked to, and she thought more women should be interviewed for these and that is kind of what sparked this. The a few of these next questions are geared toward that. I was just wondering if in any of your positions if you faced any kind of discrimination because you are a woman.

Bambara: I think in…I can't say this for a fact…but I think in some of my interviews in North Carolina and the *southern* part of Virginia at that time, it was not commonplace to have a woman in leadership. Not as the president…academic leadership, perhaps, student services leadership. So, I think there was something of a glass ceiling there in southern conservative areas. That's probably the most that I could think of. I never felt it in my role at Lord Fairfax, or any other role for that matter. I never felt it in those…those were common roles for women to be in; the helping, nurturing fields.

MG: And I hope you never had anybody here…

Bambara: I didn't. I think in Maryland there's a different climate for women. I know that there are now there are a number of women. It just took time to evolve, there are a number of women in positions in the southern part of Virginia and North Carolina. Some of those things take time culturally to come to acceptance.

MG: This next one I want to mention about an article I saw in the *Chronicle of Higher Education* last year. They shared the results from the American Council on Education's survey of presidents. Women make up only 32.8 percent of presidencies, although that's up a little bit from 2016 when it was 30.1 percent. What do you think can be done to encourage/attract more women to go for presidencies?

Bambara: I mean, I think that any kind of leadership development program that they can go through would be helpful. I think talking…you can find a woman mentor. I think

that would be very helpful, too. And I would think most women presidents are willing to do that if you locate one. I know before I came here, one of my former presidents introduced me to a woman who was president at one of the schools here in Maryland and arranged for me to talk with her, and just to learn a little bit more about the system. It may have been one or two conversations, but still, I just think that kind of thing would be helpful.

MG: Have you had the opportunity to encourage anybody?

Bambara: I have. I have mentored some women here on campus, so it's been more local than anything. One thing that I did for the group that I help, trying to mentor along…back in November I was asked to speak to a woman's leadership summit that was organized by the federal prison warden, so these were all women in leadership roles in the federal prison system. Unfortunately, that morning we had a trickle of snow, so those from the outer areas were afraid to come to Western Maryland. We had like a quarter of an inch, you know. It didn't even require plowing, whatever. It scared off some of those from the downstate area. But I had prepared a presentation for them. They asked me to be the keynote for their leadership conference on the difference between men and women leaders, and how important it is to have a mix on your team. Neither one is good or bad, but it's just different. So, I took that presentation and we met on a Friday afternoon for what I call professional development. It was just about two hours at my house and I went through that presentation with them to just give them some background and understanding of what different leader styles are. It's just not the style, but just the difference of perspective between the genders. So, that's just one example of an activity that we've done. And then there's been a lot of one-on-one conversations, impromptu, when it's asked for…just to maintain relationships. So, I guess the answer is, yes.

MG: Do you have any words of encouragement? Say, a young woman is listening to this interview…do you have any words of encouragement for young women, or even older women.

Bambara: I would just say that don't think your gender needs to be a factor; it does not. I think it's more the development of your skills that will lead to your success. I think one of the more important things is not thinking of yourself better than anybody else because you are the president. I think you need to keep your arrogance at bay…at checkpoint. And treat yourself just like everyone else at the institution. Not that you treat yourself in a way that you're not a leader. You do have to do certain things as a leader that are distinct, obviously. But I think you always have to do…the difficult things are personnel. I tell you, that's the most difficult things, and probably the second most difficult is trying to solve budget problems. And fortunately, we've not been terribly

challenged during my time here, except for this year, and we've gotten…we're in a situation where we're not getting flat funded by the county and that impacts our state funding, and that's difficult. But we've managed to balance our budget, but sometimes you can't do what you'd like to do in circumstances like that…

MG: And I guess you can't let that get your frustrated and impact other things.

Bambara: Right, right. You just have to stay optimistic for everyone else. Because, if you're not optimistic…Our institutional research office prepared a report for me that I requested to say can you prepare some statistics of what's really improved at the college since my time here. And one of the areas…you know we do Great Colleges to Work For surveys and employee surveys. The one on the Great Colleges that I think I'm most proud of is confidence in senior leadership. When we started that survey in 2015, we've had a 71.4% improvement. Another one was compensation practices. I can remember, and I know by name, a particular faculty member who always raises the question in my open forums in this position, "What am [I] going to do about compensation? Do you realize we're the lowest paid faculty in the state?" I didn't know that at the time, but…I don't remember how I responded. Probably something like, "Well, I'll have to take a look at what that is and what can be done about it." Well, in terms of full-time employee wages, we've increased, since 2012, 20.5%. Which isn't what we'd really like it to be…those are faculty salaries…Obviously, enrollment hasn't been one of those positive areas, but it's been a trend nationwide. But, in the last three years…we did quite well during the pandemic, and it's because of one of our programs. We've lost pockets in every program, except for the LPN to RN online program. We've just grown leaps and bounds and it absolutely saved our enrollment during the pandemic. We had losses, but not to the extent of some colleges. Ours were low single digits that we'd lost during that time. That program really balanced out some of the others, which now we've caught up with everything prior to the pandemic levels. But during my entire tenure here, the student population has declined, and that has been the case across the country. [MG: I've seen some pretty sad statistics at other colleges.] Yeah. Our graduation rate's improved 15%; our retention improved 8%. So, we've got some…there's some invisible things you don't see as far as efforts. We got a Title III grant to improve academic advising, which is going to help your student retention. We have a very successful TRiO program, which also, I know it's a select population, but extraordinary success rates. [MG: That is a wonderful program.] Yep. Extraordinary rates. Yep. I think there's a lot to be proud of here. And I think the other thing on the employee survey, "moral in my department is high" has improved 28.3%; "compensation practices"

improved on the survey 28%. So, there are some things…150%, graduation improved by 15%. It's not one thing or one person, and I think that's something that I would leave you with. When you're in this role, it's not about you at all. It's about how strong a leadership team you can build, and that they do their jobs effectively. That is probably the biggest accomplishment because when you have a strong leadership team, the college moves forward. [MG: Yeah, 'cause you can't do everything yourself.] You can't do everything yourself and it's simply letting them do their jobs and not interfering with their operations, and our board has been absolutely fabulous about not interfering with my operational responsibilities. They definitely have clear lines of their responsibilities and mine. That's, from the schools that I've visited for accreditation visits, the one thing that I've been…I generally take Standard 7 if I need to be on the lead on a standard because it's governance, and what you find sometimes there is board interference with operations. So, on my initial visits to the school, I really, when I visit with the trustees, I really hone in on that that this is extraordinarily important that you do not involve yourselves in operations. At my last school, it was difficult because they all came from the respective trades that they offer at the school. They were owners of businesses and I just didn't want them to get tripped up on that, so I really made it absolutely clear on my visit how important it was for them to hone in on that standard. And then the people I was talking to, the leadership, asked me, "What should we be doing with the trustees." And I said, "Just review Standard 7 in detail with them, so that they *all* know what to expect." I've been fortunate there to really have a wonderful board. We don't have terms, so we've got some long-standing board members, and we have a lot of new ones over the course of time. It's a wonderful board who knows what their role is…and I think that's really important. And something important for aspiring presidents to really be keen on when they're interviewing, and make sure they choose a school where there's no operational interference.

Kim Leonard, Chair
Board of Trustees
Allegany College of
Maryland

MG: Now, for the fun question. You had mentioned it a little bit earlier, I'm going to ask you about what your plans are for after you retire. I know you mentioned your grandson. I'm sure you'll be spoiling him.

Bambara: Well, I do already spoil him. And I don't know if I'd necessarily be visiting him any more because I'm not planning on moving to Chicago; not now or any time soon.

MG: Are you going to stay in this area?

Bambara: Well, I think my first things to do are to get my house organized; all the things I haven't had time to do. And, you know, I love to cook and bake, and so I'll try some recipes that take some time that I never had time to do. But I do want to get my house organized, and we'll likely move to the Winchester, Virginia area at some point within the next five years because my older son and his wife live there, but also there's

Old Town Winchester

great medical facilities. And a more practical point, I want a house all on one floor. Right now, my house is three levels, and I did look for one when I was buying a house, but I wasn't able to find what I wanted on a single floor. And so, I thought that I'd just deal with that later…which is later now. [laughter] That's one reason…I know as you age, that is important; your structures in your house, and whatever. [MG: Yeah. I have two stories and a basement, and I know with my knees...] Yeah. And, of course, I'll continue with the grandson visits. As he…he'll be a year old in two weeks and we are going out for his birthday. As he is older, of course, when you have infants, you don't travel as much, but they've traveled all over with him. He's been to Los Angeles; he's been to San Diego; he's been to DC…and Texas. They travel all over with him. So, they'll come here more frequently. They're coming for our 50th wedding anniversary at the end of August. They will come in for whatever activities there are around my retirement later on in the fall. So, I'll just have more flexibility to go when I want to go and around different family milestones. But technology today is absolutely wonderful. My son and daughter-in-law facetime with us almost daily, so he recognizes us just from the facetimes. At the June visit we had…it was the weekend after Father's Day…and when he saw me, when we first got into their apartment, he reached out and said, "Nananana." So that was like…He's babbling away. He's a big babbler. [MG: That's great.] He's not walking yet, but he's crawling. There's a lot of developmental, exciting developmental things with him…I do have to get my house organized because…when we left Virginia…my husband…I was here working and he was there. He was a teacher in Virginia and there were things going on with the school system. He was a special ed teacher and they weren't hiring at the time, so he stayed with his job in Virginia. But he just cleaned house, literally. I mean, he just cleaned the basement out and we had Legos from the time when boys were like three years old, and on up…tubs and tubs of Legos that he took to my nieces and nephews' children in Pennsylvania and things like that. It's just an organizational thing that you have to decide what do I keep and what do I get rid of.

MG: Is there anything else you want to talk about?

Bambara: I think I talked about everything. [laughter]

MG: I think we covered just about everything.

Bambara: Thank you.

MG: You're welcome. Thank *you* very for your time.

Bambara: My pleasure. That's my…this will be funny in 20 years. That's my cue to say what I'm going to do after retirement is I'm going to work for Chick-fil-A and say "my pleasure" all the time. [laughter]

MG: Well, thank you. We appreciate it.

Bambara: You're welcome.

PHOTO CREDITS:

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Experiences in Renovating an Old House – Glenora Plantation House
Interview with Rosemary D'Atri
Interviewer: Tawny McKay

TM: What is your name?

D'Atri: Rosemary D'Atri.

TM: And your age?

D'Atri: Forty.

TM: How long have you lived in Cumberland?

D'Atri: I've lived in Cumberland for thirty-nine years.

TM: Where in Cumberland do you live?

D'Atri: Right now, we live on the Valley Rd.

TM: How long have you lived here?

D'Atri: I've lived on the Valley Rd. for about thirty-eight years.

TM: How long have you lived in your present home?

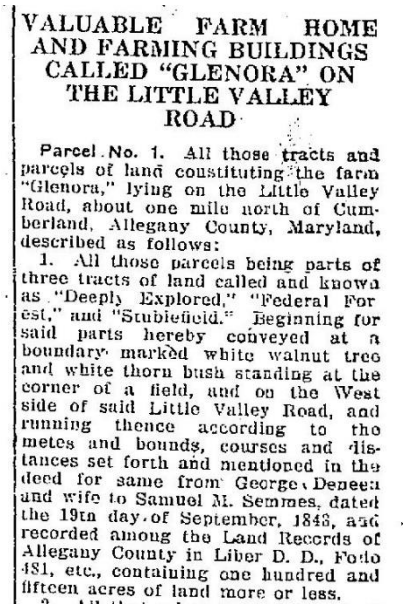
D'Atri: Right now, we've lived in this house approximately five years.

TM: How long did you own the property before you moved in, before you did any of the renovations or anything?

D'Atri: We bought the property four and a half years before we moved in; it took four and a half years to do the remodeling.

TM: And how old is the house?

D'Atri: Well, we went up to the courthouse to look back; and my husband and daughter went over, and they went back in all the records. They got back to the early 1800s, and it started to be in the fancy quill writing—and they couldn't read it any longer. So, we're hoping to go back--



VALUABLE FARM HOME AND FARMING BUILDINGS CALLED "GLENORA" ON THE LITTLE VALLEY ROAD

Parcel No. 1. All those tracts and parcels of land constituting the farm "Glenora," lying on the Little Valley Road, about one mile north of Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland, described as follows:

1. All those parcels being parts of three tracts of land called and known as "Deeply Explored," "Federal Forest," and "Stubblefield." Beginning for said parts hereby conveyed at a boundary marked white walnut tree and white thorn bush standing at the corner of a field, and on the West side of said Little Valley Road, and running thence according to the metes and bounds, courses and distances set forth and mentioned in the deed for same from George Deneen and wife to Samuel M. Semmes, dated the 19th day of September, 1843, and recorded among the Land Records of Allegany County in Liber D. D., Folio 481, etc., containing one hundred and fifteen acres of land more or less.

Samuel Semmes bought the property that the D'Atri house is on in 1843 & 1846, and then built the house sometime after that.

they're going to put all the court records on microfilm, and we're hoping to go back and read it before they do that.

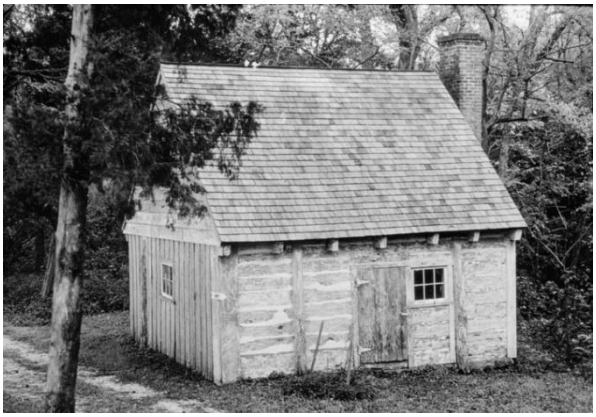
TM: What did the house look like the day that you bought it?

D'Atri: Well, when we bought it, the house had been empty, and it was--the whole inside was destroyed. At one time, it was beautiful inside, but when we bought it, it had remained empty for two years; the windows were knocked out, the whole inside was full of garbage and litter, and the kids had run through and torn out anything that was of any value. Broken down the walnut staircase—it was just completely a mess.

TM: Was there any other buildings besides just the house here?

D'Atri: Yes. When we bought it, the house had twenty-three rooms in it--but two stories of the upper section of the house were completely ruined; we had to tear off eight rooms: four on the third story and four on the second story. It had a bay window over top of what is now our garage, and that was completely destroyed. The house at one time had, I imagine, several—maybe eight or ten—buildings to it, because at one time it had been a plantation. But when we bought it, it was a twenty-three room house then; but we've torn eight of the rooms off, and remodeled the inside so that now there are three floors, but there are only nine rooms.

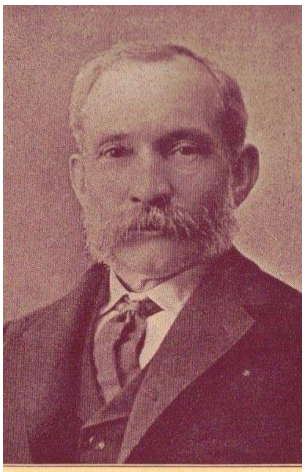
TM: What's the building right now that's to the right of your garage?


Example of slave quarters in Maryland

D'Atri: That is the old slave quarters; it's the oldest part of the building. At one time—you can see it had two fireplaces, on either end, and it has a dirt floor. And when this was a plantation, that's where they did the cooking; that was the old slave kitchen. But women slaves were kept in the basement; and the men were kept up the road about—I would say a quarter of a mile. And at one time, they were kept in a building out there, shackled. And the building caught on fire. We've learned this through people that we have talked to that owned the house before us—they have gone back. And this summer, a boy from the University of Maryland came; and he is doing a research paper on the house. He started it the summer before last, and didn't get it finished because he was going through the University of Maryland and working with a federal program here to get the history of the Cumberland area. And our house had gone back so far that he dropped it the previous summer, and took it up again this past summer. He is supposed to send me the history of it when he gets it compiled.

TM: How did he find out about the house?

D'Atri: Through the courthouse; someone at the courthouse told him about it, and he came out and took pictures and asked if I would give him an interview, and tell him who he could look up. And he asked if I knew there were any people living that had had the house before—and I sent him to Colonel Millholland, because Colonel Millholland's family owned it at one time. [Editor's note: James A. Millholland owned the property.]



JAMES A. MILLHOLLAND

TM: How many floors does the house have?

D'Atri: Right now, three floors.

TM: What was it originally?

D'Atri: The house was originally built by the first admiral of the Navy of the United States--and I think, going back that far, he must have only had one or two ships--because they have traced it back to a land grant, given to the admiral. At one time it encompassed hundreds of acres. The plantation itself, when it was a land grant, was given, I guess, by the government to this admiral, and it had hundreds of acres; but now it's down to where we only have two acres right now. And part of it is—what is now Schaidt's Farm was part of it, over at Northeast School, that section was part of it, and half of the Valley Rd. at one time belonged to the plantation. [Editor's note: unable to verify any admiral of the US Navy received a land grant. See appendix for information about the actual land grant and who received it.]

Area off of Valley Road that was the location of Glenora. Up the hill is Northeast Elementary School. The house is on the right. The plantation was broken up into at least 150 lots and sold. The house now has a Forest Avenue address since the lots in front that are on Valley Road were sold off.

But after he sold it--I don't know exactly, in history, of all the names that have had it-- but it's been a hospital during the war, during World War II it was an orphanage—and back when I was a little girl, that's what it was then, an orphanage. It has been an inn, it's been an apartment house--previous to our buying it, it had been an apartment house. And this is where most of the rooms were destroyed, because when we bought it, the original rooms were broken up into—some of them, there were three rooms and a bath into one room that had been originally here.

TM: Before you moved in, when was the last time anybody had lived in it?

D'Atri: I think it sat empty for about 2½ to three years before we bought it; I think that was the last date.

TM: That garden out front—is that yours, or is it…?

D'Atri: No, it was at one time part of the plantation, but it was sold off; there's a nursery out there now, and it doesn't belong to our land.

TM: Whenever you were cleaning it out and everything when you first bought it, did you find anything valuable, or anything old?

D'Atri: Not that anybody would consider valuable. Of course, these walls have large timber in them, so one of the reasons we didn't tear it down…we originally had planned to *burn* it down, and just bought it for the land itself, until we had a carpenter come in and told us we could no way replace the value of the wood that was in it. And so, we decided to renovate it instead of tearing it down. But people came when we were tearing out, and they would pick up the nails, because it has the flat-head nails that they'd made—there were handmade nails in it. And a lot of people stopped that had lived in it during the years, and would take pictures, and they came back and wanted pieces of…of what was originally in the house. At one time the house had marble fireplaces, Italian marble, but vandals had gone through and taken anything they could get their hands on, and they broke all of the marble out of the fireplaces. When we bought it, every room had a fireplace in it, because of course at one time it was an inn. And it had the bell system set up down in the basement where they kept the slaves; they had a line system set up to each room where they could pull a bell—each room pulled a bell and it was set up that whoever was in the basement could tell which room needed service. And people had come in and taken that. While we were renovating it--it had copper drain spouts and drain all around it, and while we were renovating it, vandals—or thieves, whatever you want to call them—came in, and they stole the copper. Anybody was taking anything out of the house before we got it, because it had been open for so long.

Example of an Italian marble fireplace

TM: Did you make any changes, like in the structure of the house—like, you know, to change anything?

D'Atri: Yes, we had to because it was set up where it had a winding stairway going up the back; it was set up at one time, of course, for an inn, and it was an orphanage and

everything—and it wasn't feasible to live with a stairway going up the back of the house like that. So, we had to make changes in the entrance of the house—it formerly faced the road going to Northeast School; we have the entrance now facing the Valley Rd. We had to build a different porch on, and we had to put the roof on. Everything that was replaced, while we were replacing it, we had to decide what would be a better way to live in it. And of course, we had to put all the baths in it--it had several baths; because it was an inn, it had one on each floor, but they weren't in the places that we wanted them. So, we had to change all of that.

TM: Have you ever talked to anyone that was affiliated with the house—you know, that ever lived in it, like, as an orphan, or…?

D'Atri: Yes. The fact is, when we were working on it, and about two months after we moved into it, it seemed the news spread that we were renovating it. And we had several people come to the door, and want to come in, that had lived here before. And still people come and take pictures of it. I know Col. Millholland's sister—she's a nun and lives in North Carolina now—she bought an estate down there, but at one time she was thinking of buying back the family home and renovating it. So, when she came into town, she was interested in it and she came out and took pictures; she was very glad somebody had bought her home place and renovated it.

Release of Girl Will Be Sought

Release of a 14-year-old girl from the Valley road emergency home for juveniles will be sought at a habeas corpus hearing next week.

Associate Judge William A. Huster directed that a habeas corpus be served upon Harry Balch to show cause why the girl should not be released from the emergency home, with a hearing set for 10 a. m. Friday, November 21.

Julius E. Schindler, attorney for the petitioner, said the girl had been sentenced to a state institution in juvenile court for non-school attendance.

Old newspaper article about a girl who was being held at the orphanage/home for juveniles

But we've had several people who had come here when it was an apartment house, and they wanted to see what it looked like now. We had one couple who had spent the first two months of their honeymoon here in an apartment, and they wanted to see what we had done with the section of the house that was their apartment. We've also had people come who had been here when it was an orphanage; and according to what they have told us, whoever had the orphanage at that time must not have been the best of people, because the people who come to us now and tell what happened to them when it was an orphanage say that they were badly treated. And I wasn't on the property the day a boy came—well, he wasn't a boy, he's a man now, but he'd been here as an orphan—and he must have been from one to ten when he was here; I don't know how many years exactly it was an orphanage, I think about five years it was an orphanage. But the man who tends the nursery down here, runs the nursery right in front of us, he said that the boy came and wanted to know if he could give him any advice or how to locate the man that ran the orphanage. Of course, he couldn't do that, and he asked him why—and he said he had been here as an orphan and he wanted to meet up, now that he was a man, with the man who ran it because he had been so mistreated.

TM: Are there any other stories that you've heard about it, like ghosts or anything?

D'Atri: Yes. Of course, any property that sits empty like that, of course the neighborhood children are going to say that they get spooked and haunted. And we heard this before we bought it—but we have had occasion since we have lived here to believe that there is some kind of a spirit, or several spirits, in the house. We have six children—we had six living here when we moved, now one of them is married and gone—but they have all seen the children that were in the house. I don't know what period of time they were--they can tell you how they're dressed. We have thought about having someone come in and see if they can find out what the spirits are; but it's always children. We have three sons and three daughters, and they only one who hasn't seen it is our youngest one, who's only nine.

Area at the bottom of Forest Avenue that was once a part of Glenora Plantation.

Now, the oldest one's twenty-one, and it seems that…the house is in two different sections: there is a wooden part of the house and there is a stone part. Now, this is not the stone part that is the brick, that was the slave quarters--this is a different stone part. And evidently the stone part is a later period—because we had the house stripped down; and everyone had thought the stone part was the oldest part of the house until we stripped the house down—the walls—and there are windows in the wooden part where the stone part butts up to it. So that's how we know that the wooden part is the oldest, and they put the stone on later.

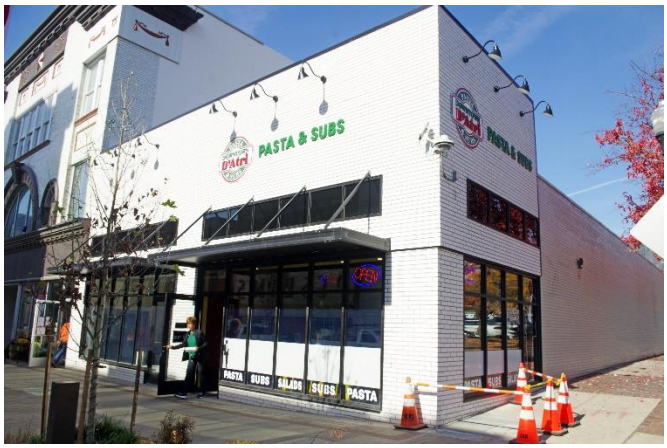
Northeast Elementary Schools sits on land that was part of Glenora Plantation.

It's odd…they have seen something, we know this; I mean, five children of that age cannot say that they've seen something and you don't believe it—I mean, especially when you get up at four o'clock in the morning, and your oldest one's standing by your bed describing what he's just seen. And it's always children, but it is never seen in the stone part of the house; it's always seen in the wooden part of the house. And if we ever get the chance, we're going to have someone—a psychic—come in. In fact, a friend of ours knows a psychic who is in Europe now, and this is what he does: he goes to different places, and he's doing this for part of his college work too; he goes to different places—and when he comes back to the United States, he will come here and stay. But I think he has to stay for a couple of days, maybe a week.

TM: Do the ghosts ever talk?

D'Atri: Yes. They have talked to one of our daughters. In fact, one of them warned her about something; we don't know what they were warning, but they kept repeating her name and warning her. But we've just had several experiences. There has to be something in the house.

TM: Your husband and yourself also own a family business; when did you begin your business?



D'Atri's on Columbia Street moved to a brand-new restaurant in Downtown Cumberland in October 2024.

D'Atri: Our first business we started approximately ten years ago. And it was on Columbia St., a sandwich shop. And then three years ago, we decided to branch out and go into a restaurant and bakery; my husband's grandfather and *his* grandfather before him had been bakers, and they had a bakery at one time in Mount Savage and in the Cumberland area years and years ago, an Italian bakery. And my husband decided to go into the bakery business because we use--all of our Italian rolls that go into our sandwich shop at our restaurant, we do all of our baking for that, so therefore he had to branch out. So, he bought a building in LaVale, it used to be Brunner's Doughnut House, and he transformed it into a bakery, and it has a motel and a restaurant.

TM: How did you come to start in the food business instead of something else—was it because of his grandfathers, or…?

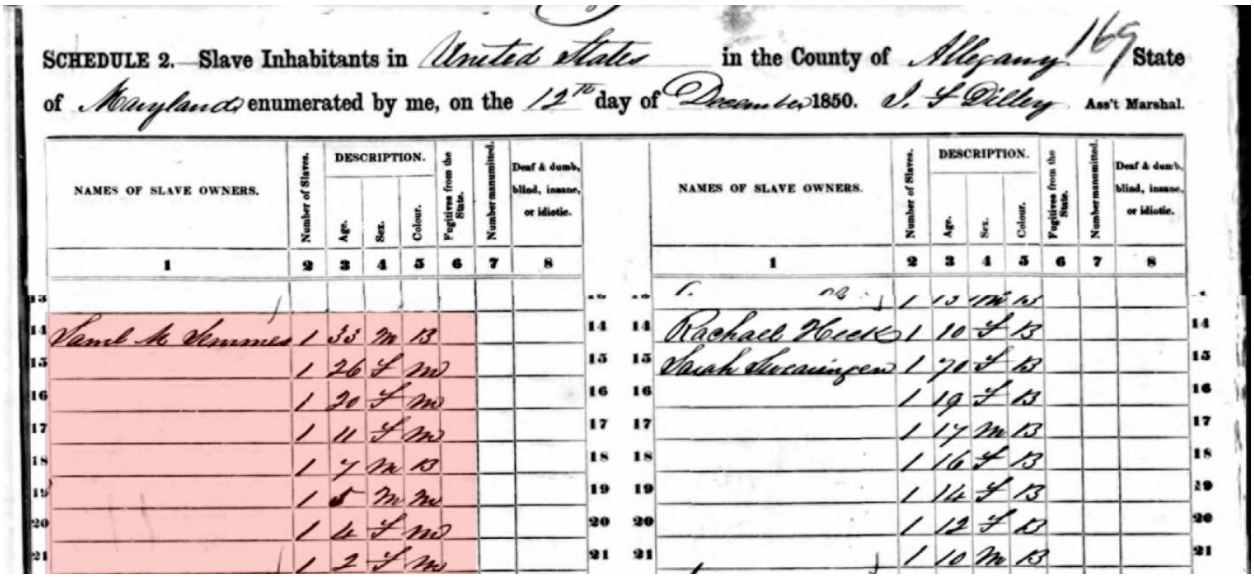
D'Atri: No, at the time we started into the food business we had talked about it for years, of going into making pizzas—because at home we always made pizza. This was before there was any pizza shop at all in Cumberland, we talked about it. Then I went back to school, and we had five children. And the year that I graduated from college my husband decided that he was secure enough, with me able to help, that he could start a business--because he had formerly worked at the Kelly--and he decided that he was secure enough then. It's a big step, you know, to quit your job and take over a business. And with my background in teaching then, he decided to go ahead and start a business; so therefore, he opened the business on Columbia St.

TM: Do you plan to expand your business any further?

D'Atri: We don't have any plans at the present. Possibly our oldest son, who has the bakery now, he may expand later. Right now…we have no plans at the moment. But our oldest son may.

TM: Ok. Thank you very much for talking with me today.

D'Atri: You're welcome.



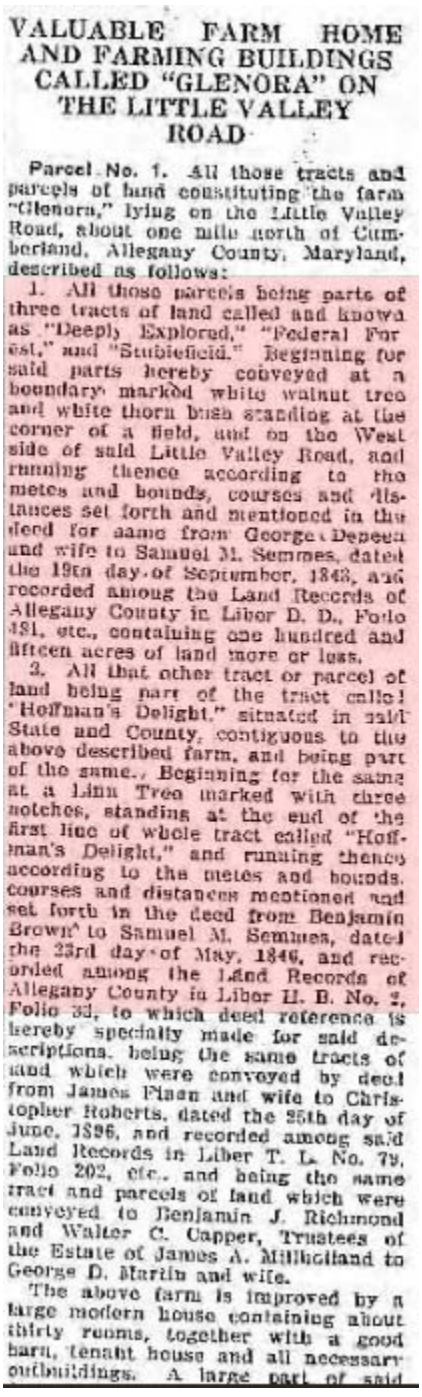
SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in United States in the County of Allegany 165 State of Maryland enumerated by me, on the 12th day of December, 1850. J. F. Dilley Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Saml. M. Semmes	1	55	M	B			
	1	26	F	Mo			
	1	20	F	Mo			
	1	11	F	Mo			
	1	7	M	B			
	1	5	M	Mo			
	1	4	F	Mo			
	1	2	F	Mo			

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
[illegible]	1	13	[illegible]				
Rachael Hecks	1	10	F	B			
Sarah Cummings	1	70	F	B			
	1	19	F	B			
	1	17	M	B			
	1	16	F	B			
	1	14	F	B			
	1	12	F	B			
	1	10	M	B			

1850 slave schedule showing Samuel Semmes' (owner of Glenora Plantation) slaves with age and sex

APPENDIX
INFORMATION ON SAMUEL SEMMES, OWNER OF GLENORA PLANTATION



VALUABLE FARM HOME AND FARMING BUILDINGS CALLED "GLENORA" ON THE LITTLE VALLEY ROAD

Parcel No. 1. All those tracts and parcels of land constituting the farm "Glenora," lying on the Little Valley Road, about one mile north of Cumberland, Allegany County, Maryland, described as follows:

1. All those parcels being parts of three tracts of land called and known as "Deeply Explored," "Federal Forest," and "Stubblefield." Beginning for said parts hereby conveyed at a boundary marked white walnut tree and white thorn bush standing at the corner of a field, and on the West side of said Little Valley Road, and running thence according to the metes and bounds, courses and distances set forth and mentioned in the deed for same from George Deneen and wife to Samuel M. Semmes, dated the 19th day of September, 1843, and recorded among the Land Records of Allegany County in Liber D. D., Folio 481, etc., containing one hundred and fifteen acres of land more or less.

3. All that other tract or parcel of land being part of the tract called "Hoffman's Delight," situated in said State and County, contiguous to the above described farm, and being part of the same. Beginning for the same at a Linn Tree marked with three notches, standing at the end of the first line of whole tract called "Hoffman's Delight," and running thence according to the metes and bounds, courses and distances mentioned and set forth in the deed from Benjamin Brown to Samuel M. Semmes, dated the 23rd day of May, 1846, and recorded among the Land Records of Allegany County in Liber I. B. No. 2, Folio 33, to which deed reference is hereby specially made for said descriptions, being the same tracts of land which were conveyed by deed from James Phen and wife to Christopher Roberts, dated the 25th day of June, 1896, and recorded among said Land Records in Liber T. L. No. 79, Folio 202, etc., and being the same tract and parcels of land which were conveyed to Benjamin J. Richmond and Walter C. Capper, Trustees of the Estate of James A. Millholland to George D. Martin and wife.

The above farm is improved by a large modern house containing about thirty rooms, together with a good barn, tenant house and all necessary outbuildings. A large part of said

ASSIGNEE'S SALE

Of Valuable Farm Property Known As "GLENORA" Situated on the Little Valley Road near the City of Cumberland in Allegany County, Maryland, Part of Which Has Been Platted and Laid out in Building Lots as a Suburban Development.

Under and by virtue of the power of sale contained in a certain mortgage dated September 16, 1935 and recorded among the Mortgage Records of Allegany County in Liber 130, folio 711, and duly assigned to William M. Somerville for the purpose of foreclosure, default having occurred in the terms of said mortgage, the undersigned Assignee will sell at public auction alongside the Second National Bank Building at the corner of Baltimore and South Liberty Streets in the City of Cumberland, Maryland, on

Wednesday, June 26, 1946
At Ten O'Clock A. M.

the following property conveyed by said mortgage and described as follows:

All those tracts and parcels of land situated on the Little Valley Road in Allegany County, Maryland, described as follows:

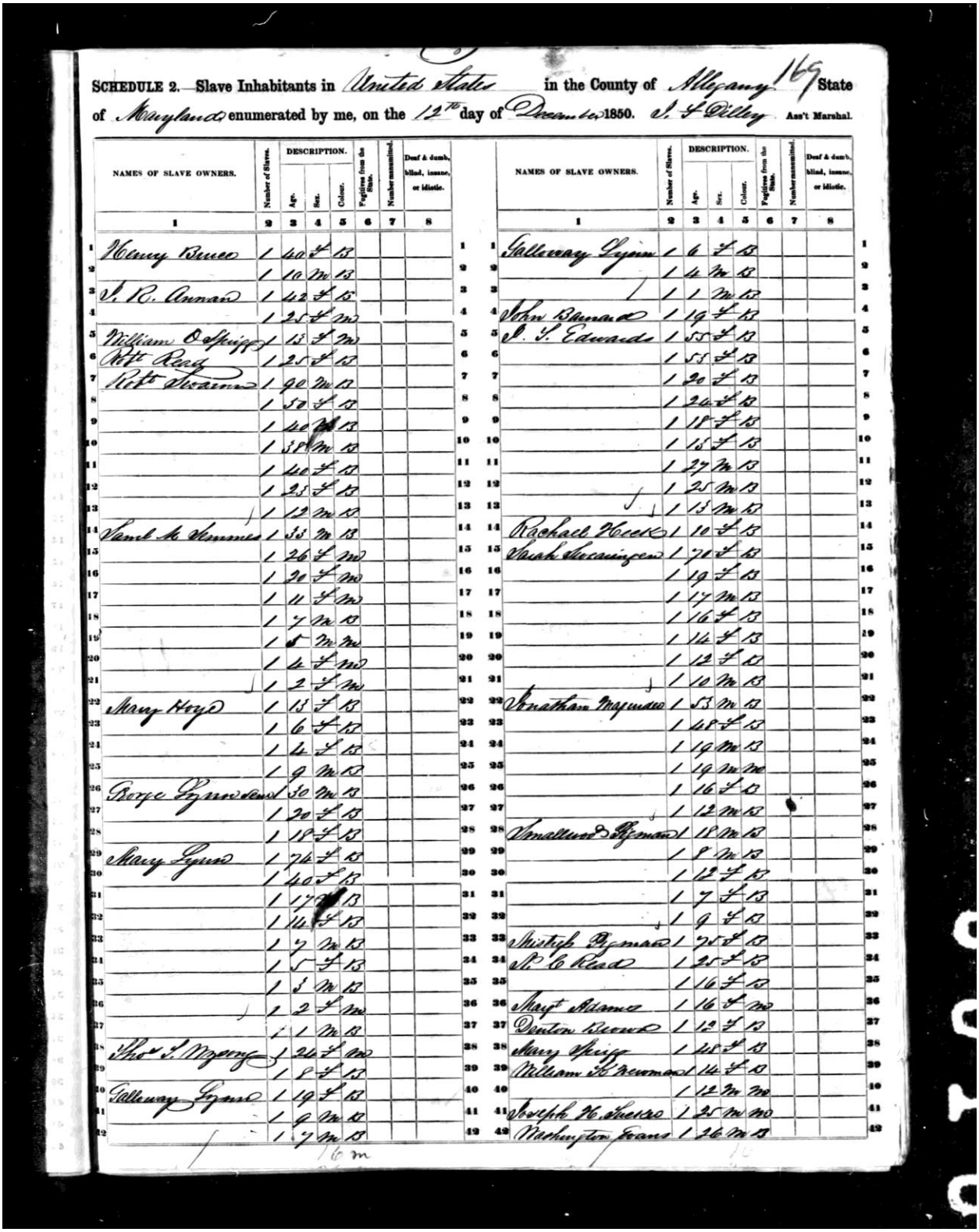
First: A. All those parcels of land being parts of three tracts of land called and known as "Deeply Explored," "Federal Forest," and "Stubblefield," lying and being in Allegany County, Maryland.

Beginning for said parts hereby conveyed at a boundary marked white walnut tree and white thorn bush, standing at the corner of a field, and on the west side of Little Valley Road, and running thence according to the metes and bounds, courses and distances set forth and mentioned in the deed for the same from George Deneen and wife to Samuel M. Semmes, dated the 19th day of September, 1843, and recorded among the Land Records of Allegany County, in Liber D. D. at folio 481, etc.

B. All that other tract or parcel of land being part of the tract called "Hoffman's Delight" situated in said State and County, contiguous to the above described farm, and being part of the same.

Beginning for the same at a Linn tree marked with three notches, standing at the end of the first line of the whole tract called "Hoffman's Delight" and running thence according to the metes and bounds, courses and distances mentioned

Old newspaper ads for sales of land that was once a part of Glenora Plantation. Ads show the history of the property deeds going back to when Samuel Semmes bought various plots that would eventually be called Glenora.

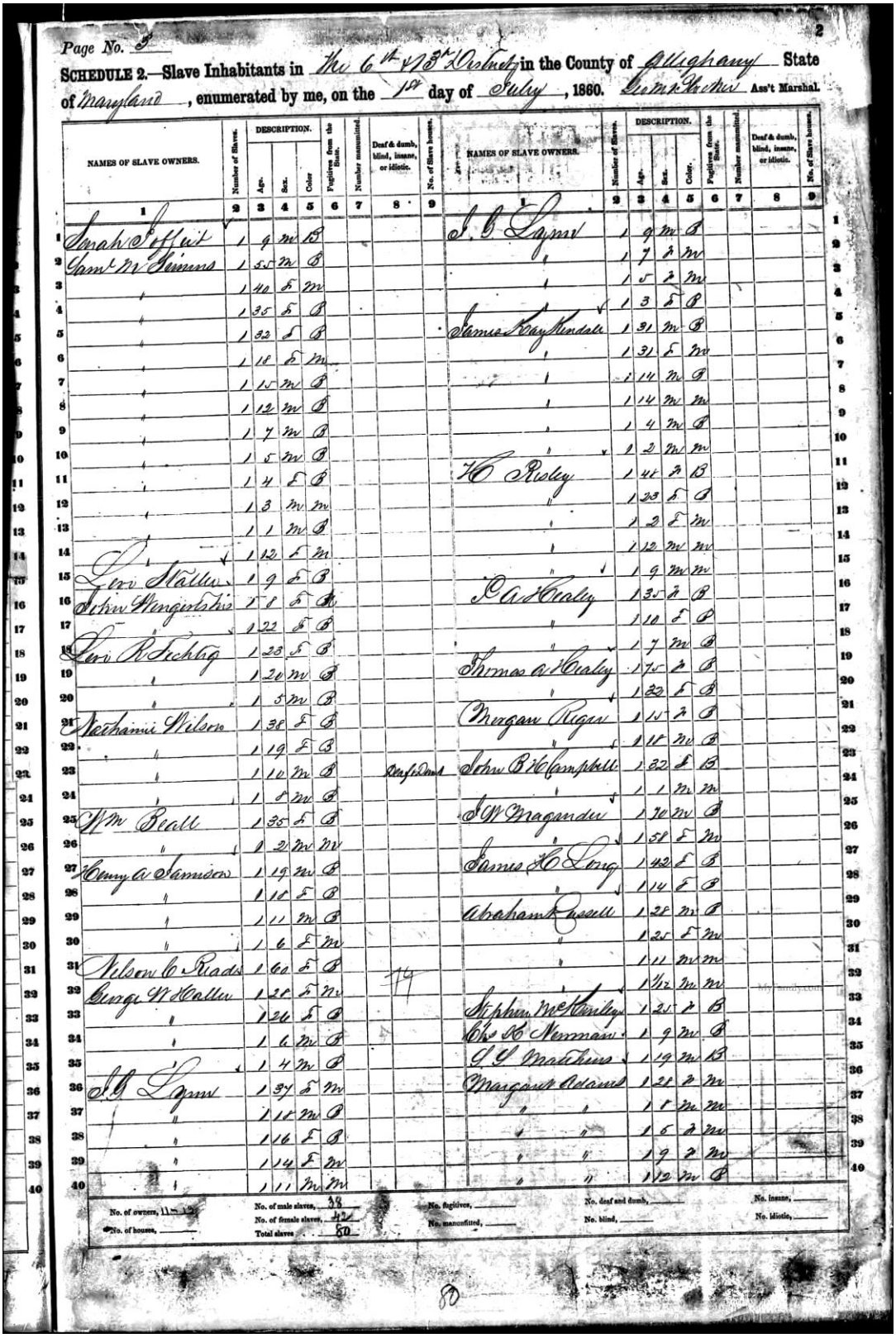


SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in United States in the County of Allegany 169 State of Maryland enumerated by me, on the 12th day of December 1850. J. F. Dilley Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Henry Bruce	1	40	F	B			
	1	10	M	B			
N. R. Inman	1	42	F	B			
	1	25	F	M			
William D Spriggs	1	15	F	M			
Robt Reed	1	25	F	B			
Robt Hoaxmes	1	90	M	B			
	1	50	F	B			
	1	40	M	B			
	1	38	M	B			
	1	40	F	B			
	1	25	F	B			
	1	12	M	B			
Saml A Semmes	1	35	M	B			
	1	26	F	M			
	1	20	F	M			
	1	11	F	M			
	1	7	M	B			
	1	5	M	M			
	1	4	F	M			
	1	2	F	M			
Mary Hoyd	1	13	F	B			
	1	6	F	B			
	1	4	F	B			
	1	9	M	B			
Berge Symmes	30	M	B				
	1	20	F	B			
	1	18	F	B			
Mary Lynn	1	74	F	B			
	1	40	F	B			
	1	17	M	B			
	1	14	F	B			
	1	7	M	B			
	1	5	F	B			
	1	3	M	B			
	1	2	F	M			
	1	1	M	B			
Thos J. Mooney	1	24	F	M			
	1	8	F	B			
Galloway Lynn	1	19	F	B			
	1	9	M	B			
	1	7	M	B			

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Colour.	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8
Galloway Lynn	1	6	F	B			
	1	4	M	B			
	1	1	M	B			
John Bruce	1	19	F	B			
J. J. Edwards	1	55	F	B			
	1	55	F	B			
	1	20	F	B			
	1	24	F	B			
	1	18	F	B			
	1	15	F	B			
	1	27	M	B			
	1	25	M	B			
	1	15	M	B			
Rachael Hoyd	1	10	F	B			
Isaiah Hemmings	1	70	F	B			
	1	19	F	B			
	1	17	M	B			
	1	16	F	B			
	1	14	F	B			
	1	12	F	B			
	1	10	M	B			
Jonathan Maynadier	1	53	M	B			
	1	48	F	B			
	1	19	M	B			
	1	19	M	M			
	1	16	F	B			
	1	12	M	B			
Jonathan D Hyman	1	18	M	B			
	1	8	M	B			
	1	12	F	B			
	1	7	F	B			
	1	9	F	B			
Mishigh Bynard	1	75	F	B			
N. C. Read	1	25	F	B			
	1	16	F	B			
Mary Adams	1	16	F	M			
Denton Brent	1	12	F	B			
Mary Spriggs	1	45	F	B			
William R Inman	14	F	B				
	1	12	M	M			
Joseph H. Inman	1	25	M	M			
Washington Evans	1	26	M	B			

Slave schedule from 1850 census showing the number of slaves Samuel Semmes owned.



Page No. 3 — 2

SCHEDULE 2.—Slave Inhabitants in the 6th & 7th Districts in the County of Allegany State of Maryland, enumerated by me, on the 1st day of July, 1860. Geo. R. Thomas Ass't Marshal.

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Color	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
Sarah Offutt	1	9	m	B				
Saml M Simms	1	55	m	B				
"	1	40	F	m				
"	1	35	F	B				
"	1	32	F	B				
"	1	18	F	m				
"	1	15	m	B				
"	1	12	m	B				
"	1	7	m	B				
"	1	5	m	B				
"	1	4	F	B				
"	1	3	m	m				
"	1	1	m	B				
"	1	12	F	m				
Levi Waller	1	9	F	B				
John Hengleshis	1	8	F	B				
"	1	22	F	B				
Levi R Sichley	1	23	F	B				
"	1	20	m	B				
"	1	5	m	B				
Zachariah Wilson	1	38	F	B				
"	1	19	F	B				
"	1	10	m	B			Imp[illegible]	
"	1	8	m	B				
Wm Beall	1	35	F	B				
"	1	2	m	m				
Henry A Samison	1	19	m	B				
"	1	16	F	B				
"	1	11	m	B				
"	1	6	F	m				
Nelson C Reads	1	60	F	B			19	
George W Hallen	1	20	F	m				
"	1	26	F	B				
"	1	6	m	B				
"	1	4	m	B				
J B Lynn	1	37	F	m				
"	1	15	m	B				
"	1	16	F	B				
"	1	14	F	m				
"	1	11	m	m				

NAMES OF SLAVE OWNERS.	Number of Slaves.	DESCRIPTION. Age.	Sex.	Color	Fugitives from the State.	Number manumitted.	Deaf & dumb, blind, insane, or idiotic.	No. of Slave houses.
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9
J. B. Lynn	1	9	m	B				
"	1	7	F	m				
"	1	5	F	m				
"	1	3	F	B				
James Kay Kendall	1	31	m	B				
"	1	31	F	m				
"	1	14	m	B				
"	1	14	m	m				
"	1	4	m	B				
"	1	2	m	m				
H C Risley	1	46	F	B				
"	1	23	F	B				
"	1	2	F	m				
"	1	12	m	m				
"	1	9	m	m				
D A Healy	1	35	F	B				
"	1	10	F	B				
"	1	7	m	B				
Thomas A Healy	1	75	F	B				
"	1	22	F	B				
Morgan Rigus	1	15	F	B				
"	1	15	m	B				
John B McCampbell	1	32	F	B				
"	1	1	m	m				
J W Magruder	1	30	m	B				
"	1	58	F	m				
James H Long	1	42	F	B				
"	1	14	F	B				
Abraham Russell	1	28	m	B				
"	1	25	F	m				
"	1	11	m	m				
"	1	1½	m	m				
Stephen McKinley	1	25	F	B				
Chs H Newman	1	9	m	B				
G G Mathews	1	19	m	B				
Margaret Adams	1	28	F	m				
" "	1	1	m	m				
" "	1	5	F	m				
" "	1	9	F	m				
" "	1	12	m	B				

No. of owners, 11 — No. of houses, —

No. of male slaves, 38 — No. of female slaves, 12 — Total slaves 50

No. fugitives, — No. manumitted, —

No. deaf and dumb, — No. blind, —

No. insane, — No. idiotic, —

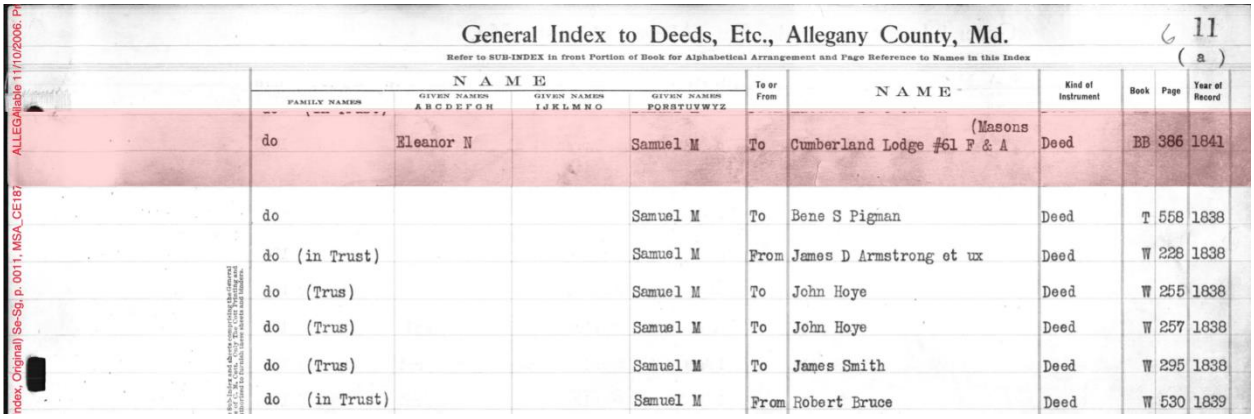
80

Slave schedule from 1860 census showing the number of slaves Samuel Semmes owned.

What we know about Samuel Semmes and Glenora Plantation

Samuel Semmes was born in Charles County, Maryland in 1811. His family owned tobacco farms in the county. He moved to Cumberland, where he became a prominent lawyer. He was also a Maryland state senator. He was admitted to the Cumberland Bar in 1833. He did a lot of work for coal interests and acquired a large number of titles for them. He started purchasing lots on Valley Road, starting in 1843 and 1846. Sometime after that, he built a house on the land and called the plantation Glenora. Semmes was a slave owner and he had slaves on the plantation.

Semmes is listed for literally hundreds of real estate deeds at MDLandRec.net….most of them are trust and estate related, but the ones that involved him directly include some of the most well-known names in Allegany County at that time. (Information provided by Dave Williams via email). Semmes donated the land on which the first Masonic temple was built.
Deed record for Masonic Lodge land donation



General Index to Deeds, Etc., Allegany County, Md. 6 11 (a)

Refer to SUB-INDEX in front Portion of Book for Alphabetical Arrangement and Page Reference to Names in this Index

NAME Family Names	NAME Given Names A B C D E F G H	NAME Given Names I J K L M N O	NAME Given Names P Q R S T U V W Y Z	To or From	NAME	Kind of Instrument	Book	Page	Year of Record
do	Eleanor N		Samuel M	To	Cumberland Lodge #61 F & A (Masons	Deed	BB	386	1841
do			Samuel M	To	Bene S Pigman	Deed	T	558	1838
do	(in Trust)		Samuel M	From	James D Armstrong et ux	Deed	W	228	1838
do	(Trus)		Samuel M	To	John Hoye	Deed	W	255	1838
do	(Trus)		Samuel M	To	John Hoye	Deed	W	257	1838
do	(Trus)		Samuel M	To	James Smith	Deed	W	295	1838
do	(in Trust)		Samuel M	From	Robert Bruce	Deed	W	530	1839

Semmes was a lifelong Roman Catholic and his slaves were baptized in the Catholic Church. He wanted his slaves to receive communion at St. Patrick's, but the priest refused to cooperate. He then approached the leaders at Emmanuel Episcopal Church and offered to pay 30% of the construction costs for the new church (that was built around 1850) as long as his slaves could receive communion and have a balcony in which to sit during services. The proposition was accepted, but the slaves refused to become Episcopalian.

We could not find any records for what happened after this. Samuel Semmes died at a young age in 1867. In 1911, Emmanuel Episcopal church dedicated a memorial stained-glass window in Semmes' honor.

BEAUTIFULA NO IMPRESSIVE

Memorial Services at Emmanuel Episcopal Church.

A MEMORIAL WINDOW.

It Was Placed in Emmanuel Episcopal Church to the Memory of the Late Samuel M. and Elenora Semmes.

At Emmanuel Episcopal church yesterday was dedicated to the memory of the late Samuel Middleton Semmes and his wife, Elenora Nelson Semmes, a handsome memorial window which was unveiled by the daughter of Mr. John E. Semmes, of Baltimore city. The impressive service was conducted by the Rev. Wm. Cleveland Hicks, who referred most gracefully to the memory of the deceased and called attention to the remarkable coincidence that the windows had been set in position on the one hundredth anniversary of the birth of Mr. S. M. Semmes, without any one being aware of the fact at the time. Those present were Mr. John E. Semmes, of Baltimore, his daughter and son, John E. Semmes jr., Mr. William J. Read, of Washington, D. C., and Mr. and Mrs. R. T. Semmes, children and grand children of the deceased.

Discription of the Window.

The window was made by the Goodhue Glass Co., of Cambridge, Mass. The subject is St. Augustine and St. Monica. The panels represent St. Monica and St. Augustine, the latter in his Episcopal robes as bishop of Hippo.

The first cartoon below the window represents St. Monica leading her son Augustine to school, and the second cartoon St. Augustine at the cathedral at Milan kneeling to receive baptism at the hand of St. Ambrose, bishop of Milan.

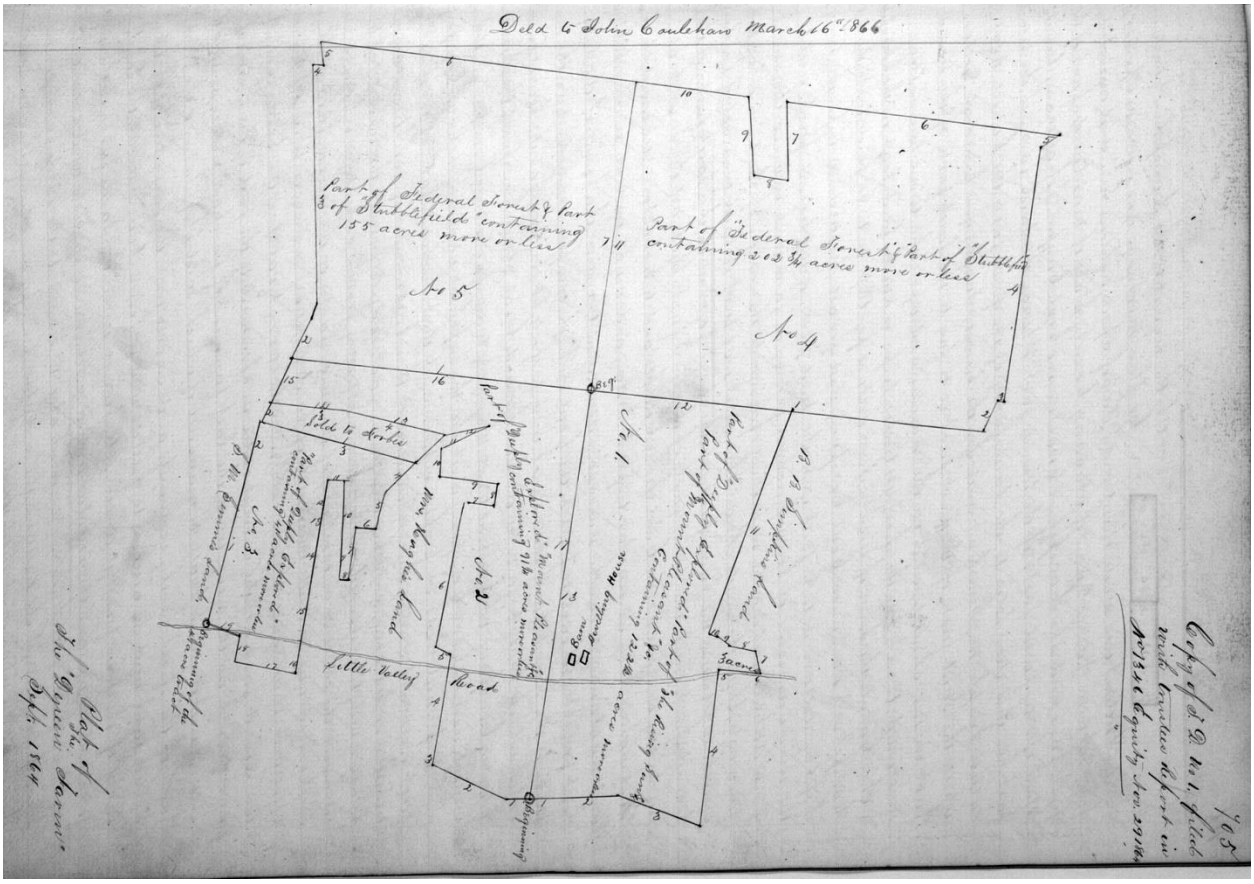
St. Augustine was born in Taguste, New Media, in the year 354 A. D. He should not be confounded with the

1911 news article about the Samuel Semmes Memorial Window at Emmanuel Episcopal

Bonnie Miller from the Genealogical Society of Allegany County researched land records and other records to find the history of the land on which Glenora Plantation was built. Samuel Semmes purchased some of the land from George Deneen and some from Benjamin Brown. Some of the plots that Samuel Semmes purchased were called “Hoffman’s Delight,” “Federal Forest,” “Stubblefield,” and “Deeply Explored.” After researching “Hoffman’s delight,” it was discovered that that plot of land, and many more, were a part of a Warrant grant given to Thomas Beall of Samuel, founder of the City of Cumberland, by the Land Office of the Western Shore in 1785. It then went to David Hoffman sometime after that.

Bonnie traced it from:
David Hoffman to Hanson Briscoe in 1798
Hanson Briscoe to Thomas Dew Jr in 1800
Thomas Dew Jr. to Benjamin Browne in 1805
Benjamin Brown to Samuel Semmes in 1846 (1-1/4 acres from what Bonnie saw on deed 2 page 33)

Note: Benjamin Brown was a close neighbor of George Deneen in 1840.



Interior of Emmanuel Episcopal Church c1887 showing the slave balcony on the left.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Slave quarters
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Old_log_slave_cabin_-_%27D%27_on_diagram_-_Sotterly,_Slave_Quarters,_State_Route_245_and_Vista_Road_Vicinity,_Hollywood,_St._Mary%27s_County,_MD_HABS_MD,19-HOLWO.V,3C-1.tif
Barber, Douglas, photographer, Public domain, via Wikimedia Commons

Italian marble fireplace
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Francesco_di_simone_ferrucci,_camino_con_stemma_di_vescovo_cancellato,_firenze,_1450-1500_ca..JPG
I, Sailko, CC BY-SA 3.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-sa/3.0>, via Wikimedia Commons

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Special thanks to Bonnie Miller of the Genealogical Society of Allegany County for her invaluable help tracking down the land records and for providing the slave schedules.

Also, thanks goes to Doug Williams for his help with Samuel Semmes' deed records.

Current photos of the Valley Road area by Margie Gacki. Old photo of the interior of Emmanuel Episcopal Church is from the Allegany College of Maryland Donald L. Alexander Library's Appalachian Collection Picture & Clipping file.

First Congregational Church, Frostburg, MD

I am Tamara Fowler, today is April 12, 1979, and I am interviewing Reverend William E. Price, Pastor of First Congregational Church. It is located on the corner of Bowery and College Avenues, Frostburg, MD.
Reverend Price, when were you born?

Price: I was born February 6, 1926.

TF: Where were you born?

Price: Berkeley Springs, WV.

TF: Who were your parents?

Price: My father's name was Alston Price and my mother was one of a pair of twins; she was Martha, her original name—her maiden name--was Shackleford.

TF: What is your occupation?

Price: Well, in addition to being the pastor of the church, I'm also with the Chessie System; I'm what they call an operator, I handle all the routing of the trains.

TF: What is your educational background?

Price: I have a master's degree in education with a certification in administration and supervision.

TF: Ok. What prompted you to go into the ministry?

Price: A personal experience I had when I was twenty-eight years old: I lost a son to spinal meningitis. And in the process of his illness and so forth, it became clear to me that our prayers are answered--but sometimes God just has to do what is right even if it is in conflict with our prayers. And actually that's the only message I had at the beginning, it's just that people should realize that God does answer prayers but sometimes He still has to do what's right; and that means sometimes our prayers aren't answered the way we hoped they would be.

TF: How long have you been pastor of this church?

Price: I have been here…it will be twenty years in 1980.

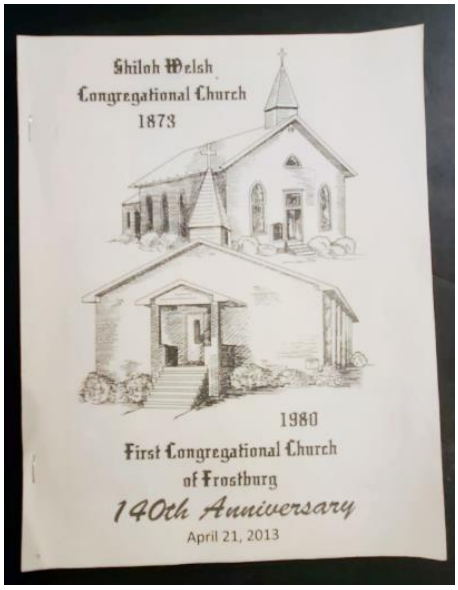
TF: How did you come to be affiliated with this church?

Price: Well, formerly I was with the Methodist Church, I was what they call a supply pastor. And I was licensed by the church to fill in at various other churches as a pastor. I received my licensing through Emory University in GA; and I would go around to various churches when pastors were sick or when they were on vacation, or when a church didn't have a pastor, and I'd fill in. Then one Sunday they asked me to come up to First Congregational Church, and they said that they hadn't had a pastor here for over two years—and they asked me if I would help out up here a little bit, so….I had preached at many different churches, not just the Methodist Church: Presbyterian, and Churches of Christ, and First Christian Church in Cumberland.

So I came up and they asked me to come back again, and back again; and I came here for a month or so, and finally they asked me if I would stay. But, you see, I hadn't finished my college education yet at that time—I was a teacher, I had my bachelor's degree, but I still hadn't finished my education for the ministry. But they wanted me to stay anyway, and of course in the Congregational Church you can be ordained whether you've completed seminary or not, upon examination. And so I told them I would preach some basic sermons: what I thought about the Bible, what I thought about God, and Christ, the Resurrection, what I thought the Church was, what I thought a Christian was; and I said, "After I tell you all these things, you need to tell me if you still want me or not, because you wouldn't want me to change my beliefs just to be your pastor. So I'll tell you what I believe." So after I preached that series of sermons they said, "Yes, we still want you." So I came up here in 1960. And about six years later I was ordained by a council of Congregational Churches; they came from all over the United States and joined in my ordination, and I was ordained at that time a minister of the Congregational Church.

TF: When was the church built?

Price: We celebrated our hundredth anniversary in 1973--so that would be 1873.



TF: How did the church get started?

Price: Well, we don't have all our old records. I've seen some of them; as a matter of fact, I've seen some of the records that were written in Welsh, and I don't know what became of them. And the people who had them, they don't know what became of them; we've been trying to trace them down. But the original records were written in Welsh, you know, and then throughout the years they began sprinkling a little bit of English in with the Welsh, and then finally it became all written in English. Now, the old records written in Welsh, we've tried to have people translate them and there were several problems. The people that were keeping the records, they didn't keep them too well so sometimes we had problems just understanding everything—but the way I understand it from what we've been able to figure out,

Pritchards and Evanses families and several other families in this area got together and started meeting at their homes. Then the next step, I think, was they began meeting in one of the club organizations here in Frostburg—I think, now if I'm not mistaken, the Elks Hall, or the Moose—one of those, I don't know what it was. But at any rate, they met there and then they met at the Presbyterian Church for awhile; the Presbyterian Church would let them use their facilities for awhile. And then we built our own church.

TF: From what religious background did the church originate?

Price: Of course, the Congregational background, it comes from the Pilgrims; we trace the Congregational Church back to the Old North Church in Boston and the original Pilgrims that came here from—well, originally, they came from Scrooby, England and went to Holland for freedom of religion. They lived in Holland because there was much more freedom of religion there and they could worship; but after they'd been in Holland for awhile they began to find that their children were beginning to speak the language, and beginning to lose a lot of their traditional English background, and Welsh background, and it worried them and so they came to America as the Pilgrims, you know.

The Welsh were great miners, you know; in Wales, mining is one of the major industries, as a matter of fact. And so, when the Welsh came here to Frostburg, where there's a great deal of coal mining, they wanted to have their church here too. So this really has a Welsh background, the church has.

Old North Church, Boston, MA

TF: Who donated the land?

Price: I understand the land was purchased, I don't think it was donated. I've seen a paper, it was handwritten and some of it was a little difficult to read, but it was somebody's estimation of the original cost. The original cost of the land and the building—everything to build it, construction cost, everything combined, furniture and all--came to a little over $3000.

TF: Ok. Who were some of the first families?

Price: Well, the Pritchards…the Pritchards still, well, once in a while I hear from them here—they put flowers on the altar in memory of their loved ones, you know…and the Evanses, and the Davises, and the Williamses—these are all names that go back in our records about as far back as our records go. Now, I'm sure there's quite a few others that I can't think of right now—I don't have the records, the church clerk has the records--but these are the ones that come to mind.

TF: Approximately how many families are in the church, as compared to its beginning?

Price: Now, by "beginning", if you mean going clear back to the very origin of it, there were only three or four families involved originally, you see. Right now, I mail one hundred and fifteen midweek bulletins per week to the families in our congregation. That means one hundred and fifteen *families*, you understand, because one bulletin to each family. So we say a hundred and fifteen families, but about twenty of those go out of state; they go to people who are still members of our church—they haven't taken away their membership, they're attending other churches other places—but they still want to maintain membership here. So, I think we would say really about seventy-five families actively participating in the church.

TF: What are the different organizations of the church?

A Ladies Aid Society in the late 1800s

Price: Well, at one time we had a wonderful Adult Fellowship that did a lot of good work in the church, but I suppose it's like so many other things today, there's so many other interests and so many things taking up our time that it just didn't stay in existence. Right now, we have a very strong Ladies Aid Society—and they're wonderful, they do all kinds of things for the church and the community. And Bob and Sharon Ashby do a wonderful job with their Youth Fellowship. These are the two major social organizations; now, we of course have a Board of Trustees, and a Board of Deacons, we have committees and so forth that also function—these are the major ones.

TF: How have these organizations changed through the years?

Price: Like I say, we at one time had a strong what we called [?] Adult Fellowship. This was men and women, and here is the case--it did a lot of good work in the church and we had a lot of fun together, but it just seemed that it got at each meeting where fewer and fewer people were there until finally, we just decided it was unreasonable to try to keep it going. I think it's just like so many things today—we have too many things demanding our attention. And this was made up of young adults mostly, and young adults are so busy establishing families, and trying to get settled, and trying to make headway through life that it really is hard to put in the time necessary--I suppose that's part of it.

TF: What are the summer activities?

Price: Summer activities? Well, of course every summer we have a church and Sunday school picnic, we have an outdoor worship service—we try to have a worship

Chapel at Jumonville Christian Camp & Retreat Center

service sometime in a park or someplace; sometimes we go up to Mr. Phelps' farm, we have a lot of fun there. Also, we try in the summertime to have fellowship dinners once in a while—this is just dinners where we…everybody brings a pot of something and we all sit around and talk, and we have a good time there. In the past—now, I don't know if this was summertime or not—we had a basketball team. We haven't had it this year—but I think that's more of a Fall thing, isn't it? We also have a summer program for the children in the Sunday school—this is a sort of an association idea, we go to Jumonville usually—there's a church camp up there and the children go and stay for a week, they enjoy that very much. Other than that, I can't think of anything, you know, special, or scheduled.

TF: Ok. What major changes have you seen within the church over the years?

Price: In the twenty years I've been with the church, if you're talking about this church itself, I think I've seen more solidarity; I've seen the people drawn closer together, I think we've been more tolerant of each other and begun to understand each other a lot better. At first there was, if I recall correctly now, there was sometimes a little bit of division here or there, a little bit of disagreement; but you can expect that. And we still have some, but I think back through the past years and I find that we don't have strong division among us--we might disagree with one another, but no one really gets angry and we've been able to work everything out well enough.

TF: What are some future plans for the church?

Price: Well, the Board of Trustees tells me they're going to break ground in May, here on this parking lot, to begin building our new church. This wasn't something we wanted to do; we love this church, we love everything about it--people have been baptized here, married here, brought their children, had *them* baptized, and their children grown up, you know. And it has a lot of good memories for us. Everybody in this church has done something….you look around and you see a carpet and you say, "The Ladies Aid put that carpet down", you know, and you look down at Memorial Hall and you say, "Do you remember how hard we worked to get Memorial Hall—we had to put the church up on jacks and dig the dirt out from under it?" And all the things and all the work we did—we hate to see that being torn down. But we just don't have a choice; it's not a matter of whether or not we're going to have to build a new church, it's just a matter of *when*, you see. Because we've had the engineers up here, and they've looked up into our roof and they say that the joists are pulled apart five or six inches; you look down the side of the church and you can see that it's warped, and they've tried to remove some of the stresses, but they've just showed up other places. You saw what happened to our drop

ceiling—we put it in, and the walls moved away from it and it started to *really* drop, pieces of it. So, we're building a new church, that's our biggest plan right now.

TF: Ok. Do you have any other comments or anything before we close?

Price: Well…no more here. I don't want to get into the meaning of Congregationalism because I don't think the interview could last that long. But coming from a Methodist Church, I feel that the Methodist Church is very similar to the Congregational Church: we have this feeling among us that God has a revelation for His people—*all* of His people—and we call this the Bible. But we feel that everybody also has a *personal* relationship with God which differs somewhat, you know; your relationship with God may differ from mine, and I respect yours and you respect mine--and realize that it is a *personal* relationship. And therefore, if there's something very precious to you that I don't understand I don't try to say, "Well, you're wrong because I've never experienced that." We just realize that everybody has his own special relationship with God. But then, like I say, we also have sort of what we call the bottom line as Congregationalists—we just say that there's certain things that all Congregationalists believe in: you can't be a Congregationalist and not believe that Christ is the Son of God, and that He rose again, and that through *His* triumph over death *we* have triumphed over it. You know, we can't just say, "Anything you believe is alright by us", it isn't true—we're Christian and we follow the teaching of the Bible.

TF: Thank you very much for this interview.

Price: You're quite welcome.

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First National Bank and Trust Co. of Western Maryland, Mount Savage Office

Our names are Linda Baker and Sherry Michaels, and we're interviewing Miss Helena Hotchkiss of Mount Savage Bank. She is assistant manager. Her date of birth is February 19, 1913; she was born in Mount Savage. Her current address is Mount Savage, MD, and we're interviewing her on the Mount Savage Bank.

Miss Hotchkiss, would you please just tell us a little bit about yourself, and the kind of work that you're involved in here in the bank?

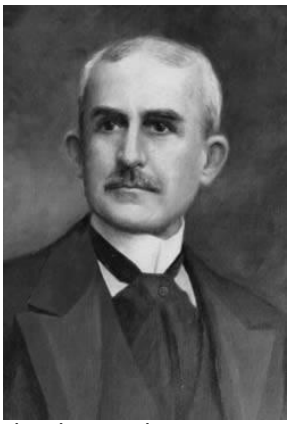
Hotchkiss: I began work in the First National Bank of Mount Savage in June of 1956. I've been employed as a teller, assistant cashier, cashier, and now currently assistant branch manager.

LB/SM: How long have you been working in the bank?

Hotchkiss: Twenty-one and a half years.

LB/SM: Did you have to have any certain kind of qualifications?

Hotchkiss: No.


Lloyd Lowndes

LB/SM: Could you tell us some things about the background of the bank?

Hotchkiss: The First National Bank of Mount Savage was established in April of 1902, charter number 6144. Presidents were Lloyd Lowndes, Henry Mullaney, Lawrence Fannon, Matthew J. Mullaney. Directors up until the merger were Matthew Mullaney, Wilbur E. Logsdon, John Mullaney, Louise Himmelwright, and Helena Hotchkiss.

LB/SM: Were there ever any other banks in Mount Savage?

Hotchkiss: No.

LB/SM: Has the bank always been located at its present location?

Hotchkiss: Yes.

LB/SM: Who were some people that were involved in the bank, say in the 1950s?

Hotchkiss: Raymond Himmelwright, Lawrence Fannon, Mel Tansey, and Matthew J. Mullaney.

LB/SM: Can you tell us what these people may have done?

Hotchkiss: Patrick Fannon was a brother of Lawrence Fannon, he was not a stockholder. Lawrence Fannon was the president and a stockholder of the bank. Matthew Mullaney was on the board of directors. Ray Himmelwright was the cashier.

LB/SM: What kind of bank accounts did they have, say, 'til the 1960s; and are they still the same today?

Hotchkiss: We had checking accounts and saving accounts. Today, we have certificate of deposits in addition to regular savings accounts; and we also have Christmas Clubs, which we didn't have before.

LB/SM: Ok. Earlier you said that there weren't any other banks in Mount Savage; why do you think that this was the only one started?

Hotchkiss: Because of the size of the town; there was no need for another bank.

LB/SM: Did the railroad and brickyard play an important part in the bank?

Hotchkiss: Yes; the Mount Savage Refractories currently are one of our larger depositors. The C&P shops were very active when they built the engines, and the coal industry was booming at the time--they played a very important part in the business of the bank.

First National Bank of Mount Savage building in 2024

LB/SM: Do they still deposit here?

Hotchkiss: The Mount Savage Refractories still carry their account with us; the C&P shops and railroad are no longer in existence; they have gone in with Western Maryland.

LB/SM: Could you tell us some interesting events that happened--like maybe during the Depression…?

Hotchkiss: During the Depression of 1928 through 1933, the bank in Mount Savage was one of the finest banks around; when other banks were failing and people were losing their money, the bank in Mount Savage stood like the Rock of Gibraltar.
LB/SM: Why do you think the Mount Savage bank stood and the other ones crashed?

Hotchkiss: I think it was due to the conservatism of the persons that operated the bank.

LB/SM: Being such a small bank, you would think this would probably be one of the first ones that would've crashed, around this area, with such a small town. Have there ever been any robberies or fires or anything?

Hotchkiss: We've never had a robbery, we've never had a fire.

LB/SM: Why do you think it's never been robbed?

Hotchkiss: ….To rob us, you'd have to find it. [laughter]

LB/SM: How do you think that the bank has grown throughout the years?

Hotchkiss: We have grown immensely: since I've been here in the last twenty years, our assets have actually doubled in value to what they were when I came in, especially since the past…1970s and up were our good years.

LB/SM: Did a lot of people in Mount Savage use the bank, or did they prefer going, like, to Frostburg, or maybe Cumberland?

Hotchkiss: Quite a few people prefer going out of town, for the simple reason they think the town being so small--and everybody *knows* everybody--they prefer to go out of town.

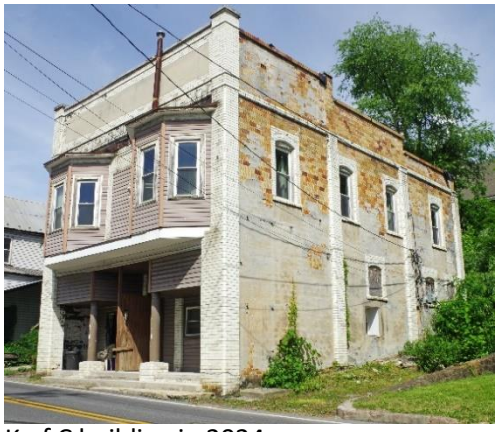
LB/SM: I guess they feel that it'd be safer….

Hotchkiss: More, it's more…they feel it's more confidential to have somebody strange handle your bank account than somebody you know; they don't want anybody to know what they're doing.

LB/SM: I could see their point there—I guess if somebody withdraws a lot of money a couple times, or something, they wouldn't want somebody they knew to want to…. What were some of the buildings that were located right around the bank in, say, 1940s or 1950s—or back even further maybe?

Hotchkiss: There were several grocery stores in town years ago. The K of C [Knights of Columbus] building next to the bank is still existing; the grocery store is still in

existence, Bill's Market, it used to be operated by Patrick Fannon years ago. And there was several saloons that happened to be the big thing around town; mostly grocery stores and saloons were the biggest things in town years ago—and an ice cream parlor.


K of C building in 2024

LB/SM: Today these aren't here—what happened to them?

Hotchkiss: The people have moved on; the town now is made up mostly of people who are retired and on Social Security income. The younger people have married and moved on where they make more money, have a higher income. And there's no industry in town to keep people in the town anymore; before, we had the railroad, and the shops, and the foundry, and the brickyard, and the mines. There was enough industry in town to keep the people working. But now the only industry that employs anybody is the refractories—and they may have seventy-five employees, ninety at the most.

Union Mining Company and Mount Savage Refractory buildings in 2024

LB/SM: There's certain buildings here now; have they had any kind of effect on the bank—the new buildings, or whatever?

Hotchkiss: There are no new buildings in town. The Post Office across from the bank didn't always used to be there, it used to be up on the upper end of Main St.—it was moved down there twenty-five years ago.

LB/SM: The newer business that they put in, do they use this bank, or do they go away, down to Cumberland to other banks?

Hotchkiss: What?

LB/SM: The newer businesses.

Hotchkiss: No; we have just recently acquired a new account from the [Mount?] Savage Mining Co. that moved into the area, and they operate through our bank.

Republic Savage is a part of the refractories; they didn't always exist, and they have their account with us. The grocery stores have theirs with us. The Varsity Pub—they usually bring in business to us. We have no really new businesses.

Varsity Pub

***LB: There's no one outside of Mount Savage, any small businesses or something, maybe, outside of Mount Savage that are here at this bank?

Hotchkiss: No. We have no outside businesses that bring in money to us.

LB: Could you tell us a little bit about, maybe, the special loans that you could have gotten, back when you first started? And then the kind that you can get now?

Hotchkiss: When the First National Bank of Mount Savage made loans, they were more or less real estate loans for mortgages on properties, or personal installment loans and automobile loans. Today we have student loans, and [unclear] loans for small-business loans, commercial loans—larger type of loans—which we didn't have before.

LB: How would you go about getting a certain kind of a loan?

Hotchkiss: You must come in and make application before you get any result of a loan; the application must be filled out and approved before the loan is made.

LB: Now, who has to approve it?

Hotchkiss: Usually the branch manager has to have it approved down to a central file in the Cumberland, the main, office.

LB: Has business improved any since you merged with First National of Western Maryland?

Hotchkiss: Our loan business has improved, we have made more loans.

LB: This is the bank itself, or as a whole—being with…?

Hotchkiss: Being with the other bank, people have come from out of town that never came to us before.

LB: They have more confidence, or…?

Hotchkiss: No, because they know the manager; people know the new manager, they come from out of town and they follow the manager. They know him from before, they have done business with him before, they usually follow him wherever he goes [laughs].

LB: How did some of the wars affect the bank?

Hotchkiss: I would say that the sale of bonds was affected by World War II: a lot more bonds were sold, or issued. During the years…'45, there was no war then; there was a depression at that time--the assets went down. But the wars actually would bring an increase of the sale of bonds more than anything else.

LB: Recently, I think it was back in December, you said that you merged. Did this have any interesting [effects] on your bank as a whole?

Hotchkiss: It was quite a change to the people in the bank and the people in the community, to change over from an independent, little bank to a branch of a big bank. It was a little hard to get used to for a while; as time went on people accepted it, and grew accustomed to the new system. They became favorable—it was time saving to come in and get waited upon; where they had to wait for us to do a lot of typing before, this was just quicker—you could serve the people faster, serve more people in less time. And people still come in--they like the old bank, the looks of it, but as far as the new system everybody's accepted it and gone along with the change.

LB: Was it hard making the change from the independent bank to the…?

Hotchkiss: It was not difficult; it was quite a change after all the years of operating as an independent bank to all of a sudden to be just pushing a button and pressing a key, where before you had a lot of detailed hand work to do. It was a lot less work overall after the system was set up, but while they were setting up the system it was quite a job to change over from independence to a branch. *Quite* a job.

LB: Why did you decide to merge?

Hotchkiss: Due to the ill health of Mr. Mullaney, the bank president, and due to the fact that we had no backup executive personnel to take over the management of the bank. And the bank examiners were after all the little banks to do something besides just be a little bank; they wanted them to get bigger, and we were not getting any bigger—we were *growing*, but we weren't getting any larger, really.

LB: Merging with this other bank, has it helped increase people's confidence in this bank? Where before, being an independent, you know, they were sort of hesitant about putting their money…?

Hotchkiss: The confidence…yes, it's increased, I would say…whether it's increased or remained the same, people still have the same confidence that they had—they had *very* much confidence in the old bank. People were very trusting of the employees, and the employees gained the confidence of the people and held it.

LB: I was wondering because you'd think with being a small bank, people would be hesitant because if something would happen, you know, they'd go bankrupt or something, and then not know if they would cover them.

Hotchkiss: No, The First National Bank and Trust Co. of Western Maryland has been known as a very trustworthy and solid bank, as well as Mount Savage was. I don't think there'd be any doubt of anybody's confidence in the bank's ability to cover anything that would have been deposited in the bank.

The First National Bank and Trust Company's main branch was in Cumberland, MD. BB&T merged with another bank and building is now empty (2024)

LB: How has your public relationship to the bank had any certain effects, or whatever?

Hotchkiss: People in general have accepted the change. Some of the older residents that are more set in their ways still prefer the old type of a small bank—they say it's more friendly, more like a person than a number. Sometimes they feel they're a number when they're part of a big operation rather than feel a personal relationship to the employees in a smaller bank. You have a different feeling when you're a person in a little bank than if you're a branch of a big bank.

LB: Have you had anybody, say, that got really mad whenever you merged?

Hotchkiss: Just a few people would come in and say, "Oh! What am I going to do? I don't like this new way, why can't we keep the old way? I'm not going to come here anymore…". But it wore off; they found out there was no difference in the people themselves or in the operation of the bank. They got used to the new system in a short time—they still come back, they didn't stop coming. [laughs]

LB: I'd say the merger has really helped your bank, because if you had to do everything by hand, that really slowed everything down.

Hotchkiss: We took twice as long to wait on one person; now, we can wait on three people in as much time as it took to wait on one before, especially if you had four or five

transactions to do at one time. This way you'd hail them and be done in five minutes, six minutes, or less.

LB: Do you know the reason why they started out in Mount Savage? Was it because of the companies that were here, the businesses?

Hotchkiss: I imagine it would have been—that's before my time, but I feel sure that Mr. Lowndes and some of the older people felt that a bank was needed in the town because we had the industry and the business in town, and they felt that the people would appreciate having a bank in their town to put their money into, rather than have to go out of town. I feel sure it was because of the business booming at that time.

LB: How many different presidents have there been?

Hotchkiss: I can't give you an exact number. I know there're at least six.

LB: Who are some of the employees right now—I mean, like your president…?

Hotchkiss: The president of the First National Bank and Trust Co. is Hugh Shires. Vice President is Steven Jenkins. The branch manager here is Mike Fitzgerald; and the other employees in here are Katherine Gratton, Debbie Jenkins, Rosemary [Cortadt?], and myself.

LB: Now, you said whenever you first got employed, you didn't have to have any special qualifications—do they have to now?
Hotchkiss: Some of the jobs, the vacancies that are open now, require a high school diploma….

LB: What are some of the vacancies?

Hotchkiss: Like a bookkeeping clerk would be a high school diploma; that's for sorting checks, processing checks, sending out statements. I had a high school education; I also had a business education. I was qualified to work at the bank.

LB: Yeah, I'd say. What are some of the different duties that are performed here?

Hotchkiss: The tellers process checks and deposits, and Christmas Clubs, Vacation Clubs, and Travelers' Checks, Bank of America cards, loan coupon books. The manager and assistant manager take application and make loans up to a certain limit; real estate mortgage, personal, and also automotive loans, and student loans are all made at the main office in Cumberland. Also, we sell and redeem [Series] E Bonds, we order HH Bonds for the customers, we verify balances for people when they ask for balances

on their account, we do the posting on the savings accounts right here at the bank—we have that ledger right here at the bank.

LB: What type of work did you do before you merged?

Hotchkiss: We did the same type of work before we merged except we did not have Bank of America card and we didn't have Christmas Clubs. But we did all the other work before we merged.

LB: You never had Christmas Clubs or Bank of America cards, right? Why do you have them now?

Hotchkiss: Because the main office branch has had them for years. We just never got involved in it because people would start a Club—several years back they had the Christmas Club started—and people would start maybe fifty cents, and they'd quit, and it would fall through; it wasn't worth the expense it cost to set it up, to get the checks printed and everything for the few people that took advantage of it. Today more and more people are taking advantage of the Christmas Club because they're getting interest paid on these accounts, same as they do on their regular savings accounts. And they're becoming more aware of the fact that if they do have a Christmas Club, that money is there when they need it at Christmastime, rather than have to worry where it's going to come from.

LB: When you merged, the president of the bank before you merged, did he still remain the president after the merge?

Matthew J. Mullaney

Hotchkiss: No. Nobody remained in the same position after the merger. Mr. Mullaney, who was president when we merged, was at the time a director of the First National Bank and Trust Co., and he still remains a director down there until his retirement age of seventy.

LB: So, you've just become assistant manager from the time you've merged.

Hotchkiss: I was cashier of the bank before, and the manager for eight years. When we merged I became assistant manager because I will be retiring March 1st of 1978.

LB: Did you have any difficult duties to perform while you were manager?

Hotchkiss: While I was cashier of the whole bank I had full-time operation of the bank, including the general bookkeeping, accounting, call reports, income tax returns, income dividend reports; involved with teller work, posting—anything that a teller did, I was involved full-time. Plus, the full-time management.

LB: What were the hours of the old bank?

Hotchkiss: We were open 9 ‘til 2 but now we’re 9 ‘til 3.

LB: And you worked every day of the week?

Hotchkiss: We worked five days a week. We were open 9 to 2 but our hours were supposed to be from 9 to 5; after we closed our work at 2, we had all of our day’s work to do, all of our posting--we did everything on a daily basis, we had no delayed postings held over to another day. Everything that came into the bank up ‘til 2 o’clock that day was completed that day before we went home. The next day we were ready to start on the next day’s work; we had nothing left over from the day before. We did all of our own bookkeeping, posting of accounts, our notes, our statements, our filing—we did everything as a big bank does, but we’d operate on a smaller scale.

LB: As the old bank, were you open any evenings?

Hotchkiss: No. Years ago, they used to be open on Friday evening, and they’d do half day on Saturday. It was a long, long time ago, before I ever started.

LB: Why haven’t you ever been open on evenings?

Hotchkiss: We had no need to be open on evenings because the people that did business with us usually could get in before 2 o’clock. We didn’t have enough people demanding evening hours that would justify us having people employed here staying open that long.

LB: Now, you’ve never been open any later than 3, right?

Hotchkiss: The branch, no, Mount Savage branch; other branches are open sometimes ‘til 8, have evening hours, but we don’t. We just open five days from 9 to 2 and Saturday from 9 ‘til noon.

LB: Is there any other facts that you’d like to tell us? Things that we haven’t covered?

Hotchkiss: The structure of the old bank building—the white enamel brick on the vault and around the fireplace, it was manufactured up here at the Mount Savage Refractories; the patent is no longer in existence, it cannot ever be replaced by anybody. The wood in the bank is *solid* wood that’s mahogany…so solid that you can’t even drive a nail in it, it’s very *beautiful* wood, you can’t replace it. The carving on the woodwork out front and the beveled glass around the tellers’ cages, the marble tops at the teller’s area, and the brass-plated gates at the teller’s cage, the little lights on the wall, the little wall desk—the roll-top desk—those things that you see in our bank, you don’t find

anywhere today. They've been here since 1912 or thereabouts. When the bank was built, the fireplaces and all those things were built in it; some of the furniture and the fixtures have been here as early as 1912.

LB: Who was the guy that really founded the bank?

Hotchkiss: I imagine that Lloyd Lowndes, Bladen Lowndes, those older men—I really don't know, I'd have to get my old minute book out to find that information, it's probably in there but I'd have to go look back.

LB: How much would you say the bank is really worth? I mean just as a structure, history-wise?

Hotchkiss: I would say at least $25,000.

LB: Did someone used to live here?

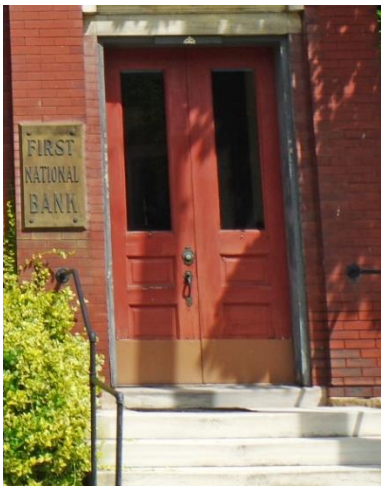
Hotchkiss: No, it was originally built as a bank, it never was used as a home.

LB: I thought maybe somebody could have lived in a back room, or….
It's really unique that it's never been robbed or been on fire—even a modern fire.

Hotchkiss: We have only one way in, one way out. If they get in, they have to stay or else get out the front door.

LB: What kind of security do you have?

Hotchkiss: We have the Diebold burglary alarm system--the cameras and the burglar alarm which is connected to the police barracks at LaVale. The silent alarm system that we operate; if we are robbed we have the silent alarm system.



LB: Now, you said if they get in, they can't get out…

Hotchkiss: We have one way in and one way out—the front door only.

LB: The windows are all barred, aren't they?

Hotchkiss: The windows are barred on the back. The side windows are not barred; they could get out a window, but they'd still have to go through [unclear], up the back—they'd have to break a window or get out a window to get out any other way but the front door, there's no other way out.

LB: I guess that's why it's never been robbed! Maybe they might feel, too, that it's not…[section hard to understand—talking over each other]… it's not worth the effort.

Hotchkiss: We want them to keep on thinking that. (LB): now that you merged, you might have problems, where before it wasn't…[unclear section] Hotchkiss: We try to be very careful, be on our toes, watching for any strangers that may come within seeing distance—we could see them right out the window.

LB: What would you ever do if someone would come up to you and actually say, you know, "this is a stick-up", or whatever?

Hotchkiss: Try to remain calm and give them what they want—and tell them to go.

LB: That would be the best thing.

Hotchkiss: If you can press your alarm, do it without them seeing you.

LB: Are they on the floor, like you can step on it, or would you have to do it with your hand?

Hotchkiss: You can do it without anybody seeing you.

LB: Is there anything else you feel that you should cover?

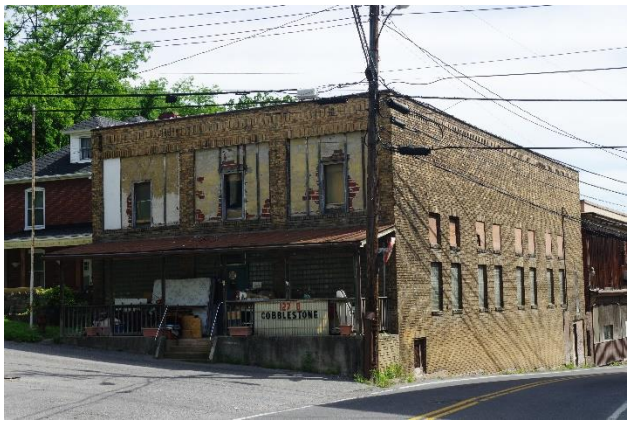
Hotchkiss: No, I think we've covered the highlights that would be interesting for anybody to know about. We could go on and on and on, but it wouldn't be too much more than we already talked about.

LB: Well, we thank you for everything that you've told us about the bank, and the merger, and everything—and we just hope that the bank keeps growing, and you get more customers. [laughs]

Hotchkiss: I feel sure it'll keep growing. My only regret is that I only have three more months to work! I'll miss the people.

LB: Are there any businesses in Mount Savage besides the ones you named? I know there was a theater right up the road here.

Hotchkiss: Yes, there used to be--two theaters; one was called the Majestic Theater, and it was operated by the Bishields family for years. The other one was called the Dan Howard Theater--that building now is occupied by the VFW



Former location of the Dan Howard Theater

Columbia Five and Ten building in 2024 (?)

Post 6025. We also had two roller skating rinks; one was up over the fire hall at one time, and one was up over…a building owned by the Mullaney brothers now occupied by the Columbia Five and Ten cents store.

LB: Where were these buildings actually located, I mean, you know, the spots?

Hotchkiss: The Mount Savage fire hall is located at the upper end of Main St., right at the bridge. The Columbia Five and Ten cents store is located at the lower end of Main St. right at the crossroad of Columbia Ave. and Main St. The second floor of the Columbia Five and Ten is no longer used for anything; years ago, dances were very popular in both the Mullaney building and the old fire hall, upstairs, which was owned at that time by [unclear] Farrell.

LB: You said about that Five and Ten—is it still in business?

Hotchkiss: The Five and Ten is still in business. Not very active business. More like a rummage store, that you browse around in and look for things you can't find anyplace else. [laughs]

LB: I didn't even know it was there. You said about the theaters and the skating rinks—did they have an effect on the business of the bank?

Hotchkiss: That was before I came into the bank. I really don't know what effect they would have had on the bank.

LB: Do you think that they would have had a great deal?

Hotchkiss: I don't think the effect would be that great, it was more recreation.

LB: When did the theaters go out of business, do you know?

Hotchkiss: The Dan Howard wasn't in business too many years but the Majestic Theater, I imagine that they've been out of business for the last twenty years.

Main Street, Mount Savage 2024

LB: Why did they close them? I mean, because this would be a good spot to have a theater, really.

Hotchkiss: Because television came into existence and people no longer went out to theaters. That's probably the reason why--more people stayed home, because television took over where theater left off.

LB: Is there anything else you'd like to add?

Hotchkiss: No, that's all I have to add today.

LB: Ok. We'd like to thank you for taking your time in giving us information about the bank and things in Mount Savage.

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First National Bank interior
http://www.mountsavagehistoricalsociety.org/Old%20Savage/First%20National%20Bank/first%20national%20bank.htm

The Fluoridation Issue in Cumberland
Name: Regis X. Brinker
Interviewed by: Pam Grayson
Date: Summer 1976
Transcribed by Celeste Bartlett 4/16/08

I'll be interviewing Mr. Brinker today about Fluoridation.

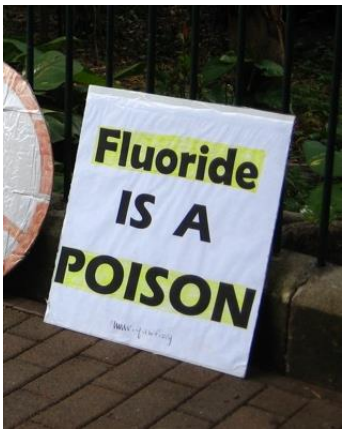
PG: Mr. Brinker tell me a little bit about your background.

Brinker: Well, I was born in Cumberland, Maryland 64 Years ago. Raised on Oldtown Road. I went to school at Saint Mary's School at, also at Oldtown Road, Cumberland. My father, John A. Brinker was a slate and tile roofer. He started his business approximately 84 years ago. And I'm continuing in his footsteps today, together with my son as a roofer, sheet metal worker, steeplejack.

PG: Ok, and you did live in Cumberland all your life and you went to school in Cumberland all your life?

Brinker: Except for about four years I worked around Washington, DC and Annapolis in the early 30's.

PG: What initially got you interested in fluoridation or fluoride?



Brinker: Well, I was concerned about it because I knew of different acids in my sheet metal work and I recognized fluoride as a very potent corrosive poisonous acid. I had an occasion to speak with Dr. [Harold] Malin, a local chiropractor, now deceased, about it and he agreed with me that we should do something about it to enlighten people to the threat of fluoridation. The proponents just didn't give both sides of it, it just didn't sound right to us, so he contacted many doctors and dentists over the country, medical doctors and allergists as far off as the state of Washington. Dr. [F.B.] Exner, we went personally and talked with them. Dr. [G.L.] Waldbott, Dr. Exner, Dr. Jonathan Forman.

PG: Were these doctors from all over the United States?

Brinker: Yea.

PG: They were, ok,

Brinker: There was a dentist up in Boonton, New Jersey, but I can't remember his name. He together with Dr. Jonathan Forman and Dr. Waldbott formed an ad hoc committee investigation. Especially the unethical way the that proponents give, so

called, research on it, which was oh my. In order to get a reading for a certain amount of children to find the fluoride content they would pull the urine of children rather than test it individually. How in the world could they make a test like that.

PG: You mean that they put it all together?

Brinker: Yes, they put it all together and then tested it. That was just one thing.

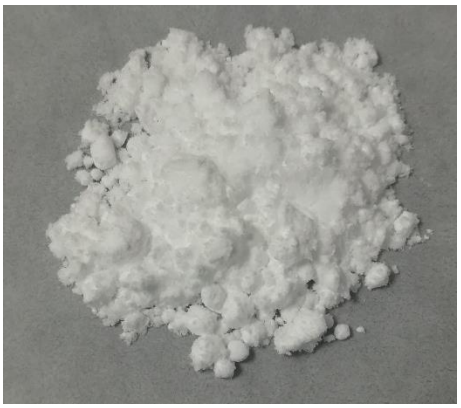
PG: How long ago was that?

Brinker: Dr. A. Allen London, Doctor of Dental Surgery, from Boonton, New Jersey, and former head of the health department there.

PG: But how many years ago was that?

Brinker: About twelve years. I have seen him and talked with him and I talked with Dr. Waldbott and I was going to say Dr. Exner, but I haven't spoken with him. I talked with Dr. Waldbott it would be four years ago, and he was still against it. Oh yes, many of them have given a testimony in front of a congressional committee, especially Dr. Exner and Dr. Waldbott.

PG: Did they say whether or not in any of these cities that the fluoride content was above the optimum. I know the least amount you can have in safety is 1 part per million parts of water.


Sample of sodium fluoride, AR grade

Brinker: This is what the proponents claim, but at that same time they will tell you, without telling you, they will tell you that it will cause fluorosis, but they will not admit that it is accumulative. So how could it cause fluorosis unless it's accumulative? And that in even very smallest amounts even at one part per million. So, this is the deception that the proponents are always forwarded. It is unfair for one to be derogatory or to speak harshly, however sometimes (?) must be suppressed with (?) Therefore, it is necessary in this controversial fluoridation. Proponents are confronted with fraudulent promotion of fluoridation and body poisoning, sickness and death. Simply an investigation of cities where fluoridation has been in effect for effective 25- 40 years definitely points most point to most harmful results. Therefore, testing and research is no longer is necessary. They too have been proven likewise over the years.

PG: Well, when you say about the sickness and death, have you ever witnessed any of that or is that a study?

Brinker: No, we don't have it around here, but this is in studies and factual evidence. It had caused cancer, cancer causes death; it causes cardiac conditions, cardiac conditions causes death. Now I know Dr… former head of the cancer research Bethesda, Maryland, I know him personally also and he definitely has attributed cancer, some cancer not all cancer, but some cancer to fluoride.

Dean Burk, M.D.

PG: I want you to explain to me a little bit about the present activities in the community…

Brinker: First, I have just thought of that doctor's name: Dr. [Dean] Burk.

PG: Is that Fort Detrick?

Brinker: No, this is in Bethesda at that big hospital in Washington, in Bethesda MD. [editor's note: National Cancer Institute, National Institutes of Health]

PG: Ok, what are the present activities in the community, what groups or committees are you on?

Brinker: I'm on no committees. I have had my hands full of fluoridation in my business.

PG: I thought you were co-chairman of the pure water committee.

Brinker: I've got to say too that I was with the Allegany Ballistics Laboratory about 18 years. There I came in contact with accidents.

PG: Are you still co-chairman of the pure water committee?

Brinker: Oh yes.

PG: Ok that is the main thing that I wanted you to tell me. How do you get to be a co-chairman of the pure water committee?

Brinker: You get interested in the thing and the first thing you know you are asked to get in on a committee. Well, when all the different cities out of western Maryland heard about fluoridation through our efforts, there were desires to form a committee. They elected Virginia Rosenbaum as the chairman.

PG: Then this is… then the committee is just a voluntary thing that you do?

Brinker: That's right; there is no one being paid or anything. In fact, the money that we have gotten together to oppose fluoridation; it's been very costly and it came out of

our own pockets, where the opposition, I mean the promoters, have our tax dollars to fight us with every time. They get it through the United State Public Health Service.

PG: About how many people would you say are on the committee? About 13 or 14 people?

Brinker: Well, there is 14. There have been two who have been added to it since then.

PG: Ok, now can you tell what general age bracket are these people in, are they young people, are they middle-aged or are they older people, or is a combination?

Brinker: It is a combination.

PG: It is?

Brinker: Yeah

PG: Ok, now what exactly do they do in the community? Can you tell me a little bit about that?

Brinker: Mrs. Rosenbaum has a newspaper, and she is also the editor of a newspaper.

PG: Well, I wanted to know more or less is what do they do in the community, what do they do as a whole?

Brinker: Oh nothing. They all speak up, they are civically interested in anything, and they are not in any way backward in speaking out to their representatives, whether it be city councilmen or county commissioners or anyone who might be.

PG: Then they just give talks on why fluoridation isn't good for people.

FLUORIDATION!
A Blessing or a Curse?

Cumberland Times ad

Brinker: If they request it. When it comes to (?) the proponents will come to start this up every now and then, they think that it is dying down they will start it up. They think people have forgotten about it and this is when we speak out of course. Maybe you haven't seen some of the articles that I have put in the paper. I put one in about all this stuff in 75 which was almost a full page in the Cumberland Times.

PG: I didn't see that one. What was in it?

Brinker: It covered just about everything, including doctor's names. I even have letters from doctors with Mayo Clinic that say it's fraudulent.

PG: Do you want to tell me some more of the reasons and some of the cases why you are so opposed to fluoridation?

Brinker: Well, it didn't take long to find out that there was a fraud in it; that it was absolutely wrong. Recently, we find in some cities that dentist income in cities that are fluoridated far surpasses those cities that are not fluoridated. So, we have Watergates everywhere, don't we? And to back this up the fraudulent promotion can be backed up with the United State Government documentation. Health, Education, and Welfare library call number RK 21 .C55, 1951 and this proves that fraudulent (?)

PG: Does your family get fluoride treatments at the dentist?

Brinker: This is something you can take or leave alone. I mean we know what fluoride is, we know it is poisonous and shouldn't be used at all for human use. Now the city of Cumberland toyed with this back about twelve years ago with intention of probably fluoridating the city. The fluoride came in, in containers plastic or rubber containers, I don't recall which and they had to be returned, the containers, so they put it in large five-gallon water fountain bottles. One day they found that it ate clear through that glass. You see how dangerous it is?

Fluoride treatment in 2014

PG: Is there a possibility that it could have a chemical reaction with glass but not body organs or bones?

Brinker: No, it has been proven; and the proponents don't dare say that it will not (?) They just run away from saying that. They just call it mottled enamel. And in fact, according to this government documentation they told their doctors to tell the people that those are beautiful teeth. Now would you call chalky white and black, reddish brown and disfigured, would you call that beautiful teeth? But they are trying to make you believe anything.

PG: Right, what do you think about the cases where it does reduce cavities 60-70%?

Brinker: You prove it to me where it does. I say it doesn't. I can prove that it doesn't. Where it has, where they have found that there has been a reduction in tooth decay you will also find that there has also been an extensive dental hygiene program in effect. And they try to keep sweets and things away from children, starches. They try to give them better food that has more phosphorus and calcium; this is what does it. And you will find it in almost every city.

PG: So, then you contribute it more to the dental hygienist…?

Brinker: I don't, but medical doctors do; the researchers.

PG: Ok.

Brinker: And then of course then I do on their word.

PG: Ok, well I read that somewhere there is less calcification with age in the aorta which is the main artery from the heart; especially in men, I guess that would mean that hardening in the arteries is lessened with fluoride. What do you think about that?

Brinker: Well, this could be possible. I don't know, I'm not a doctor. But there are so many medical doctors and dentists and so on who are opposing this. Why should they use us for their guinea pigs? I mean they have used us long enough and our money. But I think that it is high time when they should at least call a halt until someone finds out what they're doing. I mean they can make mistakes; they have made many mistakes. Look at the different drugs that they put on the market you see every day in the paper and on television that they are wanting people to not to touch them no more. Many different drugs.

PG: Ok, then, why are you so opposed for having it on the ballot in November for Cumberland? Don't you think that the Cumberland people could make their own decision about that or do you think...

Brinker: Oh, well I remember telling the people who were opposing it that this is what the committee is all about.

PG: But if there are only fourteen here on the committee…

Brinker: Representing all the people who are opposed to fluoridation in this area.

PG: Do you know approximately how many that would be?

Brinker: Oh no, the vote in Cumberland back in 1963 would give you an approximate idea.

PG: Well, no that was twelve years ago.

Brinker: It still remains the same today.

PG: Do you think so.

Brinker: Percentagewise it would remain the same today, oh yeah. Without a doubt.

PG: Well then why don't you want it on the ballot?

Brinker: I have them come to me every day on the street; because it's on there. It's already been outlawed. Why should we have it? I mean a fraud and it is known to be a killer. Why should we waste any further money on it? You see, it costs money to put these things on the ballot to vote for one thing, but it is such a hazardous thing, such a poisonous toxic thing. Why should we even consider it? Just because some bunch of dentists who want to increase their income, you know, or they're so biased that they won't investigate on their own to find out this horrible situation.

PG: Well, how do you think that it will increase their income? How do you think that could be related to fluoride?

Brinker: What, when you have tooth trouble you go to a dentist; when you get mottled enamel you go to a dentist. Now, when you get trouble with your heart or cancer or kidneys or liver, you are going to go to a medical doctor...isn't this another Watergate? Don't you consider this to be another Watergate?

PG: Well, I'm not interested in what I think of it.

Brinker: Alright then. Well, I consider it to be another Watergate. A big fraud and these con artists should be jailed for it, whoever it is that it is promoting. Whether it is Jack Arch or whoever. Now of course if Jack Arch wasn't promoting it, they'd get someone else. Before him it was Dr… well, there was one prior to him; Dr. Fridinger...Well as long as they have the taxpayers' dollars to squander, they will continue on with this. If they had to take it out of their own pocket they wouldn't.

PG: Ok do you have any plans in the future to stop fluoridation?

Brinker: Oh yes. I have numerous signs on my vehicle and in fact it's been there for forty days. Fluoridation, a fraud and a killer bumper sticker. Now we couldn't say that unless it was true. They could have us behind bars. I have approached the county commissioners stating that these con artists should be behind bars the same as any con artist.

PG: What does the county commissioner say about that?

Brinker: Well after all the president is biased for fluoridation, I think his wife is a nurse, a former nurse, although there are many nurses opposed to it, many dentists opposed to it. There are many dentists and medical doctors right here opposed to it...I have a letter from one medical doctor, who is now deceased opposing fluoridation, but getting back to the dentists, they are opposed to it, but they are afraid to say anything in opposition to it. The dental association could throw them out then they couldn't practice in the hospitals.

PG: Well, why do you think that the American Dental Association would say that it is beneficial if it isn't?

Brinker: Because it was taught to them back in 1951 as this government documentation proves...There is where they were told how to promote fluoridation by Dr. [Frank] Bull, evidently by name and nature. He didn't realize that the minutes of this meeting were being taken and this was hid for 17 years until they got a hold of it.

F.A. Bull, DDS, MSPH

PG: Where was it hid at?

Brinker: I don't know, Dr. Mick, Dr. Robert Mick (?) brought it to me. Now here for instance this is on page 11. And this was the Proceedings of the Fourth Annual Conference of the State General Directors of the Public Health Service and the Children's Bureau June 6-8, 1951 at the Federal Security Building in Washington, DC. Dr. Bull said, "Now we tell them this that in one part per million dental fluorosis brings about the most beautiful looking teeth that anyone ever had. And we show them pictures of such teeth. We don't try to say that there is no such thing as fluorosis even if one in 1.2 parts per million which we are recommending. But you have got to have an answer. Maybe you have a better one."

PG: So, what do you interpret that to mean?

Brinker: What?

PG: What do you interpret that to mean as he said?

Brinker: Well, it is fraudulent in the fact that the teeth are not beautiful when you have fluorosis and the body is not healthy when you have fluorosis. Far, far, from it... I'll show you a picture here. [retrieves a photo from somewhere] Don't they look horrible?

PG: They look pretty bad.

Brinker: It doesn't give you the color there.

PG: I've seen pictures like this before, now is this at the optimum level?

Brinker: That is mottled enamel.

PG: Is that at the optimum level of one part per million or is that higher?

Brinker: Yes.

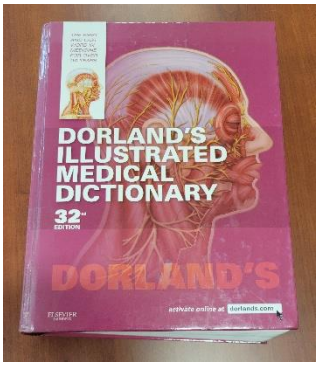
PG: This is the one part per million?

Brinker: That's right. It depends on how long. It takes...some people can throw off things better than others. Some it will accumulate more in the body than other people...Quicker in other words. Some of these little ones and the first teeth coming through already mottled.

PG: The way I understand it is the reason the enamel mottles is because the fluoride interferes with the enamel formation. Not that it accumulates there, but it just interferes with the calcium going into the enamel.

Brinker: Now I know, but when you eat food, it goes through all of your organs before it gets to your teeth, your bones or anything. Well, it is the same way with fluoride. It accumulates in your body and then finally gets to your teeth, to the skeletal structure in your mouth.

PG: Is there anything else that you want to say because I want to close here with one question?



Brinker: In reference to that again, I will say that in a test city, especially, one of every five children had fluorosis, which is incurable body poisoning. Dentists call it today mottled enamel. There is a very definite, well there is a dictionary, Dorland's Medical Dictionary, which is used by doctors and there is a definition of fluorosis mottled enamel: chronic endemic dental fluorosis. Of course, proponents claim that it is by children up to the age of twelve. But then why do they want to medicate everybody? Why don't they do it in a more democratic way, more respectful in relation to people? Rather than mass medicate a whole community provide the pills to those who want fluoride.

PG: Then you are saying don't enforce it on everybody, but the ones that are interested let them…

Brinker: Give it to them; it would certainly be far less expensive for the taxpayer. Our taxes are high enough. It is definitely accumulative and that will cause the poisoning. But you know in many cities both large and small, all over the United States, have refused fluoridation, Cincinnati, Ohio. Many big cities and small cities.

PG: Well, you mentioned cost; do you think it is because of the cost involved?

Brinker: No, it's the toxic poisonous effect the most.

PG: Now you mentioned a doctor's name that spoke about, against fluoridation out at ACC.

Brinker: Doctor Daniel Peter (sic) [Patrick] McKenzie.

PG: Now is he from town?

Brinker: LaVale.

PG: He's from LaVale. And is he a dentist?

Brinker: He is a chiropractor.

PG: Ok, I wanted to ask you one more question. Do you think there is anything or any reasoning that you could see that would change your mind even the slightest bit about…

Brinker: None whatsoever because I have read it all both pros and cons. I've read both sides. Only a closed mind will read one side and try to, but I have read both sides to make sure I was right. And it's very easy and simple for even a grade school person, an adult that only had grade school education, reading, writing, and arithmetic could very easily, without a closed mind, they could very easily find the danger of fluoridation today. Because they both have to make research. They've already used us long enough as guinea pigs to where it has shown up that it affects someone. I do recommend everybody for their own advantage by making their own decisions by reading "Fluoridation and Tooth decay" by Gladys Caldwell and Philip Zanfagna, Medical Doctor. And the National Fluoridation News is a very good newspaper that keeps you a abreast of fluoridation in this country, and worldwide, in fact.

Philip Zanfagna, M.D.

PG: Now say how would I go about getting this National Fluoridation News?

Brinker: Their address is right on the… [tape recorder was turned off, and then back on in the middle of another topic] …when you heat it, it becomes concentrated. This is what makes it bad that it eats out plumbing, hot water tanks, hot water pipes, hot water heating systems. I had this on paper from the city attorney. I've shared with him what I knew… even copper. About twelve years ago we had brass water meters from the mayor of the City of New York, showing how it had corroded things, brass water heaters.

PG: And it didn't do that with just regular water?

Brinker: No, it was fluoridated water. We have an awful time; there was a building at the corner of Union and George Street. It stuck to my memory that it was historical, former hardware store. There were two large windows in there and we put all of this on display: corroded water pipes which we had gotten from laundry (?); we had a gallstone or a kidney stone, I don't know, from a fellow about 24 years old from Baltimore, Maryland. It showed where there were parts of the fluoride in that stomach.

PG: But do you think that the fluoride caused that stone there?

Brinker: No, but it is true that it will accumulate.

PG: Well, I was going to ask you, somebody told me that during the last election that, I don't know if it was the Pure Water Committee, or what it was, but somebody had said that this committee had gone around posting posters at the polls showing these mottled teeth and it put quite a scare into people.

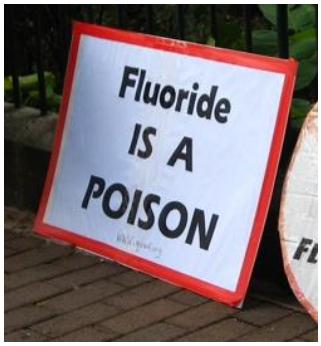
Brinker: That is an absolute lie. That is fraudulent promotion that is what that is.

PG: This was just hearsay.

Brinker: Yeah, that was an absolute lie; we never would have done anything like that. We didn't do what they did like call people names and so on. We just merely gave the people facts like gentlemen and people made their own decisions, but they were calling at us (?) and quacks because they always say that about a chiropractor and Dr. Malin was a chiropractor, so they… this is only done to discredit unknowing people who don't know better or who don't read or try to find out. They have full faith in doctors or dentists as if they were gods, some kind of god. But now we are finding out that they are not so much gods, that we can't trust them. Particularly moneywise, I'll tell you that they don't care how much they charge anymore.

PG: Does your family agree with you on your views of fluoride or do they have different views?

Brinker: Yes, they have been, they've had the data before them, they can see it, they can read it themselves, or people like you, they'll get it.



PG: What about your son? Is he opposed to fluoridation?

Brinker: All my family is. As a matter of fact, most of my friends are because I make sure to tell them because they are my friends and I care about them.

PG: And then you did say that you don't think that the topical fluoride application hurts the teeth.

Brinker: Oh no it will harden the teeth in fact, should you get decay this is where it might cause some trouble. That repairing may be very difficult, but this is something that you can take or leave alone. It's not like mass medication, and it really isn't harmful if you are careful with it. But who can say that a child is going to spit every little bit of that out? Just like the toothpaste. In fact, the toothpaste, the fluoridated toothpaste, shouldn't be used in a fluoridated area. Lots of people get blistered mouths with it, but

that is their own business. They can take it or leave it alone, see. I don't say don't do it because I don't have to do it.

PG: Do you use fluoridated toothpaste?

Brinker: No, I don't want anything to do with fluoride. I know what it is. It is too hazardous, poisonous, toxic, and corrosive.

PG: I know that there is only a little bit in toothpaste.

Brinker: There is only a little bit in water. One part per million is a very little bit, but it is still accumulates in the body and causes body poisoning. But why fool with a thing…if people are so lazy and indifferent that they can't leave sweets alone, that they can't brush their teeth, that they can't eat proper foods, then they should die. We shouldn't be taking care of people from the cradle to the grave. They have to have some dependence on their own. Depend on themselves. I mean this has gotten clear out of hand to say that half of the country taking care and providing for the other half. It isn't proper; it is very degrading to many.

PG: Well, I don't have any more questions; do you want to say anything else?

Brinker: No, I think that I have covered just about everything.

PG: Well, thank you very much for taking your time to speak with me.

Brinker: You're welcome.

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Fluoridation ad
Cumberland Times, February 28, 1975

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Frank Bull
https://stacks.cdc.gov/view/cdc/71526/cdc_71526_DS1.pdf

Friends Aware: A History
Name: Margaret Long (Mrs. John J.)
Occupation: English Teacher, Allegany High School.
Residence: Ridgewood Avenue, Cumberland, Md.
Birth date: January 20, 1914
Date and place of interview: April 21, 1977 at Allegany High School
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 11/2007

My name is Carol Ramsey and I'm going to interview Mrs. Margaret Long from the Friends Aware. Today's date is April 21, 1977.

CR: Her name is (Mrs. John J.) Margaret Long, chairman of the Department of English.

Long: At Allegany High School.

CR: You're the twelfth-grade English teacher and you were born January 20th…

Long: 1914

CR: 1914, and you were born in Dallas Texas and I'm doing this on Friends Aware, and this is April 21, 1977, at Allegany High School. Do you want to tell me a little bit about Friends Aware?

Long: Would you like to know why we started Friends Aware?

CR: Yes

Bing Long (and brother Steve on right) in 1992

Long: OK, our oldest son is now 36 yrs. old, and when he was preschool, we didn't know if he was mentally retarded; we knew he was slow and different, but we didn't know the degree of retardation. So, when he was ready for school, age six, our pediatrician, said what do we do with him. He said send him to school, he's school age let them figure out what to do with him. So, we sent him to Johnson Heights school. A few weeks later, Dr. Kopp who was the Superintendent of Schools called from the Board of Education and said Bing is not really ready for first grade. I said, "Well, what is he ready for? What do you suggest?" He said, "Well, that's unfortunate. We don't have any special education classes in the county." At this time, special education was a very, very new field. Very few people, very few counties had anything of this nature. So, but he said, "We'll try to help you find something, someplace you can send him away." But we knew he was ready to be trained in something. He

wasn't academically inclined, and he needed some training. It took three years and a lot of patience before we came up with something. But immediately following, in fact during that interview with Dr. Kopp he said I recommend that you have him evaluated by the psychiatrist. There was none in Allegany County at that time, so he said that there was one that visits the health department. "Why don't we make an appointment for you and you can take him down and have him evaluated?" So, we agreed with that, my husband and I. So we went down. The psychiatrist, spent about a half hour with Bing and came out and said, "My recommendation to you is that you stick this boy in an institution and forget about him." Well, that was all we needed, the tears fly, but that was like waving a red flag in front of a bull, because neither my husband nor I was the type who would stick a kid, anybody's kid, in an institution and forget about him. If we had a responsibility for that child, even for the children we didn't have, that didn't seem to us to be a logical solution. So, during those three years we wrote maybe a hundred or more letters to various places we've heard of where they did have training facilities, and we hit upon the Elwyn School, which is a school near Philadelphia. It's a training center, one of the first in the country. It was compared by people we interviewed with Vineland, which is about the same age; Vineland is an old school in New Jersey, Vineland, New Jersey, built for the same purpose. These were two of the very few at that time. Out of Maryland had Rosewood. Rosewood was known to be terribly overcrowded, terribly understaffed, and that the children we terribly mistreated. So, we know we didn't want to have any parts in that. In fact, when we talked to State legislators about Rosewood; they didn't even know there was such a place.

Rosewood Center in 2009

CR: Oh my gosh…

Long: And so, it seems incredible, doesn't it?

CR: Yeah.

Long: And this was January 6th. This was when he was about nine. Between the times he was nine and fifteen, in there some place. At any rate he was nine when we took him to the Elwyn School. It was terribly expensive and, in those days, people weren't paid very much to start with, but we scraped together enough to pay for his being there for three years and decided after three years we couldn't possibly do it because by that time we had three other children and we knew that at least two of them would be college material and wanted… we had no way to put any more money into Bing's education at that time. So, we brought him home and got started, we decided that there must be something started here in Allegany County. We went to the Board of Education to the Health Department, to our doctor. They all said that because of the nature of this

illness or whatever you want to call it, condition, parents didn't like to have it known that they had a mentally retarded child, and they were not able to disclose the names of any other retarded children or the conditions of any other retarded children in the area. Well, when we went to the Board of Education, by that time we learned that two other children, Rickie Hamilton's parents and Eddie Whitaker's parents; and the three of us were invited to meet at the Board of Education and by this time Mr. Webster was superintendent, and he had said that as far as we know these are the only three mentally retarded children in this whole county. We didn't believe that. Because we had read books, even in college psychology classes told you that about three percent of any population is severely retarded. Just as about three percent are geniuses; and the rest of us fit into that great big bell curve someplace in between. So, we didn't think that could be quite true, so we put a little note in the paper asking parents of mentally retarded children who were interested to come to our house for a meeting. About 12 mothers came that night and we sat around sharing experiences and cried, and cried over each other's experiences. It was very therapeutic. Out of this first meeting grew Friends Aware. We told Mr. Webster that we had discovered about, we must have had about 15 children identified by that time, and he said, well, he didn't think there was anything that could be done in the public school system. We had him talk to us. We had some of the crippled children's people talk to us, the health department, and they all said the best thing to do would be keep it quiet; keep your child hidden. You'd open up Pandora's box…

CR: Do you know why they wanted everything kept quiet?

Long: We think it was because they were unfamiliar; this is what people had done traditionally with mentally retarded children. They locked them in closets, they locked them in basements, or locked them in attics. Even next-door neighbors didn't know your family had a mentally retarded child. This was just 20 some years ago, 25 at the most. The National Association for Retarded Children had not yet been formed. But miraculously over this whole country there were parents who were doing the same thing. So, when Mr. Webster said there's really no place for them in a public school. We really wouldn't know what to do with them in a public school. So, we said we'll have our own school. So, for a year the parents and mothers took their children, we started in a little place over off of MacDonald Terrace. It was owned by the Kiwanis Club. It was called the Sunshine Camp. They had used it for a tuberculosis sanitarium at one time and the Kiwanis used it for underprivileged children, at that time. So, they said sure we could use it. We went over there until it got too cold. And every day. And there were marvelous people in this facility. They came and tried to help us. Some of the children just ran around and around. They never been around other people before. You really can't believe the conditions they were in, but we persisted for a year. And when it got too cold, the labor union had bought a building down on South Liberty Street which has been torn down since then, but they said they would hurry up and fix up the second floor so we could have a school there. We finished the year out there. At by the end of the year, we talked again to Mr. Webster and he said, well, I think we should try. We'll have a class at the old LaVale School, an experimental class for one year. Well, they did,

they had ten children there and it worked out fine. By the next year they opened a class in Westernport and one in Frostburg, and at the end of the first year, they were convinced that there weren't more than ten children, but we went up and talked to the parents in Westernport, and we talked to the parents in Frostburg. They put pressure on them too, so they began calling themselves Friends Aware. They opened classes.

CR: How did you get the name Friends Aware?

Roy Rogers and Dale Evans, 1970s

Long: It is kind of funny; we were talking about having this organization. I guess it was the organization we needed, and we were talking about a name and I had just finished reading "Angel Unaware" by Dale Rogers [Evans], Roy Rogers wife. They had had a little handicapped child that died, and she just identified all the way through as the little angel unaware. So, I thought isn't that a beautiful title? And you'll make me cry thinking about it, anyway I thought wouldn't it be great we could have everybody become friends aware of these children. So that's the way.

CR: That's neat.

Long: Even though I get emotional about it.

CR: I'm sorry.

Long: That's alright, that won't be transcribed anyway. So, by this time within a couple of years the children who reach 16 were no longer allowed to go to class, so we had to find something else. See, I think that our Bing was 15 by the time we had our first public school class. He went to middle school for one year.

CR: Did he like it?

Long: He loved it. He's very social, very gregarious. In fact, that was one of our problems, one of the reasons we had to get him in something, because he would run away. We lived right by Fort Hill. He loved the school buses and if I let him out of the house for one minute or if I turned around…I never let him out without my being with him...but if I would turn around and be doing something and forget about him for a moment, he would be out of the house like that and over to Fort Hill. He'd run, just make a beeline to get on one of the buses, and the bus drivers were so nice to him; they thought it was a joke. They would call me and say, "Mrs. Long, I have Bing down here at the bus barn." In the meantime, I'm going frantic suspecting that's where he was, but really not sure until after a time or two. Everyone in that Johnson Heights area knows Bing as a result. And everyone that works for a utility company or any place

where there would be workmen, he's so, he's never met a stranger. He just loves, in fact he loved it in Elwyn School, and he learned a great deal, and we are very grateful for them. But so, Friends Aware progressed into three buildings. When the Board of Education took it over and started putting children out at the age of 16, we realized we had to have something else. We hired a man that we called Pop Foley who had been industrial arts teacher in West Virginia, who had retired and was interested, and he took first about five or six boys as they were now out of school and had a whole class at the Y. Then, when he had too many, that we needed more room, we rented a place out on Virginia Avenue. Down at the Kline's furniture store.

CR: Is the building still there?

Long: The building is still there, I think. That would be the first building back past the Sunoco station or the next one it's the corner of Virginia Avenue and Fifth Street. We were there for quite a number of years and that is when Mrs. Lloyd became our director, she really did a marvelous job with it, we had just great people. Pop Foley continued and May Smith, I remember her name. Virginia Schilling, who was the mother of one of the children, one of the very severally handicapped children who never learned to talk or really communicate. But the first words she learned to say was cool, meaning school. She wanted it so bad, after we started taking her, she could hardly wait till, cool, cool; that's all that she would say. All these children have become, I think, some of these that have gone with Friends Aware now. I do want to tell you something before I forget, that the first special education supervisor was…I can't say her name, it was on the tip of my tongue. Anyway, I'll come back to her name when I think of it. About two years ago, you remember when we started out when there were only three children identified as mentally retarded now all of Allegany County. How many special Education classes or how many children do you have? Well, it was over 500 at that time in special education classes in Allegany County. So, from Friends Aware efforts, classes have grown to accommodate children with nervous disorders, the learning disabled. Right here in Allegany we have I guess about 30 children in special education. Some of the children that are better able to do some academic, something academically, are put in special education classes. I'm sure they had one at Fort Hill too.

CR: Yes, they did.

Long: At any rate, when I asked her this, there were 500 or more youngsters in Allegany County in special education classes, which we're helping…now we have New Hope. You were probably aware of that which takes children as near birth as they want to, sends them, and gets them ready for school…preschool children. Now, I don't know how many children they have. You might want to talk to them sometime. Well, anyway, Friends Aware grew in Virginia Avenue and all this time we were raising money. From the day we organized, we started having bake sales and rummage sales, and going around talking to people. I must have made a hundred speeches and Virginia Schilling must have made a hundred speeches.

CR: Is that how you made money for everything.

John and Margaret Long, 1989

Long: Yes, right. We just went to organizations; anybody who would let us speak, we'd talk to them and usually that organization would set up to raise money for us.

CR: Sounds pretty good.

Long: Well, eventually we had about $20,000 and decided it was time to build our own building. So, we went to the county commissioners and they said they could give us some land on Holland Street. So we decided, even though many people thought that was a terrible place; it was right up on top of the hill, how can you accommodate these children up on top of this hill. But now you go up here and it's like you're coming right up to heaven.

CR: Isn't it like right up behind Braddock?

Long: Yes, beyond Braddock, on up Holland Street; it's on Holland Street extended. You keep right on going up and I don't know the block number. Let's see (?) a house up there at one time at 1208, I think. So, this must be about the 15 or 16 hundred blocks on Holland Street. [CR: I think I know where it is.] You turn off to the right. You should go up there. Since you are making this tape, you ought to go up and see what these young people are doing. Now, there are between 50 to 60 adults that go up there every day in addition to all the children that are in the special education classes throughout the County. They go up there every day, buses pick them up. The building was recently appraised to be worth nearly $200,000. We started out with; we had saved not quite $20,000.

CR: Did you have like one building or was it several buildings?

Long: No, we have all one building, but we've added onto it several times and we're in the process of adding on again because with group homes. Are you familiar with group homes? [CR: No.] Well, now we have one group home ready to open. The state just hasn't provided the funds. We own one group home in LaVale. The state works in a very slow manner. We've owned this building for about 3 years now. It had been remodeled and we have one of the instructors, in fact an instructor of the Friends (?) living in it just to keep it, to take care of it. We have it furnished and we're ready for group parents and eight retarded adults to live there. This is an effort to normalize their lives.

CR: Do they have to pay anything to live there?

Long: No, they won't have to pay, but they will be screened. Four of them will have to come from Rosewood. The state is making an effort now to send, to decentralize institutions especially mentally retarded. They're be sending eight originally residents of

Allegany County back to Allegany County. We'll have two group homes eventually. Four youngsters from Friends Aware will be also be in this group home, four from Rosewood.

CR: That will be nice.

Long: Yes, and there will be parents their home parents with them all the time. They will be responsible for them. This it to try to get them to be able to use public transportation, to be eventually go to shelter and work someplace, there are all sorts of things that maybe they'll be able to do eventually. This is the outcome of three parents meeting back in 1952 I believe it was. When Mr. Webster was in, superintendent the schools and he thought these were the only three retarded children in Allegany County. Well, you can see this is much better than having them locked in a closet or basement.

CR: How has Friends Aware changed like from back when it started to now?

Long: OK, when it started, we were from… we had to raise all the money. Now united Fund donates about … I want to say now we have about 60,000 pending budget and United Funds donate about $15,000 of that. The state donates about between 70 and 75%. The rest come from donations or however we can get the money to keep going. So mostly eventually the state will take over the entire program. The Board of Education is responsible for providing bus service. But instead of there actually providing the service they give us the money and we are bus; we own the buses ourselves; we hire bus drivers, and we hire aides. We have, we've always been blessed by God with the most marvelous people working with these children. They've all been people that come and must have the biggest hearts in the world. They must have been all heart because the children have grown and prospered and thrived under them. We've changed from time to time. Our philosophy has changed because the state has come in…for instance, one time the chief activity there was making artificial flowers, plastic flowers. The children sat around, most of the day, pouring this plastic into molds and colored them. The state said this can't be done. You have to have a physical education program and have all these, a variety of things for these youngsters to do. And now some of them go out and mow the lawns in the summertime. During the wintertime they fold boxes for Mr. Doughnut, they stack wrappers for some of the bakeries, and they're paid by the amount of work that they get done. We have two boys; I don't think I mentioned them. When our fourth child came along, he too was retarded. That put a little extra impetus on our having to get something here in Allegany County because we knew when Steven came along, we were just going to love him. We had subjected Bing to tests and examinations and evaluations, from the time he was born practically, by the time the doctor started saying I think there is something wrong with this child. We had taken him all over the east and when Steven came along, we said the heck with that. We're just going to love him and take care of him right here. That really put an extra impetus on us wanting to get special education started in the County. There're

Steven Long, 1992

both at Friends Aware; we couldn't be luckier. They go up, the bus picks them up at about a quarter to nine in the morning, and there is a bus driver whom they adore and a bus aide whom they adore. In fact, they can't go on vacation for fear they will miss school. They just can't think of a day without going there. They get to school; there is a director, who is Steve Haigh now, he has an assistant who is Martha Galeoto. She is a program director, too. We have about, we must have between ten and twelve, or maybe more, 13 or 14 or 15; I'm not sure of the exact number, people on the staff. One person is really one on one, they identify a child who is really seems to be a having some serious problems. She spends her time just walking around with that child working with that child or just…

CR: Is it volunteer work or…

Long: No, it's a paid, they are paid well. Many of them have master's degrees. Some have bachelor's degrees; only the aides now have less than a bachelor's degree. They've all had training in special education, Steve has his masters. The last director of the center we had was named Steve Smith and he went right from there to a fine job with the state. He was identified because of the good work they were doing at Friends Aware. They said we need to have the same kind of program other places. They've done a lot of experimental work at Friends Aware. Dr. Cluse (?) from Frostburg State brought some of his students down and they have evaluated and tested…not as guinea pigs; I don't like to use that term. But at least as youngsters to become aware of the many factors of mental retardation. Some of your classes at ACC… Are you taking psychology?

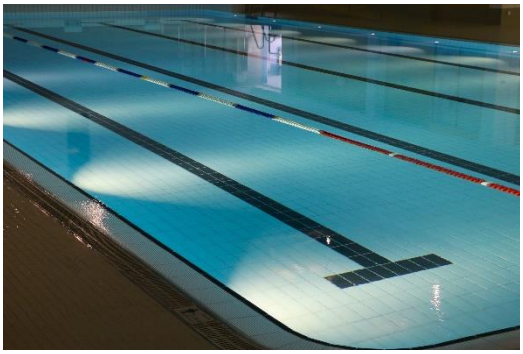
CR: I took that my first semester.

Long: You didn't go to Friends Aware?

CR: No.

Long: Well, some of the teachers at ACC take their classes up to Friends Aware. Some of the youngsters from out there have volunteered their services, and also from Frostburg State. There is room for especially trained people, people who have had psychology or human development, some of those subjects. There is room there for that sort of volunteer. They have, my boys all I know is at the end of the day when I say, "What did you do today? Well, I'll tell you what we had for lunch. They go for the eating, but now we are starting a greenhouse up there so they can learn to grow flowers. [CR: That'll be nice.] For the last three or four years they have had beautiful gardens because it's supplemented…by the amount of money they get for the lunch program. [unclear] They

love to cook. She takes four or five of them at a time in the kitchen so there are always people being trained in the kitchen skills. There are always children being trained in homemaking skills, such as washing and ironing and using an automatic washing machine and automatic dryer. There are always children. Someone always has a class in current events, like what's going on in the world. Communication skills, muscle development skills, phys. ed., these are more or less designed to help the ones that need to develop certain muscles. I'm not sure what term you would apply to that. Let's see, what else to they do. They try to more or less program the youngsters according to their needs and offer a wide spectrum of experiences. The people who own the Bowler, no not the Bowler, but the bowling alley down on Virginia Avenue, I can't think of their name right off, they let them come out there and bowl. [CR: That's really nice.] It is nice. They go out to ACC swimming at least one day a week. They used to go to the Y swimming, but now they go to the pool at ACC. They go to the Y for gym classes. They use the facilities at the Y for basketball; they have their own basketball court at Friends Aware. Well, I just don't know how there could have been so many good people devote so much of their time and love. So that now every year, as the local schools graduate children now, the public schools will keep them until they are 20. As the child reaches their 20th birthday, or the teacher thinks the child is ready to go to Friends Aware, then they send them up to Friends Aware. And then we have youngsters up there, I call them youngsters, up to the age of about 50. So, they're not really youngsters. We've also taken in the last couple of years several people from the Sylvan Retreat, who are really not senile, but who have perhaps a physical handicap or maybe are mentally slow, but don't have anyone to take care of them at home, so they come up to Friends Aware, too. There are people like Alhambra, who raised… they have the ACIT, the basketball tournament, to raise money for Friends Aware. They also raise money to provide scholarships for teens, young people who want to learn to teach the retarded or otherwise handicapped children. Who else did I want to mention there... And the K of C, they had a fundraising not too long ago. They have dances for them at the K of C; they have picnics for them. Alhambra now has a Christmas, and an Easter and a Thanksgiving dinner for them. [CR: That's really nice.] It's wonderful…Well, we have the best social schedule of anybody than I know. [laughing] They do more things… in the first two weeks in August they go to camp.



CR: What kind of camp?

Long: Well, we've went out to the boy scout camp for years. Then the last maybe five or six years we've been going to the 4-H camp down by Keyser. It's called Camp…I can't remember what it is. But any way, it's near Keyser. This year we're changing. We're going to a camp up near, and you'll have to tell me the name of it, it's a park up in Pennsylvania. It's not far from Hyndman.

CR: Shawnee

Shawnee State Park Lake, 2020

Long: Shawnee, there's a camp up near Shawnee. They'll be able to use the Lake, Shawnee Lake. Where we were over in West Virginia, they had to bus them a couple of miles to Patterson Creek and often times the water was too low, they couldn't swim, or it was too muddy or something. But now they will have swimming facilities every day. They go and they sit... this is part of the job for people who work for Friends Aware to plan to spend two weeks, the first two weeks in August at camp. Different entertainers go to camp and entertain at night around the campfire. It's wonderful. Kids who sing or kids who play the guitar, or rock groups go and have dances for them; they everything that everybody else does when they go to camp for two weeks. Now you ask me questions.

CR: I like listening to you; I like everything you have to say.

Long: Well, thank you

CR: Um, okay what is a normal day like at Friends Aware?

Long: The boys get picked up around 9:00. There're due up at school by 9:00. I told you they are picked up by a Friends Aware bus, a driver and aide on the bus. They have some opening exercises. I don't know if they have prayer anymore; they used to. And they have a flag salute. Then they go to whichever teacher is responsible for them. It might be with Mrs. Allen in the kitchen. And there they begin preparing lunch for everybody. The staff, everybody eats together. They may be in a group that's going to the Y or up at ACC. At, I don't know what time, around ten or a little after they have break, they all go get a Coke. They have a few minutes just to relax. Then about 11:30 they have lunch. Their lunch period is a learning period. Their teachers are teaching them how to use knives and forks and how to chew their food and anything else that they think is important. Then, in the afternoon they go to whatever teacher is responsible for them. They have grooming. I don't think I talked about the personal grooming class. The girls go out to Vo Tech one day a week to have their hair done. The boys don't have that done, but I guess they wish they could perhaps go someplace, but that's a great thing for these girls, as you can well imagine. The money they earn from doing, now some of them are on this work schedule. Each month or maybe each week, I don't know how often, they get a check if they've had a job. In the summertime, now, you'll see Friends Aware buses around different places. They'll be mowing lawns. [Background noise disrupted interview. Recorder turned off and on.] They have their work projects for which they get paid. Then, when they get their checks, somebody from the school, one of the instructors, takes them down to the bank or takes them shopping. They go to GeeBees. [CR: Oh, that's nice.] Isn't that nice?

CR: They take them out and everything, like they aren't cooped up.

Long: Yes, they're not cooped up at all. They are as free as birds. Plus, they're having these normalization experiences that other people have. They're going…the community, too, is having an experience because, you probably remember how youngsters at Fort Hill were looked at. At least at first. I think now it probably isn't as bad. You may have had known some of these youngsters at Washington Junior High. You may even have had a special education in your elementary school. Did you?

CR: I think we did. I went to Gephart.

Long: Oh sure, Gephart.

CR: I just went for half a year, that's why I don't know.

Long: Yeah, that's one of the main ones, is at Gephart. In fact, my sister teaches there, she is wonderful, Mrs. Wilson. She's the special education teacher, she's just a fantastic person and a fantastic teacher. But youngsters now are used to seeing mentally retarded children on the playground, on the street. So, the people aren't making a big deal. Parents are more likely to be astonished to see mentally retarded people, especially mentally retarded people, especially mentally retarded adults, than children because you have grown up with them being the public eye. You didn't know that at one time they were locked up and kept away.

CR: That surprised me.

Long: Yes, have you ever… let me finish this and then I'll ask you. I was going to ask you about Flowers for Algenon. Have you read that book?

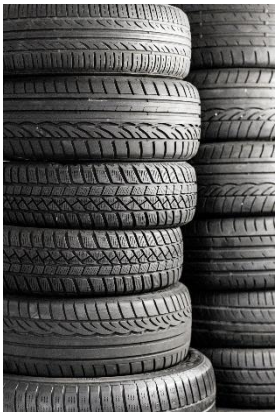
CR: No

Long: Oh, it's marvelous. If you become interested in special education, you should read it. The, to continue with the day, I don't really know what…Let me see what I have failed to mention. Some days apparently some of them get some reading or writing. Oh, one of the big things I certainly failed to mention is the workshop. They have marvelous saws and equipment for making all kinds of wood working material. The dogs that you see around, this is a trademark.

CR: You mean the dogs with like their names on them?

Long: Right, the dogs that people put in their front yards that have the name of the family. Most of them came from Friends Aware. In fact, it was when we were making plastic flowers and dogs, the boys were making the dogs and the girls were making the plastic flowers, that a state representative came and said we will not be able to get state funds anymore if you limit the activities to this; you're going to have to broaden the

program. That's when we realized we needed somebody who had been trained in special education as a director and we knew then that we needed a program director, also someone who had been trained in special education. In spite of the fact that the program has spread, I'm sure they don't enjoy anymore love than they did from the people who were with them before. What are some other activities? Personal grooming, homemaking skills, yard skills, and work projects. The (unclear) is a project. They put together what the Kelly calls, I call them skids, but I forget what they call them, but they are boards that they nail, they nail boards together on which the Kelly stacks tires. They get paid for that activity. Some other industries too, have given them projects for them to do, I can't remember, but a young man by the name of Mark Lancaster is in charge of this and he goes out to visit various industries to see if they have anything that could be sub-contracted, more or less, that these youngsters could do.



CR: Do they have a regular play time or recess, or something like that?

Long: Well, I think the whole day is pretty much that. [laughter] They enjoy working the garden, they enjoy going out and mowing lawns, and they enjoy going swimming, of course.

CR: Everyone likes to go outside.

Long: Right, everybody likes to be outside. Their whole day is…

CR: Did you do the same thing every day, like did you have the same schedule?

Long: No, they have different groups of children assigned to different teachers, for a period of time; maybe for instance they could be working on kitchen projects for a month. Then those children would learn to help prepare the meals. They would be helping Mrs. Allen in the morning prepare certain parts of the meal. Then they would set the table; that would be their job. To set the table for 60 or 70 people is no easy job. Then they would clean up afterwards and help with the cleanup work in the kitchen, and preparing for the next day's meals doing the planning the menu and getting ready in advance for the next meal. That takes pretty much the whole day. The others have the day broken up pretty much. I think that is the only part where they would spend the whole day, unless they'd be out on a work project. Some of them go out and clean houses; they scrub, dust, and vacuum; do everything. They go out in a crew.

CR: Before Friends Aware started, did anybody else, or organization, try to get something started?

Long: No, as I say the health department would not tell us who had a mentally retarded child. They said if they knew it would be confidential and they wouldn't be allowed to tell them. The Crippled Children's League [aka League for Crippled Children, the Children's

League] said they knew none. The Board of Education knew none, and private doctors, said they knew none. Or that it was confidential. So, no there was nothing else before Friends Aware.

CR: Do the people stay overnight at Friends Aware?

Long: No, they pick them up at home and then bring them home on the bus. They get home, they get on the bus around 2:30 and they get home around 3:00. The buses come down from all parts of the county, Frostburg, Westernport, from all over the county.

CR: It's just the one Friends Aware building, there aren't any others?

Long: No, there are special education classes all over the county, for various kinds of handicapped, but there's one Friends Aware.

CR: I think that's all. Is there anything you want to say?

Margaret and John Long, 1994

Long: Well, no, I thank you for coming a spending this time. Well, if you want to know more about the specifics right now. Something I should add, my husband was very instrumental in getting the building put up there, As I said, we had less than $20,000 in our savings, and we had scrimped and saved and pooled our money, for maybe ten or more years, and he was working at Pittsburgh Plate Glass at the time. So, when he and Mr. Alvin Wilson, who owns Phoenix Construction, they got together, and Mr. Wilson had his son, who's an architect, draw plans for us, and all this was free. Mr. Wilson said he was sure he could get some of the unions to help like on Saturday and donate their time. My husband got all the glass from PPG and the building is practically glass. That, plus all that was donated labor, made it possible for us to build for the amount of money we had. Actually, the most cost in that building is the materials, other than the glass; they didn't have to pay for the glass. Electricians, plumbers, everybody donated their time.

CR: That's nice that everybody really donated their time and they weren't expecting anything in return, or something like that.

Long: Right. We had committees of parents to go over the plans to see if they wanted to make suggestions. Since the building was built like the Y, as you walked in there was a little office for the director off to the left, and the kitchen off to the left, the rest of it was for a dining room, or an assembly room. At one branch of the Y was the girls' part and the other branch was the boys'. Now, all of that had been filled in around what was originally a Y shaped building, and now they have classrooms and big a big dining and

assembly room, a fine recreation room where they have a pool table and exercycles, you name it, they have it. It really is great. So, I can't see, I really don't see how they can improve very much. What I started to tell you about these group homes, when they send these 8 youngsters up which should be within the next year, from Rosewood and as they keep sending more youngsters back to their home communities, Friends Aware *must* have more space to take care of them. They have identified us as the people who are gonna have to provide facilities. So that is why we are adding on right now.

CR: I think that is all the questions I have to ask.

Long: Well, thank you very much for being interested in Friends Aware.

CR: Thank you.

Long: And if you would like to hear more about what is up to date. You might call Steve Haigh, who is the director up there right now. You might enjoy just going up there if you have time between 9 and 3 o'clock, you have to call to make an appointment and tell him you have taped this interview with me and maybe you would like to ask him a few questions about what is going on right now that I don't know about and what the opportunities, there are work opportunities there. We hire eight to ten or twelve people. I don't know exactly how many; you'll have to ask him. When you hire that many people that makes a contribution to the economy that opens up jobs for young people.

CR: Did you work there, like teach or anything?

Long: No, only the first year when we had our, all them mothers brought the children, As soon as the Board of Education took it over, they hired a teacher and an aide. My sister happened to be working with us. She was looking for a job and there were no special education teachers in those days. It was a field that nobody, in fact, it has just been in the last…I don't know if you can get a degree in special education at Frostburg, I think you have to get it in psychology. It's just in the last couple of years that they have special education courses at Frostburg. And the University of Maryland I believe they might offer a degree in special education.

CR: I didn't know if you taught there or not, so you just got everything started?

Long: Yes, that is right. We got it started and we got, we helped to hire people when we had money, but there were lots of people who gave months and months of their time, years of their time, and there still is. My husband is currently president and this is his second term, and just every president in the last several years, it has been such a big operation, spends days up there. A couple days a week, and he signs checks and

contacts people, and all this sort of thing. So, we do have a very active board of directors, and there are 20 people on the board of directors, 24. I believe. Twelve of them are honorary members and they're called honorary because they are the original ones, and then the others are elected. We have somebody from HEW, someone from the Board of Education…HEW, I mean from the health department, someone from the Board of Education, and someone from the Welfare Department. Now, I hope that you never know a mentally retarded child. Now, I hope there would never be another one born, but there will be. Although, medicine has made strives too, and there won't be as many born in the future, hopefully. But the fact that there have been mentally retarded, that there are mentally retarded people in the world, just makes you feel great that the Board of Education and state department…the legislature has set up departments in the state to deal with mentally retardation. And the United States, with the Department of Education, and Welfare and Health face the fact that here is a group of people who are citizens and they need help.

CR: Ok

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Bing Long
Cumberland Sunday Times, August 16, 1992, p. 6B

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John and Margaret Long
Cumberland Sunday Times, February 26, 1989, p. C1

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Margaret and John Long
Cumberland Times-News, March 26, 1994, p. 5A

Pool table
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Home Life in a Mining Town (Pennsylvania)

Vickie Ritenour: Did you live on the farm all your life?

Anna Brown Kalp: Yes, I lived on the farm all my life. I was married in 1924, and we got his father's home; and we lived on the farm all our life there and we made our living off of the farm. Back in those years, because there wasn't convenience—they didn't have the stuff made, like you go buy canned goods like today. So, I made my own butter, had my own eggs, raised our own pork for meat, and beef.

VR: Did you can all year long?

Kalp: Yes, I canned all my stuff….I canned it, cold-packed it, and put it in crocks—that's sausage—and put it in your baker and baked it 'til it would be maybe not quite half inch around, and then you take it out and slip a saucer on the top to hold it down, maybe put a smoothing iron on it to keep there until it would get hard, and then….We had everything on the farm to eat, but we took our grain and wheat meal, and got our own corn meal, our own wheat for flour, I baked my own bread…

VR: What things had to be done on the farm itself? What chores—on a day-to-day basis what did you have to do each day on the farm?

Kalp: Well, every day…you did your washing and ironing on Monday and Tuesday, and German(?) baked on Friday—your bread. And all we had to buy was spices--sugar, salt—something that we didn't have on the farm, that's the only thing that you had to buy.

VR: Did you have big meals each time—on breakfast, and on lunch, and on dinner?

Boiler used to make maple syrup in 2007

Kalp: Oh, we ate our meals regularly every day, breakfast, dinner, and supper. We had warm cereals of rolled oats, or bacon and eggs; if they wanted pancakes, we had that. I made my own pancakes, I didn't buy them like they do today. And I made my own syrup for them—I used my syrup from the maple syrup we made up here on the farm; we had a sugar camp. We boiled our own [maple] sugar and I made my own homemade sugar, and it was very delicious when you put it on any cereal you was eating, or for cake icing—it made wonderful cake icing.

VR: Were people big eaters; did you have to make a lot of food to feed everyone in the older days?

Kalp: Well, I don't think…I know I don't eat as much today as I did whenever I was younger, because when we were younger I raised my own chickens and…my husband wasn't too healthy when we first got married; he had stomach trouble he had to doctor—he had [unclear] spring and fall as the years come around, so we had to do all the work then.

VR: How early in the morning did you have to get up to start the day's work?

Kalp: Well, whenever I was home we got up at 4, 4:30 in the morning. It was a family of eight daughters, and the two oldest ones get up one week and the next two would get up the next week; and one would cook the breakfast and the other one set the table.…And I would help mother to go to barn and milk. We churned our own butter.

VR: How late was it in the evening when you were done?

Kalp: Well, 6 o'clock. We ate breakfast around 6 in the morning. My brother'd go out and feed the stock--and dad--and then they'd come in and breakfast would be ready—if we had buckwheat cakes and sausage or whatever you wanted for breakfast. And then they'd go back out in the summer and go up in the fields to work. And in the evening…we had 11:30 dinner and ate from 5:30 'til 6 in the evening, unless they were out on the farm making hay or whatever, and then they'd be out a little longer. But that was our rule: on time. And we would go to bed as soon as supper was over, and if we were going to school we did our homework like we ever do, and off to bed we would go. Mother'd say ok, let's go to bed now, and we'd go to bed, and she would set and read her Bible—and she would read it 'til 9, 10, maybe11 o'clock. Dad always went before because he was tired from working.

Example of bread baking in the 1930s

We always baked our own bread, and I'd get up and make the bread up and my mother'd get up and she said, "well, Annie", she says, "you're the woman of the house and I'm the maid. You just take over, you make the bread up and bake the pies and cookies, whatever we're gonna have", and then we'd churn the butter--"and here's the buttermilk for cottage cheese…."

VR: What did the family do on Sundays?

Kalp: We went to church. We went to church every Sunday; every meeting was at the church, and we'd walk to church in the winter. We went in snow above our knees to school and church, both. And whenever I was a young girl, around ten years old, they had revival meeting, and there was deep snow at that time. Mother said, "you stay with

the three younger sisters and Berthy", and I cried—I didn't want to stay, because in my Sunday School class there was about fifteen or eighteen; in the class we had one seat acrosst. And they wanted to go forward to accept the Lord; and they was all chicken and I was the youngest one—and that night I made my mind up I was going. So I said--when they had the altar call, they asked for them to come up and I said to them down the row--I said, "are you going"? And they said, "I don't know whether I will or not". I got up. Everybody else—Dara(?) was next to me and she got up; and we started up and the rest all followed. And I know that I wasn't at that altar more than—I don't think I was up there ten minutes—I think it was between five and ten minutes 'til I accepted the Lord as my Savior and I was lifted over that altar--something just lifted me up--and mother was sitting beside me praying; and she said when she got up, she looked to see where I was and I was gone. I was back shaking hands with the other ladies that were there, and they said, "well, your daughter was only out there not very long 'til she got saved and she was lifted over that altar just like…that.

[tape pauses, resumes]

VR: What was the first church in Melcroft that you remember?

Kalp: Assembly of God.

VR: Who was the pastor of it?

Kalp: I guess it was Wallace, George Wallace, and his wife? They're the ones that started it.

VR: Was it that little church beside Martins' house, down there?

Kalp: No. What did they take for the church, [section unclear]?

VR: The old theater, maybe.

Kalp: No…the first one in Melcroft was the Assembly of God. Then they bought that house there that Brother Wallace, Bill--he and his wife--was the pastor of that church at that time I went down there, in 1945.

VR: Did they have long revivals then?

Kalp: The revival I was speaking about was my own church, Mt. Zion Church.

VR: They had long services?

Kalp: They're the ones that had revival meetings that lasted six, seven weeks. And the church was crowded every night.

Example of a revival meeting in the 1930s

VR: Well….back in the olden days, a good many years ago, what did they do on holidays—you know, Christmas, Thanksgiving? Did you have a special get-together?

Kalp: Well, they would have, in June, children's day; and then Christmas programs, Thanksgiving, they would have knitting and talked on that….

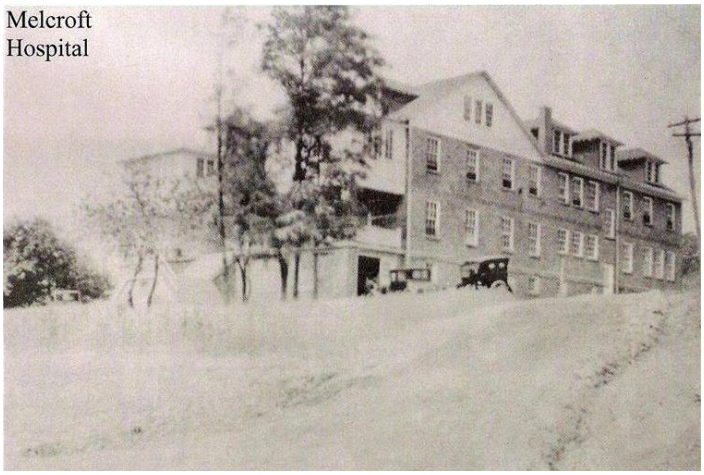
VR: What did the family do together, as a family?

Kalp: They would go together, generally, the families would go to one of their homes—that's the husband or wife's home--and they'd have dinner for the whole family, turkey….

VR: What was Christmas Day like?

Kalp: Christmas Day was the happiest for me because my youngest son, Othie Richard, was born. He was born on Christmas Day, 1928, in Melcroft Hospital. And the next spring—I don't know just which month it was, May or June—it burnt down. And my mother-in-law said, "Gracious, you can be awful thankful that you and Othie wasn't in that fire." I'll never forget that. And I can remember my oldest boy, Harold, coming in to see us—and I could hear his little feet coming up the steps and running up the hallway, and he says, "I know where my brother is, I can find him"; and he'd come running back and then he'd say, "hello, mama". And he says, "where's my brother?" And I said he's in the baby's room.

And so my boys were both saved fairly young—Othie Richard was thirteen when he got saved, and that was another thing that I'll never [forget] ever. That night it was a bad night, and we were attending revival down at Calvary. And snow—it was toward spring because the snow was slush. And that night we took the lantern, him and I, and went down to church; the revival was going to close that night, and he went forward. And then there was, oh, up in the twenties or more people got saved that year; and Harold, he got saved that year--he was sixteen and Morrison, his cousin, was fourteen…Donald Kalp…well, I can't name them all but quite a bunch of the young ones went forward and got saved that night. And then when the warm weather came, they had the baptismal service down at my brother's, in the bottom, there—a little pool, they always go down there and swim. So they fixed it up and cleaned it out [background—"that's what they use for the baptismal"]. And then I got baptized, my sister Olive, and Gay [her husband]—we went with our boys, and all got baptized.


Melcroft Hospital

VR: To get back to the hospital, did it have one doctor, two doctors…

Kalp: No, there was only one, Doctor Newell.

VR: How many nurses was there?

Kalp: They had the head nurse and two other ones. I think Anna [Cromer?] was the head nurse when I went in with my boys.

VR: Did they take good care of you?

Kalp: Oh yeah, I was taken care of good.

VR: Do you think it was harder back then in the older days to raise children than it is now?

Kalp: Well, I will tell you the truth: children weren't as hard to raise then as they are today; because it seems this current? generation of these-here children—boys and girls—they want to tell their parents what to do. And they will not listen. My boys, I never had no trouble.

VR: Were the parents more strict then?

Kalp: No, I talked to my boys, and so did my husband; and when we'd tell them something, "you're not telling a lie to me, because if you lie, you get spanked. And if you tell the truth, you don't.". And I had my boys so thrilled that they thought that—and if you talk to Harold today, he'll tell you—"mother could see it in our eyes, and on our face." I saw them doing a little trick, that they didn't try to deny it, but they just kind of stood and grinned—and I said, "now, tell me the truth", and they wouldn't say anything, and I said, "Othie Richard, now I saw you push Harold, and go and tell me the truth." And from then on, whenever I talked to them they obeyed. I must say, I had real good boys. They always would listen to us--also their dad—and…

VR: What was the little trick they were playing?

Kalp: I just don't remember what it was right now, but they were doing something that they shouldn't have been doing. One thing, Othie Richard—Harold would give in to him every thing, and he was trying to be boss over him. The only thing I remember was their Christmas toys; I think he was about four years old and Harold, eight. And he took everything from Harold, he wanted everything. Because he was younger he thought he should have everything, and I said, "now, that's not a nice way to do, you're supposed to play with Harold's toys, you're supposed to share them together, and not be like that—that's not nice." So after that they never had no trouble.

And whenever they were small—Harold was only about six years old--and the field out here was getting ready to harrow, to sow the oats. Frank's mother was living at that time, and she says—she talked Dutch (German),

Using a harrow in Maryland in 1936

she couldn't talk English whenever my father-in-law married her, and he taught her English because she spoke all Pennsylvania Dutch—and she says, "come here, Anna, I want to show you something". So I went over in her kitchen—it's just a door apart because her and Homer, when they lived, they had their half of the house and they wanted us to keep it that way, and ours on the other side. And she said, "[words in German?], I will never see anything like that in my life—look out, there's poor little Harold walking after that harrow, [Chip's?] driving—oh, Frank shouldn't let him do that, he's apt to fall on that harrow and they'll drag him and kill him". And that was that. Now then, he won't ride the horse 'cause he's frightened they'll kick their feet in the air, and that's why he'd walk after behind.

Then whenever they were older—they might have been around eight and twelve—they took two of our little heifers, coming year-old heifers, and Harold he was kind of good at making things, he would go out in the little shop Pap Pap had to fix his stuff in, and he made a yoke. He listened to his daddy tell him—and so did my dad tell him—about how they used to use the oxens, so he made a yoke for on top of them; and he put a little…I don't know what it was--he put some salt in their mouths, and put a halter on them. On each one of them; he made them seem like horses. And my dad and mother came down on Sunday and the boys went up on the hill; I told them, "go show them how your oxens work", you know. And they went up, and they come down with about a twenty-five-foot-long tree that they'd cut down up there, and hitched these here oxens to it. And they come down around the house, and mother spied them and she says to dad, "my goodness, come here and see what these boys have got". And both of them tears running down out of their eyes, down over their cheeks, saying "I never seen anything like it, how them boys can do anything". And they were just so thrilled to see them doing that.

Yoked oxen

And we bought a seven-month-old colt from George Yoder[s]--and we brought it home and dad came down to visit again, and he went out to the barn to see the colt because he was neighbors of George Yoder[s] and they told us, "you better buy that". And so we bought it; and Harold took that colt, lifted his feet up like he was putting shoes on him, on his feet, and he put harness on him and stuff like that, and he had him trained real good. And then he was only, I think, twelve years old; and we plowed the corn at that time walking after the cultivator for one horse. And he put the lines on George—he was a quiet horse, he could do anything with him—and he come down here, below the road here, and went down to the cornfield, plowing the corn. And dad was away, so I was looking out the window watching him. And he would talk to George, and he'd walk out there and show him there's a row here and a row

Horse pulling cultivator

here, and he was to come up the middle—and he taught him to do that. Then he went back and said now for him to do that. And he got on a little further and he went back out, and he shook his finger at him and he said, “now George, I told you to stay”—he told him to go out there and come back down this one. “Now I want you to do that, because if you don’t, you’re gonna get it. Now come on, get up and go.” So he said “get up”, and he went up there, and he says “haw”--he turned around and went down that end. And he came home and he says, “come here, look down. I could never do nothing with that horse, he won’t listen to me, but look down there.” I said “he’s been doing that all day.” He trained him like that.

And then when he was twenty-six he married Delorise, Vickie’s cousin, and they were out in the field hauling in hay, and Shirley, their oldest daughter—my granddaughter—Shirley could drive that tractor, Harold showed her how, and he would set the tractor just so it would move, and he told her to keep [unclear] row. And we had a hay loader at that time; and Shirley she would go [unclear] rows, and Delorise and Harold was on the wagon, and I was raking, with old Diamond in the dump rake, raking up after, where it was spilled. So then we got the hay hauled in; and the oats was ready to cut, and we cut it down in the meadow with old George and a colt that was breaking in. And we had a self-rake then--before we got our binder we used a self-rake—and as those rakes come around it would push it out in bundles, which you tied the bundles by hand and make your own band. And when we come around, why, Frank would need to tap him (George) in the ribs with the rake, and when I come around a couple more times, he looked back to see if he was coming to hit him; and he saw this rake coming around—it scared him and he starts to run off. [section garbled—unclear]…and one of the rakes broke and flew way up in the air, fifty feet or more…I was afraid the rake would come over and hit me…[section unclear], and it got the line to George, and George threw his neck around enough to break it and they couldn’t go. And Frank and Gay, my brother-in-law, will never be any whiter when they’re dead than they was then. And then they come to me and said, “well, why didn’t you jump off?”, and I said, “I thought you was sayin’ ‘hold to him, hold to him’”. So that’s the way that was.

VR: In your house at that time, when you were a child, did you have running water?

Farm girl pumping water, 1939

Kalp: No, we had a pump at home--we had a pump that pumped the water from a spring. And also, after I was married we had a well where we pumped the water into the spring (?), and then my husband bought, when plastic line came out, he brought the water and they went up to the top of our hill, 860 feet, and laid this line of pipe down in; and I had running water from then on.

VR: What did you do when you wanted to take a bath when you were a child?

Kalp: We used a washtub.

VR: In the middle of the floor?

Kalp: Yep. [laughter]

VR: Did everyone use the same water?

Kalp: Oh no.

VR: Did you have to heat it on the stove?

Kalp: Yes. And then as things got better going along, we put in a bathroom and a shower.

VR: At what age did the young people get married, did you let them get married when they were in their early teens?

Kalp: Well, I guess you'd say they got married at all ages, from fourteen up to twenty, twenty-one.

VR: Did they go on honeymoons then?

Kalp: Well, some went to the parsonage and the minister married them, and some went and got married in Cumberland.

VR: In Cumberland? Really?

Kalp: Yeah, there were a lot of them went down there when they got married.

VR: What were some of your best memories as a child or a young lady?

Kalp: Well, I can remember when I was two years old, my grandpa Brown had a buckboard, and a bay driving horse he called Bessie. Every place he went he'd grab me up and take me with him. And I can hear those little chipper birds--we called them--out along the creek as we went down that way and across the bridge, singing, and the May flowers are out in bloom pretty golden yellow…And I liked to fish, when I got older; I can remember I would go down to the creek every time I got a chance, and fish, but I didn't have no block fish line—I would cut off one of those wild willows and my dad would cut that off, and it was real…what would you call it—it bent easy, (VR—yeah, flimsy--like) and I'd fish with that. There was a rain coming up, and I run to the creek—and it started sprinkling a little, and mother said, "why did you go out there to catch fish, now it's raining?". Dad says, "so if she gets wet, she'll come". And then it was thunder in back, and I caught one big horn chub about nine inches long; and I left it on the hook and I throwed my pole on my shoulder and came home with that there—and when I come in, then she said, "why'd you go when it was raining?" "Well", dad said, "she caught her fish, she come!". (I very seldom ever missed.)

And then when I got older, my son and daughter-in-law—Othie and his wife—went over to (?) Dam [unclear]; they was fishing, and Jean got a big rainbow trout, about a sixteen-incher, and I was…well, where the spillway was was like a swamp [unclear]

went across there, where the water come down when they drained it; it was about maybe thirty-five, forty feet on each side there. The only thing solid below this rock was some great big flat rocks down in there. I don't know what it was, whether it was a big bass or what, but it grabbed my hook and I forgot I had no ground--and I stepped and I fell right in to my neck. And I stuck my left arm up--had my watch on—so it couldn't get wet, and Othie hollered, "Jean! Quick, get her, she's gonna drown!". I quit fishing after that because I didn't trust myself, I said "I can't swim and I don't want to drown"! [laughter]. So I quit….

[tape pauses, resumes]

VR: Do you think the "good old days" were the best days?

Kalp: Well, I would say they were.

VR: Why? What happened?

Kalp: People were more friendlier, and they would go together…when somebody would get married, a whole bunch would go together and go serenade them--you know, not like they haul them in trucks and stuff today, they'd walk, and they would sing and joke with one another. And they would always give the people [section unclear] ones at home knowed that they were coming, but not the ones that got married. We went out to Aunt Mary's whenever Mary Beth Stillwagon married John Henry. And Aunt Mary and them had made cookies and sandwiches and stuff for them.

VR: So you thought the good old days were your best ones?

Little girl reading the Bible with her baby brother in 1939

Kalp: Oh, yeah. People were more…they were more…well, I'll tell you, I would say they lived more to the Bible than they do today, because they did really love their neighbors as theirself. I can remember at home when I was a child, they'd go from house to house when they was making apple butter, and help to peel their apples….And I can remember [unclear-Evers?] coming over--daddy had a fireplace in the spring house, where he did his butchering—and put the kettle on, you know, and make the hot water, and all that. And [unclear] they called it the apple butter stirring stick. It had like a long, wide paddle, maybe three inches down and wider at the bottom—and they bored holes in it—then you stirred it with that long handle, went back and kept stirring it around in your big kettle so it wouldn't scorch. Kept it there til it was thick. You put your boiled-down cider in there, and your apple snits in, and you kept

stirring and stirring, and then if it were too sour, put a little sugar in, some spices—and you had your apple butter made.

VR: That's what the people did and you thought it helped bring everyone together, made them feel closer.

Kalp: That's right. My mother would always go and help Harriet Zimmerman, when she butchered, and Lettie Yoder—neighbors around then, they would help one another back and forth. And she would always go and help them, and she was neighborly with everybody. Whenever there was a child being born, my mother was like a midwife—she went and she caught these children. And dad, he was about the same as a veterinarian, and they called him all hours of the night to come; if they had one of their animals sick or anything, he'd go help them out. And I know Lester [Lankey?] was telling us, when we were out there, about my dad going up for his dad to help an animal up that was sick. He was doing that every way. And anybody come and ask him for any help or anything, they always gave thanks to him for it.

VR: Ok then, thank you.

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Maple syrup boiler
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The Insurance Business in Allegany County: Experiences as a Life Insurance Salesman

Name: Melvin Grindle
Occupation: Retired Life Insurance Salesman
Birth Date: 1901
Residence: Regina Avenue, Cumberland, MD
Date and place of interview: November 15, 1976 at ACC Library
Transcribed by Celeste Bartlett

My name is Carolyn Keller, I chose as my subject for the oral history project, the insurance industry. Today I'm talking to a man who was born in 1901 in Lonaconing and has served 35 years as a Monumental Life Insurance man. He is now retired and currently living on Regina Avenue, City. His name is Melvin Grindle. First question I want to ask you is what other job or jobs did you have before selling insurance?

Grindle: Well, I worked for the West Virginia Pulp and Paper Company for a couple of years. And also, for the B&O Railroad Company as a car repairman in Keyser for a few years. And in 1928, I entered the life insurance profession, as a profession.

CK: Who or what influenced your decision to sell insurance?

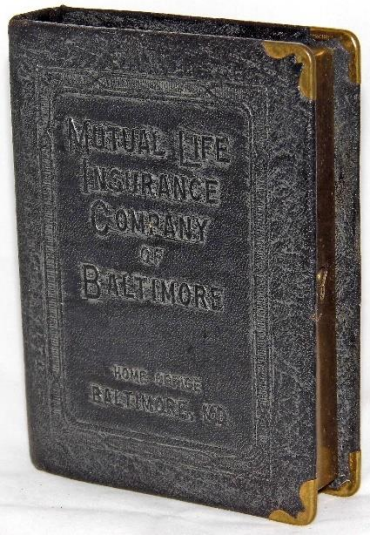
Grindle: Well, the staff manager for the company whom I had my insurance with at the time as a young married man had encouraged me to seek employment where I had a future which I did not have as I could see for working for the railroad. So, with his influence and with the encouragement from other members of my family and outsiders who were friends of mine, I decided to try life insurance as a profession.

CK: Did you and your family own insurance and if so tell me a little of your family's attitudes towards it and of what your being a life insurance salesman meant to them?

Grindle: I was married, of course, at the time that I entered the life insurance business. My parents were very mindful of life insurance having bought some for each member of our family. When I married, naturally I continued buying insurance to increase my protection and bought insurance on my wife and as my children were born, we of course insured them for the purpose of having protection in case of burial.

CK: Do your children own insurance?

Grindle: Yes, we have one child now, my daughter, and she is well insured with a very handsome amount for the purpose of retirement and also for mortgage protection on her home and any other emergencies that may arise.



CK: I want you to give me a little bit of the history on the insurance industry and the question I want to ask you is, how old is your life insurance company and where is the main office of residence?

Grindle: The Monumental Life Insurance Company, which was originally entered into our state history in life insurance profession, as the Mutual Life of Baltimore. In 1935 due to the fact that there were so many Mutual Life Companies in America our company had their charter amended in Baltimore to have their name changed from Mutual to Monumental, so that there wouldn't be another Mutual conflict with the name as we attempt to sell insurance to the public.

CK: Was your company successful even during hard times such as the depression?

Grindle: Yes, our company was a very conservative company. They had wonderful policies and they found themselves dealing with their investment in such a way that they protected the policy owners from any danger of bankruptcy so that in the event if the company was met with disaster, they kept a reserve, a very handsome reserve, on hand for that purpose which would eliminate the danger that policyholders may not being able to be paid for claims whenever death came.

CK: Ok, what were some of the methods used in selling insurance?

Grindle: Well, the most common was of course the cold canvas method which was just as it is listed here. You went from one home to another knocking on doors inquiring as to whether or not they needed insurance, whether they had any, and if they gave us an entrée into the home, we were in a position then to show them the value of insurance and why they should have it if they didn't have any. In most cases we found that the family did have insurance, they believed in it to a certain degree, but they only felt that a burial sum was all that was necessary. And so, we were quite limited in the time of trying to sell anything that was necessary beyond burial purposes. Cold canvassing was a very difficult method of course, it was the best method that I mentioned that we had, and we found that great results came from it. On the premises here of our college here at ACC there was a family that lived one time by the name of Cook. There was a little baby born in this home, her name was Betty. One of my men whom I was the staff manager at the time, one of my men canvassed in this home when he saw the signs that there was a new baby born into this home. Now the signs of course as you may well guess were clothes on the clothesline and our agent called in the home and introduced himself and he left that home that afternoon with a little five cent weekly premium policy which didn't mean much in the line of a sale or in the line of commission, but never the less, that little five cent policy was an entry to that home and the result of that which I had figured some six or eight years after this particular sale was made, the result of the sale got us into a number of homes in that same family; the

uncles and aunts of this little baby, and the grandmother and grandfather of this little baby on the father's side all bought insurance from our agent because of his entry into the home. And as I mentioned about seven or eight years later when I took inventory of what this little nickel meant to the agent, he had accumulated a total of $493 of commissions from the sales made from the result of that entrance into that home for that nickel application. So, you can see that the cold canvassing does pay off, although it was very difficult at that time. Then another very important method was the referred leads which was very important. People would refer us to another family. After we had sold them insurance, they would refer us to another family and of course have an entrée because we were introduced by the reference of this other party. And then, another method we use is watching the papers for weddings knowing that when a man and wife married that the man needed more insurance because he had assumed a greater responsibility realizing that from that marriage there would be children and the result would be a needed insurance on the husband for the protection of his wife in case of his death and the children would have to be also provided for and the insurance brought that proposition to a close. And then there was promotions. If people were promoted, then naturally they were getting a more responsible job we felt that there was a need for more insurance there to protect their position. So, we insured from that angle. And graduation; all of these were methods which we used for finding prospects and enlarging upon our sales by following through on those particular leads.

CK: Ok, what were some of the main policies that your company sold?

Grindle: Well, we specialized, of course, as a life insurance company at that particular time and my entrance into the insurance field in 1928. We were especially into children's insurance, baby's insurance in particular. Because we were the only company at the time that gave immediate benefit to a newborn child which was on a graduated scale. At that time the insurance companies only sold policies on babies for a limited amount. However, the amount of immediate benefits that our company gave was $25 even for a 25 cent weekly premium policy where most of our competitors would only give them $20. However, in 1930, some of our other companies came out increasing their benefit from $20 to $50 immediately and likewise at the same time when competition became in order, we promoted our policies from $25 up to $100. And in fact, a little later to $125 immediate benefit, going to full benefit at around the age of four, five or six years of age. Then there was…doing that those plans of insurance they were written on all plans, both the ten payment life, fifteen payment life, twenty payment life, endowments at age 21, 20-year endowments, life paid up to age 55, endowments to 55. One policy which we were very successful in selling was a whole life policy or a rather in our company called it endowment at 75. And that was the policies I referred to earlier that we wrote on that little Betty Cook for five cents a week, giving her the policy worth $200, worth $25 immediately. So, we found the benefit of those pay life policies being very acceptable to the public. And then were was the mortgage insurance was issued and people bought a home and didn't want to lose it in case of their death. They didn't want the widow to have to move out and children not have a shelter, so we would

sell mortgage insurance which was providing income, or home payment rather in case of the father dying. And then we had what you call key man insurance; the key man of an industry or proprietorship insurance, and many other plans that we would sell that was helpful to the family. Retirement in later years became a very effective contract that people was interested in buying because they wanted to make sure that in their later years of life, they would be protected financially. So those plans were for all very well accepted by the public and as the public got to know them, they would be much more easily sold than originally when I first started in the business.

CK: Ok, was racial discrimination as described today a problem and were they given the same right to get insurance as a white man?

Grindle: Unfortunately, in the early years, racial discrimination was a matter of concern. Some companies would not insure a colored person particularly at all. Others would take them at an increased risk, an increased rate, because they were what we might say a hazardous risk from the standpoint of morals and other degrees of consideration. However, in the later years the companies all got to the point where they had done away with discrimination because they realized that the government was not going to tolerate it, and of course, neither would the insurance companies. So, in the later years, in recent years, however, particularly racial discrimination has not been considered a matter at all. However, there are times when some companies will rate a policy, that is they will increase the premium rate because of the colored not being people who would be responsible for making payments as most white people would be. So, there was a discrimination in rating there which they felt like they were entitled to place on a policy because of that colored people not being responsible for making premium payments when they should.

CK: Were there problems of discrimination towards women when applying for insurance?

Grindle: No, not particularly. We were the only company that I know of when I first started the business that had a lady agent. We did have a lady agent and that lady is still living here in Cumberland and most of the public knows the lady whom I am speaking of, Ms. Margaret Conner, who is now around 89 years of age. She was a really successful insurance agent, working the north Cumberland route here in Cumberland and had many, many friends and she made many, many friends because she was a charity worker as well as a life insurance representative.

CK: Did people have to have an education of high school, college or otherwise to sell insurance?

Grindle: High school education was preferred, although there were very successful insurance agents who did not even complete a high school education. I, for one, did not complete a high school education, yet I managed to…which I feel being successful in the business because I managed to work my way to promotion to promotion until finally, I managed a district office in Evansville, Indiana for 16 years for the Monumental Life from 1941 to 1957 and I did not have a complete high school education. Although as I mentioned, it was preferred and even a college education would be very much preferred even at that time. However, at the present time we find that insurance companies are requiring some college experience before they will consider hiring an individual for life insurance selling.

CK: Ok, what kind of education is needed today to sell insurance?

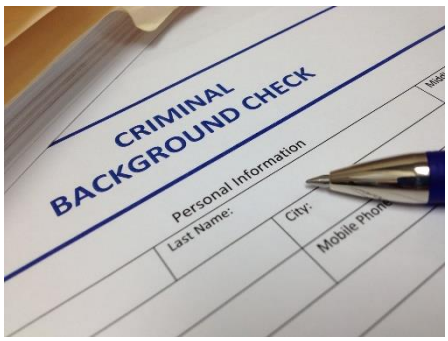
Grindle: Well, as I mentioned, the companies are preferring college graduates to maintain the high caliber of insurance that needs to be sold because I mentioned earlier we are dealing quite often with key man insurance or proprietorship insurance, insurance that is going to take the place of the income of a very high paid man in industry. So, we need to be able to down with a highly intelligent person to sell the kind of insurance today that is needed and learning so we should have a college education.

CK: Was there an expected dress that the employees were supposed to wear to work?

Grindle: No, not particularly. The companies expect us to be presentable, to be neat, to have our hair properly taken care of and have shoes polished and have our clothes neatly and cleaned and with a crease in the trousers. We were expected to wear a white shirt and a necktie. However, today's standard of dress people just wore whatever they wish to and that seems to be the coming of the way things are at the present time.

CK: If you had a police record or were susceptible to moral crime is that counted against one to obtaining insurance?

Grindle: Yes, it did, and in fact quite often anyone with a police record or with any type of a crime against them, it quite often barred them from having life insurance at all. Although there were times when the crime or the police record was not so serious that they were allowed to have insurance at a rated premium. That, of course, was not always the case. Life insurance felt that they wanted to make sure that the people they insured were morally and financially and good character so they would not show reflection on the kind of people that we were insuring.



CK: Would you like to give me an example of an incident that took place in your company, that had to do with a crime? Did someone try to get insurance and couldn't because they did a certain crime?

Grindle: Well, I have one… I can recall, one experience now. It was not particularly a crime, but we attempted to insure a lady one time and we learned that the moral hazard there was very great. The agent didn't pick up this information, but as was the custom in the earlier years of life insurance selling, the applications that were submitted to the company for consideration had to pass a retail inspection credit rating. And one particular time a lady whom we had written insurance on, she was being investigated by the retail credit investigators and they found out that she was a moral risk, having been dishonest with her husband. And the result was that in event that we had insured that party there was a danger, of course, of someone being actually murdered and that is probably the proper term to use because of this elicit practice that had been carried on. So, we find that often times moral conditions and other criminal convictions will bring about a greater risk on the applicant. So, the companies have to be careful they don't accept a risk that has a moral or a criminal record.

CK: Ok what was the main purpose of the insurance to the society?

Grindle: In my opinion, life insurance eliminates families from being a burden on society by providing protection for at least burial purposes and also providing finances for education of children where the parent would not be able to save the money in any other way for that particular reason. So, children today are being educated, some of them in many homes because of the insurance that was purchased some 20 years ago,

for that particular purpose. So, I believe that life insurance has a two-fold purpose there. It does eliminate the family from being a burden on society for burial expenses and second it does provide education for the children. There are other aspects of course that the people find good uses for in life insurance and as I already mentioned the mortgage redemption policies which permits a mother to pay a home off in case of her husband's death and leave the home intact with the members of the family. Children don't have to move out. The mother can keep on keeping the home because the mortgage insurance pays off the home, and many other particular reasons that we find that it does eliminate burdens on society through the channel for life insurance.

CK: Was there a chance for advancement in insurance and would you have accepted it had it been offered to you?

Grindle: Yes, as I earlier mentioned in my statement, I had started with the company in 1928 as an agent and in 1931 the company asked me if I would like to be promoted and offered me a more responsible job and I accepted to the staff manager. Then, in 1937 I gained, the opportunity came up for me to be promoted and I was transferred to the home office in Baltimore where I spent some time as a trouble shooter for the company. Listed as a home office representative and in 1938 I returned to Cumberland as a staff manager, following through for another four years. And as I earlier mentioned in my recording here, in 1941, I was promoted to district manager in Evansville, Indiana. So, I

served 16 years returning in 1957 and continued on as a staff manager until my retirement in 1962.

CK: Ok, was your position a hard one and did it promote any problems?

Grindle: Yes, life insurance always promoted problems to the conscientious worker because you just had to gather prospects in order to sell and it wasn't always easy. Sometimes you had to more or less ignore your family and put them in second place in your life, in order for you to make sales to accumulate extra earnings for your family's benefit. So, the time element was quite often a question of concern by the wife and the children in the home because you never knew when you were going to be home for your meals. You didn't know when you were going to be called a lot in the evening to settle a death claim. You didn't know when one of your agents, in my case as the staff manager, when one of the agents would call upon you to go out and give them a little help on making a sale. So, there were a lot of unusual situations of which we were faced with, but the same time I enjoyed it all and if I had to do it over again, I would do the same thing as I had done in 1928.

CK: Then you are saying that life insurance was a full-time job?

Grindle: It certainly was a full-time day.

CK: 24 hour a day job?

Grindle: Full time job, in fact, as some people say you ate it, you dreamed it, you slept it; and you just lived life insurance from the time you got out of bed in the morning and even in your dreams quite often you would be dreaming of selling life insurance. That is the real conscientious insurance life underwriter, and I think that most of them feel that same way as I do, it was a full-time responsible job.

CK: Do you own stock in Monumental and why do you feel that it is a good investment?

Grindle: Yes, I do own stock in Monumental, Monumental being a stock company. I find that the company that I worked for was a very conservative company and I felt that their leadership was above reproach. I felt they was making every effort to invest money at the best possible savings, and I can see no reason why a few dollars invested in life insurance stock would not be a wonderful investment. And it has proven to me that I was completely correct in my assumption when I bought my first ten shares of stock with the company in 1937. Today, of course, my shares because of accumulations, shares have increased considerably. I bought more, and they have increased, so I really feel that with the company diversifying their investments in all types of investments similar to

mutual funds, I find that the companies are not taking any chance at all with my money and they are in a better position to invest it than I would myself at a greater profit.

CK: What were some costs of the policies as compared to those today?

Grindle: Very little difference in the premium rates today as compared with the premium rates as to years ago. In fact, some of the premium rates are just a little bit less for the simple reason that life span is greater, and insurance companies, of course, sell insurance on the basis of life expectancy and because of that, premiums have not increased to any great degree in the last 35 or 40 years, more or less holding their own and in some cases giving more for the dollar.

CK: Did a person have to submit to an examination or submit a medical record in obtaining insurance?

Grindle: Well, not particularly so. Companies had different underwriting practices depending on the amount of insurance that was being written. In my earlier years, even a $500 policy quite often had to be medically examined. Later on, the companies raised the limit to $1,000 and as of today, people can buy as much as $10-, $12-, $15,000 without a medical examination, if the medical history and the family record is good. That does not speak of course for all individuals or for all companies. But in most cases the individual had combined insurance without a medical up to a given amount and then if they should be examined for let's say a $25,000 policy, and they pass examination and get their policy, quite often the company will reserve the privilege to them of buying another $25,000 without any medical history being reported within a given period of time following the issuance of the original $25,000 policy.

CK: Do companies determine the premium rate to change for underwriting individuals and does that company's method determine to establish the rate?

Grindle: Yes, most companies follow the same table of mortality. Originally, we followed the Metropolitan table of mortality which was based on the life expectancy and even from a newborn baby up until the limit of our underwriting principles; the same table of mortality has governed our premium rates. Now, there are several methods of course that the companies use to determine the rate. That is the mortality table to begin with that was the experience table of mortality and then the matter of acquisition costs and third, the investment yield. All those methods are used to determine the rate and after all companies are doing their best to be conservative. They would like to keep the investment yield high. They want to keep the acquisition cost low and naturally they depend upon the table mortality which is averaged by the Life Insurance Institute from the statistical standpoint. So, the rates are predetermined in those three fashions and yet there are times when individuals have to maybe submit to a larger premium rate for some particular reason.

CK: Are all rates the same for a given age?

Grindle: Standard rates yes, are the same for a given age. In other words, at age 15 all rates would be the same on any individual at age 15. However, as an individual gets older there are reasons that the insurance companies have to consider in changing the rates. Not on the policy that was originally issued, that will remain at whatever it was issued at. It cannot be changed. But any new insurance to be issued even on that individual or on any other individual sometimes you have to submit to a higher premium because of the rates of an occupational hazard or, as I mentioned earlier, a moral hazard. Sometimes the medical history will cause the company to increase the rate from what we might say a table one to a table two, or from a standard rate to a medium rate. Quite often overweight brings in a rating on an insurance policy due to the danger of high blood pressure and hypertension and other particular reasons. But generally speaking, very few policies are rated except from a very dangerous position in an occupation or maybe as a moral purpose or a moral reason. We have found that there was a time in writing life insurance when a man who was flying an airplane had to have so many solo hours.

CK: We are coming to the end I'm going to stop here and turn the tape over…
Back to the question I just asked you are all rights the same for a given age?

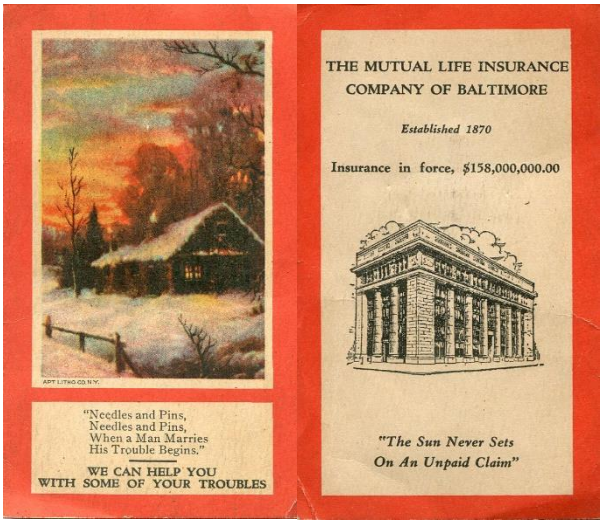
Grindle: No, as I mentioned there are hazards that increase rates to some people, particular as I already mentioned, the airplane hazard. A number of solo flights give a person a special rating. After they have increased the number of solo flights to a given number then their rating becomes standard. So, rates do differ as with the regards to the occupation, with regards to health, with regards to medical history, and with regards to morals. But generally speaking, a standard risk is a standard rate and almost all companies will abide by pretty well the same premium.

CK: How does your company as compared with other life insurance companies relate in respect to age, popularity, etc.?

Grindle: Well, the Monumental Life Insurance Company is one of the oldest companies in America today. We are even older than some of our larger competitive companies by a number of years. One company in particular was chartered in 1872; we were charted in 1858. So that gives us a 14-year advantage on that particular company. So, as to age we are older than a great number and I say a great number of our life insurance companies who are competitors of the Monumental. From a popularity standpoint, while our company is known throughout America like most other companies are, we are very popular in the states in which we operate, which I think with my last remembrance was around 18 or 19 states in the Union that we were doing business in. It may have increased since I retired, but at that particular time, 1962, we were operating in 18 states and DC. So, from the ages of popularity standpoint, we measure up very well

with all companies. However, we must remember that when we compare ourselves, we cannot make a comparison between casualty companies and life companies because there is no comparison made there; it is unfair. But from the standpoint of the life insurance companies doing business selling life insurance only we fair very favorably from the age and the matter of popularity.

CK: Does your company advertise for the purpose of publicity?



Packet of needles before the name change to Monumental Life

Grindle: The Monumental has done very little advertising through magazines and other periodicals. Most of the advertising our company has ever done is by the agent himself. At one time we were giving little trinkets away such as rulers, pencils, thimbles, needle threaders, color books, most any type of a little advertisement that an agent could give into the home where they were selling or soliciting business. And that, of course, became a very good means of advertising, and not an expensive means. And we see as however that we have done some advertising in publication, but we also there again we have limited our publicity in newspapers, or publications of different types of periodicals. However, as we entered into the field of advertising, we found that the advertising by word-of-mouth, from agent to the family was our best source and we took great pride in the fact that the company's motto was that the sun never sets on an unpaid claim, which means that when we got record of a death in a home our agents were required to stop everything else at that particular time and go to the family and render whatever assistance they could in completing papers and having that claim settled just as quickly as possible. And in many cases, we get that claim in the morning, we would have that claim paid before the sun went down that same evening which was one of the best advertising our company ever had.

CK: In closing are there any other particular events that you would like to share with me at this time that would be of interest to the public and or sentimental value to you?

Grindle: Well, I guess a person could reminisce for quite a long while after spending 35 years in the business of incidents that happened as he was performing his duties. I well remember in 1936, when we were in the Clark-Keating

Flood debris on Mechanic Street from 1936 flood

Building on Baltimore Street in Cumberland when the flood hit downtown Cumberland and the waters came down from the Wills Creek down Liberty, Centre, and Mechanic Street some 10-12 foot deep, and I well remember that we had to park our cars down close to McKaig's Foundry and walk up Centre Street and over to Baltimore Street to get to our home district office. And many a time we would be stopped on our way by the policemen because we had to have a certificate to get into the office due to a lot of people who were vandalizing the town; they were stealing from the stores that were practically washed out, they were getting into the stores and doing anything they could to steal and the policemen had to be on the job, so we had to get a permit to walk from our car to the district office in order to settle our accounts and to take care of what necessary business we had in the office. That seemed to be a quite an interesting piece of history during the flood. And I often remember and remind myself of seeing the furniture coming down Liberty and Mechanic Street that had washed out of homes. It wasn't very humorous, I guess, to the people who were losing their furnishings and that, but it was tragic. But it was rather interesting to us to see those things happening. That was during the flood of 1936. And then I might also reminisce again in my earlier discussion here I mentioned about me having worked as a troubleshooter in 1937, 1938. One of my assignments was in Louisville, Kentucky and it so happened that in February I was sent down there. February 1937, and I spent time in Louisville and part of my time was during the flood and I well remember how the streets were so inundated with water that the furnishings was brought out on the sidewalks and was waiting on the junk man to come and haul the furnishings away. That was a very tragic situation with hundreds of families in Louisville inundated, homes completely ruined, furniture was completely destroyed, and yet there were times when we found ourselves in some humorous situations. The streets when the water went down and the rivers receded, the streets was literally covered with dead animals; dogs, and cats, washed to the sewer line and stopped there because they couldn't get through. It was tragic and yet as I said earlier there was some humor about the whole thing and that… one of those humor things was that when we went to the office the next morning, we were expected to have

Houses flipped by the force of the flood waters

our shoes shined real nice and clean and yet working all day in the mud and debris of the washed city it was impossible to keep a pair of shoes shined, because I had three pair down there and they were always muddy from the top to the bottom. And yet the boss said we had to keep our shoes shined and that was quite humorous, and yet it was mandatory and it was almost impossible to do it. And then again, another experience I can reminisce in the Louisville situation, we had over 800 families in Louisville that were washed completely out and they had to leave their homes and go where they could find shelter in loved one's homes, and they were lost insofar as the company was concerned. We couldn't find them to collect their premiums; we couldn't find them to settle claims; we just couldn't find them. And so, one of my duties was to locate these lost people and extend to them a privilege that the company was so beneficent in doing. And that was they would ask us to gather their receipt book if they could find it, and stamp their book paid to date all premiums paid up to date, and sometimes it was as much as 4 or 5 months of premiums that were given to them by the company, which costs the company hundreds of thousands of dollars and yet they were willing to do that to maintain the good will that we had built among the policy holders of Monumental Life in Louisville, Kentucky. I thought that was one of the most charitable contributions that the company could make to the insuring the public showing their faith to the public and trying to do what the good neighbor would want you to do. Do unto others as you would have them do to you.

CK: Are there any more instances that you would like to share with us?

Grindle: Well, I guess I could recall a lot of them, but just as a memory right now I don't recall anymore particular ones. I do have a remembrance that I would like to say that in my connection with the Monumental Life Insurance Company, that from the standpoint of my beginning until the standpoint of my day of retirement, I have the highest regard for the company, they treated me just swell. I was compensated for everything that I have done, and I had a wonderful boss in the late John Park whom no one could ever say did anyone anything that was injustice. He was a man to be regarded with the highest esteem and I think everyone that worked for him will tell you that no man in Cumberland was better, more thought of than what John Park was district manager of the Monumental Life Insurance Company, who died recently and was…and whose son is now a minister of the gospel for the Methodist Church.

CK: Would you recommend selling life insurance to anyone who was interested in it?

Grindle: Yes, I certainly would. I believe that the future of the life insurance companies and the future of those representing the companies is very good. And I would heartily recommend anyone who is looking for a position, not a job, but a position to go with a

life insurance company and establish himself as a life underwriter and take advantage of the courses that are being offered in the LUTC, which is the Life Underwriters Training Council, and the College of Life Underwriters is CLU; both of them are wonderful courses of study and will make you fitted for any type of life insurance selling that you would want to be ready for. And I would heartily recommend that any young man today who is interested in a career and a profession, and one that doesn't require too much education. Yet as I earlier mentioned, he should have a college degree to meet some of the questions that may be put to by the clients. So, my advice to any young man today would be seeking a career is to go into the life insurance business with the idea of making it a lifetime's work realizing that there is a good opportunity not only to sell life insurance, but a good opportunity to be of service to mankind. Because what greater satisfaction can a man get out of doing a job like the life insurance company requires when you can go to a home and hand over a $25,000 check or a $50,000 check, or whatever the check may be, representing livelihood, representing happiness and representing life income for that particular family in case of the death or disability of the wage earner. Yes, life insurance is a wonderful profession, and I would highly recommend it to any young man today.

CK: Was there ever a time when you thought that Monumental would go out of business or be bankrupt?

Grindle: No, that question I don't think ever crossed my mind. However, in my earlier years in the business from 1928 to around 1935 or 36, there were some few companies that did go bankrupt. They lost their--they forfeited their franchise with the state of which they were chartered, and it was necessary for them to go out of business. However, Monumental was never in such a position to be in danger because as I earlier mentioned they were very conservative. They made sure of their investments and sometimes they weren't out on an investment to get the biggest return, but they were making an investment to get the surest return. That after all was what we were wanting was surety even though the quantity wasn't there.

CK: Have you ever had any bad experiences in your years at Monumental?

Grindle: Not particularly. We had some sad experiences in settling death claims which of course any time death visits a home it is a sad occasion. It is very difficult to go in a home and maintain the calmness that you would like to have in dealing with such a tragedy as death. However, we felt that we were on a mission of mercy and we found ourselves well able to take care of the needs of that family in the time of their trouble, but sitting down. And I particular have always been a very religious person and I found myself in a position quite often to offer comfort and consolation at the time of tragedy

due to my religious experiences in my church and I've always been thankful for the benefit that I have had down through the years of being able to council from a standpoint of the spiritual as well as the tangible evidence of my business. I enjoyed counseling, I enjoyed going to the homes of the people in the times of tragedy when I felt like I could be of some additional help in my condolence of those particular loved ones who had lost members of their family.

CK: Is there anything else you would like to add in closing?

Grindle: Yes, following the same course of thought here. I mentioned earlier again in my discussion of Margaret Conner. Margaret, as I said, was a charity worker as well as businesswomen. And well do I remember on one occasion when she and I were visiting a home to make a collection, to make a sale, on a new baby that was born into a certain home in North Cumberland. A very poor family with quite a number of children. They didn't have the proper necessities of life, and when we got to this home, one of the youngsters, approximately two or three years of age, had what we know now to be emphysema. We found the family in very poor straits, and the emphysema that the youngster had was sort of contagious. So, what did Ms. Conner do when she got in her car and she went to the drug store that was then located on the corner of Valley and Henderson Boulevard and she secured some zinc ointment, some Lysol, some adhesive plaster and some gauze tape. I stayed in the home and when she came back into the home with these medical supplies and she rolled up her sleeves, she got a wash basin and some water and she gave this youngster a good washing with the Lysol water and some (?) Soap; and she applied this zinc ointment on the infected parts and that family to this very day, and I know some of them are living, because one family lives on Valley Road, they still remember and appreciate the good work that Ms. Conner done as an angel of mercy, so to speak, in a line of her duty of selling life insurance. So, we find that many times as we entered homes, we found opportunity to do good, not just to sell insurance, but to be of some kind of service to mankind and a real life insurance representative will remember that good will in a home is one of his greatest assets and the more he can build the greater, the more successful he will be. And I would recommend that when you are, if you are selling life insurance you will look for opportunities to be of service into the home as well as taking care of the life insurance necessities. This is another reason why I would recommend that a person realize the good things about life insurance, the opportunity of service, as well as an income and make himself realize that he is an agent of society that is doing more than just carrying on a piece of business when he is rendering some kind of service other than just financial assistance. I appreciate it Ms. Keller for having this interview and I also want to thank the faculty of the College Library: Mrs. Merrick, Mr. Deekle, and Mr. Michael for giving me this privilege. I consider it quite an honor to represent life insurance profession in this way and I feel quite sure that as this recording is made possible to the

public that they will gather some good from it that will help them to become a better citizen of the city and also will give some the opportunity to make a decision as to a profession they wish to follow.

CK: Thank you Mr. Grindle for being here today.

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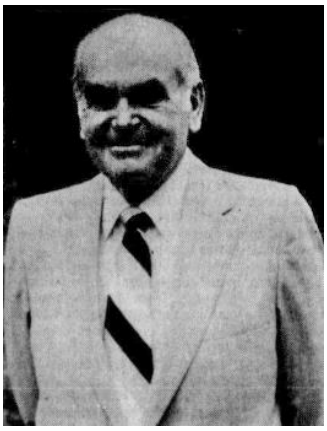
Keyser Garment Company

This interview is being conducted by Kim McNemar and Jo Sisk. Our topic is the Keyser Garment Company. The interview is taking place at the factory, in Keyser, WV.
Would you state your name and address please?


Dave Klein

Kline: Dave Kline, 24 Sunset Dr., Cumberland, MD.

I (Interviewers): Where were you born?

Kline: Brooklyn, NY.

I: What is your date of birth?

Kline: March 30, 1919.

I: Would you state your occupation?

Kline: I consider myself a dress manufacturer, although we make other things besides dresses; but that's the terminology that I generally use.

I: You're not originally from here—how long ago did you come to this area?

Kline: We came here—I say "we" because I speak of my family whenever I speak of traveling—we came here in 1956.

I: Were you in the garment business before you came to this area?

Kline: Yes, I was.

I: Did you own your own factory, or were you employed by a factory?

Kline: I owned my own factory.

I: Were you ever just employed by a factory before you became an owner?

Kline: Yes. I went through a normal procedure, you know, of being born first, and then learning the business and so on, down the line. [laughter]

I: What made you decide to open your factory here in Keyser, WV?

Kline: The basic reason…well, you have to talk about why did I leave where I was at, as opposed to why did I come here—and then we'll get to why I came *here*.

The reason that I left New Bedford, Massachusetts, which is the area I was in before I came here…I felt that the labor climate there was becoming exceedingly difficult for

me to cope with. I am what I consider to be straightforward, try to do for people as best I can, and try to run a plant—and run any business—and be to people as I would have people be to me. Because I remember when I was a worker. And the labor situation in New Bedford, MA had become intolerable as far as I was concerned…

New Bedford, Massachusetts

Between the last sentence that I spoke and the sentence that I'm speaking now, I had a telephone call, so I really don't know what kind of continuity I'm going to start with at this point. But to get back, I know I was speaking about what I felt were the labor difficulties in New Bedford, MA that I personally didn't think that I wanted to cope with. The people there did not care very much about how they worked, or when they worked. On a Monday morning we never knew who was coming in or what time they were coming in; people would come in at nine o'clock, ten o'clock, and just stroll in, and say "I'm here", and work, and on Fridays a lot of them would leave whenever they wanted to leave. So, I just told them at that point—I said "That's fine except that I can't run a business that way, because if I have to tell the people in New York what and when we're going to deliver, and I can't have you people here for me to be able to plan, I'm just going to plan elsewhere—find another place."

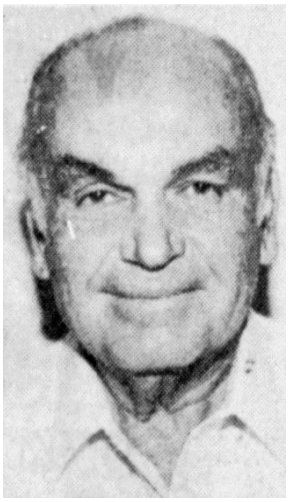
Keyser, West Virginia

Consequently, at that point I started to look elsewhere for a new location. I wrote to many Chambers of Commerce in many different states, many different areas—Upstate New York, Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Virginia. And I went to many places and interviewed people, and of course none of them satisfied me, that's why I came to Keyser. Because I'm here; which means that when I interviewed the people in Keyser, WV, which was in July of 1956, I found that the type of person that was here—the way they answered their questions, the way they spoke with me—I felt that this could be a home for me and I could be like a father to them. And consequently, when I was here-- the day that I interviewed people--I decided that I was going to come here, and that day I told the Chamber of Commerce here in Keyser that I'm coming here; and it was a matter of negotiating to buy, there were some machines in town, and a matter of finding a space.

But I did go back to New Bedford that night, and put my plant up for sale—and sold it within a week. And consequently, I came here. I was here in July interviewing and I came here in October; it was October 1st we opened up the plant. September I was here fixing up the plant. And that's the story of how I came to Keyser, and why I came to Keyser. And just let me add one thing: when I did come here, when I started with the people, I explained to them why I was here—and why I was no longer where I was at

previous to this. And I told them that I moved from there here, and there'd be nothing to stop me from moving here elsewhere, unless the cooperation was there. And I still have some people—this is, we are in our twenty-third year here—and there are still some people working here now that started with us in the very first month that I was here. The people understand that this is the way I am, and what I say, I do.

I: Now that you're here then, you do find the quality of labor and the people here good to work with?



Kline: Yes. I find that we are extremely cooperative with each other: I with they, and they with I. And I go up to New York once each week and set up a schedule, in New York, as to what it is that I expect to ship for the following week, and the week after; and generally, I can tell them for about three weeks what it is that I'm going to ship. And we generally hit it right on the nose. I promise them certain merchandise, they in turn promise it to the customers, and consequently our relationship that way is very good. So, I'm like an intermediary man that works between the people in New York and the people in the factory here—except that I run it here.

I: How do you feel you've contributed to this community?

Kline: I really don't know that I've contributed anything; I do what I know to do, and that evaluation is going to have to be made by other people, not by me. I do what I think I should do when I should do it; I try to help boys, I try to help teams, I try to help local communities, I try to help churches—I do all the things that I think a person should do--that is capable of doing--and, you know, without any fanfare, without any advertising the fact that I've done certain things; I just go ahead and do them. So how does one help a community? I don't know, I think the best way that anybody can help the community or help the family is by being truthful—by doing whatever is supposed to be done. And then, really, we're not helping, we're only doing what we're supposed to be doing in life. In this day and age, where the average is low, anybody who is doing what would've been average twenty-five years ago is looked at as doing something that's overwhelming. I just do what I think I should do every day.

I: What types of garments do you make?

Kline: Basically, we make ladies' dresses. But to describe that, I'd say this: we make whatever goes into the ladies' dress department in the store. Now, you young ladies have been shopping in your lifetime, so you find that there are sportswear departments and there are dress departments; and we make whatever goes into the dress departments. And I said we make dresses, but a dress could be a one-piece; a dress could be two-piece—could be a skirt and a jacket; could be three-

piece—could be a skirt, and a blouse, and a jacket; could be pants, and a blouse, and a jacket; could be pants and a jacket. So, we make whatever goes into the dress departments of retail stores.

I: Are your dresses sold locally, or shipped away?

Kline: Everything that we make here is shipped back to New York; and in New York is where all of the selling and shipping to the stores are done from. But I do know that our merchandise does come back to the area, because there are some of the stores here that go up to our manufacturer and purchase from them, and also, we sell to all the chain outfits—so I know that the Lerner Shops, and Sears, and Montgomery Ward, and JC Penney carry our merchandise; I know that our merchandise does come back into the area.

I: Could you describe a little bit about the process of making a dress? Some of the steps…?

Kline: Uhh that's a very good question. Well, what happens is…of course I do it better generally with people by showing them, as opposed to telling them; I'm not very vocal--but I think I am vocal. Ok. Piece goods comes in—our truck goes into New York twice each week. When the truck goes *into* New York—let's say that it's the first time he's going *into* New York—he goes into the city (or New Jersey, I should say--I use the terminology "New York" because the manufacturer's in New York, but the warehouse is in New Jersey). When the truck does go into New Jersey to pick up the piece goods, it comes back here, and we unload the goods. The piece goods comes in in bulk; we put the goods on the table—as we call "spread the goods"--on the table by lots. We cut it, and when we get finished cutting a lot, there will be anywhere from a thousand to twelve hundred to fifteen hundred units in the lot. There will be five sizes, or four sizes, or six sizes—depending on how the manufacturer sold that particular lot. And each size will have a variation of colors in it. But everything will be equal—like, if we're making 5's, 7's, 9's, 11's and 13's in one particular lot, generally we cut half 5's, and then 7, 9, 11, and 13 would be double; in other words, we cut 1,2,2,2,2. Which means that if we cut one blue dress in a size 5, there will be two blues in the 7, 9, 11, and 13. When you add it all up, it will come to a thousand, twelve hundred, fifteen hundred garments. Or we might have, we'll say, two hundred garments in a size 5 in all of the different colors that they wanted them in, and four hundred of each of the other sizes of all of the colors that they wanted them in.

From the cutting department the parts are then taken and put into what we call bundles for the sewing room. It goes into the sewing department by sections; in other words, we have the dresses cut up into pieces and we tie it

Example of a sewing room, Australia late 1940s

up into small parts, so that—just to make it easy, I'm going to try to explain it—say the dress has a cuff on it, we'll have the cuff and the sleeves together, and one girl will just be setting the cuffs onto sleeves. Then if there is a collar, we'll have one girl just sewing out the collar—that is, preparing the collar—so that it can go over to the presses and be pressed and turned (turned and pressed--I should put it in the proper terminology) so that then it can go over to the girl who will be setting the collar to the waist. So, we prepare all the work by setting cuffs to sleeves, getting collars ready, getting pockets ready to put onto the garment—getting all of the different small parts ready. And they go from there over to the girl that will take the parts and put them on to the bigger part. And then let's say that we have the skirt totally ready—the skirt's all sewed up with pockets on, the sleeve now has the cuffs set, the sleeves are ready to go into the waist part of it, the collar is all set. Then one lady (or one group of ladies) will then sew the sleeves to the waist, the collar to the waist—make the waist all ready—then the next girl, that we call the joiner, will take the waist that's all ready, and the skirt that is all ready, and put those two together—and finally we have a dress.

Then it goes to the girl that makes the bottoms; and if there are buttons and buttonholes on it we'll put the buttonholes and buttons on at that particular point, and then we are ready to press it. We press it; from the pressing department it goes over to what we call the cleaning department where we will button the garment, clean all the threads off the garment, and put a belt on if it has one or get it totally ready to be hanging in the store to be sold. Then it goes over to a machine where we bag each individual garment in a plastic bag. From there it goes to the racks, where we count them, and put them back by lots—so that if we cut twelve hundred garments, there's twelve hundred garments going back in the exact size and colors that they want them in New York, and then we take them and put them on the truck. The truck makes the cycle: goes back to New York, delivers whatever lots we have ready, and picks up more piece goods and brings it back.

I: Approximately how many dresses do you manufacture in a week?

1970s Laura Ashley dresses

Kline: The amount of merchandise that we manufacture varies according to the type of merchandise that we are making; some of the merchandise that we make is not as detailed as other merchandise, depending upon the time of the year, depending upon the styling. Right now, our average shipment will come to approximately seven thousand, seven thousand five hundred garments per week.

I: How has your business changed over the years?

Kline: The only change that I can really visualize is the styling situation—the things that we had done years ago that we don't do today, and things that we hadn't done years ago that we do today. There's been a very definite change in the styling, and even in colors; I

can remember way back where we never cut any pastel shades after the middle of June—I mean, it was just never done. They sold, you know, only up through the summertime and always at that time with short sleeves, pastels. Today, you can cut pastels in November, December; and you can have short sleeves or three-quarter sleeves or long sleeves—there isn't any rhyme or reason today as to really how it goes. And basically, those are the changes I see, in that you can't tell, really, what's going to be next week or next month, there are so many changes that go on that are unforeseen, unpredictable—whereas years ago everything was predictable.

I: Are you able to produce dresses faster?

Kline: A very difficult question to ask—I mean the question is easy to ask but it's difficult to answer. Let's say it this way: I really don't know what you mean by that. If you mean is there more work on the garment today than what there was years ago, or do you mean that the people work quicker?

I: I mean have the machines changed…

Kline: No. The machines basically have not changed. Basically. They keep coming out with a new type of machines or new machines, but basically the RPMs on the machine are about the same as what they were twenty-five, thirty years ago; and consequently, the difference in production is really determined by people, as opposed to the machines. And, naturally, people are people, and so it really hasn't changed.

The secret of the whole thing is how much sewing is there on the garment? How have they changed the style? Just to give you an example—if a machine can sew "x" amount of stitches per day, now, if we get a style in where we'll say the sewing cost is fifty cents to sew up a complete garment, we can make "x" amount of garments that particular day. If the next style that we get—the next dress that we get—the sewing cost to produce that dress would be a dollar per dress, it means that we're going to make half the amount of dresses. Because there's no magic involved, those machines can only go so fast, and the people can only do so much--so the styling, really, is what changes our production abilities. It's really the styling. Though, to go back a few years ago, about six, seven years ago, almost everything that we made was made with bonded goods--I don't know if you young ladies can remember that, but everything was bonded and everything was very simple styles; so at that time our production per machine was in the area of a hundred and fifty garments per week. Today our production per machine is no more than sixty garments per week. So really, the styling has to do with the productive ability of the plant; and consequently, the income of the plant is based also on the styling—you have to understand that if they give us merchandise to make that has that much more work in it, they have to pay that much more per garment. Otherwise, we couldn't be in business.

I: Ok. The first plant you had here in Keyser burnt down?

Kline: Yes.

I: When did this happen?

Kline: January 19, 1977.

I: How long did it take for you to rebuild?

Kline: Well, January 19th was the fire, and I got busy soon after that seeing what I could do about putting up a new building—I made up my mind within the week that I was going to relocate in the exact same spot where the original building was. We got back into the new building, on the same spot where the old building had burned, approximately November the 10th of 1977. So, we'd have to say it took us—well, from January to November, which would be about eleven months, in that area, ten months, but also, we had some months of planning in between; giving out bids and so on. So, we really didn't get started to put the building up until somewhere around April or May. But I think we did a fantastic job of getting back up again.

I: Did you find the people in the community helpful during the crisis?

Kline: Extremely so. Particularly the city fathers: the Chamber of Commerce, the banks—both banks—any people that had anything to do with being able to try to get us back into business had much to do with it. Plus, all the people that worked in the plant expressed themselves in an affirmative way in such a manner that they helped me make up my mind that I was going to come back. So, the cooperation was there from everybody.

I: That proves how helpful you are in this community and everything, you know.

Kline: Well, it's hard to say what that proves; we can analyze it in many different ways.

I: Was your business totally out of operation during this time, or were you able to…?

Kline: No. The day after the fire, I started to look for some space, to see what we could do about getting back into business. I do believe it took me about two weeks—maybe a week and a half to two weeks—and I had procured some space in town. I had to do all the electrical work, and all of the—I had to do a lot of things: had to buy machinery, brand-new machines; and brand-new cutting tables; and I had to get things set up. I think it took us about two or two and a half weeks, and I had some people working—I can't give you the exact number, but we did get started real quickly, and within a month or a month and a half time, I had four different little spaces working where I had people going.

I: Was the cause of the fire determined?

Kline: Not really. In fact, my foreman, my mechanic, and myself talked about it very recently, about how we thought it might have been; and the same thing--the same answer--we came up with now that we came up with soon after the fire—and that is that

we think that something electrical had to…some wiring somewhere along the line that made the fire erupt.

I: Did it happen during working hours?

Kline: It happened…at that time, before the fire, we had a night shift going; and it happened while the girls from the night shift—that is, night shift was three-thirty until eleven-thirty—while those young ladies were working, it happened. It happened somewhere around eight-thirty, nine o'clock at night.

I: How many people do you employ?

Kline: Right now, we have approximately a hundred and ten people.

I: Ok. Could you describe a little bit about the present layout of this factory, the size of it…?

Kline: Well, the size, we have twenty-two thousand square feet; and as far as the layout of machinery and cutting is concerned, you just have to visualize it—now, I guess by going back to how I described our method of operation. And so, everything follows in that direction: first, we have the cutting room; and then right after the cutting room is the sewing room; and then down at the other end of the building where the sewing room ends, we have what we call the special machine department, where we put on buttonholes, buttons, snaps; do the bottoms; and then right after that is the pressing department. It follows—in other words, the operation and the layout of the plant follows just the way I described it previously. And then along the far wall, on the other side, is the place where we clean the dresses and button them, and so on, belt them, and then it follows itself back to an area where we bag the dresses and then put it on the racks. And at that point, it's back at the truck again, at the garage.

I: Well, is this factory larger than your old factory?

Kline: We have just about the same amount of footage, square footage, in here that we had in the old plant—except that the square footage in here is much more conducive for work because in the old plant I had added to the building five different times; and each time I added to the building, what it meant was that we had more walls. In this plant here, all that we have is the four outside walls--we have nothing in between that bothers us or is in our way. So, the old plant, although it was efficient, and we liked it, and it was, you know…I would much rather still be in the old plant; even though the new plant

is nicer, and it has done many things to me economically, I would rather be in the old plant. But I look at it this way: I like this plant better as a plant—basically it's more efficient as a plant; and if the fire had not happened, I would still be in the old plant, I'd still be operating the way I was, and I'd still be happy. Being as how we had the fire, now I'm in a new plant, and I'm happy. So, I've used the word "happy" both times, and I look at it this way: after I die, or when I die, I'm not going to take either plant with me—so right now I'm in a better, easier to clean, more efficient plant than I was before the fire; and so, I'm happy with it.

I: That's good. You operate an outlet here too?

Kline: Yes, we do.

I: What do you sell in it?

Kline: We sell dresses that we make; and I do get in from our manufacturer in New York at times some additional dresses if I feel that we don't have enough. And we sell material that we get in—I also get sample cuts from them in New York, and we get in regular bolts of material, plus whatever material we have left over from things that we have here. And we put it into the store. We also sell zippers, and buttons, and notions—things of that nature.

[tape malfunctions—words unclear for rest of interview]

I: How many children do you have?

Kline: Just three.

I: Three? Do they plan to go into the family business?

Kline: Absolutely not.

I: What do you see in the future for your business?

Kline: Oh, I expect [unclear] the rest of my life.

I: Well, these are all the questions we have prepared. Is there anything you'd like to add?

Kline: No, not really. Of course, if I say "not really", then I'll start talking. [laughter] Just that, again, I feel content [words unclear] in the area, I have a great bunch of people, which makes me feel content and happy, [phone ringing]. And I enjoy my work very much—in fact, I love my work: I love what I do, I love how I do it, [words become unclear] I say again, I love my work, I like what I do, I like getting up early in the morning and coming in to do what I have to do, I have a good bunch of people, the cooperation that I have with everybody--it works both ways and makes for a happy business, a

happy place. Most of us spend as much time here as we spend anywhere in one place in our waking hours. Once you get home, you get home for three hours, four hours, and then sleep for eight hours. But this is a solid eight hours here, and I'm going to try to make it as reasonable and as nice as I can.

I: Well, we really want to thank you for your time, we appreciate it.

Kline: I hope I relaxed you. [laughter]

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The Legislative Process in the U. S. House of Representatives
Interview with Congressman Goodloe Byron
Summer 1974
Interviewed by Stanley J. Dougan

Goodloe Byron

SD: Good morning class. We have Congressman Goodloe Byron here this morning to talk to us about the Congress. Congressman Byron is a native of Frederick. He has a bachelor's degree from the University of Virginia and a law degree from George Washington University. Congressman Byron, could you please explain your idea of a legislative hotline?

Byron: Well, the legislative hotline would enable any person to call from anywhere in the country, toll-free to Washington to find out the status of any legislation.

SD: Would you also please explain the Public Safety Officers bill, Congressman Byron?

Byron: Public Safety Officers legislation, I'm not sure about it. Into what category would that be? Perhaps you can amplify that.

SD: I think that relates, sir, to the government awarding someone $50,000 or so if a policeman is shot.

Byron: Oh, I'm sorry, excuse me, that's an insurance program which would underwrite by the federal government $50,000 in life insurance for anyone who was killed in the line of duty who works either in police or fireman work.

SD: Congressman, what immunities do congressmen have in D. C., sir?

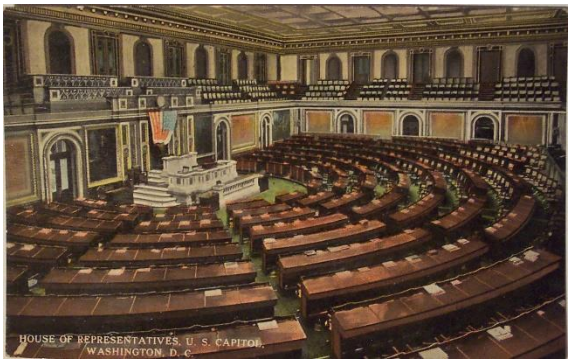
Byron: The constitutional immunities from arrest while engaged in the official business of the Congress and also the, I wouldn't say the immunity, but the opportunity to comment and speak on the floor of the House of Representatives without having to be concerned with litigation for libel or slander.

SD: Many of my students often times criticize the seniority system in the Congress. Congressman Byron, has there been any modification of the seniority system recently?

Byron: There has. Congress changed the rules just last year providing for a secret ballot for a vote on all committee chairmen. But there is always going to be seniority, and you see it in all walks of life. Professors in colleges and universities, seniors in high school have more to say about running a high school than freshmen and that's the same as is true in Congress.

SD: How are congressional salaries determined, Congressman Byron?

Byron: Congress sets the salary by appointing a Salary Commission which recommends to Congress every four years a salary adjustment.



SD: I understand that you sent out questionnaires asking constituents for their complaints. What are some of the major complaints that are sent back to your office, sir?

Byron: Federal government is too big and too impersonal. It's too hard to get a decision out of the federal government. Inflation, medical costs, a variety of things, even down to the question, which is going to come up again, daylight savings time in the winter.

SD: Before we close our interview this morning, Congressman, would you please tell us about the staff services available to congressmen?

Byron: Each member of the House of Representatives can employ sixteen people and most of the members employ these staff persons in Washington

SD: Congressman Byron, I would like to thank you this morning for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to the students of Allegany Community College concerning their Congress.

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Life in Allegany County During the Depression
Interviewee: Nick Quartucci. His wife Anna is also present. Interview by Debbie Anderson

DA: Today I'm interviewing Mr. Nick Quartucci of Frostburg, MD on his recollections of Allegany County and his involvement in the Frostburg area.
Ok, at what age did you come over from Italy?

Quartucci: I must have been about twelve years old.

DA: And what were your first impressions when you came over to America?

Quartucci: In this country?

DA: Right.

Italian immigrants arriving in New York City

Quartucci: Bananas [laughter]. When we reached New York—port, you know, where we got off—that's what they gave us, bananas and ice cream. We never had that in Italy.

DA: Why did you come to Cumberland—how did you ever manage to come to Cumberland?

Quartucci: That's where my father met us.

DA: Well, how did *he* ever manage to come here?

Quartucci: He sent for us.

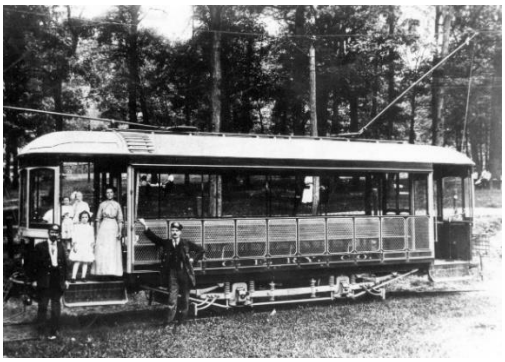
DA: Well, like why was it in particular Allegany County—you know, why wasn't it somewhere…

Quartucci: He lived here by himself; he boarded over at the coal mines. So he sent for us three, and we came over and we reached Cumberland. And my first impression that I remember was when we landed in New York—they'd feed you bananas, you know, and ice cream. We never had that before. We got on the train, and we reached Cumberland, and my father was waiting for us. At that time they had taxis, and they also had trolley cars.

DA: In Cumberland?

Quartucci: Yeah. From Cumberland to Frostburg to Westernport.

DA: Where was that at? Which trolley cars?


Electric Railway car in the Narrows

Quartucci: Through the Narrows.

DA: Really? I never knew there was a trolley car there.

Quartucci: They had trolley cars—and I rode them. Through the Narrows, from Cumberland. You know where the Narrows are?

DA: Where the railroad tracks are?

Quartucci: Right up, going up…that's called LaVale now. They come up right up here to Frostburg.

DA: I was talking to someone, and they had said that when these trains come in, they were mainly Italians on them—why do you think that so many Italians came to the Frostburg-Cumberland area, instead of going, maybe, up to PA or OH or somewhere?

Quartucci: Well, they thought maybe there was better work here.

DA: What kind of work did they mainly do?

Quartucci: Nothing but mines, coal mines; in those days, there was nothing but coal mines.

DA: Did you ever work in the mines?

Quartucci: No.

Man making a pair of boots

DA: But you worked as a shoemaker, though.

Quartucci: I was a shoemaker, yes.

DA: How long did you work as…

Quartucci: I learned as a shoemaker in Italy as a little boy. And when we got here, things kept on developing, and I learned the shoe trade a little better; and I think—I'm pretty sure—in 1927 I went in business for myself.

DA: And that was up on Main St.?

Quartucci: Up on Main St. Right now, it's where the library is. Right across the street. That's where those hippies are. [laughter] And I had a shoe shop, started in 1927. I still have pictures upstairs—are you going to get it, Anna?--with me and the neighbor outside—'26 or '27.

DA: When you first came over…I've seen other pictures that mom had, and they show the house and everything—was it just one family to a house at that time? I know they were small, the apartments and everything.

Quartucci: Well, they are almost about the same now; they were small, and apartments. Just about the equal thing. Like, we lived in one small house, and there's places where there's…but most of all, I think, they were individual houses.

DA: Did everybody have a farm then, or what?

Quartucci: Usually. They usually went for a farm.

DA: Was there any, like, marketing or anything?

Quartucci: No, no, just, like, you had a backyard.

DA: Ok, and how old were you when the Depression hit?

Quartucci: The Depression was…1936.

DA: '36. Yeah, around then.

Quartucci: No, that's the flat, in John's Point, in Cumberland--yeah, 1936.

DA: What can you remember about the flat? I didn't even…

Quartucci: You weren't even born.

DA: No, I wasn't.

Breadline during the Depression

Quartucci: We had a big flat there; but the Depression was in 1929. And what can I remember? I can remember the…we used to call it the bread line; something like--you start in Pittsburgh, you know? And the people come down to other cities—they would keep on, they'd walk and they'd walk until they came through Frostburg, here. People never had no shoes, walking…just poverty. They hit Cumberland and they picked up more people, and they were going to Washington, to protest.

DA: How did it hit your family in particular? Like, what did you have to do to make it?

Quartucci: What can we do? We did the best we could.

[tape stops, resumes]

DA: That picture still looks like you, here.

Quartucci: That's the one, right there.

DA: Uh huh. 1926. You were working at the shoe…doing shoes then, when the Depression hit?

Quartucci: Depression, yeah. When the Depression hit us, I was working then.

DA: Were you supporting a family at that time?

Quartucci: I was married, yes. She [wife Anna] was working, at the factory.

DA: What factory was that?

Quartucci: Pajama factory. Right up above her mother's house. Remember her mother's house? On Bowery? [She?We] were supporting but everything was going backwards(?)

Buying eggs during the Depression

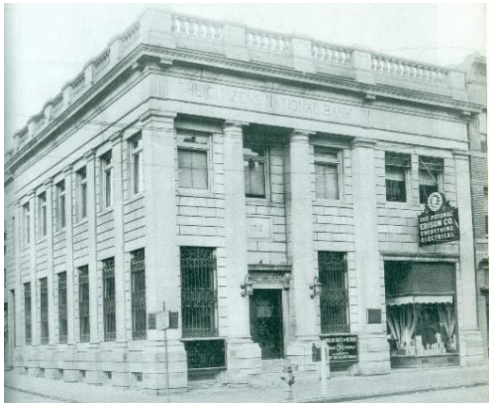
DA: How were prices then?

Quartucci: Oh, prices—you could buy eggs for nothing! [laughter] Prices were cheap.

Anna: Just didn't have the money.

Quartucci: People didn't have no money, you see? Everything was very cheap; people bought a dozen eggs for a nickel!

DA: Well, how did the banks "run"—what happened at the banks, they had to close down the banks?


Citizens National Bank, Frostburg

Quartucci: Banks? They went under.

DA: Well, how many banks were there when the Depression hit?

Quartucci: Let's see: they had the one, two, three—and one of them went under. That was First National Bank, they used to call it. That's where Griffith's [Dress Shop] is now, that marble place?

Anna: That's where Citizens Bank is?

Quartucci: I remember I had a little bit of money in there from my shoe shop business—checking account; and I lost that. That was really bad, but people were trying to make enough. They used to have a surplus store, I remember, and they used to give that to people that really didn't have nothing, like coats and underclothes, see? I don't know, I think I liked those days better than I do today.

DA: Why do you say that, pop?

Quartucci: Today, everything's wrong. To me, everything was wrong, you did what you could. [section unclear]

DA: But you enjoyed it a lot more.

Example of a coal stove

Quartucci: Yeah. Yeah. Things were a whole lot different.

DA: What kind of conveniences did you have then; like, you know, did you have electric then, when you were living…?

Quartucci: No, we didn't have none of that. We had, for the home--for heating, we almost had a stove in every room. We had the kitchen here; right here was the stove—[Anna: coal stove] coal stove to cook with. Right through, right there we had a "frost killer", you know--did you ever see them?

DA: Yeah.

Quartucci: And in the other room—there you are—another big "frost killer", fixed up pretty; in them days in almost every room you had to have a hot stove. People with furnaces…we used to have a furnace but they had like a hole in the metal, and all the heat comes out from there and then it would go to other rooms. We never had no conveniences like you got today.

DA: What did you do for entertainment?

Quartucci: Entertainment? Well, you could have went to a movie for a nickel.

DA: Where was that at—what, the Palace was there?

Quartucci: The Palace, the Lyric Theatre…

Palace Theatre in 2009

Anna: And the Opera House.

DA: Where is that at?

Quartucci: Well, the Palace, the Lyric Theatre, and the Opera House is where the gasoline station is now, on the corner. Big place. Could go there for a nickel.

DA: How about the automobiles—I know that your brother had a Model T?

Ford Model T coupe

Quartucci: Automobiles? Oh. That was a Model T coupe, that Ford. That was 1927, that's when they came out. And '27, '28, I bought one; that was a sedan, they called it, four doors.

Anna: That was a '29, wasn't it?

Quartucci: '28 or '29, something like that.

DA: How much did that run you?

Quartucci: They're no longer made, but today you couldn't make a down payment for what the price we paid then: $713.

DA: At that time, it seemed a lot to you, too.

Quartucci: Yes, it seemed a lot! But buying a car--$713. You couldn't make a payment today.

DA: No. You'd have it all paid for, though.

Quartucci: That's for Model T Fords. Mine, they called it then the Model A Ford; see, they'd give them different names later.

DA: Ok, now, you were real active with the Frostburg Lions; how did you first become active in that?

Quartucci: Well, like, friends to friends, you know? I still had the shoe shop….Eleven years ago…'46? 1946? when I joined the Lions. (I got the thing downstairs, Anna, in the basement.) Anyhow, it was eleven years ago a friend of mine asked me to join the Lions Club. It's a service club to help people, see? And people who don't have anything, we make this money and we give to these organizations that takes control of that. And you buy baskets of fruits or clothing—anything that they need.

DA: Like, what kinds of projects do you have going?

Quartucci: We have a balloon sale once a year, and at Christmas time, we'll be ringing the bells, out on Main St. It's bitter cold. We make around $300 every year like that, and we give it to a—it's called a family service, up on Bowery. We give them the money, and then they distribute it to these people, see? They probably make baskets, you know, food and such like that. And we have another—we have a carnival, we bring in a carnival to make money. We have a lot of things going on.

DA: And you have a spaghetti feed, that's for Lions Club.

Quartucci: Yeah, we have a once-a-year spaghetti feed over at St. Michael's. It's a benefit for the Lions, see? The money's accumulated, which we help the hospital if they need anything, you know. Then we have what they call the site conservation--garage, you see. It takes a lot of money for that. And all the clubs, they send so much money in, and it takes care of things like that. And we never keep any of the funds--we make it, we give it. Because we do not own the building; every time we have a meeting, we eat our dinner, we discuss what we're gonna do—projects—and that's it.

DA: You've gotten awards for Lions, haven't you?

Quartucci: Yeah, I have. I was Lion of the Year, the first time, once; that means that you got the best of the other fellas. You know, you had your Lion [unclear], and they give you an award of Lion of the Year. And I have some of them that were Lion of the Month: so you do something good, you get an award of Lion of the Month. And things like that--that makes you feel good. So that's what I do for the Lions. And same thing with the other members; some don't take no interest, they're just members. But they got to take interest in it. And that's what I did for the Lions.

DA: What went on down at Frostburg State—you took kids into your house, and I know that you cared about, you know, how kids went on at Frostburg State. How much did you have to do down at Frostburg State?

Quartucci: Well, at Frostburg State College, the job that I had was a housekeeper, see? And I took it upon myself, these boys when they start the new year, they would bring their mothers and fathers in and they'd introduce them to the housekeeper—or the janitor, they called it—"will you take care of my boy", they would say. That's the first thing they would say, "will you take care of my boy". From year to year they would be here; most of the time, you'd be pretty good with them. In fact I was--I wouldn't take an inch from the boys. [words unclear—sound fuzzy], I would jump on them—which I was not supposed to do. The only thing I was supposed to do was do my cleaning, and the hell with 'em. But I wasn't like that; if I seen that they'd done anything wrong, I got to correct them. And they took *me* in! And later on, they came to call me The Godfather—they called me The Godfather. [laughs]

Frostburg State University Old Main building in 2016

DA: When did the college first start opening and all?

Quartucci: The college itself? That was way back. [talks to Anna. She says "they started in '63" (note: became Frostburg State College then)]. In '63, they had only had that building there, they called it Old Main, which is still there. When I started working, they had that and they had….at that time, they were building those buildings there. From year to year, you know, they expand.

Anna: They have three high-rise.

Quartucci: What do you want to know about that?

DA: I just thought you knew, maybe, something about the college, you know—like why did they decide to build it in Frostburg, instead of Cumberland, or near Baltimore instead of here….you wouldn't expect so many kids to flock up, you know, up where it's cold and everything.

Quartucci: Yeah. Well, the way I heard it, this was a nicer place in the summertime—the mountains and everything. They could get better instructors—that's the way I heard it. And of course, we had…the reason it's here—we almost lost it—is on account of Miss Compton; she was the one that fought for it, to keep it here. To make a college out of it--years ago, it was almost lost. And she was the one that fought, and fought with the Congress to keep it here. And it just kept on growing and growing, and it just won't stop. See? It just won't stop.

DA: It's so big today.

Quartucci: But I worked there ten years. And every year would go along, we got accustomed to the boys, and as an Italian, they knew what I was making; and they liked that so much that we started spaghetti supper. And with the money that we made we bought the first television, for the boys.

Middle coat of arms of Czechoslovakia

Anna: And the other suppers we had for the trip to Czechoslovakia.

Quartucci: We made another supper…of course they know what to do, see? They used to call me in their meetings—I was one of them! They used to call me in at council meetings. Nobody else as a janitor would be trusted like that. When they had a meeting, I was there. What are we going to do to raise the money? Now this trip was coming up, a basketball trip, to go to

Czechoslovakia. Yeah, Czechoslovakia. And that would take a lot of money. Of course, all the merchants, they went in, see, and they donated so much money; they came to me and they wanted to know what *we* could do to help. I told them, I said, why don't we give a spaghetti supper; the money, instead of putting it in the treasury, give it to them. In fact, give it to Dr. Cordts--he was the head man, you know him? Dr. Cordts, he was one of the head instructors. And we decided--we voted on it--and they was very tickled with it. And I think we gave them $282, I remember that. And the boys took it up to them. And, you see, word got around all through the campus that I was doing this--why, we got along fine.

DA: And they looked on you as their father, respected you and all.

Quartucci: That's right. Then [unclear]! I mean, [words unclear]. I'm not an educated man, and I could understand what they was doing. And we just got along fine. In fact, we had a spaghetti supper there one night and—I can really say it for sure—Dean Manicur was on one side of the table, and Dr. Morey—he was the president—and one of the maintenance men was sitting close by. And Dean Manicur made a statement that she wished that the college, the campus, would have more…like me and I was doing all these things for the dormitories, you know--because the other dormitories were having troubles--breaking things, whatever they wanted, and that's why she wished that they had more like me there.

And that's why it came to be they called me The Godfather…You look surprised… [laughter] [words unclear] they enjoyed it. All the campus—even today, boys come if they're still here. They don't live in the college, but they do live outside(?), and they got around to talk to these people, these boys come up, they called me on the phone—"we could put on a spaghetti supper, along with the Lions." They would do the work, they would sell tickets, 'cause they know I work with the Lions. At this time, they knew I had to get permission, and all that.

DA: What can you tell me—what you mentioned about the Cumberland flood? 'Cause I don't know anything about it.

Baltimore Street after the 1936 flood

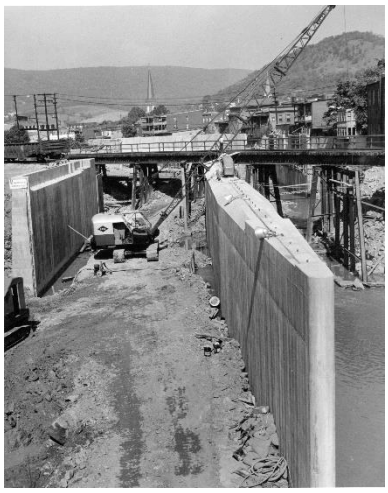
Quartucci: Cumberland flood? That was in '36. She (Anna) wasn't there.

DA: I didn't even know anything about it, all I ever heard was about the Johnstown flood.

Quartucci: Didn't you see it in the paper not too long ago? They had a big article about the 1936 flood. Do you know that bridge where the (?) hotel is? [tape glitch]
I don't think they remodeled it any, because to me it's the same way as it used to be!

Anna: They have a flood control program down there now.

Quartucci: Yeah, but the bridge itself…they made the flood controls, you know, the sides and everything. But the bridge itself—it's not a new bridge. And I remember I left work and went down to see this flood. And I was standing right on top of that bridge; and you could see everything coming underneath, you know—and I got scared and I got out of there.


Flood control project 1958

DA: There was a lot of panic?

Quartucci: Oh, panic; well, not people panic…but you could see…Baltimore St., from the bridge, you could see right through. And everything was coming out of those basements, you know, the stores. Yeah, it was terrible, and I got scared and I got out of there.

DA: There were a lot of storage rooms, like, business'?

Quartucci: Oh yeah, yeah.

DA: I guess that hurt, at that time.

Quartucci: Oh, sure. The water would be halfway up the building! [words unclear]

DA: Who…or what…I don't know if you know *who* it was, but the first type of businesses that came up to the Frostburg area? Like, you were there, with the shoemaking….but what kind of businesses were mostly there—like you said mining was the main industry around—like, what kind of businesses and that?

Quartucci: Well, the only thing I remember at that time was the Berkowitz [Shirt] Factory, that's where Anna worked.

DA: They made…?

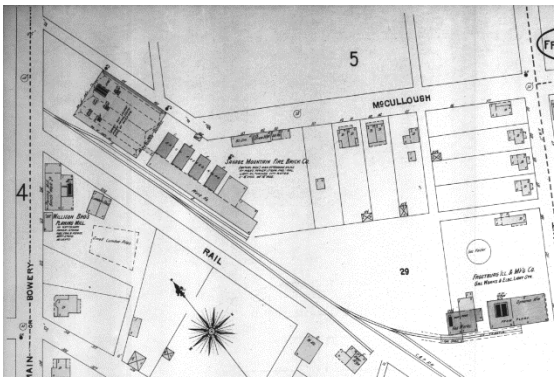
Quartucci: Pajamas. That was one of them…I don't know any more because we didn't have much more. [discussion with wife Anna] The next place that would be, would be in Cumberland. You mean factories?

DA: Yeah, that started businesses, and that….

Quartucci: Alright, this was the only thing that was in Frostburg, this Berkowitz Factory.

Anna: There's a brickyard down on McCulloh St.

Quartucci: Well, a brickyard on McCulloh St., yes.



Location of Savage Mountain Fire Brick Company in 1904

DA: Is that still there?

Quartucci: No, that one's gone, down on McCulloh St., and there's one down here below the hospital, that's called the Hercules…no, [Caseri?] Refractories, that's right down below the hospital, and they're still standing. And from there along down, then you hit Cumberland; and you know what's down in Cumberland.

DA: What kind of businesses were around where you were there--like, what kind of shops and that?

Quartucci: There were men's shops, than women's shops—you know, dress shops, a couple of those. But more men's.

Anna: There were hardware stores.

Quartucci: Yeah, but in those days, there were a lot of women's and kids' shops, you know. But there was a lot of hardware…lots of [caboosh?] places [laughter]….

DA: Still a lot around there now.

Quartucci: Lots of those! Yeah. Then we had a lot of fires. Ohhh, we had a lot of fires then.

DA: They mostly happened on Main St.—what was the first one that you can remember?

Quartucci: The first one I can remember? The Opera House. That was that theatre that I was telling you about.

DA: Not the Palace--where was the Opera House at?

Quartucci: The Opera House? It was down there where that garage is now. As you go down Depot? Right there was a big--that was the first one. Then we had one right next to it—D&S Cleaners.

Opera House

DA: But that's still there then.

Quartucci: Yeah, that's still there.

Anna: There was a hotel there. And that burned. A couple horses they kept there, and they got burned.

Quartucci: I was burned a couple times myself [laughs].

Anna: Hager's? Where Hager's was?

Quartucci: Yeah. Hager's got burnt down. But, see, all these buildings were together—one big thing--and then they get burned down and you'd see nothing but a hole.

DA: Hager's rebuilt though.
Quartucci: Right. Hager's got built up.

Anna: And then where the American Legion is now? Right on the corner? That was burnt down.

DA: Frostburg kept on burning down!

Quartucci: Burning down, yeah. And D&S, across from there, now, was burned down.

DA: How long ago was that--did this happen—all those burnings?

Quartucci: Oh, that's way back, I would say in the '30s. The Opera House was burned before that.

Anna: The Opera House was burned in '36.

Quartucci: Naw, it was before that, Anna. The Opera House was burned down before that. [Note: it *was* in '36].

Anna: Then where you had your shoe shop, that was burned, used to be Reese's Butcher Shop.

Quartucci: Yeah, Reese's Butcher Shop, and I was in the middle.

Anna: That was in '36. That was before Michael [their son] was born.

Quartucci: What else can I remember? They used to have a railroad going through there.

DA: Where was that at?

Quartucci: That's something you don't know! [laughs] From Cumberland going to Westernport. The Western Maryland.

DA: It came through Frostburg.

General vicinity of tunnel entrance at the Frostburg Train Depot, 2022

Quartucci: Well, let's see…you know I was just talking about this Opera House? Underneath that, that's where this tunnel is, and goes right out…behind KC—where KC burned down, on that corner there?

DA: Well, I know where KC is.

Quartucci: Alright, well, this tunnel is right underneath there, and goes out through…

DA: Where does it go from Mt. Savage—why wouldn't it start at Mt. Savage?

Quartucci: It would go to Cumberland, see?

DA: Is it still there—or is it caved in or anything?

Anna: That tunnel's still there; the track's still there but it's not used.

Quartucci: I saw there were people said they were going to close that up; lately I seen in the paper they was going to close the sides up because it's not used anymore.

DA: Any of the mines used anymore around here?

Example of coal strip mining

Quartucci: Mines? Nothing but strip mines. Today it's nothing but strip mines.

DA: Was there a lot of traveling, like, back in the '30s, you know, through Frostburg and that—was there a good deal of traveling then?

Quartucci: Yeah, but slow traveling. I remember as if it was today, when I was over on the other side of the street to learn the shoemaking—the streets was nothing but dirt, nothing but dirt. And later on, later on, they put brick on it, big bricks. They had to send for men—believe it or not—from New York; these people would come from the Old Countries—they sent them, you know, because they knew how to put these things on. And they would give them jobs like that. Those Frostburg officials knew about it, and they would send to there for these men, and they would come--there was no labor from here at all, because you just had to know how to put those bricks on. And I could watch them; there was nothing to do but watch. And your brick street goes up. And later on in years, the first blacktop comes on—cover up the brick.

DA: Is there still brick underneath those roads now?

Quartucci: Yeah. Right now there's big brick. Same thing out here; we had a nice brick here—everything was blacktopped.

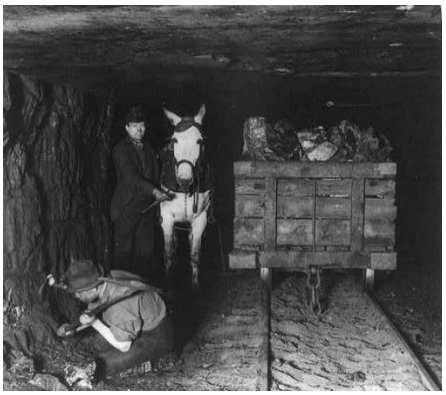
DA: What about crime—was there much then, or…and what was done about it?

Quartucci: Crime? There was not as much crime then as what there is today, no. We had a lot of strikes at that time, mostly mine strikes, you know. Yeah, mostly mine strikes.

DA: What for wages, or hours, or what?

Quartucci: For wages. For wages, yeah.

DA: How much were they getting paid, do you know?



Quartucci: Not very much. They wasn't getting paid by the hour, they was getting paid by loading the car; you'd load up a car, you know, with coal, and you'd get paid so much for that. The more cars you'd load up, the more money you make. Gosh, they really had a lot of strikes then. And I was never in them, except I looked inside of one--and I held myself back. That thing was nothing but two feet high, you had to crawl through! Crawl on your knees, you know, to dig the coal.

DA: You wonder why they strike—I mean, really when you see how much….

Quartucci: Now today you can stand up, with the machines that dig coal and everything.

DA: Yeah, because you see how many people were dying in the mines now.

Quartucci: Yeah, but them days, I'm telling you, you had to stay with your knees….My father worked in them. And the water would seep along, you know…just to get a bigger bit of coal. For every bit of coal--you had to get a lot of coal to fill a car. It was bad, them days, for work like that, very bad.

Now, if you had a little business, you'd get along, you know. There was a lot of food stands, those days. In the summertime they would come outside and display their fruits.

DA: Where'd they set up at?

Quartucci: I don't know—on Main St., on the sidewalk, right there by the door. Well, they still do that in big cities, maybe you saw.

DA: Yeah, you see it in New York now.

Quartucci: The markets in places--they bring everything out, I don't know why! There used to be a lot of that.

DA: What happened when everybody started…what epidemic was it when everybody started dying….like, they're starting battling the swine flu now—what was it back then when everybody was dying?

Anna: Well, that was around 1918.

Quartucci: We wasn't here then. What kind of a flu was that?

Red Cross Hospital during the flu epidemic, 1918

DA: They said that people were dying.

Anna: That was during the war--First World War.

Quartucci: We had a bad flu, during the war, yeah. We came here in 1920. We never heard about it 'til later.

Anna: This was in 1917, '18.

Quartucci: Uh huh. Yeah, a lot of people died then, I heard.

DA: Was it hard being an immigrant, coming over here—like, how were the laws and that?

Quartucci: Oh, they were pretty strict.

DA: Like, would they allow many people over, or what? How did you go about coming over?

Quartucci: You had to be in perfect health; they would examine you all over, you know. Like my father, he had to be a citizen of this country in order to send for us.

DA: How long did you have to be a citizen, how long was that—how many years?

Quartucci: Well, I don't know when he got the papers—I can't remember the dates—but the sooner you get to be made a citizen, the better off you are, even to get a job, see. I imagine he got them before he sent for us.

Anna: He had to have a job--able to take care of his family before he could send for them and have them over here. You had to be able to take care of them.

Quartucci: Sure, sure. Otherwise, how could you do it?

DA: Was there any problems after you got into the Frostburg area--of other people, like how they felt about you coming here, like different races, or…?

Quartucci: No, I don't think…they were pretty friendly.

Anna: Why don't you tell them about the upset at school? Somebody called you a name.

Quartucci: Well, we was only kids, at school.

DA: They were here?

Quartucci: Yeah. I started at the Grahamtown School, which was closer to our home; from Washington St. we walked to Grahamtown School. In the old country, they only have first, second, and third; that's three classes. You don't go up here to high school, then you jump higher, you know--grammar school then you go to high school. And high school, it was different than what it was here. So I caught up pretty quick over here--because I do! [laughs] They said what's the use of keeping you here? We're making you go up to another school. And it wasn't very long, they're sending me up to Hill St.

Hill Street School

DA: That's still there.

Quartucci: From Grahamtown I went up at least a year, up to Hill St. And from there—just the same thing. I ended up over here at Beall Elementary--where this new school just started? That's where I ended up. Some of these smart boys, you know—poor fella, he's dead now—he's the one that I remember had guts enough to go and paint St. Michael's steeple. Do you remember how high St. Michael's Church steeple was?

DA: Uh uh.

Quartucci: Just what it is now you remember, huh? You should have seen it before. Nobody would go paint that thing. But he did. And he was the one in school with me. One day at recess, laddies start calling me names—wop; called me wop, you know. 'Cause I came from Italy, see. Did you ever hear that word?

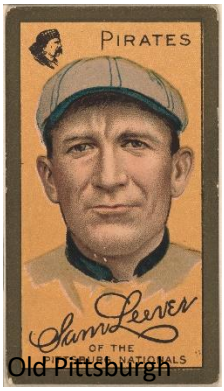
DA: Yeah, I still hear it.

Quartucci: And we got into it. That was [unclear], I'll tell you that. We got into it and some teacher came around, you know—and we *both* got it. At that time, they used to use a stick like that [indicates size], when you do something wrong. You don't go to no principal.

DA: Took care of it yourself!

Quartucci: She'd take care of you up around the corner! That I remember. I've forgot a lot of it; some of it I can remember, you know.

Then, of course, everything kept on…mobilizing through our lives here, you know—we got married, raised children, and things get different. But from way back, I liked baseball very much; my team used to be Pittsburgh--and the New York Yankees. Oh, I loved them so much.



Old Pittsburgh Pirates baseball card

DA: You still like Pittsburgh though now.

Quartucci: Nah, not anymore.

DA: Turned against them?

Quartucci: Yeah, turned against them.

Anna: [to Nick] What'd you do with those scrapbooks? They were on the chair in here. A lot of pictures and stuff in there—what happened to them?

Quartucci: [to Anna] There were some over here by the steel cabinet.
[to DA] [unclear] Those spaghetti suppers…your mother—Esther, my sister—I've still got the pictures here. They [suppers] were really liked by those boys, you know. That was really good. They enjoyed doing that.

DA: I think a lot of people just know about things, you know, like the main things that went on—but not how people felt about it when they had to live there and go through the hardships of it. Like when you worked, what hours of the day would you work—from what to what?

Quartucci: Well, at the College, I had day shift all the time.

DA: What about when you worked at your repair shop—what hours then?

Quartucci: That there you had your own: you could go nine o'clock, you could go eight o'clock, you know.

DA: Was it a very good business there? I mean, like, did you do good?

Quartucci: Yeah. At that time, when I started, from the south there was two other shoemakers. And that was pretty bad--three shoemakers in town.

DA: Nobody had any shoes!

Quartucci: Nobody had any [laughter]. I had one across the street from where I had my shop, see? I was right straight over. And we were doing real bad. We were working hard, but things were bad.

DA: Did you just rent the building, or did you have to buy it, or what?

Quartucci: Rent.

Frostburg Main Street, 2022

DA: Who owned most of the property around here? Who owns it now, like, a lot of it? What were their names? Did they live up on Main St.? I don't know.

Quartucci: Oh, I don't know a whole lot. They changed so much now. Most of it is banks. Mostly the banks bought these properties. They made--as you can see now--parking lots; the city bought some of these old places, and they made parking lots. Billy Diamond, he owns a big restaurant there, and he owns all the up above there, see? The next down to him the bank owns it, and they own the top. But there's a lot of business left today that were left when I was there. 'Course they are remodeled, they look nice.

DA: Ok. About the only thing I have left to ask you is, if you had to think back over everything, right now, would you rather keep most of the old stuff with a little bit of change, or would you rather have it just as modern as it now--because you said the banks are taking things and now they're making parking lots….And they've destroyed a lot….

Quartucci: They've destroyed a lot of beauty that I would save; there was a lot of beauty in those days, you know. Just imagine, yourself, when you go someplace and you see old stuff, historical stuff, you appreciate so much what those people did them days to survive. How did they do those things? you say to yourself. Some kind of tools, you know.

DA: What kind of tools did they have then?

Maryland farmer plowing in 1936

Quartucci: Well, you take a farmer--today they've got machines, and in them days they had to work hard. They were different. But that was for everybody; if I had to do it for myself, work for myself, alright--but that was the whole of our…that was doing it the same way. And then everything changes. So, we're modernized today…but whether I

would like it to be like that--of course, myself, yes. I would like to see those days come back. You know?

DA: You seemed to be a lot happier then.

Quartucci: We were happier then than what we are today. Today you think of nothing more than to make a nickel--to make two nickels, instead of one, see?

DA: Like mom was saying one day—you used to live down in Eckhart, right?—that when people made things, they shared it with each other, their neighbors, it was like a coordinated thing.

Quartucci: Money was no problem then, none at all. I used to walk from Mt. Pleasant St., where we lived after down there, to go to Eckhart to get milk. You know how far it is from Mt. Pleasant down to Eckhart, through those woods? There was no homes then. And we used to walk early in the morning to get down there and get milk from our uncle, they lived there. They had a cow. And they wouldn't [charge] nothing—bring some milk home. And at that time, that's when my father was working in the mines, but she wasn't doing nothin'. I don't know, things were just bad. Right now, that's where they are now. Things are too fast.

I have pictures, but they wouldn't do you any good--unless you display them somewhere.

Rudolph Valentino

DA: I think any pictures you have to show how it was then, are really helpful 'cause you get a glimpse of how people lived.

Quartucci: I'll have to hunt them up--I got a couple pictures of the inside of the shop, with me and the machines. If you see that shop—in fact, inside, here, I have a calendar…have you heard of Rudolph Valentino? You can see the picture on the calendar: Rudolph Valentino.

DA: Was he a big star then?

Quartucci: Yeah!

DA: [laughs] *The* biggest!

Quartucci: I used to make calendars—*I* didn't, but there was a factory, and the salesman would come around, "would you like to have calendars, give 'em to your customers for Christmas?" So, I used to make five hundred; and that's one I made of Rudolph Valentino, and another was Christopher Columbus—they had a picture on it, see? And other stuff like that.

DA: What were gas prices like? You know, you hear so much about it now. What would you pay a gallon, can you remember? They didn't have…did you have electric, or was it gas?

Quartucci: We had electric.

DA: You didn't have to worry about gas.

Quartucci: Electric at the shoe shop. We had electric, we had gas, and oil.

DA: What about for your automobiles, though? Model Ts weren't electric, were they? They ran by gas.

Getting gas in Maryland in 1938

Quartucci: By gas. Gas was cheap.

DA: I guess they had plenty of it then. It goes to show you then, you didn't have much and everything was in supply, and nobody has everything….

Quartucci: Everybody was happy. Everybody was happy. Today, you take, like, me, my brother, Ernie Scarpelli, Joe Montana—four buddies, four young fellas that lived in Eckhart them old days. We were happy! We were single! I still got pictures.

DA: That's why you were happy. [laughs]

Quartucci: Yes. We were single! And we were happy! Today, you know, we don't speak to each other? And you call that good?

DA: No, not at all.

Quartucci: No, it's not good. So, is the reason because…are we growing old? Are we getting away with everything?

Quartucci: Many times I say "I wish those old times would come back."

[personal conversation back and forth]
End of tape

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Italian Immigrants boat
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Bootmaker
Lee, R., photographer. (1939) Bootmaker pounding wooden peg into sole of boot in building up sole with several pieces of leather. Cowboy boot shop, Alpine, Texas. United States Brewster County Texas Alpine, 1939. May. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017783194/.

Breadline
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Eggs
(1931) General Store Shopkeeper Displays Carton of Eggs to a Customer. Ohio, 1931. August. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2011648513/.

Coal stove
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Rothstein, A., photographer. (1939) Strip coal mine encroaching upon farmland. Carterville, Illinois. Williamson County United States Carterville Illinois, 1939. Jan. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017777320/.

Hospital

(ca. 1918) Interior of Red Cross House at U.S. General Hospital #16, New Haven, Conn. during the influenza epidemic. The beds are isolated by curtains. United States Connecticut New Haven, ca. 1918. [or 1919] [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017668663/.

Pittsburgh Pirates

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Park, C., photographer. (1936) Plowing in Maryland. United States Maryland, 1936. Apr. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017760029/.

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Other old photos are from the Allegany College of Maryland Donald R. Alexander Library Appalachian Collection Picture & Clipping file.

Life in Cumberland During the Depression

Today I'm interviewing my grandfather, Ethelbert Davis, who is a retired Celanese employee. He was born on October 26, 1900, and has lived in Cumberland all his life. His current address is 308 Arch St. The topic of the interview is the Depression. My name is Diane Landenberger. The date of the interview is March 22, 1977. The place of the interview is 308 Arch St.

How did you first learn that the country was in a Depression?

Davis: Well, I seen it in the paper. They had a place over here on Virginia Ave. where the Pixie Shop is today. So, I went over there to sign up, and they asked me a bunch of questions: who my mother and daddy was and so on, and they wanted to know how old they was and why they couldn't help me; and I said well, they had about all they could do to take care of theirself. So they sent me from there up to the City Hall, where we had to sign up up there. And I went from there over to the old Post Office right across the street, and they gave me some foodstuff—cheese, and some oatmeal, cornmeal, some cans of Dinty Moore['s] beef, and a couple other little articles.

Then next day I seen where they was going to start an airport up down in Mexico Farms, so I went up and seen about that and I went down there and went to work, the salary was about fifteen dollars a week. So I worked down there I don't know just how long; and then we got a slip that they's going to fix the streets up on Mapleside, so I went up there and seen about that and I went to Mapleside and helped to fix some of the streets up out there: cinder, and level it up, and so on.

DL: Ok, I'd like to go back to the Mexico Farms Airport that you worked at--but also, I'd like to find out right now: around what year did the Depression hit?

Mexico Farms Airport

Davis: Oh, about '29, I think it was—'29 or '30.

DL: Ok, now this work with the airport at Mexico Farms—that was with the WPA.

Davis: Yeah.

DL: What all did you have to do out there?

Davis: Well, just level it up—pick and shovel job, it was. Dig up wherever big humps or anything were, straighten it up….

DL: Was it just a grass field that was out there?

Davis: Yeah, it was at one time a cornfield.

DL: Well, did you start the airport—I mean, was this group of workers, the WPA, were they the first ones who started work on the airport?

Davis: Yeah, yeah.

DL: Were there any aircraft landing there at this time?

Davis: Well, one now and then would land, but it wasn't safe.

DL: Before you worked at the airport, what job did you hold?

Old Klotz Throwing Company Mill building in 2011 before it was turned into apartments

Davis: I held a job at the old silk mill on Gay St.

DL: Why did you get out of work there?

Davis: Well things got slack on account of the Depression.

DL: You say this was located on Gay St.? How did the people who were without jobs get along?

Davis: Well they done like I did during the Depression [laughs].

DL: Worked for WPA. A lot of people during the Depression--I've read several places—there was a lot of train jumping, like they called them hobos?

Davis: Lots of that done, they'd go from one town to another looking for work.

DL: Did you see people doing this?

Davis: Oh yes--colored people, white people, and all.

DL: People from all walks of life?

Davis: Yeah.

DL: Where did you live during this time?

Davis: I lived at 159 Thomas St.

DL: And where's that at?

Davis: Down where Industrial Boulevard ends.

DL: What kind of neighborhood was it?

Davis: Oh, it was a nice neighborhood. Everybody helped one another.

DL: Getting back to the sign-up of groceries, where did you say that you picked up the food at?

Davis: The old Post Office, right across from the City Hall.

Oatmeal

DL: How often did you have to do this?

Davis: Once a week.

DL: Then you got enough supplies for your family to last a week.

Davis: Mostly. But it didn't go very far.

DL: Did it say in the paper that you were supposed to do this? It gave you instructions on what to do?

Davis: Yeah.

DL: What types of entertainment were there in Cumberland during this time?

Davis: There wasn't much during that time.

DL: Were there theaters that people could go to if they could afford it?

Davis: Oh yes, there was theaters.

DL: Can you recall any incidents of crime that took place? Considering how bad things were.

Davis: Well, not back in them days--there wasn't much crime.

DL: Going back now once again to the airport, Mexico Farms—is there anything else you can tell me about, such as the surrounding area?

Davis: Well, the Potomac River run right down not far from it.

DL: How about houses, were there very many houses out there?

Davis: A few farm houses; people that had the airport, their name was Johnson.

DL: Do you know their first name?

Davis: No, I don't know their first name.

DL: They owned the airport.

Davis: They had the ground—I guess they owned it.

DL: Was the Cumberland Airport—the municipal airport in Wiley Ford—was it in operation at this time, or hadn't it come along?

Davis: No, that hadn't started yet. Nothing but a mountain over there then. There was no airport over there.

DL: This was basically the first airport that was here in Cumberland.
Signing up for groceries: did you also--those people who owned cars—did they have to have a sort of coupon, or stamp or something that they had to have when buying gasoline at this time—or didn't many people own cars?

Davis: I don't remember anything about that.

DL: How did the family celebrate holidays like Christmas? What happened…?

Davis: We had it pretty hard; we didn't celebrate much. We had a Christmas tree, like that, but as far as knick-knacks and stuff like that, there wasn't much of that.

DL: Did you and your family ever have any kinds of projects that you worked on to save money, such as a garden or something?

Davis: Well, we had a garden, and planted this and that: lettuce and tomatoes, and stuff like that.

DL: I understand Virginia Ave. was once kind of like a boom street: a lot of excitement and….

Davis: Oh, you couldn't hardly walk on the sidewalks just before the First World War.

DL: Could you describe what it looked like during the Depression?
Davis: It was pretty busy.

DL: During the Depression, did many businesses lose trade?

Davis: No, they didn't lose much trade, as far as that goes. People had a little bit of money, but not too much.

DL: How were you paid, with the WPA?

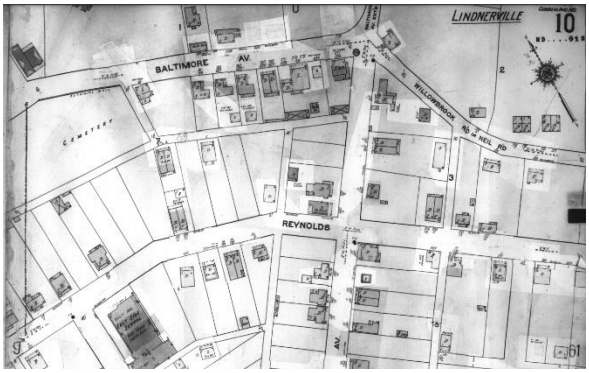
Davis: Seems to me we drawed the money up to City Hall; they give us a check…no, they paid us on the job, that's right. I forget anymore.

DL: Is there any other jobs that you held with the WPA besides working at the airport, and on Maple St. [Mapleside]?

Davis: I worked out at the sewer line out to Lindnerville.

DL: Where's that at?

Davis: Out there where you go down at the bottom of the Pike, down the road, turn off at the top of the hill and go down in there somewhere, I always forget anymore. Willowbrook Rd., they call it, I believe.



Lindnerville section of Cumberland

DL: Were there many people that worked with you?

Davis: Oh there was a good many.

DL: People with large families that had to have this signing up, registering for food and all—they were given much more than a family who didn't have quite as many children, in the way of food?

Davis: Oh, it was all according to how many was in the family, was the way it was worked out. They'd give each one so much--that's so much for each family.

DL: Can you remember anything else, like one of the first things that happened in Cumberland during the Depression, when it first hit—like the reaction of the people?

Davis: No, I can't remember anything like that.

DL: Let me clarify a little bit—were people in a state of panic when it first hit?

Davis: No, there was no panic, as far as that goes. They just took things as they come. [laughs]

DL: Could you tell before the Depression hit that something was going to happen; was there any warning, or was it something that just happened one day?

Davis: No, they had in the papers for months or more that it's going to be in a Depression if it kept up looking like it was.

DL: And how was that?

Davis: Well, things kept getting worse and worse and worse all the time—hardly nobody had any work, and the factories couldn't sell anything; they almost had to close up. Same way with the banks, they were all closed.

DL: And those people that had money in the bank, they couldn't get it out?

Davis: Yeah, they couldn't get it out that *did* work anymore. We was allowed to get so much out, I don't remember anymore….

DL: Where were the banks located down here in the South End?

South End bank in 2022

Davis: The South End bank was down right at the subway.

DL: The subway leading into the lower end of the South End? [note: Virginia Ave underpass was called the subway].

Davis: Lower end of South Cumberland.

DL: Were there many children working at this time, whose families were pretty bad off that children had to go to work?

Davis: There was a good many.

DL: What types of jobs did they do? Did you see any of them?

Davis: Wherever they could get at. Work in a restaurant or any thing.

DL: What do you remember most about the Depression years—what's one thing that stands out in your mind?

Davis: I know I had a hard time getting along, I know that. I had some little children; I didn't know which way to turn half the time to get something for them to eat. It was pretty hard to buy milk and stuff when you didn't have the money.

DL: What was it like trying to adjust after the Depression was over?

Davis: Well…work begin to pick up and I went to work at the German Brewery on the ice truck back in '36. I worked there til I was called to the Celanese; I worked the Celanese for thirty-one years and got along pretty good then.

German Brewing Company

DL: Was it hard, everyone trying to get back on their feet when the Depression was over?

Davis: It was pretty hard.

DL: Did things really start to pick up that much—prosper?

Davis: Well, it picked up pretty slow.

DL: Is there anything else that you can think of that you'd like to add about the Depression that perhaps we haven't covered?

Davis: No…it was so long ago….

DL: Going back to the neighborhood that you lived in—was there a sort of togetherness, of people helping people?

Davis: People went from door to door eating and trading their stuff: one didn't like this, and one didn't like that, they'd trade it to each other. Yeah, it was like a picnic down there.

Neighbor helping neighbor during the Depression in North Carolina

DL: People helping people get along.

Davis: Yeah, uh huh.

DL: Well, thank you very much.

Davis: Ok.

PHOTO CREDITS:

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Oatmeal
https://pixabay.com/photos/oatmeal-cereal-cereals-bio-vegan-4516834/
Image by Willfried Wende from Pixabay

Lettuce
https://www.flickr.com/photos/photofarmer/7331119710

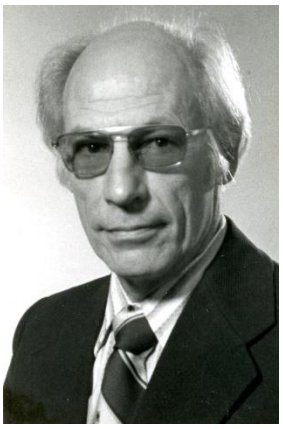
Women making sausage

Rothstein, A., photographer. (1936) Mrs. C.D. Grant and neighbor making pork sausage. Penderlea Farms, North Carolina. United States Pender County North Carolina Penderlea Homesteads, 1936. Dec. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017761304/.

Other old photos are from the Allegany College of Maryland Donald R. Alexander Library Appalachian Collection.

Maryland's Community Colleges: (discussion)
Name: Dr. Haines
Occupation: President of Allegany Community College
Transcribed by: Sandy Shewbridge on 5/5/76

SD (Stanley Dougan): Good morning class, we have Dr. Haines here this morning, President of ACC to talk to us about the community college movement in the state of Maryland. Dr. Haines is completing his 6 or 7 years as president of Allegany Community College. He has been in the county for some 25 or 30 years and tells me that maybe in 4, 5 or 6 years or so might be the time to retire; we will have to see. I hope he will stay on a little longer. Dr. Haines, will you please give us a brief survey of the history of the Maryland junior college movement?


Dr. W. Ardell Haines

Haines: Good morning Mr. Dougan and members of the class. It's a privilege to be with you via tape and have the opportunity to discuss the community colleges in Maryland and particularly Allegany Community College. Mr. Dougan, in answer to your first question about the history of the Maryland community college movement. The public community colleges were first started in the year 1946, with Hagerstown and Montgomery Junior College being the first two colleges that were founded in the state of Maryland, of the public community colleges. Then during the late 50's and into the early sixties there were a number of community colleges founded, including Allegany Community College in 1961. During this period of time, approximately ten community colleges were opened and subsequent to 1960 and in the early sixties, several more had opened to the point now we have 16 community colleges in the state of Maryland. They are located in almost all of the counties. The Eastern Shore has one regional community college and in our own area, you are well aware that Hagerstown started in 1946 and is thriving in the Washington County, and then just recently Garrett Community College opened to the west of us.

SD: How are Maryland's community colleges financed, Dr. Haines?

Haines: The public community colleges in Maryland are financed by the state and by the local government and by the sources of revenue which would be student tuition and fees. The law provides for the following ratio: 50% state support, 28% county support and about 22% from student fees and tuition, on a per student cost of $1400 a year. Now in the past few years because of inflation and other factors, increasing cost, the $1400 ceiling is literally inappropriate anymore and the actual cost this past year for example, would average more close to $1600, than to $1400. The net result is that for the time being the counties and the students of the state are paying more than 28 and 22 percent respectively and literally the state is paying less than its due 50 percent. We hope that this will be corrected in the very near future. In fact, we hope it will be corrected in the 1974 session of the legislature, the 75 session coming up rather. And we hope it will be corrected in one or two ways. First, by having the ceiling raised

beyond $1400 and having it set at maybe $1600 so that we could have more realistic support from the State. Furthermore, there is a possibility of legislation which would give special funding to career programs because career programs are more costly sources of programs to the colleges. So again, basically the ratio is 50 percent by the state, 28 percent by the local government, the county commissioners, and 22 percent by the student tuition on a ceiling of $1400.

SD: Dr. Haines, does Allegany Community College have its own Board of Trustees? I would also like you to please describe the organizational structure of the college.

Board of Trustees, 1974

Haines: All of the community colleges have or each of them have its own Board of Trustees, which is elected, rather which is appointed locally by the political group and recommended to the governor for appointment and it is the governor who appoints the members to the Board of Trustees at each community college. We have a seven board member or a seven member board of community college staff, trustees, that is. They meet regularly during the college year, three, four, five times a year as warranted, and they are literally the governing the body of the college. They receive their authority from the legislation which provided for the establishment of the community colleges here in Maryland. It is also appropriate to talk briefly about the organizational structure here in the college campus. The Board of Trustees invests its power in the President of the college who becomes the executive officer of the college. The President then is responsible for appointing such staff and employing such staff as is necessary to run the college and in so doing obviously in addition to the support services such as custodians and clerical staff. The main work of the College, of course is conducted by the teaching staff and by the administrative staff. The faculty of the college is a very important, the important part of the college structure because it is really the business of the college to instruct. But in support of that, the administrative staff is organized to be of help and to serve the college by performing administrative responsibilities of the college. Hence, in this arrangement we have in support of the president's work, we have three deans. We have the Dean of Academic Programs, the Dean of Career Programs, and the Dean of Student Services. Together with the business manager of the college, this group is the group that composes the President's Council. In each of these divisions, there is a further structure. For example, in the career program area there are directors of programs, such as the Director of Dental Hygiene, the Director of Nursing, and so on. In the academic programs each discipline has a coordinator and they work together with the Dean to carry on the work of the academic programs. In the student services area, under the dean, there are directors of counseling, directors of student

financial aid and a Director of Admissions; all of these people working with the Dean of Student Services. The official business of the college is conducted by meetings regularly of the College staff. And, this group is in turn supported by a number of committees, many of them in fact, and the committees, do their work during the year, make their recommendations to the college staff, and the formal action of the college is carried on at the meetings of the college staff. I believe that describes the general structure. There is one further group that needs to, perhaps be commented on. A year or so ago, a college council was created which is an advisory group to the President and represents a cross section of administrative staff and members of the faculty to advise the President about problems and issues and they meet several times a year in this capacity.

SD: Getting back to the state-wide level, Dr. Haines, approximately how long have we had a State Board of Community Colleges and what are some of the functions of the board, sir?

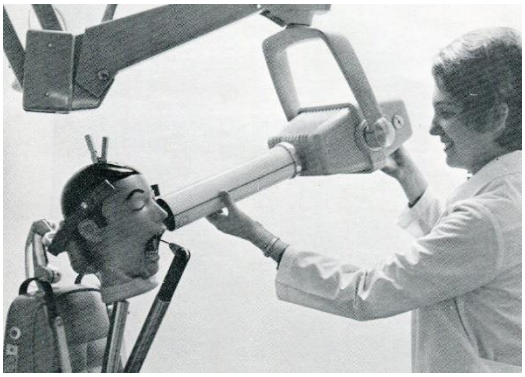
MARYLAND STATE BOARD FOR COMMUNITY COLLEGES
16 FRANCIS STREET
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401
301-269-2881

Haines: The Maryland State Board for Community Colleges was created by the Maryland legislature, I believe in 1970, and implemented in 1971, convened in 1971 and has been functioning since that time. The basic purpose of the Maryland Board for Community Colleges is that of a coordinating agency. I want to make it clear that it is not a control board. It is not a board that exercises authority over the community colleges, and this is a little different from the way in which the State Board for State Colleges, for example, relates to the state colleges of Maryland. So therefore, it is the work of the State Board for Community Colleges to coordinate with the local boards and with the local colleges. The difference being that the real control for the Community Colleges still remains with the local board of trustees, in each case. They have the authority to do what they must do under the law and the State Board for Community Colleges is a coordinating agency. Now, specifically, they do such things as assist with the development of construction projects. They do the calculating and the control of the state aid, and the disbursement of state aid to the colleges based upon the law and the formulas in the law. They assist the community colleges with all problems and work with them in many, many ways. I point out that they have a professional staff; there is an executive director of the staff and then several assistants to him. In the areas, for example, of student services, in the areas of academic programs, in the areas of career programs, and in the area of the business functions of the system. So, all in all, the State Board for Community Colleges is an agency which coordinates the work of all the community colleges in the state.

SD: Has the college initiated any new programs over the last 5 years, Dr. Haines? Are there any new programs on the drawing board?

Haines: Well Mr. Dougan, if you recall, the history of all the community colleges goes something like this, of each community college. They start, the need is developed

where, there are numbers of students who want to go to college and were not able to find the right place to go, and locally there was therefore, the need for a community college to develop so that students could get their first two years of a four-year program. Allegany Community College is no different from the others and in the early 60's when Allegany Community College first opened there were, the function was to provide the first two years of transfer programs. And at that time and still a very important part of our curriculum offering is the transfer programs: the arts and science program, the curriculum in business administration, the curriculum in engineering, the curriculum in teacher education, and the curriculum in general studies. And the students continue to enroll in these programs and get first two years of college and transfer to a four-year college to complete their regular bachelor's degree; and this is a very important part of the function of Allegany Community College. But in the late 60's and as we begin to look toward the construction of our new campus, it became apparent that there were other needs that needed to be met, and so in the early 70's when we first moved into our new campus, provisions had been made for the opening of several career programs. Now a career program is a little different from transfer perhaps in simply by saying that when one finishes a career program, he or she is ready to be employed and generally is employed, although often they still go on and complete other education following it. At any rate, we opened in the 1970's era the following curricula: Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Automotive Technology, Secretarial Science, and Forestry. A few years later in 1972, we began a curriculum in Computer Science and Data Processing. And as you know we are just now completing the new Technology Building. This new building will provide the full facilities for our other new programs which are Medical Laboratory Technology, Mental Health Aid Technology, Electromechanical Technology and a new one this fall in Recreation Leadership. Right now there are plans underway for, at least there is conversation and dialogue going on, about a possibility of additional new programs, but I believe at this point they're not jelled up enough to be specific at this time so we'll continue to try to determine what other needs exist in the community and to establish new programs accordingly.



SD: New programs, of course, mean new buildings. Dr. Haines, how's the State of Maryland support construction costs in the community college, its system?

Haines: The law provides for the cost of construction for community colleges, public community colleges, to be borne by the state at the ratio of 50% by the state and 50% by the local government, meaning the county commissioners of each county. However, in our case, because of the availability of Appalachian funds we were able to construct our present campus with part of the local percentage being supplied by the federal government on a matching basis. This has also been true of the new Technology building where the Appalachian Regional Commission provided the 50% funds necessary for the matching of the state funds. So again, in summary, the general

provision is for the state to provide 50% and for the county to provide 50%, but in our case and in other places throughout the state where it's appropriate, the 50% of the local money has been supplied by the federal government instead of the local government.

SD: Looking into the future, I have the statewide master plan for community colleges in Maryland 1973-83, before me this morning, Dr. Haines. I understand you chaired a committee that drew up the plan. I'll appreciate if you tell the class this morning something about the objectives behind the master plan.

Haines: I have to correct one point with you, Mr. Dougan. I was a member of the steering committee which was responsible for finally developing and putting in final print the master plan. There were many, many subcommittees working on this and because I happen to have been president of the Maryland Council of Community College Presidents last year at the time when this was drawn up they had, I then became part of the steering committee which developed the master plan.

The master plan is a document which attempts to summarize the history of the community college movement in Maryland, to present the status quo where it is now and to do some speculating about where it is going. This has been very important from the standpoint of, if nothing else, planning necessary for the construction monies that are going to be needed in the years ahead for the community colleges along with the review and the evaluation of program development. Now, very basically then, the state master plan points out the continuing growth that the community colleges can expect, what kind of construction will be necessary to provide the necessary facilities to accommodate this growth, and finally to coordinate the kinds of curricula and programs that will be developed in response to the identified needs that are in the master plan. So, in a word it's a blueprint, it's a history in the past and a snapshot of the present, but in the long range since it's a blueprint of the future. I could summarize it by saying that we all recognize the growth of the community colleges in the past, which has been somewhat phenomenal, will no doubt taper in the decades ahead although there will be continuing growth in many of the counties. In our own case we feel that we have reached, at least from the standpoint of construction with the completion of the new Technology Building, we will probably, will be going to have the kinds of facilities we will need for the foreseeable years ahead, at least the next 4 or 5 years. On the other hand there are other community colleges in the metropolitan area that continue to have the growth needs and will have to have further construction. These are the kinds of needs that are projected in the

Original Technology Building opened in the Spring 1975. It underwent a multi-million-dollar renovation 2017-2021. Photo taken 8/2022.

master plan together with some other generalities. I would make one more reference to the financing of community colleges because this is one of the emerging needs. The master plan recommends that more state money to be used to support community colleges on a day-to-day operation and I believe this is a necessity and this is no doubt will be looked at by the legislature and action taken by the legislature, hopefully this coming year.

SD: Before we close our interview this morning, Dr. Haines, if I have been reading my educational literature properly, there appears to be a trend across the nation for a higher percentage of community college students to enroll in technical programs rather than liberal arts programs. What is the situation here at Allegany Community College?

Haines: The trend here at ACC has certainly been toward an increase in the career programs. I believe this reflects the national trend but, it also reflects I think a true need that has been identified and that we have tried to meet. I had said earlier in this dialog that the community colleges were implemented and initiated for the purpose of meeting the first two years of a four-year program, that was needed for many, many students in each area. This need still exists and we have every reason to believe that we will continue to meet that need. In fact, it is most essential that we do. But at the same time, there has been a need to have facilities and programs to meet the career program ideas of students. Students who really were not planning to go to a full four-year program and hence needed a two-year curriculum here at a local community where they could prepare themselves for employment, and so as I said earlier, we have now quite an array of these programs. Let me just mention them again. In addition to the transfer programs that we have, we have the career programs in Nursing, Dental Hygiene, Automotive Technology, Secretarial Science, and Forestry, and Data Processing, in Medical Laboratory Technology, Mental Health Technology, Electromechanical Technology, Recreation Leadership. All of these now are two-year programs that provide the A.A. degree at the conclusion of the two years and have equipped the student to immediately go into employment. For each of these students we hope that they will feel a need for further education, and we feel this is certainly going to be a lifetime need and we feel the students will return to the college, or to other places, wherever they may be, for further education. Definitely then to answer your question in a word Mr. Dougan, we have had the same kind of development occur here at ACC that has occurred elsewhere in the nation that definitely an increase in the number of students who wish to enter into and complete the two-year career programs.

SD: This isn’t a question for Dr. Haines, but before we close this morning, I’d like to mention class, that there is a Rosenberg Commission in the state of Maryland and the commission is studying the tripartite system of higher education in the state, so perhaps we will be seeing some changes in the near future. Thank you, Dr. Haines, for taking

time from your busy schedule this morning to spend time with us and discussing the Maryland Community College System.

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The Mormon Church in Allegany County

I'm sitting in the office of Mr. Thomas C. Baker. Mr. Baker is an assistant professor here at ACC in the department of biology. Mr. Baker resides at 205 Sunset Drive, in Cumberland. Mr. Baker was born in Whitehall, Montana. In this tape we will talk about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly referred to as the Mormon Church in LaVale. My name is Dave Claridge(?), it's Wednesday, April 16, 1980. Mr. Baker, how long have you been associated with the Mormon Church here in LaVale?

Baker: Presently, I've been a member of the Mormon Church in the LaVale area for approximately eleven years; however, I've been a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, commonly called the Mormon Church, for a lifetime.

DC: How did the Mormon Church get started in this area?

Baker: The Mormon Church has its origin in this area, I guess, dating back to the, I suppose, early 1930s, when the first members of the church were baptized in this area. Of course, the missionaries were sent from the church headquarters in Salt Lake City to this area for the purpose of proselytizing and teaching the principles of the gospel to the people in this area; and of course, it was that time when some of the first members of the church were baptized.

Mormon Church on Gramlich Rd. in 2024

DC: Where is the church located?

Baker: Currently the church is located at the crossroads of Gramlich and Cash Valley Road in LaVale.

DC: Has it always been in that same area?

Baker: No, prior to the construction of our current chapel in LaVale, our chapel was located—I believe the address was 860 Columbia Avenue in Cumberland. [Actual address is 861 Columbia Ave.]

Former location at 861 Columbia Ave. As of 2024, building is now the home of Ebenezer Baptist Church.

DC: Who were some of the first members?

Baker: The first members of the Cumberland branch of the church were Ruby Landis and Charlotte Landis. And then there were of course others that joined after that: the Ricewick family, the Collins, and a number of people that lived in the Barrelville area.

DC: Alright, some background—how is the Mormon church in LaVale governed?

Baker: The church in LaVale is governed by a bishop who presides over the congregation; and he serves with two counselors. This serves as the governing body of the Mormon Church in the LaVale area.

DC: Who presently holds these positions?

Baker: Currently the bishop of the Mormon Church in LaVale is Robert B. Pritt, who is also a faculty member at ACC.

DC: He teaches Biology too, doesn't he?

Baker: Yes, he teaches in the Biology department.

DC: Has there been any noted men in the past that have held these positions in the area?

Baker: Well, I'm not sure what you really mean by "noted", but there has been a number of individuals in the area who have presided over the church. Prior to Bishop Pritt, we had Bishop Lynn Olsen, who is a supervisor at ABL, hold the position; and prior to him Douglas Reineke, who is a certified public accountant in town, held the position. Prior to him, there were a number of others, and I myself was the presiding officer over the congregation here in the Cumberland-LaVale area.

DC: Alright. How large is the membership in the Mormon Church in LaVale?

Baker: Well, as of March of this year, the church membership is listed at 555 members with 299 families; in other words, there are 299 separate families on record. And since the membership is only 555, that indicates that some of these families are single-member families, whereas others are multiple-member families.

DC: Can you name some of the programs that the church offers for this area?

Baker: The church offers a number of programs for its members; and we could start perhaps with the youth of the church. Children from the ages of three through eleven are provided with a special program known as the Primary Association, where they are taught, you know, spiritual principles and concepts of the gospel; and supplementing their religious training they also are instructed in social, cultural, and special types of activities. So, it provides more or less a complete, rounded program for youngsters of the ages three through eleven.

DC: What about, say, for the adults--are there specific programs that are offered?

Baker: Well, there's a number of programs offered for the adults; but maybe before I talk about that, maybe we ought to talk about the teenagers. We also have a program for the teenagers which is referred to simply as Mutual—coming from the early days of the church when the program was established for the teenagers in the church, and it was known as the Mutual Improvement Association. Mutual Improvement Association, as the name implies, is a program where through mutual cooperation youngsters receive religious instruction; also, they receive instructions pertaining to social and cultural types of activities such as music, drama, speech, etc. Also, the program provides for physical activities such as participation in softball programs, volleyball programs, basketball programs, and so forth.

Young Ladies Mutual Improvement Association in Springdell, Utah, 1914

Now, the adults also have programs to enrich *their* lives: of course, we have--as most churches do, we have a Sunday School program, which provides a course of religious instructions for all members from the ages of three through…ninety-nine, or as long as one lives. Also, to supplement the religious instruction we have Institute courses for adult members, where they can study in greater depth and detail the gospel of Jesus Christ than what would ordinarily be provided for in a regular Sunday School class. The adults also have programs that provide for social activities such as dances, dinners, and other types of fun social gatherings. And the adult members also participate in organized sports activities such as basketball, volleyball, and softball—and other types of recreational programs.

DC: Oh, that sounds interesting. Would you consider this church, say, than the other ones you've been to in the past, one of the best for organizing those kinds of activities?

Baker: Well, the unique thing about the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints is that it's a worldwide church; an individual is not simply a member, say, of the Mormon Church in LaVale—but rather, we're a member of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in the, you know, total sense, and we hold membership in a particular congregation or ward. And the church is organized the same throughout the world. And one of the unique features of the church is that a member can attend a Sunday School class in the LaVale congregation this week, and next week they could attend Sunday School class in a Mormon congregation in Washington, D.C. and get the subsequent lesson that they would have gotten in their home ward—we call our individual congregations "wards"—so they could have received the same instruction or lesson that they would have received there. And you could go to Mexico or Canada and do the same thing; the

Mormon Church in Tijuana, Mexico

church is organized the same throughout the world, has the same programs for its members throughout the world--and of course with some modifications and adaptations for, you know, regional preferences or so forth.

DC: How has the Mormon Church in LaVale changed over the years?

Baker: The major change is an increase in membership; when the church was first organized in this area there wasn't a meetinghouse available, and so members met in individual homes where they conducted their religious services. Later, as the membership of the church grew and the financial means was made available, the membership in this area built a small chapel over on Columbia Ave. in Cumberland. And there the church members met for a period of around, I believe, approximately ten or twelve years. As our congregation grew, we of course had need for larger facilities to accommodate the needs of the members. And this is when we then constructed the present chapel that's located in LaVale.

Mormon Church on Gramlich Rd. in 2024

DC: So then really, the Mormon Church has really increased a lot here, and it also has worldwide, hasn't it?

Baker: Yes, the Mormon Church is growing very rapidly, not only in this locality, but also worldwide. As a matter of fact, the latest figures indicate that half of the total membership of the church has either been born or baptized members within the past thirteen years. And apparently the membership of the church is slightly over four and a half million members.

DC: Recently, columnist Jack Anderson was speaking at the Mormon Church. What all did he have to say when he was there?

Jack Anderson

Baker: Mr. Anderson's topic which he spoke on to the membership of the church and their friends was "Does the world have need of a modern prophet?" And he talked about Joseph Smith, who is the founder of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. And he also spoke at length concerning the book of scripture which Joseph Smith brought forth to the world, known as the Book of Mormon. And it's

from this religious record that the Church has derived the nickname “Mormons”. And he presented evidence indicating that the Book of Mormon was indeed religious scripture, or record, of people who lived here upon the American continent; and that this religious record was kept by prophets who lived here upon the American continent--and that these prophets were inspired to record the religious history of their people, the same as the prophets of the Old World in the Palestine area were instructed of God to keep a religious record of *those* people. He also pointed out that the greatest—perhaps one of the greatest—prophesies in the Bible is the foretelling of the birth of Christ, and the account of His life, and His death, and His resurrection. And likewise, the Book of Mormon serves as a companion scripture confirming those events, because prophets here upon the Western world also were inspired to write of the same events; evidently, it was revealed to them that Christ had been born, and that He had been crucified, and resurrected. And the Book of Mormon gives an explicit account of His appearance to His disciples here upon the Western world.

DC: Alright. Does the church usually offer this good a speaker at the church—can you find someone like this there?

Baker: Well, Mr. Anderson is, of course, a very dynamic and articulate speaker; and he came to us with, needless to say, a wide background of experience and knowledge. But there are other members of the church that are equally as competent in public speaking, as knowledgeable about world events and politics as Mr. Anderson; and we do have a good many excellent speakers that address our congregation on Sundays and on other days of the week.

DC: They cover about any kind of subject concerning the Church?

Baker: Primarily. As you know, the Mormon Church does not have a professional ministry--but rather, it has a lay ministry; and each adult member of the church through their activity in the church participates in an educational program. And as you know, our male brethren are members of the priesthood, and the priesthood organization provides a course of instructions for the male brethren from the ages of twelve through adulthood. And in this course of instruction, of course, they learn the fundamentals of church governance, they of course become educated in the scriptures, and are provided programs and opportunities for church leadership. And so most any of our adult male as well as female members are very capable of public speaking, providing leadership and direction for the congregation; and as a result, we don’t have to depend upon any one individual to provide the leadership that is necessary in the church.

DC: How does the church in LaVale relate to the main temple in Salt Lake City?

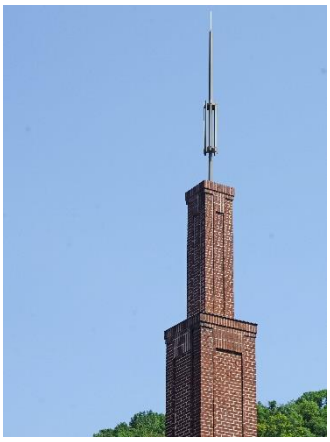
Baker: The members of the Mormon Church in LaVale of course are members of the worldwide Church organization; and the Church constructs temples worldwide, and any member of the Church can participate in those temple activities who are worthy to do so. And so, it doesn’t matter where you live in the world, one can visit any of the temples throughout the world; now, the temples are normally constructed in

Original Temple in Kirtland, OH. The temple is still in use by the Church of Christ today.

geographical areas where the church membership is large enough to support the temple activities. As you know, the temple that's located in Salt Lake City was not the first temple which the Mormon Church constructed since its founding in 1830; but rather, the first temple was the Kirtland Temple, in Kirtland, Ohio. And then later, a temple was constructed in Nauvoo, Illinois; when the Church was driven from that state to the territories of the West, the Salt Lake temple was constructed. And Brigham Young was the president and Church leader at that time who initiated the construction work on the Salt Lake temple. It took a period of forty years for that temple to be completed; and Brigham Young never lived to see the temple completed in his lifetime. But he did start other temples in the Utah Valley; one was completed in St. George, UT, in the southern part of the state; another one was completed in Manti, UT, in the central portion of the state; and another one was completed in Logan, UT, in the northern part of the state. Since then, temples have been constructed in Idaho, Canada, California, the Hawaiian Islands, Arizona, London, Switzerland, New Zealand, Brazil, and one is currently under construction in Mexico. And the latest one to be constructed and completed here in the United States is the Washington, D.C. temple; and the Church will undoubtedly build other temples as need arises.

Temple in Salt Lake City in 2014

DC: Is there any church or temple mainly that is the headquarters for all the other churches, that all the other churches, such as the Mormon church in LaVale, would get their orders from?



Baker: The Church headquarters is located in Salt Lake City; and the Church office building serves as the headquarters of the Church for our worldwide organization. And the Church is governed by a president who is assisted by two counselors; and they serve as the presiding authority for the Church worldwide. And they are assisted by a quorum of twelve apostles.

DC: Alright, is there anything else you'd like to add, that you can think of?

Baker: Well, not really. I think that you've asked a lot of probing and interesting questions, and I've tried to answer them according to the best of my knowledge--recognizing that of course I'm not speaking authoritatively for the Church but as a

member of the Church presenting information that you've so requested. And I'm of course thankful for this opportunity to respond to these questions, and I thank you for your interest.

DC: Thank you very much for letting me interview you.

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New Hope Inc.; Serving Mentally Handicapped Children
Name: Sue Foster
Interviewer: Wayne Foster
Date and place of interview: April 26, 1980, Cumberland, MD
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 5/13/08

My name is Wayne Foster and I am doing an interview with Mrs. Sue Foster who is a former director of New Hope Daycare Center. Could you describe for me what the New Hope Daycare Center is?

Foster: New Hope was classed as a non-public school rather than a daycare center. It was generally thought of as a daycare center, but since this was for children ages 3-16, daycare center was not too appropriate as a title, so it was a corporation and the title, the formal name was New Hope, Inc. and I am putting it in the past tense because the only thing that New Hope does now is attempt to provide some summer programs for retarded children of Allegany County since they are now in the public schools.

WF: How did New Hope get started?

Foster: Some parents of retarded children, as well as interested people in the county, felt that there was a definite need back in 1967 and '68 for provision with some education for children who were not in public schools at the time, or primarily for ones to be able to have pre-school training before they went into special ed. It grew into taking handicapped children that were severely retarded that were not able to go into the public schools, up until 1978.

WF: How did you become involved with New Hope?

Foster: I saw an ad in the paper that they needed a director. That was in '69, and I was interested in working with children that had handicaps and so I felt that this maybe was the thing for me.

WF: How long were you associated with it?

Foster: I was with New Hope for nine years; 1969 until they went into the public school. Now this was due to the federal law that provided for all children no matter who they were or what their handicap to be eligible for public school education and this went into effect in the fall of 1978.

WF: What kind of training did you have before entering here?

Foster: I had my master's in education. However, it was for history and English, so I

went ahead and took some work in special ed. After I started with the New Hope concern, I had taught Kindergarten too.

WF: Could you describe the type of children that you worked with?

Foster: Yes, they ranged from the trainable retarded to the severely retarded. Some had physical handicaps other than retardation, such as not being able to walk. Several of them had seizures or were seizure prone. You know when a child is retarded the more severe his retardation the more apt he is to have other physical defects, such as sight, a loss of hearing, his fine motor capabilities are often limited.

WF: Could you describe a typical day and some of the activities that you used to help with children?

St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Cumberland

Foster: New Hope when I was with them was located at St. Paul's Lutheran Church in Cumberland. Of course, we had children from all over the county, they were bused, we had [unclear], but the board of education also bused some of them for us…to our school and we had the last few years approximately 20 children there. The typical day they would arrive around 9 o'clock; some of the years it started around 9:30, and we would have them grouped together for maybe a half hour a day and we worked on individual needs as well as the socialization of all of them together. So, individually they were worked on with their speech, their gross motor abilities, fine motor, socialization, self-help skills. These children needed to be taught so many things that, and I put in quotes, "normal" children kind of pick up on their own. These children needed to be taught how to put on their own coat, take their coat off, as well as to wash their hands, to clean their teeth, to feed themselves. Some of them could not speak at all, so we needed to help them to make their needs known. It was mostly very basic things. After you asked me about a typical day. Then the groups would be divided into 3, 4 or possibly 5, 6 children and in these small groups they would be worked with and they find out before their individual needs. One child may need to learn to walk and the other may need to learn to sit still. They never learned how to sit on a chair for half a minute, so their individual needs would be worked on and a program would be set up with the parents, in each of these areas to meet the child's needs. After they were worked with on an individual basis, then we worked on even toileting, washing their hands. We went to Saint Peter and Paul School for lunch. So we would walk over there and the ones that could not walk there were wheel chairs to take them over and then we worked on the table manners and like I say, learning to feed themselves. And they saw other children who went to St. Pete's and this was an excellent socialization for them. Since they could not play games on a so-called public playground, we would take them maybe downtown afterwards for a walk if the weather permitted. Back then there was time for music and these kids responded well when that

Example of physical therapy in 2016

one may not respond otherwise. There were all kinds of art work in the afternoon. We had physical therapy. Physical therapists came in a couple of times. One year it was three times a week and they might be worked with in a full group, in a group of six, individually. We had special things too for each holiday, for each child's birthday, special activities were planned. And they went by almost all too quickly and it was 2:30 and the bus arrived.

WF: Kept busy

Foster: Right

WF: What kind of equipment did you have here?

Foster: Well, the things that were needed for the individual. There was a standing table for the one's that were unable to walk and needed to feel the weight on their feet. There were four wheel chairs. There were the toys that any child needs: different size balls and dolls for the girls, books so that they could learn to turn pages, recognize cat and dog. There were plenty of tape recorders so they could hear themselves. We had all kinds of sound things for them to recognize sounds: bells…I can't think what you call them…

WF: Cymbals.

Foster: Cymbals, alright. Cymbals, thank you. We might have some things that would surprise you. We would work on trying to awaken their senses so there were jars of cinnamon for them to smell; pepper, lime juice, lemon juice for them to taste. Plenty of Lysol Spray, talking about equipment, because we had to wash very carefully; we didn't want germs spread around. There was a piano, we had tables and chairs, and plenty of mats for them to sit on and for some of them to lie on. You see, some of these kids couldn't sit up. They might be six years old and on a three-month level. So, what other kind of equipment would you be interested in that we had? Plenty of towels and wash cloths and say all types of the toys that you see in other places. But when you think of a sixteen-year-old, well we had hammers that they couldn't hurt themselves with for them to learn to pound with and to grip, to use their hands. We have all kinds of puzzles from one piece puzzle to a 55-piece puzzle. We had plenty of information for the teachers too; anything that we felt would help them to learn more about how to deal with these kids. We had plastic cups for them to drink out of because glass they might bite and cut themselves and these plastic cups even went with us to Saints Peters and Paul. Also, I failed to mention in a typical day, we had snacks in the afternoons. Which the feeding program was carried out then, too. And that snack might have been pieces of apple. It

might have been dried peaches. It might have been celery. And some of these kids had to learn to chew; as well as Kool-Aid and apple juice and so forth. And we splurged yes, we had cookies too.

WF: How many teachers did you have work there?

Foster: The state law requires that you needed a teacher for each 7 children of this range. And so, with 20 children, we had three teachers. There were two aides for each teacher. Now, some of the times it might have been one aide with a teacher and the other aide a volunteer.

WF: How much did the parents do or help out?

Foster: They worked very closely with us and that was needed because not only setting up the program for needs of the child, we wanted to carry out what the family thought was important for this child to learn, as well as what we thought. Maybe we felt that the child, the main thing would be for him to learn to feed himself, where the mother was

exasperated because here he was 8 years old and wasn't toilet trained and she was going batty either buying Pampers or washing diapers, and so why shouldn't we stress that side. Now I don't mean to say that we just work on one thing at a time, but we did not stress too many things at once. We really would maybe push the toilet training and yes work on the self-feeding, but the main thrust might be the toilet training. He still had some usage, he still would be given puzzles possibly to work on, but the big push might have been the toilet training if that was mother's... And also, we had parent conferences every couple of months to see his progress to see that he was progressing at home as well as when he was at New Hope and maybe the parent needed some help on… because we needed them to do it exactly the same way that we were or us to do it the same way mama was, so that the child wouldn't have to learn two ways of doing the same thing. If we were putting his coat on with his left hand going in first and she was putting his right hand in first, the child, you just made it that much difficult for him, so we needed to get together on all those kinds of things. So, they worked on continuing his education. There was a parent group that was strong and we needed them to work also to help us to get some money for some extra equipment. They were excellent on that way too.

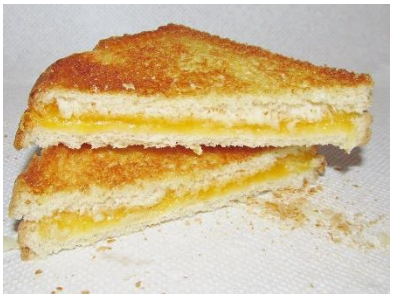
WF: Ok has care for the mentally handicapped improved over the years?

Foster: Yes, an example that I just gave you was they are now in public schools and they…I feel that, that is an improvement, rather than being kept at home which for 1900 years they were. They need to get out and be with others rather than shut up on their own. So, yest, it definitely has improved.

WF: What kinds of improvement have you found in most of the children at your center?

Foster: In all ways. We found that they could learn. It just took a lot of patience and time. Sometimes, one little thing might take six months to learn, but often…that's another reason we need to work with the parents…maybe we weren't going in at the right way, turn around and start in another direction or work on another area first and then that will come right along. What was the question?

WF: What kinds of improvement do you find in many of the children?



Foster: Alright the ones that weren't walking and started to walk, not all of them, but each one progressed along in his area. Ones that wouldn't eat anything but potato chips, learn to eat everything. One little girl would scream when she went into the cafeteria because all she wanted was a grilled cheese sandwich and, in a year, she liked everything and she was happy to sit down and feed herself. So, we saw improvements in all ways.

WF: Were you and the other teachers pretty much satisfied when you saw the improvement in the children?

Foster: Oh yes. There were definitely days, maybe weeks that we felt, you know, very, I don't want to say depressed, but felt like can we do this and then all at once it would be a big day and something great would happen.

WF: What was your most rewarding experience that you can remember in your nine years?

Foster: Well, when one little boy that the doctors had said would never walk, took his first three steps, we all cried.

WF: Did you enjoy your years at New Hope?

Foster: Oh yes, definitely because we felt like it was rewarding, it was worth it. The kids were always happy to see us, that makes you feel good. And to see progress as I say in some of the kids, maybe it was slight; and each of them, just like every other child, would maybe go forward in leaps and bounds for six months and then there would be a plateau and it might be two or three months that you felt like you were banging your head against the wall with him and then in fact he might slip back. Maybe he might have six seizures every day for a week and he seems to slip back for a week or so. And then all at once, up he goes again and it makes your day.

WF: Ok one final question; I would like to know how was New Hope funded and what were the government regulations?

Foster: New Hope was run through the Maryland Department of Health and Hygiene. We were funded partially by them and partially by the United Way of Allegany County.

As far as regulations were concerned, they came from the Department of Education as well as the Department of Health and Hygiene, such as the length of day that was required, the qualifications of teachers and aides. The need of the bus and the regulations it must be under. Now, of course, the health lies (?) and the property and the fire protection, and so forth, that we needed was through Allegany County.

WF: Thank you very much for your time.

Foster: You're welcome

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New Hope, Inc.: A Parent's View
Name: Ann Brandt Dimaio
Occupation: Housewife
Residence: 106 N. Smallwood Street Cumberland, Md.
Birth date: April 7, 1939
Date and place of Interview: Nov. 30, 1978 at Mrs. Dimaio's home.
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 12/2007

My Name is Diana Rice and I am Interviewing Mrs. Ann Dimaio. Her address is 106 N. Smallwood Street. Her date of birth is April the seventh, 1939. Her place of birth is Cumberland, MD. Her occupation is a housewife. The topic is the establishment of New Hope. The place of the interview is her home. The date is November 30, 1978.

DR: Mrs. Dimaio, I know that you have a retarded child, two retarded children, excuse me, so I guess the first question I want to start out with is what is New Hope?

Dimaio: New Hope is a… It started out as a daycare center for mentally retarded children, severely mentally retarded children, who were not of school age, and also those that were severely handicapped.

DR: How did it get started?

Dimaio: It got started when some of the parents who had children at home were disenchanted in that the county offered them nothing. There was no place for these kids to go, nothing for them to do. No one wanted to be bothered; and so a group got together and formed a corporation and started our first school with the help of Louisa Gunner who was one of the ones who was instrumental in helping Friends Aware to get started.

DR: Why did they start it?

Dimaio: Well number one, when you were at home with your children and the frustration of not knowing what to do and how to do it, not having any structure and going to the various agencies in town and no one seems to know how to tell what to do and how to do it. They just sort of shuffled you from one to the other. So like I said when parents got together, we knew, everybody knew in their mind and their heart that something could be done. We just took these manners and got it started this way.

[recorder was turned off; seems like part of interview is missing]

DR: Where was New Hope located?

Dimaio: As I had said before we had just moved to Cash Valley, about ten years or so prior to that we were located in St. Paul's Lutheran Church in their Sunday School Rooms, which was very nice and proved very adequate, until we saw the school and we

saw a lot of the things that we didn't have that the children needed. There were more advantages and of course there were some disadvantages too. Which there are. They don't get to go on a walk. You don't get as much socialization as you do downtown and you could go to McDonald's. These are some of the things you have to weigh, what they're getting up there. So, you have to take the good with the bad.

DR: How many staff members do you have in New Hope?

Dimaio: I think at the present time we have 10 full time staff members. We do not have the volunteer help we used to have when we were over here at the church either, and that is since it went under the Board of Education.

DR: What are the requirements needed in teaching the children?

Dimaio: Well, you have to have a lot of patience. Most of our personnel are degreed now and certified, and, but in the beginning they weren't all that; you just had to have a lot of love and patience and understanding of these children. And I think sometimes that does just as much for these kids, if not more.

DR: What degree of retardation is necessary for the child to be in New Hope?

Dimaio: I would have to say that over the years that we've had just about every degree from mild to severe and profound, in their retardation as well as in their physical handicaps.

DR: What are the ages of the children that attend New Hope?

Dimaio: Well when we first started it was from three to six, now it's about 15, 16, so we probably go from three to sixteen at this time. Although I don't think we have anybody under three; probably 5 and 6. I think we have kindergarten up now, and the oldest would be sixteen.

DR: What are some special activities for the children?

Example of physical therapy in 2016

Dimaio: Well, since we went to the new school, of course, they have their hydrotherapy where they can go swimming. Uh, John Ayers, a physical therapist comes and works with them so many hours a week. They're getting a speech therapist in there more, they're teaching them; and mostly what the parents want are the self-help skills. They are learning the feed themselves, dress themselves, help themselves any way like toilet training, helping with behavior modification, to liquidate some of these bad nasty habits that some of these children have that can't always be helped. We try to channel this energy to something more productive and more acceptable.

DR: Have many of the children improved since they attended New Hope?

Dimaio: Well yes, because if you look back over the years we've have different ones who have gone through New Hope and have since gone to Penn Ave or Cresaptown or some of the ones who aren't even here have moved out and all fairness to you, I must tell you that some of these children who are now clients at Rosewood.

DR: What's the impact been like with New Hope since it's under the Board of Education?

Dimaio: Well, like I told you before there are a lot of, there are pros and cons to everything like I told you with this. The physical aspects of the new school and the building are greatly improved over what we had, and the children seem to be accepted up here just like they were over here. But they don't get quite as much socialization and get out for their walks like downtown. When they were downtown, they would take them to McDonalds to eat; they would take them to the bank, like at Christmas time to see the different toys and things, and the ladies in the bank would have a treat for them at different times. They'd go sit in the parklet, put their hands in the fountain, They don't have some of these things up there, but then up there you've got the pool, you have this wonderful physiotherapy room for John to work in; you've got that whole new coordination area, which is the size of about four classrooms, where they can crawl in and out. They have a kitchen for them, they have a stove and a refrigerator. They are getting a washer and dryer hooked up. So, there are advantages to this and in lots of ways, this up there will go more with their self-help skills. Plus, the fact that they are in with the hearing and speech impaired, as well as with the physically handicapped. I think this is good too. They will learn to respect one another in their own way.

DR: Is there a relationship between New Hope and Friends Aware?

Dimaio: I don't know how to answer that. We're primarily concerned with the younger children. Like I told you we take them to 15 years of age at this time. Friends Aware, they established their age at 21, so therefore, a lot of their clients up there are more self-sustaining and can do more of their self-help skills. When they get up there they go more towards the vocational part. Training their clients to do some feat, if it's washing dishes, making beds, sorting laundry, doing all kinds of arts and crafts to sew, and they do more in the socialization. They take the children downtown, they teach them to shop, to the market. If you're downtown lots of days you'll see a lot of these people down there and you'll see the buses, and all that and everything. It's like we're doing the early primary things that have to be done, you have to learn to crawl before you can walk and you have to learn to walk in order to take care of yourself before you can move onto some of these other things.

DR: What's the future for New Hope?

Dimaio: Well, I don't know at this time, I would imagine that since we went to Cash Valley, it's probably going to grow by leaps and bounds because they are going to find out that there are more children. This is an extended facility and then once Penn Avenue opens up with its new school and its new facilities, they will like triage these kids and some will go to Penn Avenue, and maybe some of them will go somewhere else and some of them will stay up here and then it'll make more room for others to come in up there. So, I would imagine that it's going to grow by leaps and bounds.

DR: What are your opinions and having two retarded children?

Dimaio: Well, one thing I want to say at the end of the day, especially if you've had a bad day you are mentally, physically, and emotionally drained. There is also a lot of strife and unhappiness in the house sometimes and you will see that there is a lot of injustice not only to you and your husband, but to your entire family because the burden that is placed is not only on you, but on them and how you have to incorporate the others in the house to help just so you can have a meal or some little thing like that. In some cases most of our lives are lived on a timetable and a schedule according to these kids because if you (?) and you're busy you can't relax for a little while before it's time to go to bed and get up and start all over again, because you know once you get up, you're not going to stop until you get them off to school, and then you learn you now have that free time for about 4, 5-6 hours depending on where they are and how long they're on the bus and you learn to cherish those couple of hours of free time if it's sitting down to read a book, scrub a floor, clean a cupboard, make a bed, do laundry, or whatever it is, or go for a walk downtown and walk up one side of the street and down the other. You learn to cherish those kind of things. It makes you thankful for school, like I said before it would be nicer if it were longer.

DR: is there anything else you would like to add?

Dimaio: No I can't think of anything right now. I just hope this will be some benefit for you and your classmates and anybody who may listen to this.

DR: Ok thank you very much.

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The Office of Comptroller of the Treasury of Maryland- Louis Goldstein
Interview by Stanley Dougan

[Editor's note: the audiotape was lost after the original transcription was done. Some of the meaning is unclear and it was hard to verify the spelling of names.]

Louis Goldstein

SD: Class, I have here with me this morning the Comptroller General, Comptroller of the Treasury of the state of Maryland, Louis Goldstein, who will tell us about the office of the Comptroller, office of the Comptroller of the Treasury. He has a very good background, a bachelor's degree from Washington College, Chestertown, Maryland. He has a law degree from Maryland University. A former member of the House of Delegates and State Senate, and in fact was President of the Senate from 1955-58. He was elected Comptroller of the Treasury in 1958 and is still serving in that office and if one follows the news media closely, he will be serving after 1974 from the way it looks now. Comptroller Goldstein, what is Maryland's present financial situation sir?

Goldstein: Financial condition of the state of Maryland at this time is excellent. For the past five years, we've been able to finance our state budget without an increase in the two principal tax sources for general funds, namely income taxes and sales taxes. The present budget of our state is 2 billion, 8 hundred million dollars which this budget is the largest in our state's history, the second fastest growing state east of the Rocky Mountains, and this budget was financed again. And it's a balanced budget without a tax increase, and we're paying our bills; our credit rating is triple A (AAA), one of the best that you can get in this country and we feel we're meeting the needs and the essential services of the taxpayers of our state.

SD: Why does Maryland have two top financial officers, a Comptroller of the Treasury and a State Treasurer? What are the different responsibilities?

Goldstein: Well, the offices are both created by the constitution of our state. If you refer to the Constitution of 1867 and is amended, you'll find that the Office of the State Treasurer and the Office of State Comptroller or comptrollers as spelled out in the constitution is set forth in great detail. The office which I hold, State Comptroller was originally created in 1851. It's a chief fiscal officer, finance officer of our state. Under the law, we keep all their records and all the accounts. We collect their monies and we in turn, turn them over to the state treasurer for the deposit in banks and investment. All bills are paid by the signing of checks by both offices. In other words, there is checks and balances. Our system has worked over the years and we have found it to be one of the soundest financial systems in the 50 states.

SD: As Comptroller of the Treasury, you are one of three members of the Board of Public Works. Will you please explain the board's functions?

Goldstein: I'll be very happy to. The Board of Public Works consists of Governor of our state, Honorable Marvin Mandel; the State Treasurer, the former governor, J. Millard Tawes, and the former State Comptroller, the only individual in our state to hold all the positions; and the State Comptroller, as set forth in the laws of Maryland and also in the constitution. It is the chief and highest administrative board in our state. We have to pass on all acquisition of lands in the state, the construction of buildings, the hiring of architects, engineers and consultants and very, very many duties are involved in the responsibilities of the Board of Public Works. It's really a checks and balances system again. Under the cabinet setup that we have in our state, the monies that they spend on large projects have to be ok'd, and checked and double-checked by the Board of Public Works. For example, the head of the General Service Department, George Lewis, all the contracts that he has to lay, is submitted to the Board of Public Works on an agenda. The Board reviews them and we pass judgment. All change orders for all types of construction. The same is true with the Head of the Department of Transportation, Senator Harry Hughes. The contracts he's running for consultants and projects have to be approved by the Board of Public Works. There is another system of checks and balances that have proven over the years to be of great value to the State of Maryland. At the present time there is a committee of a Maryland General Assembly studying the functions and the workload of the Board of Public Works. Some have said that the work-load is too heavy for any three men to really review and to pass judgement on. Well, that may be true if you've got three lazy men holding the office of Governor, State Treasurer and Comptroller. I know I've been a Comptroller for the past 16 years and being a responsible member of the Board of Public Works requires a great deal of my time. I certainly can’t do the work from 8:30 to 5:00 each day. It requires many days of 16 hours of work in order to review the many problems, the many properties, and many items which are on that Board's agenda, but I feel since we hold these offices and we know what the responsibilities are we should not try to pass them off to third parties and get rid of our responsibilities. Personally, I don't mind the workload. I know what it's all about and I feel with the system of checks and balances that we have in the Board of Public Works and personally I know because of my intervention, I have saved the State of Maryland many millions of dollars. One contract I'll speak of right now was the contract to dredge the latent beds of oyster shells in the Chesapeake Bay. We had a certain individual who said there was no company in Maryland that could do that work. We had to go down to Alabama or Louisiana or Texas and hire a company. I insisted on public bidding. As a result, we had three Maryland companies and one out-of-state company bid on that contract. The best bids were given by the three Maryland companies. We entered into a contract from the lowest bidder of a Maryland company that saved the state over $2 million dollars in that one program alone. The other day we had a program that come to us on the Department of Transportation calling for the expenditure of almost a billion dollars, excuse me, almost one million dollars. I asked to have the matter checked on. As a result of waiting one month, we saved over $700,000 and were able to get the federal funds. Now if we hadn't had the checks and balances in those two examples, and I could give you hundreds of more if time permitted.

SD: I remember reading in the paper a few years ago that you stated that you were in favor of having a Comptroller elected instead of appointed to office. Would you please explain the reason behind that, sir?

Goldstein: I'll be very happy to. I believe the Comptroller should continue to be elected regardless who holds that high position. It's a constitutional office, a Comptroller represents the taxpayers of this state. For example, in handling the income tax, we have 1,600,000 income tax payers. The recent news articles about what happened in Washington, when the President of the United States tried to persuade the head of Internal Revenue Service to give certain information so that they could harass certain people in this great nation. Well, we know what happened. In the State of Maryland, we don't have a situation like that. As an independent elected official, I represent the people of Maryland and the Board of Public Works, and these respective offices. I'm not a bureaucrat. I'm a dedicated representative of the people of this state and if they don't like what I'm doing, the next election they can toss me out. Once you get a bureaucrat in office, it's almost impossible to get him out of office and he can give bad service and the taxpayers suffer. So, I feel that office should continue to be an independent constitutional office elected every four years by the people of this state.

SD: Turning to another subject Mr. Comptroller, what effect has federal revenue sharing had on Maryland financially, sir?

Goldstein: Federal revenue sharing has had a big effect on our state. It has maintained and lowered tax rate at the local level, namely, the 23 counties and Baltimore City, and 167 incorporated towns. The monies that we receive at the state level went for capital improvements, which meant that we had a lower real estate tax at the state level for the past three years, have been able to maintain a 21 cents per $100 assessed value of real estate, and we've had one of the biggest building programs of any state in this union. In order to get better education facilities, community colleges, state colleges, University of Maryland, the public schools and many other services like open-spaces, recreation; and up in Allegany County, Rocky Gap State Park, and the other facilities in Garrett County have been opened to the public recently. You know those monies have come from capital bond improvements and some of the money came from revenue sharing.

Rocky Gap State Park in 2013

SD: No doubt there are many joys to your job sir, but there must be some problems. What problems do you have in general, sir, in your office?

Goldstein: We don't have too many problems in our office. We have dedicated people, dedicated co-workers that know what their responsibilities are and they assume and

they know they have a career here and they're very happy to work for the state because of the good working conditions, the hours, the retirement system, the increments of pay they receive, cost of their living after their retirement. So, we don't have too many problems in this office that we can't solve with our wonderful co-workers that locate here in Annapolis and our branch offices throughout the state, namely Cumberland, Hagerstown, Four Corners of Montgomery County; over there in Prince George's County, down in Baltimore City at Easton, Salisbury, and Dundalk. Now they're getting ready to open several other local offices. So, we're here to serve the people. We have wonderful cooperation from the radio and television and newspapers in the state, so we don't have too many problems in the Comptroller's office and we're happy to be able to serve the wonderful people of our state, the taxpayers who are our bosses.

SD: Mr. Goldstein, would you please explain to the class Maryland's policy on issuance of state bonds. For example, is there still a 15-year limitation on the issuance on general obligations bonds? Second question, is there a constitutional or statutory limitation on how much bonded indebtedness the state may incur?

Goldstein: Well, you've asked two big questions there. The state of Maryland still issues the full faith credit bonds, which are called general obligation bonds. Maryland bonds have the best rating in the country, rated by Standard & Poors and the two rating agencies in New York…Bonds rate triple A (AAA). The last bonds that were sold back in the winter sold for 4.60, the lowest rate in two years. There's no limit on the number of bonds that can be sold, but we know with our research and the work that we do to…we are surveyed and reviewed each year and our assessment base is now 25 billion dollars and we have a little over a billion dollars out in general obligation bonds, full faith, and credit bonds in which there is a safety factor and those bonds are selling very good. At the present time, the present bond market as of July 29, at which time I am making these remarks in response to your question, we find that the interest rates are running very high because of the Nixon fiscal mandates which are coming out of Washington, and that has caused a run-away inflation and there's a high rate of interest being offered for the bonds at the present time. That's why our next bonds sale is scheduled for the 11th of September. Now the second question, what was your second question, repeat that.

SD: We asked about the constitutional statute of limitations and how much bonds indebtedness the state may incur.

Goldstein: There's no constitutional mandate but by good financial practices, physical responsibility, you always ought to find out how much your bonds can sell for and how much you need the money in order to carry out the mandate of a legislature to construct public schools and other buildings before you issue the bonds. And in 1969 and '70 we didn't sell any bonds because of the high interest rates. But right at the present time we are now considering a sale for the 11th day of September.

SD: In your answer you answered the question of why we have high interest rates, how are they effecting state projects, Comptroller Goldstein?

Goldstein: They are affecting state projects in respect to the high interest rates and we always have to take a second look and if the rates are too high, we'll just have to put some of these projects on the back burner for a few months or a few weeks as the case may be, until the interest rates come down. Now the bankers are telling us that the maximum rate of 12 percent for Triple A clients has probably been reached and interest rates ought to start declining. We hope they're right and that we can get rid of some of this inflation. That interest rates will come down in Maryland can continue to build the projects that are now on the engineers/architects boards in order to carry out the functions that are necessary to give Maryland the finest public schools, higher education, systems and the other projects that are being requested in these various areas of our state.

SD: The last question for the afternoon, sir, please explain the organizational structure of your office. For example, what are the names and duties of some of the divisions?

Goldstein: Alright, we'll start with the office of our comptroller's division that takes in the most money. That's the income tax division headed up by George Spriggs. This year, 1974, for the first time we took in a billion dollars in income tax and that office services 1,600,000 individual income tax payers and approximately 25,000 corporation income tax payers. The next division is the Retail Sales Tax and Use taxes, headed up by Henry A. Highmiller. This year, 1974 fiscal year, '75 fiscal year, we will take in approximately 400 million dollars. Maryland has a 4 percent sales tax, as general fund revenues. I can remember we passed the sales tax law in Maryland in 1947 that the first year they estimated they'd take in 18 million dollars for the entire year. They took in 21 million dollars. Another responsibility of our office is miscellaneous revenue, headed up by Joseph Oates and that takes care of licenses and…in matters pertaining to that division. Then we have the Office of Revenue Estimating, headed up by Robert Rader. Our chief of that division, W. Irving Young, just retired a few weeks ago. And we have the responsibility in the Comptroller's office of operating the revenue estimating, and the three people who serve on the estimating board is the governor of our state, not the governor pardon me, former governor J. Hillard Tawes, now the state Treasurer of the Comptroller, and the Head of the Governor's Budget Department, Dr. Kenneth Barnes, and Robert Rader succeeded Irving Young. And that's a very grave responsibility to give to the governor by the middle of December each year and the money that will be collected in the state of Maryland for the rest of the fiscal year and then two years hence. By having that information, the governor uses that for a basis for making up next year's budget. Then we have the Personnel Department headed up by John E. Murphy. We have approximately 1100 wonderful co-workers in this office and it's his responsibility to set up the interviews and to have the list from the tests from the test director in Baltimore submitted the various

division chiefs for review when we're selecting personnel to operate the various divisions. Then we have the General Accounting Division of the Comptroller's Office headed up by Arnold Holtz and that's a very important function of state government. When the governor's budget is passed by the General Assembly, all the accounts are then set up on our books to see that the monies are spent according to the appropriations. So, the budget of $2,800,000,000 and all the investments that we have. Last year we had $7,750,000,000 worth of investments. All these records are kept and we publish a comptroller's report each and every year. This book here consists of better than three hundred and fifteen pages of detailed accounts, then we have an eight-page summary of the condensed annual report which shows where the money comes from and where it goes, and we also publish a similar report in each of the individual income tax packages that we mail out showing where the money comes from and where it goes. Then we have the Admission's Tax Unit of the Comptroller's office headed up by Ray Vanaletti. Right now, in the state of Maryland our division of the Admission's Tax collects all the admissions tax from 23 counties and Baltimore City, and 164 incorporated towns based on a rate which cannot exceed ten percent as set by the elected or appointed officials of these respective areas. And all we charge is the overhead to collect these monies. Then we have the Alcoholic Beverages Division, headed up by Gilbert McCray, a career employee of many years and an outstanding and dedicated individual. It is our responsibility in Maryland to collect all the taxes on alcoholic beverages, whiskey, wine, and beer. We also have to license and inspect all the wholesalers, rectifiers, and distillers that do business in Maryland and then we have the law enforcement responsibility to see that all laws pertaining to alcoholic beverages are enforced in Maryland and we work very closely with the Alcohol Tax Unit of the Internal Revenue Service, the U.S. Treasury Department because many people are trying to take advantage of the whiskey, bootlegging laws. The tax on a gallon of whiskey federally is $10.50, in the state of Maryland is $1.50. That's $12.00 a gallon, plus sales tax. So, you can see the revenues that are involved in the event somebody wants to do a little bootlegging. That division also collects the cigarette tax and John Cunney heads up the Cigarette Tax Division under Gilbert H. McCray who heads up the Alcoholic Beverage Division. Then we have the Gasoline Tax Division, headed up by John Coleman. Our gasoline tax in the state of Maryland is 90 cents per gallon for all motor vehicle fuels used off the highways, diesel oil, kerosene, or gasoline. As you know during the crunch on gasoline last winter, Maryland was one of the state's that had the best system of law enforcement, of allocations based on our computerized records. We knew for years how many gallons of gasoline was sold in this state for highway use for many years. We tried to forward those records to the head of that office, the Federal Energy Office, Mr. Simon, he paid no attention to us. Then we took him into Federal Court to show him that Maryland had records and that he was giving us the wrong allocation, too small amount and we won our case in the Federal Court on a Friday evening. They went to Washington, took an appeal on a Saturday, and by Monday they had an additional allocation of gasoline

because the way we operate our Gasoline Tax Division. And we were instrumental in getting the first law passed in this country to die (?) at best these large, refiners who try to control it from the well-head to the nozzle, to the best end of the retail stations by next July 1, 1975. Now, we have other divisions here too. We haven't finished here yet. We have the Central Payroll Division. We have three payrolls here in the state of Maryland. University of Maryland pays all their people and their colleges, the Department of Transportation pays theirs, and we pay 40,000 people from the Central Payroll Division headed up by a dedicated individual, Robert L. Service. And in the next year we hope to have all the payrolls within the Central Payroll Division, namely the Department of Transportation and the University of Maryland because of a law passed by the 1973 session of the General Assembly. Then we have the Data Processing Division headed up by (?)…When I became comptroller in 1959, we didn't have any computers whatsoever in the Comptroller's office. I immediately started a program and we studied the situation and determined that we should have a computer center. Today we have one of the finest computer centers in any state of this union right here in our Annapolis Income Tax Building, and we do the work for the Central Payroll, the Income Tax Division, Gasoline and Sales Tax, our General Accounting, and for several other large agencies of state government in Annapolis, namely the General Assembly. We do all their work now. The Code of Maryland is on the computer. We do work from the Department of Transportation, the Department of Natural Resources, and that's the way it should be. Why buy a lot of smaller computers and have an ineffective system when you can have a real center, and I hope that the time will come in the future when this center can service many of the counties of our state. Now in the main office of the Comptroller we also have what we call a General Accounting Division and I gave you the name of it, but we also have a Chief Deputy Comptroller, Bernard F. Nisell, who is my Chief Deputy Comptroller and then we have assistant comptrollers under him that take care of respective duties and responsibilities. So overall, we have an outstanding operation and it's the most unusual operation of any state comptroller of the 50 states. And you see from these various duties and responsibilities again why the office should be an elected one and not an appointed one.

SD: I was told by some of the folks up in Allegany County that we'd have both an interesting and an informative interview this afternoon and I haven't been disappointed in either instance. Comptroller Goldstein I would like to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to the students at Allegany Community College about the office of Comptroller of the Treasury in the state of Maryland.

Goldstein: I'd like to thank you, Mr. Stanley J. Dougan, for the opportunity to speak with you, to the students of your outstanding Allegany Community College, and I'd be very happy to have them come down to visit Annapolis during the legislative session in 1975

and see exactly how the legislative process operates in Maryland and how we conduct your affairs in the Comptroller's Office in Annapolis. Thank you ever so much.

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Old Bedford Village, Bedford, PA

…1978, I'm at Old Bedford Village talking to Donna Thomas—and you're secretary here?

Thomas: Administrative Assistant.

JS: Administrative Assistant at the Village. And we're going to discuss how Bedford Village got started, and various topics about it. Where were you born?

Thomas: Bedford County.

JS: And when?

Thomas: 1943.

JS: Ok. What is Bedford Village?

Thomas: Bedford Village is a living historical village in the 1750 to 1850 period of history. It's a recreated village of the past [unclear].

JS: How did the idea for the village originate?

Thomas: Bedford County Commissioner and former Chairman of the Board Bob Sweet, along with the Bedford County commissioners, realized that the economy was really sagging in Bedford County, and the tourist trade was declining rapidly. So, something had to be done to boost the economy of Bedford County and to bring back the tourist trade. So, this is how the idea of a village was born—as a way of bringing jobs into the community, to boost the economy, and also to boost the tourist trade, and revitalize the job situation here in Bedford County--which we've carried one of the highest unemployment rates in the state of PA for ten years.

JS: But basically, it was Bob Sweet's idea?

Thomas: Yes.

JS: How did they get the money that the Village ended up getting?

Thomas: The initial land was local money--the land was purchased by the Bedford County commissioners out of local funds. And then from there we went to the various state and federal government agencies for funding. Do you want to know what those agencies were that we went to?

JS: Yeah, you can give them to me.

Thomas: Ok. We got a grant from the Pennsylvania Bicentennial Commission--that was in the Bicentennial year--of $25,000 toward the Village. We got $15,000 from the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation, which is the Department of Community Affairs in Harrisburg, for the bike path—we have a bike path encircling the Village; we got that for the bike path. From the Economic Development Administration, which is a federal grant program, we got $272,000. From the Department of Commerce, we got $55,000, and that was for a water and sewer plant here at the Village. And then from the Appalachian Region Commission, which is another federal agency in Washington, D.C.--which we've just completed their contract--we got $625,000.

JS: Do you consider that to be a turning point in terms of funding—the $625,000?

Thomas: Well, it helped--it helped us complete Phase II; Phase II was completed at the end of October.

JS: Just what was Phase II?

Pottery at Old Bedford Village

Thomas: Phase II includes the center section of Old Bedford Village, and it includes between fifteen and seventeen crafts structures themselves—the crafts buildings; which includes—I'll just give you a few—the broom shop, the pewter shop, the clock shop, and the bakery. And it helped start the foundation to the community theater; however, there wasn't sufficient funding to complete the community theater, and we have it up to foundation level right now. So, the community theater will have to go into Phase III in order to be completed. The Tavern was under Phase II, and it's about ready—it's ready to go right now.

JS: How much of the Village is from local donations?

Thomas: Well, a lot of the artifacts—the antiques and so on—are material donations. We have local contributors, but most of it was local money through the county commissioners—the purchase of the land and so on. We've had local contributions from civic groups, and, you know, just small…but we haven't really got into a fundraising campaign—we intend to do this very soon.

JS: A lot of the structures, were they just donated?

Thomas: Yes. A lot of them were donated and we sent our construction crews, which are manpower; they are CETA people, most of them are CETA people. And we sent them out into the county and dismantled the buildings that were donated--they marked them log by log, dismantled them, and then they were put back up in the same way that they were taken down.

JS: Is there a certain person that takes charge of this to make sure they're the right way?

Thomas: We have three construction foremen that handle all of that.

JS: Are all the buildings here that authentic, or are some of them…?

Thomas: Some of them are reproductions. The four houses on the square, the slave quarters, the two schoolhouses, and several of the residences are authentic, rehabilitated structures; they have come down and gone up the same way that they came down. Now, a lot of the ARC buildings, which is the craft shops in the center, are reproductions.

JS: But they used a lot of the old wood from other structures, didn't they?

Thomas: Yes. We took a lot of houses down and used the materials for that. I also might add that we did receive some funding from HUD too—I'm not quite sure of the amount, but I know Housing and Urban Development for rehabilitation of old structures, we did receive some money from that.

JS: How many different crafts are demonstrated here now? Do you know for sure?

Thomas: Well, the crafts coordinator could probably answer that question a lot better than I can, but I would say we have between twelve and fifteen crafts being demonstrated here now.

JS: How many people do you have employed here right now?

Thomas: We have seventy-eight and that does not include the administrative staff; we have seventy-eight plus five on the administrative staff.

JS: And then in the summer—you'll pick up a lot for the summer?

Thomas: Yes, we get summer manpower help, students, we also get students from PHEA--Pennsylvania Higher Education Agency—which is the off-campus college work study; they assign students to us, and we pick up, I think, ten percent of their salary.

JS: Are there any buildings here that are really unique, that you could go out and tell somebody "Go see it, because it's the only place you'll ever see anything like it"?

Thomas: Well, I think the eight-square school—that's the octagon-shaped building out at the other end—they say there's only one or two of them in the nation that have been built like that. And legend says that the reason they were built like that is, they were built by Quakers; and they say that that's the way they built them so the devil couldn't corner the children. But that's really not true--the reason of it is because of the lighting; it was built so that the lighting could be throughout the whole building evenly. That's the reason for the way it was built.

JS: Do the visitors here seem to have any favorite buildings?

Thomas: Well…I don't know. They like the bakery. That's the place you buy gingerbread boys and things like that—that's a popular spot here. And the crafts. It just depends on what they're interested in; if you have someone that just loves guns, then the gun shop is the place they go. Or if you have someone that likes pewter, then they'll be interested in the pewter shop—it depends on the individual and what their interests are.

JS: How many different kinds of souvenirs can they buy here that are made here? Is there a good many?

Thomas: Oh wow, yeah. On sale at the craft shop—by the way, everything is sold through the craft shop here; you cannot go into a building and buy something in the buildings, they are made and produced by the craftsmen and taken through the craft shop. You can buy a broom in various sizes: you can buy a regular household broom, you can buy a fireplace broom—they're all handmade brooms. You can buy pewter jewelry, buttons, spoons—those types of items. All leather crafts—the little bracelets that the kids like, with their name stamped on them, leather items from moccasins and boots to big leather hats and things. Let me see—we have a woodworking shop, where you can buy the old-fashioned tables, or stools, or anything in the wood line. We have a basket shop with beautiful baskets produced from white oak—he makes them from white oak. We have a weaving shop; you can buy placemats and things like that that have been woven. We have quilters—you can buy quilts and also quilted placemats, and things like that. A candle shop, where they hand-dip the candles and you can buy tapers; and we also make the luminaries which you use at Christmas time—you know, you put them down in sand, in paper bags, and it makes a glowing light; we have luminaries for sale here also. And the tin shop—you know, we have the small tin items: cookie cutters and things like which is produced in the tin shop. And the blacksmith shop makes fireplace utensils, and little souvenir horseshoes that the kids like to take home with them, and things like that.

That's just a few of them. The clock shop, you can have your clocks repaired; there's really nothing for sale in there, in the clock shop. And the gun shop—he also repairs guns, but he does build the guns from scratch: he whittles the stock from wood, and he does build them from scratch; but it takes a long time to produce a gun, and I don't know if he's sold any from scratch or not. The crafts coordinator could probably help you out in that department.

JS: You say you just finished phase II; what does phase III call for?

Thomas: Phase III will include a working grist mill that will be put out on the far end of the village. We have the grist mill--it was donated by a family out in the Imlertown area. We have the grist mill, but it's going to take funding to get it reconstructed and to get it up. In Phase III there's also a [unclear lodge?], the community theater will have to go under Phase III now—we couldn't complete it in Phase II. There's also going to be an old-fashioned sawmill that's going to be put in, a working sawmill, and possibly a few other items. We're thinking of a visitor center, which we can show the orientation film in and also incorporate the offices into the visitor center; that would be part of Phase III also.

JS: How about the church?

Thomas: Now, the church is in a phase all its own. As you probably are aware, there's a separation of church and state; we cannot use any federal funds to build that church. So, we're depending on local donations to build that church—and that's why it's going up so slowly. That church was up to foundation level a long time ago; we just didn't have the funds to complete it and [words unclear] to complete it with the federal funds. We have received two donations from civic groups within the past month: we got $1,400 from the Lions and then we got $200 from the Snake Spring Church that solicited funds to get this church built; so, we have to depend on local contributions and donations to build that church.

JS: So, it's just kind of inching along.

Thomas: Right. That church is going to be unique, by the way--it's going to have a "wine-glass pulpit": it's going to look like a turned-upside-down wine glass. And the minister will stand above the congregation and look down on it. It's really going to be unusual.

JS: It will be a nondenominational church?

Thomas: Right, right—nondenominational.

JS: Do you have any idea how many people have visited the Village so far?

Thomas: So far? Well, I could probably add it up for you—but about a hundred thousand went through here last season.

JS: That's a lot of people! Does it seem like every year it keeps going up?

Thomas: Oh yes, yes. We had sixty thousand the year we opened, and that was 1976—but you have to consider we only opened in July, and that was from the 4th of July until the end of October we had sixty thousand. And then last year, I think there was about eighty thousand through. And this year we had about a hundred thousand through. We were projecting a hundred and twenty, and we didn't quite make it.
So, it's growing every year.

JS: Do they seem to be coming from farther away now—is word getting around?

Thomas: Well, we're getting a lot of people out of the west, a lot of people out of the west—especially the Pittsburgh area; there's a *lot* of people coming from the Pittsburgh area. We check the parking lot from time to time, and see where the cars are tagged. And a lot of them have Michigan tags on them; so, there's a lot of them. Because a lot of those automotive plants out there in Michigan have something like five, six weeks vacation, and they don't know what to do with their time so they travel. So, a lot of them are headed east and they stop by Bedford Village.

JS: You don't have any guestbook, then, that people would stop in and…

Thomas: Yes, we do, we do. We have a guestbook down at the barn that they sign. But I haven't looked at it lately, I really haven't. We do get them from foreign countries; there's several signatures from foreign countries.

JS: Do you think the Village will become financially independent?

Thomas: Yes, we hope so, yes.

JS: Just from the gate receipts and crafts?

Thomas: Right.

JS: And you do think the Village is stimulating the Bedford County economy now?

Thomas: Oh, definitely, very much so. Service stations have opened up that have been closed for years, restaurants have expanded; have built on to accommodate more people that are coming into the area, the unemployment rate is dropping--although in the winter it's down a lot because this is such a ghost town. And whenever the hotels and motels close for the season then, you know, all those people go on unemployment.

JS: Do you expect it to be open year-round?

Thomas: No, I don't really think so, because it seems like once the Labor Day holiday is over, not too many people travel. And we've contacted other colonial villages, like Sturbridge up in Massachusetts, to see what their flow of people is in the off months—and they really aren't that great. The cost of operating a place like this is atrocious, to try to keep it heated and maintenance and everything up during the winter months, it would really get costly.

JS: Does the Village expect to provide community services—like the ballfield, and the theatre?

Thomas: Right. That theatre will be summer stock, it will be mostly summer stock, and we've had contacts from Indiana University, Penn State, and also Pitt that are interested in coming on as summer stock theatre groups here. Now, when the community theatre is not in operation as summer stock, it will be available for community use. We encourage people to use the Village; as a matter of fact, the Boy Scouts use it for their Camp Scout-a-Rama: you know, they bring in their tents and set them up down there. So, the Boy Scouts use it, and a lot of the civic groups—the AAUW, and the garden clubs and things, they hold their picnics out here; we have a picnic pavilion out at the other end. Yeah, it's community-oriented, and we really encourage the community to use our facilities here.

JS: That's about all the questions I have—can you think of anything you'd like to add?

Thomas: Well…I really can't think of anything, I think we've pretty well covered it all. Except the Christmas celebration which we have here at Christmas. Three days in December this year—last year we had a week; this year it's down to three days. Twenty-first, twenty-second, and twenty-third of December. And we re-create an old-fashioned Christmas as it was back in the 1750 to 1850 period in history. We decorate

the homes as they were decorated in that period of time: you know, the paper rings (chains), and cranberries, and string popcorn—decorate the trees like that. And we have a horse and sleigh, and if there's snow we have sleigh rides, and the luminaries, of course, and ice skating on the pond. And we have a live Nativity scene up at the stable over Christmas, and hot spiced cider—and all the kinds of things that were back in that period of time. It's really [words unclear]

JS: You have a petting zoo here too, don't you?

Thomas: Well, it's not exactly a petting zoo, it's a petting farm; we have animals, which…we had to find a home for Billy and Willy(?), our goats—we couldn't find any place to keep them over the winter, so we had a local family which took them. Most of them are just yearly residents; at the end of the season, you know, we send them to market. [words unclear] for the next season.

JS: Well, thank you very much for your time, we really appreciate it.

Thomas: You're very welcome! Sure!

JS: This interview was conducted by Judy Sigel on November 22, 1978 at Old Bedford Village. I interviewed Mrs. Donna Hite Thomas of 105 Paul St., Bedford, PA. Mrs. Thomas was born in Bedford County in 1943. She's employed as an administrative assistant at Old Bedford Village. We discussed the Old Bedford Village.

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Perceptions of the First Black Deputy Sheriff in Allegany County

Hello, my name is Millie Younger, and today is March 24, 1977. I am interviewing Mr. Vincent Fagan, who was one of the first Black Deputy Sheriffs of Allegany County. Mr. Fagan is from this area and is now residing at 390 Pine Ave.
Vincent, now that you've been in this job, or, been around for a while—how'd you become interested in it?

Fagan: I first became interested when I was in the service; I was in what you call the security force. In the United States Navy I was in security approximately eight months, and I also was a part of law enforcement as military—somewhat on the same level as civilian but military laws are a little different from civilian laws.

MY: Now, with the education, military-wise, that you learned—did that help in getting this job?

Fagan: It helped in reference to my interview, in getting the job, yes. But as far as law enforcement, today you need more education in the field. They have various programs set up—for instance, ACC, where I attended for a semester in law enforcement.

MY: Ok. What all did you have to go through as far as training when you first went in?

Fagan: Well, my training first consisted of what you call OJT—on the job training, or as you serve…I was still a sworn officer when I was under this training program, where you first learn to work the confinement area--or the jail, whatever you want to call it. You first work that area, and you go from there to the radio—which is on the desk—taking all incoming calls, complaints—things of this nature. Also, after a time you're evaluated by your superior, who is also in charge of you; and he then takes the information to the sheriff in regards to whether you're ready to work in the field, which is out on a regular patrol.

MY: You know, people, when they get into a job they ask, "well, what kind of pay am I getting?". How was that worked out with you?

Fagan: Well at the time, I wasn't too interested in the pay 'cause I was out of work--I had previously worked at Kelly-Springfield; I was furloughed for eleven months. And I was eligible to go to school on the GI Bill; I went to ACC and I was confronted by a deputy sheriff at the Allegany County Sheriff's Department, Charles Hanawalt, deputy sheriff over there, and he confronted me, saying that there's a possibility that there was an opening at the Sheriff's Department. So at the time I wasn't concerned about my pay, I was more interested in getting some education in the field that I liked—in other words, before I could go to work—but the job came to me while I

was still in school. So I more or less took what training I had from ACC with me to the Sheriff's Dept.

MY: What do you do as your job over there on the hill?

Fagan: Well, my job, like I say, consists of various things: you first learn the jail, the operation procedure--being on the radio at the desk--then on the highway. Now, in the State of Maryland, it's required by law, by the State, that any law enforcement officer who is in law enforcement, sworn officer, has to attend the Maryland Police Training Commission School, which I attended at Hagerstown Jr. College for approximately thirteen weeks, I believe it was. And this consists of report writing, English, law enforcement itself as far as crime and investigation, fingerprinting, interviewing witnesses, learning the procedure of how to be in the courtrooms, how to make up your reports. Also we had first aid training, called EMT—Emergency Medical Technician—you have to finish that also--which was very interesting, I thought. Also criminal investigation, gambling—various things of this nature that's required of law enforcement when you're in the field, things that you should know. And it's a very good school, it's growing more and more; from what I understand, it's supposed to be in through ACC by now.

MY: Speaking along the line of learning the different procedures and things, how did you deal with the dope—you know, like pushers….

Fagan: Narcotics was handled by a narcotics squad--I wasn't in narcotics. It takes a special type training for narcotics; it's in the field of law enforcement but it also comes under a special training program, which I didn't have, I didn't get into. I was strictly in law enforcement as far as arrest procedures, warrants--in other words, I wasn't plainclothes, I was a uniform officer.

MY: Ok. Since you were one of the first Black…I mean, how did the people react to this? Did they get all hyper, or how?

Fagan: Well…you mean just people in general? Everyday, like?

MY: Uh huh. Everyday.

Fagan: I think, in the Cumberland area—of course, I was seen mostly in the Cumberland area, although we patrolled the whole county—I'm sure they were really pleased to see me, as a Black law enforcement officer. It did something for the area. And I also tried to conduct myself to do something for the area; not only to say that I'm a law enforcement officer and I had the power of arrest--that wasn't my reason for it--because a job of this nature is something that, I feel, takes a special type person to perform the duty of a law enforcement officer, because you have so many things to contend with. You have your different classes of citizens, we all know that—your rich,

your middle class, your poor—and you'd think crime is committed only by the lower class people, which is not so. So, these are different type things that you have to deal with. And you have to know how to approach different type people. Also, you have the mentally ill to contend with, which I've had some experience in….I don't know what else I could put in that category, it covers such a variety. You have your juvenile delinquency—you have to contend with juveniles, which we had classes on juvenile delinquency from the Juvenile Services, which is a big field for a law enforcement officer because a law enforcement officer just about determines what penalties will come about when a judge hears his case and passes sentence. So therefore we had a special class in juvenile delinquency from the Juvenile Services. And there's different degrees that comes under Juveniles: any juvenile that has been apprehended or arrested, you have to notify the parent, and also Juvenile Services--whether that child has to be confined to jail or is in need of supervision, or something of this type. And Juvenile Services took care of this.

MY: Now, since you worked with the all-White police force…how did they react to you? Was there a lot of hassles—I mean, physically or mentally did they try to…did they *pick at you*, in other words?

Fagan: Well, this is a good question. I've been asked that many times by several different people—several different *types* of people. And I'll tell you like I told them: being picked on is like being a child; when we were in our younger years. You take the big brute—he was physically stronger, mentally wiser; in other words, bigger and older. And he picked on the weaker ones. In law enforcement, it's a class of person that takes so much into consideration; you wouldn't say being "picked on"—that's, well, you could put it in that sense, but I wouldn't say being picked on. I was never picked on because I was looked at as a man. And this is the way I carried myself: as a man. If you present yourself in a decent manner toward *any*body, I don't care who it is, you'll get the same respect. So I wasn't picked on, no.

MY: Why I asked that is, well…

Fagan: Are you aiming this to say that, you know, being the only Black in the department…

MY: Uhh, yeah, along that line, see…

Fagan: Did they pick me out more so than anybody else?

MY: That's what I mean, yeah.

Fagan: Well, any type job that is held by one Black, where there shouldn't be just one Black, in any type job if he meets the qualifications--sure, you're singled out somewhat to see what your reactions will be to different things. This is done…uh…only in a joking manner, if you look at it that way--but I was never picked on, I didn't think I was.

MY: I thought, maybe, you know….well, some Whites now are considered around here as "rednecks"—and I thought maybe there was a couple on the force, and they kind of like, you know, give you a little…

Fagan: Alright. Your terminology for "rednecks"—well, in today's terminology--I guess you would say, more or less, the Whites that were more or less ignorant to certain things toward the Blacks. Is that what you mean?

MY: Yeah.

Fagan: Well, I can understand that. Yeah, you have them. But in law enforcement you're trained to contend with all type situations; in law enforcement, you might say you're a social service partner, you're a priest, you're a marriage counselor, uh…what other field would that come under…you're an information center. So, you're going to deal with all types of people. And the way you handle it, that determines how your job will go.

MY: In other words, jack-of-all-trades.

Fagan: That's right, because you come across so many types of situations. But the terminology of "redneck" is just a slang word—what is the true definition for a redneck, who knows?

MY: [unclear]

Fagan: Same thing as a Black militant, you know? Well, it's in the same category.

MY: You've been telling me a little bit here how White people act; how have the Black people in general reacted to what you've done?

Fagan: That's another good question. Any law enforcement officer, I have to say, is almost in a category of their own. You have to watch how you socialize, who you socialize with, because you're watched throughout the entire county. And people judge you, same as the news media—they get their information from people. You have freedom of speech, freedom of the press—and a law enforcement officer can't hold this against any race, creed, or color, or religion. That's to say he has to remain neutral in all cases.

As far as the Blacks, depending on who and what Blacks you're talking about. Now, Blacks, Whites—we're all considered to be human beings; nobody's perfect, everybody breaks the law at one time or another. The thing of it is, is he guilty or innocent? This is

up to the law enforcement officer to determine how he writes his charges to get to the States' Attorney how he would present his case in court for the State against that particular person. And that's why you have a defense attorney: to determine how he will work his case. Now, you can't go on hearsay information; this is one thing that causes a lot of disagreement amongst people--hearsay. Well, I could be patrolling, or walking the street, or even driving, and someone will stop me for some information, ask me, and I'll do the best I can to direct them. And somebody will say congratulations on your new job, or something like this—this is Blacks and Whites—and somebody will say, well, I *heard* that someone didn't appreciate you being a law enforcement officer--well, this is their privilege to think so, but….I can't say one way or the other how Blacks treated me; they respected me as a law enforcement officer, on duty and off duty, I'd have to say that. And any law officer will have some trouble somewhere along the line from *all races*—I don't care….Because today there's so much crime that is not solved by the law enforcement officer; he may be the first one on the scene--he has to protect the scene--and you have special investigators to do the rest. But he who is first on the scene must protect the scene: gather the information that is necessary for the investigators to make a case. But he also can carry the case all the way through, it all depends on what the circumstances are.

But I can't say that anybody held any personal grudge against me for being a law enforcement officer as the first Black. But who knows what goes on behind your back—that's beside the point, that's a rather….

MY: Has anyone, be they Black or White really come out and said, you know, that they didn't appreciate you being Black, or along that line--like saying "Hey, man, you shouldn't be there"?

Fagan: No, I've never had that. There's probably been some dissension about it, in the air, one person passing to another, but it's like I said--that's their privilege. There's nothing I can do about that. As far as…how can you determine someone who's trying to [instigate] a riot--who's trying to start a riot—this is also legal to do; you can have a group discussion on Baltimore St., as long as you're not congesting traffic—I'm not only talking about motor vehicles but even pedestrians—you can do it, as long as you're not trying to create a riot that would start trouble. You see what I mean? So you can say anything about anybody that you want to; it's your privilege to do so. But no one has confronted me directly and said that…I think it would be a pretty low person to do something like that.

MY: Now, when you worked in the jail, did you break up any riots or catch anybody with dope in there—did you have any trouble with the prisoners?

Fagan: You always have trouble with anyone who is confined behind bars. You're taking a great deal away from someone--anytime you take somebody's freedom you're

taking a lot. Riots, no, we didn't have any riots when I worked there. We had some differences amongst prisoners, yeah; and it was up to the party whoever worked the jail at that time to handle it as best as possible. When I worked with the prisoners I looked at them as human beings—it's something that I took upon myself as far as a law enforcement policy because I believe in people; I am the type of person that likes people, and I looked on them as human beings. Sure, they made a mistake—like I said, no one's perfect. I would have group discussions, myself, when they had things that were bothering them, of course; I would ask them all, you know, I said, "well, look, let's sit down and talk about it. Let's exchange our differences to see if we can come to something." And I feel it has helped not only them but it has helped me a great deal in performing my job. Of course, the complaints that they had were between the inmates and myself; I never let the information go any further—unless it was really necessary that I felt that the sheriff or the captain should know something about a certain party, or a certain function within the jail.

Now, Allegany County Jail is considered a maximum security jail, which will hold Federal prisoners, which is supposedly, I think, top priority over others. The thing that I noticed about the confinement: as far as the recreational program, there was no recreational program for the inmates that were serving a great deal of time because now all the prisons are overcrowded. And the State is paying the County a certain amount of money for each individual that's being held in Allegany County Jail a long period of time. And this is a remedy that they haven't [found] yet that should be, because Allegany County Jail can't, I don't think, help a lot of inmates that are spending a long period of time there because there's no recreation that should resolve…as far as relaxation. They take their frustrations out on one another—even on themselves: they pace the floor, they talk to themselves, they're a little hyper when a brother? asks them to do something, or something like that.
That's the way I see it as far as working the jail.

MY: How do you deal with the…ok, say you have two inmates and they're fighting—now, do you put one in the drunk tank, or…what do you do when they fight?

Fagan: Well, alright, of course you have to break the fight up—that's the best possible…when there's a fight, one guard should not go in by himself. You always contact the high ranking officer in charge--whoever's in charge of the shift, you contact—you let him know the situation, what's occurring inside, he will get you some help. And you never go in by yourself because you don't know what degree will come out of it—how *much* will come out of it; you're jeopardizing yourself. Then you solve the situation as best you can: you make out your report, you hand it to your desk sergeant, he will ask the guard on duty for a suggestion, and you discuss it. If they should be separated, then there's means of separating them. There's facilities there to separate guys that cause trouble.

MY: Well, how do you deal with the female, you know, when they're bringing her in?

Fagan: Yeah. A female is in a different section of the building; they're also handled by matrons. Anytime you have any type situation that has arisen in the female section, you always have a matron to go with you, then you solve it as best you can.

MY: Now, the females' quarters—theirs is the same as the males', right? There's no difference?

Fagan: What do you mean by difference?

MY: Well, is their cell layout the same as what the guys have?

Fagan: Well, the jail itself as far as confinement is just about the same, yes; when you're behind bars, you're behind bars. That's the way I see it. Of course, women have certain needs more so than men, and they are provided, but as far as confinement it's all the same when you're behind bars.

MY: Now, while you were, say, out on the street in your cruiser, did you come across any kind of bad experience, or anything like that?

Fagan: Bad experience…that's another good question. I've had some experiences that you might say called for force, some type of force? Yes, in a way. In law enforcement, not only because that I was Black--and I tried to blank that out of my mind, now, whether the system wanted to accept that part of it or not, I don't know and I didn't care--I knew that I was a law enforcement officer and that's all that was necessary. I had situations, yes, but I handled them to the point of the way that I was taught in training--no personal grudges as far as me being Black. I don't feel that I abused my badge, towards the citizens, where I would cause embarrassment upon the sheriff himself, or the department, or even myself. Sure, there's always some force needed in law enforcement, and they'll teach you in school to use only the force that's necessary; now, this [depends on] what you come upon. They say, "well", you know, "a cop carries a gun"—well, he has to; you don't know what type situations you're coming to. You get a call--you're on patrol--and it's at night or at day, regardless—you get a call to respond to such-and-such an area…depends upon what it is, what you're given by the desk sergeant on the radio. Yeah, I've had some differences with people, but I've come out on the better end—I will say that.

MY: You've never had to use your weapon at any time?

Fagan: Not at any time; since I was a law enforcement officer I have never had to point my weapon directly at anybody and say "you're under arrest." And I was on the sheriff's department for a year and a month.

MY: Now, say that you do fire your weapon, how do they work with you on that?

Fagan: Oh we're trained--we have training. This came about in the law enforcement program at the Maryland Police Training Commission at Hagerstown Jr. College. We learned the different techniques, different positions, when to shoot and when not to shoot, how—the correct way—the surest way for your protection and for protection of other citizens. People misjudge law enforcement officers because they carry a gun—they say "well, his attitude may be so that he would shoot you." Well, this is not so: a law enforcement officer is trained to know when and when not to shoot. It's hard to say, because you never know when or how you'll have to do this. We could sit here and talk about it, but out there it's a different story.

MY: Now, how do they….I know in the service, when you fire a round, you have to make it count as to where it went and all of that; now, do you have to make it count for that--say, you do fire your gun?

Fagan: Oh yes, when your weapon has been discharged, like I said when you arrive on the scene and you have to discharge your weapon--if you're able to, you protect that scene and you have, like I said, investigators who'll also question *you* as to the degree of why you had to do--what the circumstances were when you fired it. Can you account for the discharge of ammunition? Of course, who can determine what happened when you're being fired upon? You have to remember, a policeman is also a human being; he can be excited, nervous, scared just like anybody else. But you should be able to account for it—you're trained in this manner. But who knows.

MY: That's it. Ok, well, I thank you a lot for coming by today, and I'm sure everybody will benefit from what is being said today. Thank you.

Fagan: I hope so. You're welcome.

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Regional Planning
Interview with Conley Dillon
Summer 1974
Interviewed by Stanley J. Dougan

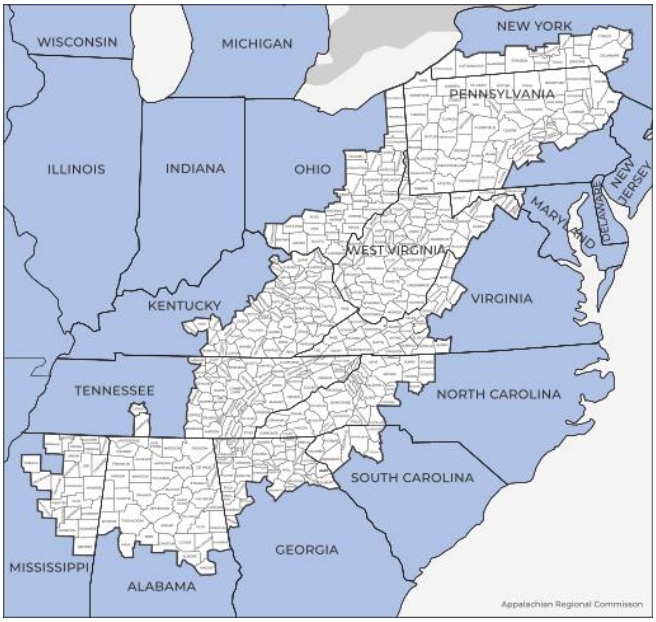
SD: Students, we have Mr. Conley Dillon with us this afternoon. It's a great pleasure for me to be interviewing Dr. Dillon, a former professor of mine at Marshall University in Huntington, West Virginia. He has a varied background. A former professor at Marshall University, and is now a professor of Government at Maryland University and has been since the early 1960's. Dr. Dillon is a co-author of a book called *Introduction of Political Science* published by the VanNostrand Company and he told me just a few minutes ago that they are still selling it over in India and Asia. Dr. Dillon will you please tell the class, sir, what is meant by regional planning?

Dillon: The term regional planning refers to two kinds of planning, one interstate planning; the other is planning by a metropolitan or a multi-county body within states. The interstate planning commission, best-known and the strongest one in the United States, is the Appalachian Regional Commission, which was created in 1965. This commission was created for the purpose of helping solve problems of unemployment and dislocation in the Appalachian states: which Maryland, West Virginia, Pennsylvania are three of thirteen of those states. The purpose of this commission was to produce plans for highways, for vocational centers, plans for health centers and to promote industrial development, and the location of plants in the Appalachian states. The Appalachian Regional Commission is a federal body, a federal-state body. The functioning of the commission is half financed by federal funds and half by state funds. The commission's projects are funded largely by federal funds with the states providing matching money. The projects are the result of state plans that are presented to the commission to be reviewed and these state plans become what is called the regional plans for the Appalachian Regional Commission. The Appalachian Regional Commission as I mentioned earlier was founded in 1965. It has been renewed and extended by Congress and has continued to build highways on a large scale—highways that extend into Maryland and across Maryland and West Virginia lines, for example, and this commission is instrumental, and has been instrumental in building approximately a thousand miles of highway in the thirteen Appalachian states.

SD: Dr. Dillon, one hears more now days about federally encouraged multi-jurisdictional agencies. The first question, sir, is what are they, how old are they, why were they born?

Dillon: The term federally encouraged multi-jurisdictional agencies refers to agencies that are comprised of several counties, usually four or five counties and the towns that are within county jurisdictions. These agencies have been encouraged by the federal government in order to do what's called comprehensive planning. The word comprehensive planning refers to planning that is comprehensive in the sense that it takes in a small region--a region for example such as the Washington Metropolitan region.

That region has the Washington Council of Governments, which includes Washington, D.C., the counties of Maryland surrounding Washington and the Virginia counties. This body is a voluntary body which is financed to a large extent by federal funds and which makes certain, attempts to make certain, that projects in sewer, water, transportation are not over-lapping and do not duplicate each other. The Washington Council of Governments gives advice to local governments; it cannot force them since it's a voluntary body, gives advice to local governments on how to improve the environment--air quality control for example. In addition to the voluntary type multi-jurisdictional planning units, there are units that are produced by state legislation. Virginia, for example, has 22 multi-jurisdictional units which cover the state of Virginia. These units have state as well as federal funds, although their principal financing is also from federal funds. In addition to COGs, Councils of Government that are voluntary and state councils of government, the Appalachian Regional Commission has organizations that are multi-jurisdictional which are called local development districts, although they sometimes, their formal titles are like the Western Maryland Council of Governments, which includes Garrett, Allegany, and Washington counties. The Appalachian Regional Commission furnishes funds for projects for these multi-jurisdictional bodies and there are 70 of these in the Appalachian regional states. In addition to the multi-jurisdictional units funded by the Appalachian Regional Commission, the economic development agency under the Department of Commerce has economic development districts which are in areas of high unemployment, largely in rural areas, and these units also plan to improve the economic climate and social conditions. They are directly funded and under the U.S. Department of Commerce, so in each one of these three types, the voluntary councils of government, the Appalachian Regional Commission's local development districts, the economic development districts, and the state organized development districts and planning districts such as those in Virginia. In each of these, the federal government provides the bulk of the funds and encourages these bodies to make use of and develop staffs that have planning capability to help counties and cities plan. In addition to this, the federal government requires that federal projects that are funded for all local government units must be under a procedure called A95 and must be reviewed by the comprehensive multi-jurisdictional unit and forwarded to the state so that everyone is informed of federal projects being funded so there will not be duplication. So, the federal government, the state, and local governments are all involved in these multi-jurisdictional planning units.

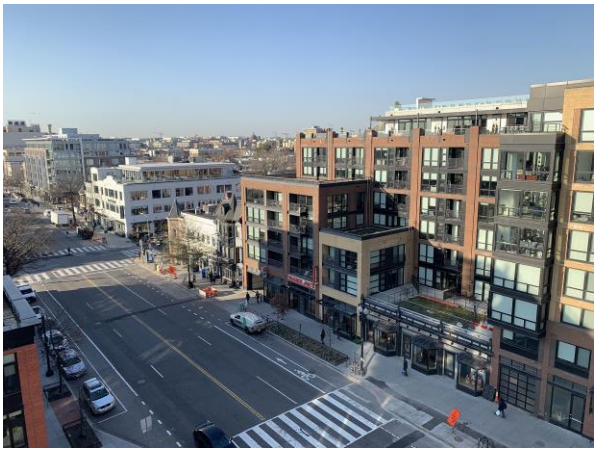


Area covered by the Appalachian Regional Commission

SD: Dr. Dillon, who makes the decisions concerning the multi-jurisdictional agencies, sir?

Dillon: The decisions in multi-jurisdictional agencies are made by a commission or a board. These bodies are composed of at least 51% of elected officials. They are officials that are elected by local governments, like county commissioners or mayors or city councils. In addition to these elected officials, some of these bodies also have citizens representing business, agriculture, labor, and minorities, and together this board or commission, which may have as many as 15 or 20 or even 30 people on it, makes the actual decisions. Now of course, an important component of these bodies that is involved in a decision-making process is the executive director and his staff. The executive director is in charge of the day-to-day operations of these commissions and the staff is comprised of people who may be planning specialists or they may be people who do research that supports planning, or in some instances they are people who have some kind of expertise in areas like health, vocational education, or transportation. After the decisions are made at the multi-jurisdictional level, they are then implemented by the local governments, because these [multi-jurisdictional] bodies do not have the force of general government; they have only advisory authority. However; they can in many instances veto projects the general government, like counties and cities, bring to their attention for review. So, they do have advisory authority plus veto power in some cases.

SD: We in western Maryland, Dr. Dillon, are not too much involved with urban problems but you as a professor of Public Administration at the University of Maryland, no doubt handle studies concerning metropolitan areas. Would you please explain for the class, sir, what is meant by metropolitan government or metro government and how is it working out?


Metropolitan Washington, DC

Dillon: Well, the term metropolitan, of course, is used to refer to an area which is comprised of a central city and a surrounding suburban area whether the population is of several hundred thousand or sometimes several million. Metropolitan governments in the United States in terms of general government are few. There's been great reluctance to develop general purpose regional governments, and we have only a few like Metro in Dade County, Florida, which includes Miami and Miami Beach and other small jurisdictions, and Davidson and Nashville in Tennessee, and more recently Jacksonville and Duval County in Florida, and in the Indianapolis area, the area around Indianapolis. The reason people are reluctant to adopt these forms of government in spite of the fact that most of our metropolitan problems are now regional problems—air pollution, traffic, transportation, sewage disposal, the reason people are reluctant to adopt these forms of government is that they are afraid that regional governments do not give them local representation or local home

rule, and politically it's extremely difficult to get them adopted, and many attempts in numerous areas have resulted in the voters failing to adopt the regional form, so this is one reason that the multi-jurisdictional advisory planning body has multiplied rapidly because this body helps to solve some of the problems that would be solved by the metropolitan original government and that we cannot solve in local jurisdictions like cities and counties.

SD: Our last question or comment here this afternoon class, Dr. Dillon will tell us about the functions of what is known as the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations. Dr. Dillon.

Dillon: The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations was created by Congress in 1958. Its purpose was to do research on problems that cut across federal, state, and local government lines and come up with recommended solutions for solving these problems. The members of this commission represent the federal Executive branch, the Congress, the governors, state legislatures, big cities and counties. They represent the whole spectrum of the federal system. These members select a director, the director selects the staff, the staff studies problems and comes up with recommendations. These recommendations then are distributed to all branches of government and are found in all major libraries. The Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations has provided information that has helped in improving and modernizing local government and has helped states in reorganizing and forming new innovative methods for solving problems.

SD: Dr. Dillon I would like to thank you for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to students at Allegany Community College about regional planning and also about metropolitan government. Once again, thank you sir.

[Editor's note: the Advisory Commission on Intergovernmental Relations was terminated in 1996.]

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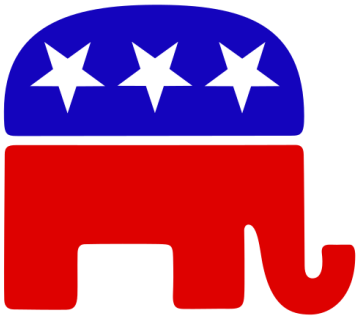
The Republican State Central Committee of Allegany County
Interview with John F. Somerville, Jr.
Interviewed By Stanley J. Dougan
Summer 1974

SD: Good morning class. I have John Somerville with me here this morning, the Chairman of the Republican State Central Committee of Allegany County. Mr. Somerville is a graduate of the University of Michigan Law School, is a former President of the Bel Air Council, and is now engaged in the practice of law. Mr. Somerville, would you please explain how members of the Republican State Central Committee of Allegany County reach office? That is, are they appointed or are they elected to office, sir?

Somerville: There are two ways in which they may reach office. The primary way, and preferred way, is according to the Code of Maryland Article 33, which provides for the creation and existence and election of the State Central Committee of Allegany County, and the Code provides that seven members shall be elected. It's interesting to note that in the event no woman is elected to the committee, then in such a case an eighth member is elected by the committee itself who does not vote. So, you have seven elected members for the committee and an eighth member in case no woman has been elected who does not vote. In addition, it is important to note that the members are elected only at primary elections, not at general elections. So, in the primaries the State Central Committees, both Republican and Democratic are elected; finally, since there is no primary for State Central Committee candidates. The second way you can get on the Committee is after the election if there is a vacancy created by death, resignation, or some other disability, then the committee itself, by a majority of votes, elects a person to fill out the unexpired term of a person who is unable to serve.

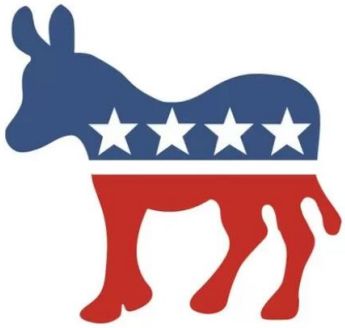


SD: What are some of the functions of the committee? For example, does the committee make recommendations to the Governor concerning nominees for public office?

Somerville: Well, by the Code and by practice itself, the committee is the governing body of the Republican Party in the county, and in the Constitution of the Republican party of the State of Maryland, it specifically lays out some duties. In addition to being the regulatory and governing body of the Republican Party, it's empowered to set its own rules and procedures and all other organizations and committees formed for the purpose of promoting the Republican Party in the county are subservient to, and must be authorized by, the State Central Committee. The committee also has the duty of providing for the holding of meetings, to supervise registration of voters in the county, and to generally do such things as will tend to strengthen the Republican Party in the respective counties.

SD: Who fills vacancies on the committee, sir?

Somerville: As indicated previously, the committee itself fills the vacancy on the committee between elections.



SD: What relationship does the Allegany County State Central Committee have with the Maryland State Central Committee? That is, do you merely offer advice or do you have a say in the policies of the party statewide?

Somerville: No. By the Constitution the Republican Party in Maryland and by the Code of Maryland, the State Central Committee members, the chairman of each State Central Committee in each county is automatically a member of the State Central Committee, and the State Central Committee is always requesting advice, guidance, and financial assistance, I might add, from the local county party organization. So, you do take an active part.

SD: Is the position of committee member often a stepping stone to another political office?

Somerville: In the Democratic Party it is almost the only way. In the Republican Party, by a local rule adopted by the State Central Committee, no committee member can be appointed to any political office during his term of office. It used to be a stepping stone, now it's a dead end.

SD: How is the chairmanship of your committee decided, sir?

Somerville: It is by election of the members of the committee at the first meeting after the primary election.

SD: Are members paid a salary, given expense money?

Somerville: They are getting no expense money, and no salary. It is generally a very thankless and unpaid job.

SD: Mr. Somerville, I teach a course in American political parties here at the College and one of the first questions I usually get from the students is 'Why are so many people politically apathetic, Mr. Dougan?' How would you answer that one, sir?

Somerville: Well, I believe people feel that politics and the government is beyond their control. It's gone far past the true democracy that's still enjoyed in some New England towns. The society is so complex and politics so involved, that people don't feel they’re a part of it. I think that's the cause of the apathy.

SD: You hear about the county committee but are there any local municipal committees in the area, sir?

Somerville: None at all. There is no provision for them legally and no activities.

SD: What role does your committee play in raising funds for the party?

Somerville: The State Central Committee is the only organization that's authorized to raise funds for the Republican Party and anyone raising money for the party must get the approval of the State Central Committee. Locally, we raise from five to forty thousand dollars in most campaigns in the county.

SD: What are some of the benefits of political involvement? For example, in education I get a great deal of satisfaction out of advising students on future careers. What about the field of politics, sir?

Somerville: Well, it gives you a true education in seeing the depths, and the bitterness, and the dregs of humanity. You see all kinds of greed, avarice, and sometimes kindness and self-sacrifice, but not too much of the latter. It really gives you an open window on human nature.

SD: Not too long ago, Ralph Nader came out and advocated compulsory voting in the United States. I guess it was last year a newspaper in New Hampshire, published the names of non-voters in the paper. Do you have an opinion on compulsory voting, Mr. Somerville?

Somerville: It would be my feeling that anything to get people to exercise their franchise would be desirable even if its compulsory. Usually, you can only make two choices so there is only a 50% chance of going wrong, and I think anything to get voters out is desirable.

SD: By what procedure or procedures does a person get his name on a ballot here in the county? For example, is it possible to get one's name on the ballot by a write-in procedure?

Somerville: There is a write-in procedure; it's extremely complicated and not desirable. The common way of getting on the ballot is by filing a petition with the registration board. That is the Board of Election Supervisors, paying a small fee and having your name enrolled in that manner, then running in the primary and hopefully getting elected to go on to the general election.

SD: Do Republicans still hold a lead in membership among parties here in the county, sir?

Somerville: Yes, although it is a very sad commentary on something here. About ten years ago the Republicans had a 10,000 majority and have had at different times as high as 13,000 to 14,000 majority over Democrats in Allegany County. The lead has gradually been reduced by attrition, by new voters, primarily young people coming in. I like to think they're misguided, but they may not be, but the young people are registering Democratic, locally about six to seven. Nationally, it has been as high as forty to one. Locally the difference now is about 1800 votes plurality in favor of the Republicans, so it's really a very close election now.

SD: Hugh Bone, in his basic text of American parties writes, “In some states, the county chairman is a powerful figure but in other states he is a figurehead.” What about Allegany County, sir?

Somerville: I think it depends entirely upon the ability and ambition of the chairman. We're severely restricted here in Allegany County, or I am at least, as Republican Party Chairman, because our patronage, our power and influence come from the governor or the governor's appointments, and the Governor is a Democrat and very few Republicans are able to get appointments. So, if we had a Republican Governor, it would be a very powerful job. As it is now, it’s only half as influential as it might be.

SD: Does Allegany County have a Young Republican Club?

Somerville: Yes, it has teenage Republicans and a young Republican club and at different times there have been other youth organizations. They have, and still do, operate fairly effectively. We have one at Allegany Community College and one at Frostburg State Teachers College.

SD: Is your committee allowed to take sides in direct primaries by making pre-primary endorsements of candidates?

Somerville: There is no law against it, but it is an unwritten law of the State Central Committee itself that no active party preferences or solicitation of voters will be made in a primary election by the official party government, which is the State Central Committee. The reason being that every man is more or less for himself in the primary and the function of the State Central Committee is to get the candidates elected in the primaries elected in the general election and not to create enmity or show preference in the primary.

SD: Why do you think it is that women's organizations have sprung up more commonly in the Republican than in the Democratic Party?

Somerville: Well, my theory is that Republicans are generally more affluent and more educated. The women have more leisure time and have tended towards club activities more.

SD: Thank you, Mr. Somerville, for taking time from your busy schedule to talk to the students of Allegany Community College about the local Republican State Central Committee of Allegany County.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Maryland flag
https://pxhere.com/en/photo/537222

S.T. Little Jewelry Company

Interview with Robert Little Ebert
Patty Kaye Greene and Robin Hodgdon, interviewers

This is an interview with Mr. Ebert, president of S.T. Little Jewelry Co. His residence is 826 Mt. Royal Ave. His birthplace was Parkersburg, West Virginia. Today is November 17, 1978.
Mr. Ebert, my first question to you would be how did the S.T. Little Jewelry store get started?

Ebert: It was started by my great-grandfather, Samuel T. Little, who came to Cumberland from Martinsburg. He came here as a watchmaker working for someone else who had a jewelry store, and some four years later he branched out and started his own business, in 1851.

Samuel T. Little

PG: Who was the founder of S.T. Little's?

Ebert: Samuel Trawin Little.

PG: Has the store always been located here?

Store that was on the east end of Baltimore St.

Ebert: It's always been on Baltimore St. From 1851 to around the 1870s, I guess, some time, it was at the end of Baltimore St., close to Wills Creek—now a vacant lot. And then they built a building on the other end of Baltimore St., which is about the location of where the Liberty Trust Co. drive-in bank is, right opposite the Burton building. We've been here, in this present location, since 1904.

PG: What was the history of the building before you moved in, do you know?

Ebert: This building was built by the S.T. Little Jewelry Co. We've been occupying the building ever since we built it. At the start we had just the store on the ground floor, and they had offices and I think the Shriners' on the third floor, when we first built the building.

PG: Do you plan to remain in this location?

Ebert: Yes, we have no plans to move.

PG: How has the style of jewelry changed over the years?

Vintage pocket watch and 1970s digital watch

Ebert: Well, I don't know that a mere man can answer that question too well; of course, there's been many changes in styles in a hundred and twenty-seven years, I feel sure. Like going from pocket watches to wristwatches, then computer watches, digital watches, and all that sort of thing. Of course, here's where our ladies are all aware that there have been changes in jewelry styles over the years….I don't know that I can really intelligently answer that question!

PG: That's fine. Have the prices changed?

Ebert: Oh yes, definitely, prices have changed. In this particular day and age that we're now living in diamond prices are definitely higher than they have ever been in history; and I presume that same thing holds true for most of the merchandise that we carry. Sterling silver is higher priced than it was even a few years ago, gold of course is at higher prices than it was just a few years ago, and precious stones of all kinds are at higher prices than they were just a few years ago.

Location of former S.T. Little Jewelry Store at 113 Baltimore St.

PG: I know the value of the dollar is questionable; do you see the problem affecting S.T. Little's?

Ebert: No, except that we're all in the same boat of what's happening to the American dollar, and what's happening to its purchasing power. It is true that business continues to be good, and we're very pleased with that, but as to what the future's going to hold, why, none of us knows. We hope that inflation doesn't eat us all [laughs].

PG: Well, what type of jewelry tends to sell best?

Ebert: Diamond jewelry is still quite in demand. I would say that our diamond business is very, very strong, despite the fact that diamond prices are quite high. We're finding that there's also more of a trend to *better* things. We used to sell quite a lot of very low-priced *costume* jewelry; we have found that more and more we're selling better-quality merchandise. And we find that quality items have more appeal in the long run—give more satisfaction.

PG: Can you explain your family's choice of jewelry as a business?

Ebert: No, I really don't know how that happened excepting that S.T. Little was a watchmaker by trade, and of course that is kind of very much aligned with the jewelry business. My grandfather, his son, came into the business as a very young man; it was

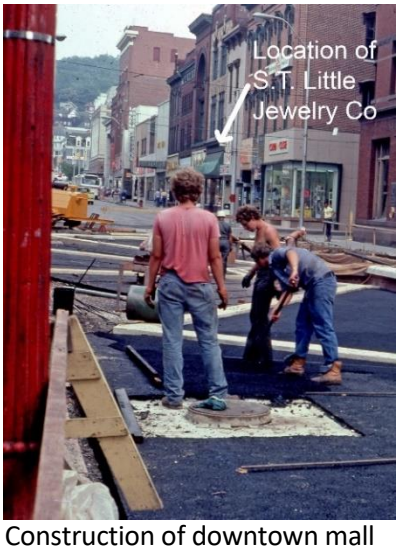
the only job he had his entire lifetime. And he had no sons, but my mother came in late in the game to kind of help save the business, and when World War II came and went, why, it was determined that somebody had to come and join the family business or we're going to have to either close it or sell it. So that's when the decision was made by me to come to Cumberland…[tape stops, resumes]

PG: How has the store expanded into other areas?

Ebert: Back in the early days, we had a store at one time in Brunswick, MD; we had a store at one time in Romney, WV; we had a branch store in South Cumberland—and we have heard tell that there for a brief time must have been some kind of a store operated by us in either Thomas or Davis, WV. But those were all many years ago and we've been just a single store operation for, oh, the past fifty years at least—and that's all we plan to have.

PG: What effects did the downtown mall have on S.T. Little's?

Ebert: We're very interested in the downtown mall. Personally, I'm chairman of the Downtown Development Commission; it is a group that is promoting the mall, building the mall, as you know we are financing the building of the mall by a special taxing district of which we are a part. We're quite excited about what the mall is going to do for us in downtown Cumberland.



Construction of downtown mall

PG: That's good! Can you remember any of the prices that started out?

Ebert: No, I'm afraid I can't tell you. We do have some old advertising that might mention some prices way back when; obviously, they were ridiculously low by comparison to today's prices, but I really can't give you any specifics.

PG: Ok. What changes have been made in the store by yourself?

Ebert: Well, in the not-too-distant past we completely carpeted the gift floor, on the second floor, and the main selling floor here on the first floor. We have put a canopy out front. We have tried our best to maintain the original architecture of the building—we think that it's a very nicely designed building with a nicely designed front; we cleaned the smoke dirt off the front after the railroad stopped using steam engines—it was coal-black--so we cleaned off our beautiful sandstone out front, and we found out we had a different color building than we thought we did! But mainly what we are really trying to do is to just maintain the image that we have; we're not trying to modernize and to change things around to any great extent. We did put an island in the center of the store so people can walk all around and see into our wall cases, as well as into our

Interior of S.T. Little Jewelry Company (photo courtesy of Albert and Angela Feldstein)

showcases in the center of the store—that's a change that we made the same time that we did the carpeting.

PG: How did the S.T. Little Store become such a quality store?

Ebert: Well, I guess we can thank our forebears for that. We've been here over a hundred and twenty-five years—a hundred and twenty-eight years to be exact—and we have a very enviable reputation that we've inherited; our mission in life is to try to live up to that reputation. We just feel very fortunate that the shoppers in the entire tri-state area look to us as a quality store--and we're constantly striving to improve that image, and be more quality all the time. It's something that was started by my great-grandfather and grandfather, I guess, and something that we're just trying to carry on.

PG: How about your employees—who were some of your employees?

S. T. Little Jewelry Co.
CUMBERLAND, MARYLAND

Ebert: Well, we think we have a great staff. Some of them have been with us many, many years. We have approximately twenty regular employees on our staff, all the way from a fine jeweler, a fine watchmaker—Bill Montgomery is our jeweler, Bill Evans is our watchmaker. Bill Evans, the watchmaker, succeeded *his* father: his father was a watchmaker here before him. Bill and his dad both worked for us at the same time until his father retired. And this is basically the only job that Bill Evans has had all his life, as a watchmaker in our shop. Bill Montgomery is an accomplished jeweler who has been with us about close on to fifteen years, he comes from Johnstown, PA. We have our second-floor manager, Mr. Dishong, who's been with us some twenty years or more; our assistant manager here on the first floor is our certified gemologist, does practically all of our appraisal work for selling estates and insurance purposes, Mr. Herman Grabenstein. These are people who have been with us a quarter of a century or more. We even have several employees who were here as young people, married, raised a family and have come back. We think we've got a great staff, we're very pleased with them.

PG: To conclude our interview, Mr. Ebert, could you tell me what you see in the future for S.T. Little's?

Ebert: Well, we are looking forward to many years of a very thriving business in downtown Cumberland. We think that we've got a lot going for us—we're the oldest store in town of any kind; oldest store anywhere in this whole area, as far as that's

concerned. And of course I won't live to see it, but I'm sure that the store can continue another hundred and twenty-eight years.

PG: Thank you, I really enjoyed this.

Ebert: Thank *you*.

PG: This oral history project was conducted at S.T. Little's on Baltimore St. by Mr. Ebert. The interview took place in the diamond room at S.T. Little's.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Robert Little Ebert
Cumberland News, 1960

Samuel T. Little
The Evening Times, 1916

Old Store on Baltimore St
City of Cumberland, MD, Herman and Stacia Miller Collection

Vintage Pocket Watch
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Vintage_Waltham_Pocket_Watch,_Model_1908,_Hunter_Case,_Size_16,_21_Jewels_(14480222901).jpg
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1970s watch
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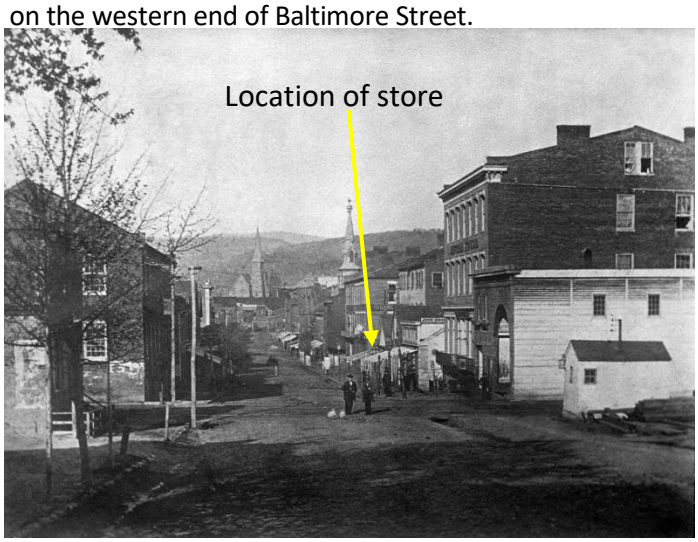
Downtown Mall construction
From gift to the Appalachian Collection from the estate of Vernon Penner.

S.T. Little Company store interior
Courtesy of Albert and Angela Feldstein

Location of the original S.T. Little Jewelry Company located on the western end of Baltimore Street.



Slider School at Town Creek, MD

Interview with Ernest Slider
Interviewed by Timothy Robinette

I'm interviewing Mr. Slider, and I'm interviewing about the Slider School at Town Creek.
Ok, the first question: Mr. Slider, knowing that you attended the schoolhouse, could you tell us where the school is located and who built it?

Slider: It is located on upper Town Creek at the intersection of the Bear Hill and Wagner Rd.

TR: And who built the school?

Slider: Emory S. Hartley, was one of the supervisors, built the school.

TR: Is he the one who constructed it on hisself, or did the other people help him?

Slider: Well, the other people helped him, yeah.

TR: Where did they get the funds? Did they use their own lumber and stuff to build it?

Slider: No, it was constructed with the Board of Education.

TR: Oh, it was? Did they give money to him to construct it?

Slider: Yeah.

TR: Ok. Generally describe the appearance of the school inside and out, and what were some of the facilities?

Slider: Well, it strictly had large outdoor toilets, and in latter years while I was going to school there it had a vestibule built on the front of it.

Example of an old outhouse

TR: What's a "vestibule"?

Slider: A vestibule is a place to take off your clothes--your overshoes, coat, and hat, before you enter the main school; it was only one room. This vestibule made of clothes hooks.

TR: Did you have any desks, or chalkboards, or anything like that?

Slider: Yes, we had chalkboards and double desks.

TR: Double desks? Were they big desks or little desks, or…?

Slider: No. They weren't double desks, now, they were seat desks.

TR: What, the kind they have today in the schools?

Slider: No, they had the ones...two people sit on them and they had a folding seat—when you got up, you raised it up, you know, but then you had a counter-like, and there was a pull-up--there was a box underneath of it, a compartment underneath of it—something like a writing desk.

TR: Like, to put your books and stuff in?

Slider: To put your books and stuff in. And it had an inkwell right in the middle of it, on top.

TR: Ok. What was used for heat—what did you have for heat?

Slider: We had a coal stove, a coal potbelly.

TR: And who provided these materials for you—did the Board of Education provide them for you?

Slider: The Board of Education provided them; and the Board of Education, even on those little schools, had a janitor. He built the fires in the morning, and swept it out--the room.

TR: What were the transportation conditions like; like on a snowy day or something, what did the kids do--did they ride buses, or walk, or what?

Slider: They strictly walked, and they didn't even ride horses.

TR: They didn't.

Slider: They were that close to it that they could walk.

TR: What was the furthest student that lived away—how many miles away was that?

Slider: That was up at Tom Wilson's, which was the old Buser (?) home; and it was about two mile.

TR: Two mile? The teaching methods, what were they like—I mean, what courses did you have, and were there books and stuff like that?

Slider: We had a general course of reading, writing, and arithmetic. And one teacher taught them all.

TR: And did you have books for these courses?

Slider: Yes.

TR: You did. And the Board of Education provided these books too.

Slider: Yes.

TR: And did you have any homework, or anything like that?

Slider: Sometimes—not too much.

TR: Not too much. Wish that's the way it was today! Who were some of the teachers that taught this school through a long period of time—or that you can tell us about?

Slider: Mr. Tom Johnson taught there when I started. And Mrs. Elizabeth Slider taught there when I finished.

TR: And was this teacher the principal of the Slider schoolhouse too?

Slider: Yes.

TR: She was. She laid down the rules?

Slider: She was the only teacher.

TR: How was the teacher paid; like, who paid her—did the Board of Education pay her?

Slider: Board of Education paid her.

TR: Moving on to the grades—how were they set up? Did you have, like, twelve grades, or...?

Slider: We had one to eight.

TR: One to eight? No twelve grades. Well, how was the students set up—did they all learn together?

Slider: Yes, you might say they did. They was all right together in the room, they weren't separated, but they all didn't learn the same thing.

TR: They didn't?

Slider: No, you had your grades in there.

TR: Wasn't that kind of confusing--like, cluttered-up or something?

Slider: Well, it would be but no larger than the school was; it didn't make as much confusion as you'd think.

TR: Ok, while you attended the school, how many students were attending the school at the time that you was there?

Slider: There was about fourteen.

TR: Fourteen? Ok, did most of the students graduate?

Slider: Yep.

TR: They did, they made it clear through eighth grade?

Slider: Yes.

TR: What did most of the graduated students do after they graduated from Slider schoolhouse?

Flintstone School

Slider: They went on to high school at Oldtown and Flintstone.

TR: Oldtown and Flintstone? And that's where they completed their twelfth grade?

Slider: Right.

TR: Who were some of the families that the teachers lived with? Because I read in the article that Nan Jeffries, one of the teachers, lived with a family and she had to fit right in and do chores, and stuff like that.

Slider: The one teacher boarded with the Hartley family—the oldest teacher. The new teacher, when she came, Mrs. Slider, she boarded with Mr. and Mrs. Hanson B. Twigg. Close to the school; they lived right here.

TR: Did she have to wash her own clothes, and stuff like that, or did they do it for her?

Slider: No, she had to wash her own clothes; and she was a two-year—graduated Frostburg State Normal.

Slider School

TR: She was. Ok. Could you describe a typical day at the Slider schoolhouse? Like, when you went into school, what did you do?

Slider: Well, we was in for roll call, and sometimes we would have blackboard assignments, and sometimes we'd have book assignments. And we also studied our arithmetic on the board.

TR: What time did school start and what time did it end?

Slider: It started at nine o'clock in the morning, and ended at four in the evening.

TR: How many days a week did you go—did you go the five days a week?

Slider: Five full days a week.

TR: Would you get in much trouble or anything if, you know, you didn't go to school—like, say, you had to stay home on the farm or something and help—would you get in much trouble, or anything like that?

Slider: Yes. You had to have a valid excuse. And your parents had to sign it.

TR: Was many of the kids sick back when you attended school?

Slider: A good bit.

TR: A good bit? That's what I figured.
Ok. If you don't have any more comments, I would like to know who owns the school now, and is it being restored for past history?

Slider: It is owned now by Ronnie Slider, and he's restoring it. I mean, he's keeping it painted, and whatnot, but it's being used now as a summer camp.

TR: Ok. Do you have any more comments that you'd like to say about the schoolhouse?

Slider: Well, I don't know as I have.

TR: Ok, if that's all you've got to say. Thank you very much.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Outhouse
Lee, R., photographer. (1937) Buckboard Charlie's outhouse. Near Iron River, Michigan. Gogebic County Iron River Michigan United States, 1937. Apr. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2017763867/.

One room schoolhouse
https://pixabay.com/photos/steinbach-mennonite-heritage-village-56641/
Image by Brigitte Werner from Pixabay

One room schoolhouse
https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Strawberry_Schoolhouse_Interior.jpg
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St. Ambrose Catholic Church, Cresaptown, MD

Today I'm going to interview Mrs. Cecelia Lauterbach; the interview will take place in the home of Mrs. Lauterbach at 14922 Winchester Rd., Cresaptown, MD. She was born in Pittsburgh, PA on October 20, 1898, and she is retired. The interview is about the history of St. Ambrose Church in Cresaptown. My name is Karen Laco, and the date is November 26, 1978.
Could you give me a brief history of St. Ambrose Church?

Lauterbach: Yes, I could give you part of it. Before St. Ambrose Church was built in Cresaptown, in 1886, they conducted Mass at the home of Mr. and Mrs. Martin D. Burns. The latter was the sister of JB—John B. Gunning, who had moved to the area in 1882.

KL: What were some of the first families attending?

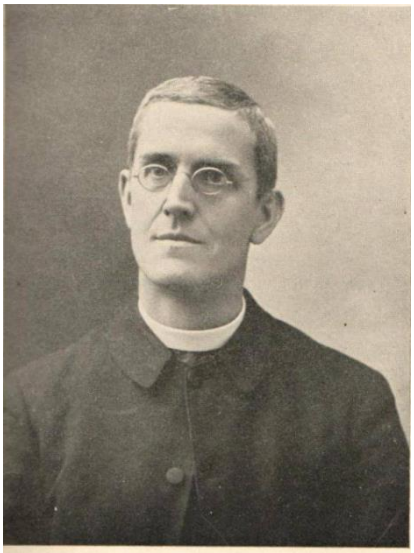
Lauterbach: Among the families found in the original congregation are the Gunnings, the Doerners, the Miltenbergers, the Riders, the Snyders, the Bartons, the Martzes, the Vockes, the Hemmings, Burns, McKenzies, the Borgmans, Kings, Rohmans, the McGettigans, and Duffy.

KL: Do you think the membership has increased since the first building was...?

Lauterbach: Three times.

KL: When was this first church built?

Lauterbach: In 1882, according to Fr. Thomas J. Stanton's *The History of the Church in Western Maryland,* the church in Cresaptown owed its existence to Rev. Edward J. Wunder, while he was assistant pastor at St. Patrick's, Cumberland. Fr. Wunder was the director and builder of St. Ambrose, and organized the parish.



VERY REV. E. J. WUNDER.

KL: Is there any particular reason why this spot was chosen to build on?

Lauterbach: Not that I know of.

KL: How was the name of St. Ambrose chosen, do you know?

Lauterbach: I couldn't say.

KL: How has the church changed since the second church has been built?

Lauterbach: It's changed a lot: there's more people—more families—and more activities--more clubs.

KL: Such as--what are some of the clubs?

Lauterbach: The Ladies' Club, that's the only club that I know of. The Christian Mothers. That's the only two that I know of.

KL: What do they do for the church, these clubs?

Lauterbach: The Christian Mothers does just the prayers; and the Ladies' Club, they have dinners, and they have bazaars, and things like that. And then donate the money to the church.

KL: Does this help the community in any way—do they help the community?

Lauterbach: Yes, they take care of the poor too.

KL: What about the bazaar—how has that changed since it first started?

Lauterbach: Well, they never had one at the old church, but they do at the new. But it has changed a lot. They serve quite a few dinners, and sell quite a bit of fancy work and things; and it's all hand made.

KL: How did it first originate—who first started the bazaar?

Lauterbach: Father Carroll, he was the first one to have the first dinner over there in the new church.

KL: And how has it grown—just more people participating in everything? You always get a good crowd over there, don't you?

Lauterbach: Yes, they do, they serve—this year they served, I think, over…nearly a thousand dinners.

KL: Yeah, that's a pretty crowd over there. What kind of activities are over at the bazaar for fundraising, besides serving dinner?

Lauterbach: Well, they sell chances on different things, on turkeys, and raffle things that the ladies have made, such as (afghans) and different things; and then they sell houseplants....

KL: Has the number of people attending services increased or decreased?

Lauterbach: Increased.

KL: Has the services changed in any way do you think, that would attract more people?

Lauterbach: No, I don't think—just more families moving in; some moves in and some moves out, but for what moves out there's always some moves back.

KL: What about the CCD (Confraternity of Christian Doctrine) program? I know they used to have nuns, they used to teach.

Classroom area of St. Ambrose in 2024. The church closed in 2019. It is now being used as a daycare center (2024).

Lauterbach: Yeah, they used to come in from St. Peter. When they first started, they used to come every Sunday; a man used to go after them--he would go to St. Mary's and bring them up, the sisters from St. Mary's. Then after Father Carroll came, they started to have their own, you know, and they came out from St. Pete's then. And they came up here and they taught on either Saturday or Sunday, mostly Sunday.

KL: Has their method of teaching changed since...?

Lauterbach: Yes, much.

KL: In what way?

Lauterbach: Well, they have a class every Sunday; I think they have special teachers for each grade. And then they have a mini-Bible class, and they have teachers for that. Then the high school comes on Wednesdays, Wednesday evenings, so I think they have pretty good....

KL: Do you think they teach in a different way?

Lauterbach: Yes, much.

KL: In what way?

Lauterbach: Well, they have certain books that they...

KL: Do you think this way is better or do you think it's...?

Lauterbach: Well, it's...I imagine it is, because, you know, they get the children—they come, I think, from nine o'clock Mass, then they go from ten o'clock 'til eleven—so I

think they're getting a pretty good education in religion that way.

KL: What about, you know, do you think it's a better way of teaching since the younger ones are getting involved instead of the nuns that used to teach—do you thing that's a good idea?

Lauterbach: Well...I think the children respect the nuns more than they do the lay teachers.

KL: But don't you think they could relate to them?

Lauterbach: Oh yes, they can relate to them--just the same as the sisters.

KL: Do you remember when they had the summer school over there?

Lauterbach: Yes, they used to have the summer school, and they had the school over here at Cresaptown; Father Carroll got, I think, two rooms, and the sisters taught there. And they learned quite a bit over there.

KL: Why was that discontinued?

Lauterbach: Well, then they started on Sundays. See, they took two weeks over here at the school, and then after the two weeks was up, why, then they had their picnic, and had a little time. But now they have it every Sunday, you know, and that way it gives them more, I think, that they don't forget. They only had it, like, a good session for two weeks, but this way they have it for fifty-two weeks.

KL: We were talking about the clubs before, earlier; and I'd like to know who supports these clubs—you know, who gives them moral support, and who gives money.

Lauterbach: The outside people—the parish. They come to the....And then they have card parties; what they sell at the card parties, why, then they give the donation to the church.

KL: What do you think the relationship of St. Ambrose is to the community—do you think that it benefits the community?

Lauterbach: Yes, it does. If they know of any poor family, they always see that they have something to eat, or clothing. And there are several in our own parish that need their support.

KL: Do they still have their basketball teams?

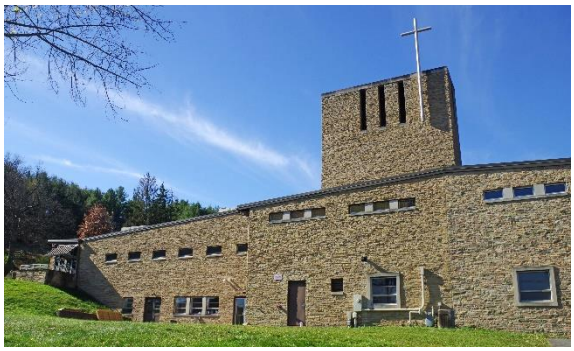
Lauterbach: No. Although before the old church was torn down, they used to practice over there at the old church, and they had the basketball team there. But that was different people, you know, for basketball. Then after Father Wendel came, he stopped it. The basketball season, the whole practice time and all, until the golden ball come out, they'd make as high as, for their session, they'd make pretty near a thousand dollars. Course the [unclear] came out of that too, but what was taken in was pretty near nine hundred and some dollars.

KL: Are there any other clubs for the young people in the church?

Lauterbach: No, not that I know of. They used to have what they called the "Stambro" Club for the boys, but then that broke up when they did away with the old church, where they had their recreation. That's what they started, the Stambro Club.

KL: What does "Stambro"—what is that named for?

Lauterbach: Well, it's partly for "St. Ambrose"—they cut it down to Stambro for St. Ambrose.



KL: Oh, I see. Do you know of any future plans for the church—do they think they're going to be adding on to the new building here?

Lauterbach: I don't think...not that I know of. They need more classrooms; they have the basement—downstairs—divided up in grades, like first and second and I think the third and fourth, I'm not sure. I think that's what they have. Then I think that some of the school classes go over to the rectory building, now whether that's the high school or the eighth grade, I don't know.

KL: What else is that building used for, besides...?

Lauterbach: They have meeting rooms for the men's, you know the....and of course they have the Knights of Columbus over there.

KL: What do they do for the church?

Lauterbach: Well, they have Bingo, and they give part of their money to the church.

KL: Is that their only way of fundraising?

Lauterbach: Yes. Bingo, and then the bazaar...and the card parties—that's all. Then, of course, the ladies club, they sell their stuff; whatever they make, they sell: crochet work, handmade pillow slips, and things like that.

KL: They do that all year round, don't they, at the bazaar?

Lauterbach: Yes, and they make more different kinds of stuff—you know, they ask the people, and they do that chromatic work, or what-do-you call it. This kind of work (indicates something)—ceramic. They sell a lot of that.

KL: Do a lot of people from—not only the people who attend our church, but outsiders—do they contribute? Do they donate things to the bazaar?

Lauterbach: No...well, sometimes they do, I think. But as far as I know—I haven't participated too much lately.

KL: That's the busiest time of the year over here, isn't it—that's the most important thing.

Lauterbach: Outside they used to ask for donations, you know—like, they'd go around to the stores when we first started; they went around to the stores and they got donations like cabbage, and coffee, and butter, and stuff like that.

KL: What about the priests over at our church, do you remember any of the first priests...?

Lauterbach: The first priests? Well, when I come down here in '33, Father Alvin was here; he came July, 1933, and he was here 'til September, 1936. And then the next one that came was Father Bonovich (?)—he was vicar. He came in July, '36 and he was here 'til '37. And then Rev. Michael Neff, he came July, 1937 to July, 1939. Reverend Alvin Werth was here from July, 1939 to '47. And then Reverend Cletus (Blockinger), he was here from '47 to 1951. And then Reverend Rauwolf, he was here from '51 to '52, July—just one year. Reverend Carroll Warner was here from July, '52; and he was here sixteen years.

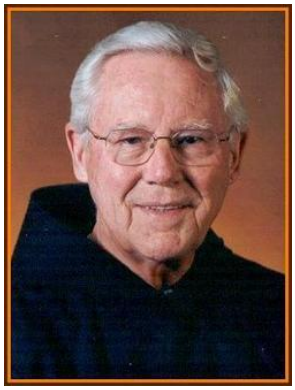
KL: That's Father Carroll.

Lauterbach: Uh huh, Father Carroll was here sixteen years—it was almost seventeen, it was May. And then Father...(long pause)....

KL: Father DeSales?

Lauterbach: Father DeSales (Young), he was here three years. And Father Wendel (Moliski) came, and he was here three years, going on four. Now Father Francis (Roscetti) is there.

KL: So, Father Carroll was here the longest, wasn't he; he was one of the first priests to the new church?



Fr. DeSales Young. He returned to Cumberland in 1988 and served until 1995.

Lauterbach: Yes, he was the one that put the new church up.

KL: Why did they feel that they had a need for a new church?

Lauterbach: Well, the old church wasn't big enough; and they only had two masses--all the people couldn't get in. I think it held two hundred, or a hundred, in the church.

KL: Yeah, that was...I remember, it was pretty small. I guess the membership got...

Lauterbach: Yes, it was quite small. But it was, I don't know, it was a loving church: you just felt like when you went in there you was going to heaven. I don't know why.

KL: 'Cause it was so small, and everybody knew each other....

Lauterbach: Everybody knowd everybody. Now this church, nobody hardly knows anybody; they come and go. There's hardly any of the old ones left. I guess there's about twenty families of the real old ones.

KL: Do you think our church is planning any new clubs, or any...?

Lauterbach: I don't know, I couldn't say. You never know what...

KL: It would be nice if they had something for the younger kids, I'd like to see that.

Lauterbach: That's right. If they had like a club for the young ones, you know, and then let them have dances, and have them supervised. You know what I mean?

KL: Uh huh. It might make them more enthusiastic to come to our church, so their parents drive them there....

Lauterbach: That's right.

KL: We were discussing earlier about the mini Bible; what do you think about that—the preschool children learning?

Lauterbach: Well, I think it's a very good idea—drum something into their heads. Because the smaller a child is, about their religion, I think, what kind of religion it is, it sticks with them. And if there was more religion today, in schools and in the churches, and not this carrying-on that they do, there'd be a better world.

KL: Well, that's all the questions I have here. Is there anything else that you would like to add?

Lauterbach: Not that I know of. That'd be the only thing that I have to say: that I really do think if they had something that was supervised over there for the children, and had

it once a week—or maybe twice a week—why, they'd keep them off the streets. You keep them out of mischief, right?

KL: I agree. Well, thank you very much for your time that you spent with me.

Lauterbach: You're welcome.

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State's Attorney in Maryland
Interview with MR. LAWRENCE KELLY
June, 1974 Cumberland, Maryland
Interviewed by Mr. Stanley J. Dougan for
The Oral History Collection, Allegany Community College
Local History Program Cumberland, Maryland

SD: Mr. Lawrence Kelly is here this morning to talk to us about the State's Attorney Office in the State of Maryland and more particularly in Allegany County. Mr. Kelly has a very good background to be in a position to talk to us this morning. He has a bachelor's degree from Gettysburg College with a history major, and he has a law degree from the University of Maryland; actually, a juris doctorate degree. He has served as a bailiff, law clerk to Judge of the Supreme Bench in Baltimore from 1967 to 1971. In 1971, he was involved and engaged in the private practice of law; 1972, he was appointed Deputy State's Attorney. And on January 2, 1974, Mr. Kelly was sworn in as State's Attorney for Allegany County in Cumberland, and in November faces a challenge in the person of John Sullivan, who is challenging Mr. Kelly for the office of State's Attorney.

Mr. Kelly, would you please explain the details of the new drinking age requirements here in Maryland?

Basically, what has been done in Maryland is the same situation as now applies in DC and West Virginia, and that is that persons over the age of 18 will be allowed to drink beer and light wine. The primary difficulty I see in the new law is the problem of identification which has been a problem in the past. West Virginia, Pennsylvania, I believe, and DC all have liquor cards which contain photographs. Hopefully, Maryland will adopt a similar procedure in the near future to make it easier for the person who is selling liquor to distinguish between those who are the age and those who are not.

SD: The district or state's attorney in most states is a locally elected official. What about Allegany County?

Kelly: That's correct. It is in Maryland, too, at this time. There's been a great deal of discussion about changing the system of prosecutors in Maryland. We're are still operating as we have for the last hundred and some years, that is, the prosecutor is appointed by the court and elected by the voters in a general election every four years.

SD: Would you please explain the organizational structure of your department? For example, is your position full-time? Do you have an assistant? Are you permitted to practice law?

Kelly: At this time, my position, that is, the State's Attorney, is a part-time position. In my office, I have two other attorneys, Mr. Hamilton and Mr. Burkey, the Deputy and Assistant State's Attorney. Both of these gentlemen are also part-time as compared to

full-time. In addition, the office is completed by having the County Investigator and Assistant County Investigator and two secretaries. I am allowed to engage in the private practice of law. However, it has been my experience that I have very little time to devote to those type of things in as much as the responsibilities of the office absorbs the vast majority of my time. I believe that this is true of my two assistants as well. This situation will be rectified after the election in November, in as much as the legislature has passed, the governor has signed, and the county commissioners have funded my position, that is, the State's Attorney's job only, as a full-time job beginning January 1, 1975. I believe that this was a badly needed reform. I was glad to see it, and I think that it will lead to greater efficiency in the prosecution of criminal matters in Allegany County.

SD: Do you prosecute cases in both the Circuit and District courts?

Kelly: I do not. Basically, the arrangement is that I handle all the Circuit Court or felony cases, Mr. Burkey handles all the District Court, and Mr. Hamilton handles Juvenile Court, handles all drug or controlled dangerous substance violations, and assists Mr. Burkey and myself where necessary. In addition, as a matter of experience and training, I do, on each felony case that I prepare for trial in Circuit Court, I always have either Mr. Burkey or Mr. Hamilton assisting me. I believe that this is valuable experience to them and certainly is helpful to me.

SD: A public defender's system was recently established in the state of Maryland. Will you please tell us something about the Maryland's Public Defender system?

Kelly: Maryland's Public Defender system is basically a state-wide system and is supported by the state, that is, the salaries are paid by the state as compared to my office, where the salaries are paid and the expenses are paid by the county. Essentially, what it involves is there is one public defender for the whole state. He then appoints a deputy or assistant public defenders for each of the areas. In Allegany County, it is part of one district, which is the same as the district court, it's the 12th district. Mr. Paul Stakem is the public defender for both Allegany and for Garrett Counties. Now, obviously, there would be too much work for one individual to handle. Also, these jobs are part-time, that is, the assistant or the deputy public defenders are part-time positions. Therefore, we have what is known as a panel of attorneys. What this consists of is those individuals with experience in the criminal area submit their names to a panel. Mr. Stakem may then appoint in individual cases, attorneys who will be compensated then by the state of Maryland. I think that the public defender's system points out another inadequacy in our criminal justice system, and that is this: That since 1970 or the late 1960's the criminal justice system has been revamped in the sense that now all the courts are state supported. The Public Defender or the defense part of the equation is supported by the state and yet the state's attorney offices are still locally supported. I believe that this is a situation that cannot continue to exist, and I believe

that within the next three or four years, we are going to see reform in this area and we are going to see state support of the prosecutor's office. I think that this quite appropriate, I know this and my personal experience has been that occasionally you'll run into cases that we simply don't have the resources to pursue. Now we have to in any event, the most recent example would be the situation involving the "All Day Murders." That is, four individuals who kidnapped a young man in Pennsylvania, brought him into this state and allegedly killed him here. They then went into Georgia and committed multiple crimes there. We had a difficulty operating between states with prosecution. It became apparent to me that Allegany County was going to have to bear the burden of this prosecution, and I talked to other prosecutors in other areas that have these other multi-state prosecutions, and in Maryland there are simply no way we can get the resources. That is, at that time I had this case, I went to the Attorney General of Maryland, I went to the Governor's Commission on Law Enforcement, I went to everybody who could occur to me to attempt to get assistance for us in the prosecution in this case, and I was told in every instance that there was no resources available. And that if we wanted to pursue the case it would have to be done at the expense of the county rather than having any of the state resources allocated to us.

SD: What is the function of the Grand Jury? What is meant by the charge to the Grand Jury?

Kelly: The charge to the Grand Jury is basically instructions given to the Grand Jury at the first day of its meeting by the one of the judges of the Circuit Court. Basically, it outlines what their duties and responsibilities are, how they are to proceed, and it is an organizational type of instruction. The Grand Jury's function in Maryland is to indict in felony cases, this is, serious criminal cases. It comes from common law, and basically it is seen as a protection between the individual and the state. That is, it requires that a body of 23 people from the county, must determine whether or not there is a criminal violation before charges can be placed. Now as a practical matter, in Allegany County and in the other small areas (and in the urban areas they have grand juries that sit constantly, that is, a year around basis, daily basis), in Allegany County our Grand Jury only meets for two weeks a year, one week in October and one week in April. Now my experience has been that this isn't a particularly efficient way of proceeding for this reason: if a crime is committed immediately after the Grand Jury meets in April, for example, we technically could not indict that person or charge him for a period of six months. This leads, obviously, to great delays which is to be neither in the interest of the defendant or the state. Basically, this has been answered or reformed by the passing of a law that allows my office to file criminal information after an individual has been granted a preliminary hearing in district court. The whole purpose in this, was to reduce the backlog that the Grand Jury had created in some areas. It is very helpful for us so that now we can operate on year-

round basis, that is, by simply granting a person a preliminary hearing, which means, that we must go into a court of law and show that we have probable cause to charge. We can then file the charges. The only distinction is in the formal wording of the charges; it makes no difference whether you're charged by information or indictment. The only difference is that the beginning of an information it says "Lawrence Kelly State's Attorney does present…," and then lists the criminal activity. Whereas, a Grand Jury indictment says that "Grand Jury inquest, State of Maryland, Allegany County does present, on their oath," etc.

SD: Speaking of cases, what types of criminal cases are normally tried in juries here in Maryland?

Kelly: Basically, we do try most of our cases in front of the court with the exception of serious felony cases. My experience has been in Allegany County that if a defendant is charged with felonies in the Circuit Court, normally they either plead guilty or take jury trial. That is, we have very few court trails. This is unlike the Baltimore experience where until very recently the vast majority of the cases were disposed of by the court. The problem with jury trials are that they are time consuming. That is, it would normally take 25 percent longer as of practical matter to try a case before a jury as compared before the court. This is because of opening statements, because the attorneys, I think, become more concerned about the developing of every detail before a jury so that they may understand the situation. Whereas, a court with this experience isn't quite as necessary. My experience has basically been that most persons choose juries, when for this reason too, that normally where one could always be expected, on a certain set facts, to be convicted by the court with its knowledge of criminal law etc., that there is always the hope in the hearts and minds of the defendants that they can confuse the jury, or that in some way they can obtain an acquittal from a jury, where it could not have done by a court trial.

SD: While waiting for you to arrive this morning, I had a conversation with Mr. Hamilton, the Deputy State's Attorney, and I asked him, "Mr. Hamilton what do you suggest a person study as a pre-law major, to prepare one for the study of law?" And he mentioned English, political science, and history. What would your suggestions be Mr. Kelly?

Kelly: Mine would be the same. I really feel that English is certainly would be a great asset; an English major particularly, but I don't think it really makes a great deal of difference. The class in law school that I was in, we had majors in mathematics and chemistry, and almost every field. And really law, or the study of law, is so significantly different from pre-law education, that I don't see that it makes a great deal of difference, that is as long as you have been operating in an academic context. I think that you have a sufficient background, and again English is a good thing, and the stronger you are in English, and in reading ability, and comprehension ability, obviously, the better you'll do in law school, or the better you'll be prepared to face the rigors or law school.

SD: Switching to a less glorious subject, I understand that Maryland is one of the few states in which victims of crime can get state aid. Would you please explain?

Kelly: Yes indeed. Maryland, in 1968, adopted a law that called, set up something called the Criminal Injuries Compensation Board. What it provides is essentially that people can be compensated for their out-of-pocket expenses. That is, for their actual losses from criminal activity. For example, if an individual is stabbed and must take off time from work and has medical expenses as a result, he can file a claim under this, and he can receive compensation for his lost wages and for his medical expenses. The limitation, of course is that there is no pain or suffering, which is always a large element of any damages. And it does merely compensate for medical expenses and for loss of wages as I have indicated. I think that this is important and it is a step forward.

SD: I teach courses in American National Government and in State and Local Government, and students have a difficult time understanding what is meant by tort, would you please help us out?

Kelly: Absolutely, a tort is simply a civil injury, an injury is a tort. The law of tort applies whenever one is injured. For example, if you are injured in an automobile accident, through the negligence of another, when you file your suit for damages because of the other person's carelessness or negligence, it's called a Tort Action. It's an action for a wrong. So too, if you file damages because someone has assaulted you, an intentional tort, that's called. There are two types of torts, Intentional, for example, assault and battery, false imprisonment, malicious prosecution, this type of thing, or Negligence torts, which are your accident situations. A tort merely means a wrong which gives rise to a cause of action for damages.

SD: Would you please describe procedures in handling a criminal case?

Kelly: Basically, a criminal case is investigated by the police, charges are then placed, that is, an arrest warrant is obtained by the police. The individual then depending whether it is a felony or misdemeanor, if it is a misdemeanor case, the case then it is tried on the warrant obtained by the officers or by the private citizen who could also obtain a warrant, that's tried in district court. If, however, the charges are felony charges, once an individual is charged he is then allowed to request a preliminary hearing in district court. When he either requests a preliminary hearing and it's held, and the court finds probable cause, or if he waves that right the state then follows the information. The information takes the matter into Circuit Court for Allegany County. The defendant is then arraigned. An arraignment is simply a situation where the defendant is brought before the court, informed of the charges against him, the court determines whether or not he has counsel

or desires counsel, and takes a plea from the individual, and also determines how he elects to be tried. At an arraignment a person can plead guilty, not guilty, can elect a court or jury trial if pleading not guilty. It's simply is a preliminary stage to the trial. The next step would be the trial and would be either by court or jury in circuit court. In district court it is always by the court. If an individual is charged with a misdemeanor in district court, and wants a jury trial, it must be removed to the Circuit Court for Allegany County. The case then is tried in either before the court or jury, and then a verdict is rendered. Following that, normally the court in Allegany County requests pre-sentence investigations to determine the person's background. A sentence is then imposed. Of course, a person following the imposition of sentence, would have a right of appeal. Also, a right to request a review of sentence if that is appropriate.

SD: I understand that we have a gun control law in the state of Maryland. Would you please give us a detail, Mr. Kelly?

Kelly: Yes indeed, I think we have a very excellent law. I think that Maryland is in the forefront of the states in this regard. Basically, the law is to directed at pistols, at hand guns, and really, it's a hand gun law. And what it requires is this, any person who is not a police officer or does not fall into one of the exceptions of the law, and basically the exceptions are, a peace officer who is preforming his duties, then a person may not carry, wear, transport, or in any way have out in public and hand gun. So basically, what the law prohibits is any person who does not have a permit to do so, cannot be armed when he is out in public, cannot have a gun on his person, or in his vehicle or in any proximity to him. In his home he can have a hand gun, but if he desires to have a hand gun out in public, he must either obtain a permit which is a rather involved procedure. The screening is done by the state police, they issue these permits and it's my understanding that they have been very restrictive in granting the permit. Usually there must be some showing of need for the weapon. I think this is an excellent law. I think that hopefully we would reach the point someday where even the police officers would not necessarily be armed. I personally don't like the idea of firearms, particularly don't like them either in the hands of citizens or police, but as long as police have to enforce the laws, I think that they require the use of weapons. I would like to see us arrive someday like the situation of England where the policemen are not armed, except in exceptional circumstances. I think this would be most beneficial. But the first step is certainly the handgun law. I think it's a very positive step.

SD: Getting back to the jury, how are jurors selected in our county? That is, how do they arrive at a decision as to who is going to serve on the juries in Allegany County?

Kelly: Well, basically, it's all done by computer now. Up in about 1967 or 1968, the law developed a new random selection law, and basically every person who is listed on the voting rolls goes into the computer, and twice a year the court selects both a grand jury and a petit jury. The petit jury panel is made up of 25 persons chosen at random from the

computer list. Once it's ascertained that the person has no disability, that is that they can serve, they have no physical or other disability, they may then serve as jurors. Basically, the jurors, the 12 jurors for the trial, the petit jury for any particular case, is selected by counsel by the use of strikes. If the penalty is under twenty years, which is normally the case, both the State and the defense have four strikes. These are normally exercised prior to trial so that the whole panel of 25 persons does not have to come in. The defense, the State strikes four persons. The court takes the addition strikes to get the number down to 12. The court appoints the foreman of the jury. In felony cases involving life in prison and are over twenty years, normally we bring in what's known as the whole panel, plus talesman. The reason for that is that a regular jury is 25 people. In felony situations over 20 years, the State has ten strikes, the defense, twenty. Obviously, that's thirty strikes, and we normally bring in 42 people. The other persons in addition to the panel of 25 are normally selected again off the voter rolls, and are simply brought in to serve as jurors in a particular case that requires more than the regular panel.

SD: Concerning the trial jury, I have two questions. I understand that some states are using fewer than 12 members on a trial jury. One question I have for you is, does Maryland have that as a policy? And also, do you think it is feasible to have a 12-member trial jury?

Kelly: Well, let me say this…well initially in answer to your question, Maryland has not adopted any statute that allows trial by jury of less than 12 persons. Now, I have seen studies to the effect that really the reduced size of the juries does not achieve a great savings of time, and it seems to me that would be the only purpose in reducing the number of 12. There is always this threat, too, rather than reducing the numbers, another type statute allows jurors to return a verdict on less than absolute or unanimous verdict. I think that may be more desirable because you avoid the problem of perhaps ten persons being able to resolve the case, and one or two persons not going along. This often leads to problems. If any change, I would like to see that rather than reducing the number, because as I say, I've seen things that indicate to me that it doesn't serve to save a great deal of time, and I think that in serious cases, the individual is entitled to the protection of the 12-persons from the community determining his case.

SD: Mr. Kelly, under what conditions may a person waive a jury trial?

Kelly: Well, he must, under the law, he is required to make a knowing and intelligent waiver. That is, the court must establish on the record that the individual understands what a jury trial is, and knows what the benefits and the detriments may be, and intelligently and knowingly waives his right to a jury trial. A jury trial is the preferred way under the Constitution for the trial of criminal cases. Again, because the thought is that it provides an additional protection to the defendant.

SD: Our last question concerning juries is, what is a blue-ribbon jury?

Kelly: Blue-ribbon panels were in existence prior to the time of adopting the random jury panel system. What this consisted of, the judges of the court would appoint persons to serve as jurors, and normally, what they would choose for obvious reasons, would be the better educated members of the community; those who held the most responsible type jobs, those who because of education, training, background, or experience were thought, or believed, to have better credentials with regard to serving on a jury. Now obviously, the thought is this: that most defendants are not particularly well-educated and do not have particularly good backgrounds, etc., and that it might work some hardship trying these people in front of those types of jurors where you have different social standards, etc. We don't have blue ribbon panels in Maryland. I might indicate this: The Supreme Court has indicated that they see no problem with blue ribbon panels. However, in Maryland, we simply have not proceeded on that basis. We simply go with 12 people chosen at random from the community; the idea being that these will be representative of a truer cross-section of the community and allow an individual the benefit of having different points of view as compared to those persons who may all be in the same social or economic levels.

SD: What are the basic functions of a county investigator here in Allegany County, Mr. Kelly?

Kelly: The county investigator in this county is attached to this office. Now basically, what the county investigator, or how the county investigator functions since I've been State's Attorney, is in the preparation of cases. That is, I don't use my county investigators to go out and make cases, as such. Normally, we allow the police departments to handle the enforcement of the laws and the detection of crime at the grassroots level. Well, we simply use our investigators for are to shape cases for prosecution. That is, once charges have been filed by the police, we then, because we have the time and resources, go further and interview witnesses, take witness statements, gather additional evidence that may be necessary in the case, and generally prepare our investigators…our investigator's function is to prepare the case for trial, as opposed to going out and investigating particular complaints. The complaints are basically handled by the police department.

SD: I remember reading one time that an officer said that he thought the writ of habeas corpus was the best safeguard against the loss of civil liberties for American citizens. What is so significant about a writ of habeas corpus?

Kelly: Well, the habeas corpus law is whenever a person challenges the legality of their confinement, it requires…the only basis for the filing of the writ is that a person is incarcerated. The individual then has a right to file in court a habeas corpus petition. The petition having been filed, the court then requires the state to come in and show that the person is lawfully confined; that none of his rights have been violated in his confinement. Now, habeas corpus has been limited in Maryland by something called the Post-Conviction Procedure Act. Basically, what happened to habeas corpus, it became used by individuals who *had been* convicted in a court of law, and were trying to collaterally attack their convictions because of errors in the trial. It is not really useful for that purpose,

and Post-Conviction now serves that office. Basically, habeas corpus law is more properly when an individual has been incarcerated, but has not been tried; and, for example, he challenges that he's being illegally detained because of too high bail. It's a useful device to have a court other than the court that sets bail review the bail, to determine if the bail is proper and that he isn't being deprived of his freedom because of a high or excessive bail. The other situation is when an individual is improperly sentenced, or there is just no basis for him being held. If there is no basis for him being held, he can file habeas corpus and obtain his release. We don't have a great number of habeas corpuses filed in this county.

SD: One person once said that equity is something lawyers go to law school for to find out they know nothing about it after three years. Why is that so Mr. Kelly?

Kelly: Well, basically I think you have to understand the distinction in the common law. The common law, of course, grew up in England, and basically there are two distinctions in our courts today and in Maryland. And it arose from England. The equity courts originally were the chancery courts, or the church courts, and they had different rules of evidence and different procedures to be followed by the chancellors, who heard the cases. In law, you have a right to jury trial; in equity, you do not; the theory being that a chancellor, that is, a person of the church, did not require the assistance of persons from the community. Basically, equity lies wherever you're seeking something other than damages. For example, if you're injured in an automobile suit [sic], and you sue for your medical damages and your injury, that is a law case. If, however, you want something, for example, like specific in performance or an injunction, you must go to equity. And equity courts are those who require persons to do things or prohibit persons from doing things. And I believe that this is basically the distinction. It is very confusing. In some areas, they've done away with the distinction between law and equity, and I would think that Maryland may come to that point at some time, though I don't believe it's imminent.

SD: I would like to close out our interview this morning with a discussion on a topic which is very relevant and quite controversial, and that topic is drug laws. What seems to be the trend in this area or across the country concerning drug laws? Are they getting stiffer, or does there seem to be a relaxation of drug law rules?

Kelly: Well, my experience has been that the law is very, very tough. The difference is, is the law being enforced in a strict fashion? Are sentences being imposed in a strict fashion? And it seems to me that what's happened is this: that because of the difficulty of reforming certain laws, I understand that there's pressure to reform certain laws, and I understand also that this is difficult to achieve. I think that this has worked out; our system has an amazing resiliency and an ability to adopt to change without actually changing the law. And this simply is by the use of the discretion of the court. Now, for example, with regard to the marijuana laws, and I suppose this is the most controversial area of drug laws. My experience has been in Allegany County that the *effect* of these laws as they are written is softened both by the discretion of the police officers; that is, the officers not making an arrest, except when they regard it as a serious violation, and also by the courts using their discretion in relaxing the laws where they may appear too stringent. Certainly,

too, where Maryland is progressive, in a sense, we have a law that allows first offenders to be treated very lightly, and even to the point where they don't carry criminal records into their futures. I think this is desirable. I don't see any great change in the law coming, in the laws involving drugs coming, because I don't see anybody that's terrifically aggrieved. There are those individuals, of course, who are apprehended and convicted. They are aggrieved, but I don't see a great deal of pressure or a great deal of concern in this area because I believe that the laws have been softened by their enforcement rather by changing the laws themselves. And I think this is something we see in a lot of other areas as well.

SD: I had heard that you were a very effective teacher while teaching part-time at Allegany Community College. Now I think I have a better understanding as to why you were so effective. Mr. Kelly, I'd like to thank you this morning for taking time from your very busy schedule to talk to us about the State's Attorney's office in the State of Maryland.

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Courtroom Door/Grand Jury sign
Highsmith, C. M., photographer. (2008) Courtroom door, United States Courthouse, Davenport, Iowa. United States Iowa Davenport, 2008. October. [Photograph] Retrieved from the Library of Congress, https://www.loc.gov/item/2010719151/.

https://pixabay.com/illustrations/sign-name-tag-door-sign-a-notice-7819253/
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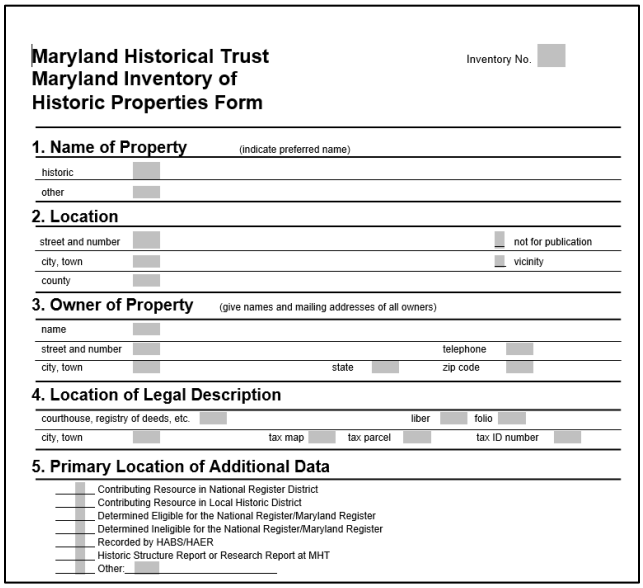
Jury trial
https://www.picpedia.org/legal-01/j/jury-trial.html

Surveying Historical Sites in Allegany County

[I'm Shirley] Bridges, I'm interviewing David Dorsey. He lives at 115 ½ Arch St., Cumberland, MD. He works for the Maryland Historical Trust. He was born on January 30, 1951.
Dave, could you briefly describe your project?

Dorsey: I'm working on a project funded by the Bureau of Mines, and I'm working for the Maryland Historical Trust as an Architectural Historian, which is more commonly known as a Historic Site Surveyor. The Bureau of Mines has to have information about historic buildings in coal mining regions so that they can regulate their strip-mining to be sure that these buildings aren't adversely impacted by the strip-mining. The Trust has hired me to survey areas of Allegany County. At the same time, there are four people surveying Garrett County, which has never been surveyed before. I previously worked for the Historical Trust in the county, doing a county-wide survey of Allegany County. In addition to a survey of historic sites, I think they're also conducting a survey of archeological sites too.



Maryland Historical Trust
Maryland Inventory of
Historic Properties Form

Inventory No.

1. Name of Property (indicate preferred name)
historic
other

2. Location
street and number — not for publication
city, town — vicinity
county

3. Owner of Property (give names and mailing addresses of all owners)
name
street and number — telephone
city, town — state — zip code

4. Location of Legal Description
courthouse, registry of deeds, etc. — liber — folio
city, town — tax map — tax parcel — tax ID number

5. Primary Location of Additional Data
Contributing Resource in National Register District
Contributing Resource in Local Historic District
Determined Eligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Determined Ineligible for the National Register/Maryland Register
Recorded by HABS/HAER
Historic Structure Report or Research Report at MHT
Other:

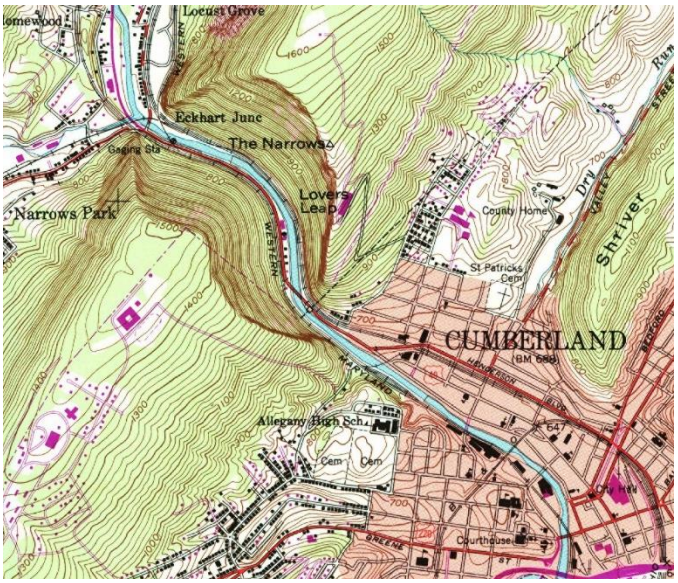
Sample section of an inventory form in 2024

SB: Ok, describe what you would do to survey a site.

Dorsey: Well, the final result of the survey is a form; it's the standard form used by the Maryland Historical Trust, and also the National Register of Historic Places. Some of the sites that we're surveying up there are of historic or architectural merit—we're going to be nominating them to the National Register of Historic Places. Others are just sort of what they call "inventory quality": there is a large inventory, a state inventory, of sites in Allegany County—I think there are about eight hundred of them right now.

This project is a little bit different from what I've been doing before because it's directly through the state rather than through the county, and the Bureau of Mines requires this information for the coal mining region. To complete this form it involves architectural information, which is written up into a physical description, and historic information, which is written into a statement of significance—which is a short history. Other information--say, for a historic district in a town, it takes a little bit more documentation for the whole town, but less for each individual site. You have to get the name of owners, location of the deed of the property that's surveyed, and geographical information: amount of acres involved, and in districts you have to have boundaries—a written boundary description—and photographs, slides, negatives. I should clarify this right now: a site is just about anything; it could be

an object, a district, a building, a structure, it could be a mine, you know, or a…they've surveyed the railroad signs that say "stop, look, and listen for the locomotive"—just about anything over fifty years old would qualify. But you have to be a little careful about what you want to nominate to the National Register of Historic Places, 'cause they're a bit picky—I guess it's justified, because, you know, you get every building into the National Register and it sort of dilutes the quality of what the Register means.



Sample section of a 1949 quadrangle map of Cumberland

So, I think the end result of the whole survey—and that is including about four years of surveying Allegany County--is going to be a county inventory; it's going to be a published book, actually, with a short summary, a paragraph, of each building.

SB: What do you do in the field?

Dorsey: Fieldwork is the most interesting part of the job; you come in to the field using old—let me see, they're made in the late forties—USGS Quadrangle maps that show every building. They're really handy to use because you can eliminate anything built since that time—if it's not shown on the map you don't have to bother with it. But you have to be a little careful—they weren't perfect, but these maps are pretty good, they show just about every building.

We go into the field…maybe I should just use an example of a site…let me think of a good one…Earl Kroll's house in Zihlman, for instance. It's in middle of Zihlman; the it's

7. Description Survey No. AL-V-A-127

Condition		Check one	Check one
___ excellent	___ deteriorated	___ unaltered	X original site
___ good	___ ruins	X altered	___ moved date of move _____
X fair	___ unexposed		

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Pumpkin Hall is located several hundred yards northeast of Scotch Row in Zihlman. The two-story log building faces south.

This structure consists of two two-bay sections under a continuous gable roof. The two sections appear to represent two building periods. Both sections are of exposed, whitewashed and painted logs.

The western section is set back several feet on the facade, accommodating a porch. A shed-roofed frame kitchen addition abuts the west end of this section. All three sections rest on stone cellars which are semi-exposed on the facade. They are accessible under the porch.

The facade entrance appears in the western bay of the western section. A second entrance appears in the northern bay of the two bay east end. The rear of either section consists of one bay. Double-hung 6/6 sash windows light the first floor, while 2/2 sash windows light the second floor, except on the facade of the western section, where 6/3 windows appear. Plain flat boards form the architraves.

Description of the Kroll House that Mr. Dorsey included on inventory form

In 1806 Philip Hansell purchased a tract of land known as "Pumpkin Hall" on Jennings Run west of Cumberland. Hansell owned no other property in Allegany County and was listed in the 1800 census as an inhabitant of the Wills Town District so it is probable that this log house was built prior to 1806. In later years the tract was resurveyed and enlarged by mining companies which dominated the area during the latter half of the nineteenth century. The present owner acquired the property from the Consolidation Coal Company in 1928.

The "L" shaped log structure is unusual in that it is composed of two log sections each two bays in width resting on separate stone foundations of random rubble. The logs are joined with the locally prevalent "V" notching.

a log house. Going to the house, first you have to explain what you're doing to the owner, which is usually the most fun. But Mr. Kroll is very cooperative--he's really interested in this. Using a field data sheet, we take architectural information describing how the building's built: the number of bays wide it is—doors and windows are each a bay—how many stories tall it is, type of foundation (in this case "logs" is the wall construction), describe the kind of notching—logs were put together in different ways, although most of the log places I've seen are "V" notching, where the logs join it looks like a "V". There are other types, but they're not used as much in Allegany County as in other places.

You've got this architectural information down on this sheet, take photographs of the building—take slides and black and white photographs—and if possible, you write a floor plan of the building, just drawing a basic floor plan. Some places, like for the National Register nomination of an individual building, I have to go in and do a scaled floor plan, really accurate, showing all windows and doors, and dead space—things like that. Then I talk to the owner, I see what he might know about the place; sometimes you get fantastic information from owners, some people don't have the slightest idea when it was built. In Mr. Kroll's case, he knew that the building was standing in the 1860s because when he acquired it in the 1920's, an old lady said that when she came from England, that building was standing there and it looked just like it does today. So that helped me date it a bit.

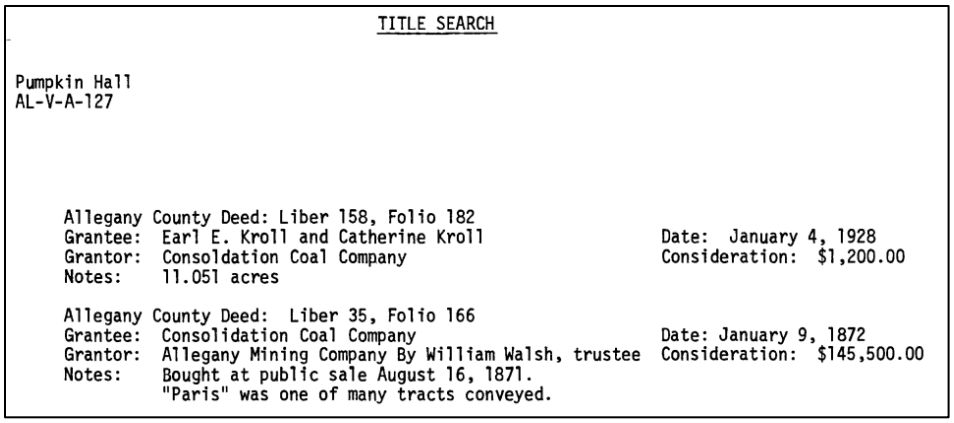
Field work can get to be kind of fun--when interviewing the people, you can find…you know, you can get clues to help you plan what you're doing for the rest of the town. In Zihlman, again, because that's where I'm working right now, we talked to…I was working with Donna Ware, a surveyor who works with me one day of the week—she's actually a historian for the project. And we were talking to an old gentleman who lives in Zihlman whose name is George Geary; he's in his eighties—late eighties, I think he's about eighty-eight years old right now—and he's lived in Zihlman all his life, so he could tell us a lot. The information he gave us helped us to define the boundaries of a district, seeing how he knew basically what all was there in, say, 1910, when he was a child.

Section of Zihlman survey district

Information from people in the field can really be important, can really set up, you know…you have to make quality judgments about a site, whether this building is worth doing thorough research on. Sometimes when you're in the field, people can tell you things that'll give you a better idea; Mr. Geary's house, for instance, is very typical of a

mining company—I think it was Union Mining Co. built these houses. I don't know exactly when yet because I haven't done the research; but based on what he told us about the house, its design before he did some renovation, it was in pretty original condition. It's one of about maybe fifteen houses of that type—maybe more—in Zihlman, and we know now that they were all double houses originally with the central chimney; so both families used…you know, they had their cooking stoves—fireplaces, whatever--in the middle of the building. You don't have to go into too much detail on the others, now--you just say "this is typical of the Union Mining Co. house built in the Zihlman area, whenever". And he directed us to a couple mine sites, the Broken Hart and the Keeley Mines, in that neighborhood; he told us all about them, and we went up and saw them after we talked to him--interesting places. Information you get from people in the field can really lead to something more exciting than what you thought you originally were looking at.

SB: How do you write a history for each site?



TITLE SEARCH

Pumpkin Hall
AL-V-A-127

Allegany County Deed: Liber 158, Folio 182
Grantee: Earl E. Kroll and Catherine Kroll — Date: January 4, 1928
Grantor: Consoldation Coal Company — Consideration: $1,200.00
Notes: 11.051 acres

Allegany County Deed: Liber 35, Folio 166
Grantee: Consolidation Coal Company — Date: January 9, 1872
Grantor: Allegany Mining Company By William Walsh, trustee — Consideration: $145,500.00
Notes: Bought at public sale August 16, 1871.
"Paris" was one of many tracts conveyed.

A couple of the deeds found in the Kroll House title search

Dorsey: Well, you take the information that you get in the field—that can give you a good idea of what you can expect to find when you're doing research. Starting with the name of the owner, you can trace the title of the property down through time—ideally, I guess, 1792, whenever the county was formed. But usually you can tell--you don't have to go that far back because you're just talking about farmland at that time. You take the chain of title, and you can get the names of all the people who have owned a building. One good clue about the date of construction--which is basically what you're after, that's what you want to find, when this building was built—is the consideration that was paid for it: the amount of money the people paid for the building. Through time you can see that…say, through the 1830's this was being sold for three or four hundred dollars; and then, say, Peter Hensley (just a name) or someone would purchase it for the same amount, and five years later sell it for a thousand dollars—you can bet that there was a significant improvement on the property while he owned it. It's a good bet that he actually built it, but you have to back that information up.

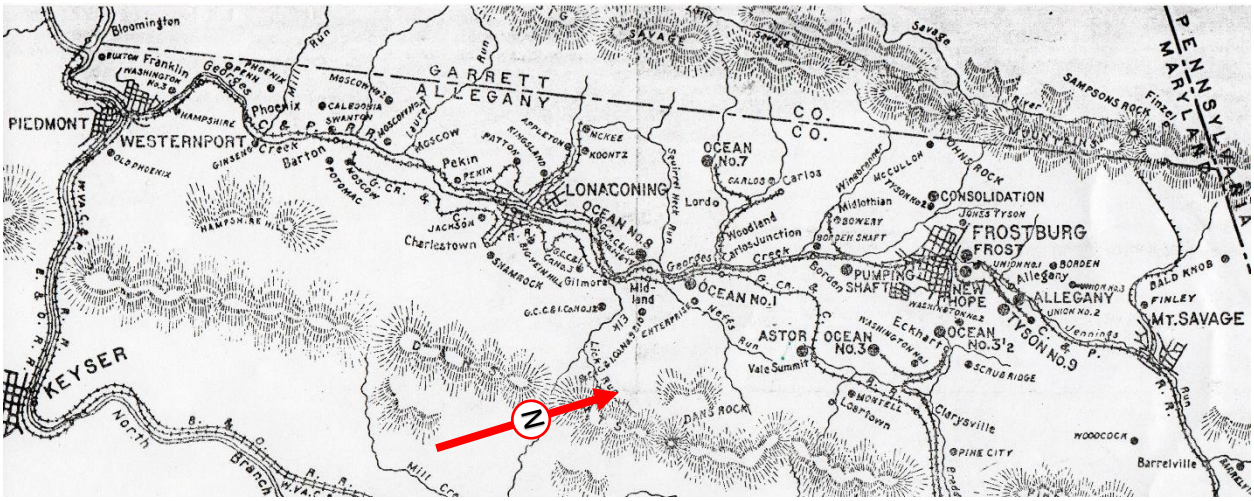
You run into equity cases, court cases, where there was a problem with transfer of the property to an heir; maybe the guy died intestate—he didn't have a will—and so the heirs go to court to divide the property. When you're reading these equity cases they usually include a little newspaper clipping saying that this house is for sale as a public sale or a trustees' sale, and it will describe the building. And that's really nice

information--at a certain date the building was standing there--and sometimes they get really detailed, saying, you know, "rectangular frame structure with two outbuildings and a barn". And that's really good information. You can also look at old assessments, tax assessments; one of the nicest things you can see when searching the history and the age of a building is getting the owners' names from the title search, and looking up these people's tax assessments. Say, in 1860 it will say "new house"—you know, wow, he built this house in 1860. That's good information.

You take that information and do some research in the county history books—there're a great many books written about the county from 1876 on. Lowdermilk's *History of Cumberland* is good, and Scharf's *History of Western Maryland* is *really* good—it's got a lot of specific information in it. And see what you can use with these names, the owners, see what kind of people they were. And get all this information together and synthesize the history; you have a nice record, a lot of different sources: use the interview, courthouse information, what's written, anything you might find in old photographs—you put that together for a statement of significance.

SB: Ok. What particular area of Allegany County are you studying now?

Dorsey: Well, this project, which is to take a year, involves the coal-mining region—that's from Mt. Savage all the way down to Westernport, along the George's Creek. I've been working between Barrelville and Frostburg right now, along Jenning's Run. I've done most of that area; I'm in Zihlman right now, about to get into Borden Mines. You just wanted to know which area it was?



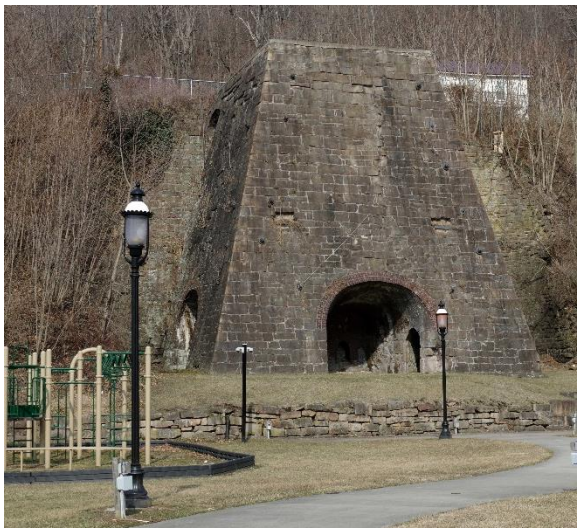
SB: Uh huh. What particular area.

Dorsey: That's an interesting area because you have some older settlements, some old industry in Mt. Savage, and a lot of mine sites on the sides of the mountain--some are on Big Savage, some are on what must be Dan's Mountain--no, Piney Mountain, excuse me.

SB: How was the area originally settled?

Dorsey: Some of the sites predate the mining, when the mining and iron industries arrived and built so many of the houses that are there today—the workers' houses. These buildings…up north of Mt. Savage you'll see a lot of stone structures; I think they date back as far as very early 1800's, some of them into the 18th century—1790's. It was all farm land originally; the Arnold family settled north of Mt. Savage in an area known as Arnold Settlement. These were Catholic farmers, I think they were English, and they had a church there, and a cemetery. It was St. Ignatius Church, as a matter of fact. And the Arnolds, the Logsdons, the Poorbaughs—a lot of different families lived in that neighborhood.

Further down the creek, towards Lonaconing and Barton, there are some old stone houses along what is known as the Old Legislative Rd. One, a place owned by a Mrs. Brummage--you can see it from the elementary school there, north of Lonaconing—it was built in 1790, I think it was the Buskirk or Van Buskirk family. Everything was originally farming until 1830's, late 1830's, when the George's Creek Coal and Iron Co. set up their establishment there in Lonaconing—they were looking for an iron operation. The same thing in Mt. Savage with the Maryland and New York Coal and Iron Co. These were both supported by English investors; they moved in and gradually just totally changed the face of the area—it was no longer just farmland. Many of the books say that prior to the late 1830's or 1840 the area was just an unbroken wilderness between Frostburg and Westernport—and apparently that's untrue because there was a lot of farming going on there. I know that Reverend Shaw from England, who settled the Barton area, he had a log house--which is no longer there—but he had a congregation of quite a few people. I think it was more densely settled than what people think.



George's Creek Coal and Iron Company's Lonaconing Iron Furnace in 2022

SB: What has happened there since then?

Dorsey: Well, these coal and iron companies came in, they set up their operations. The iron industry didn't fare too well, it sort of died off—a combination of transportation problems and an economic situation: I think there was a tariff that was lifted in the 1840's which allowed a lot more iron to be imported, and that, I think, hurt the iron industry in Mt. Savage. But as the iron industries faded out, there were other industries—the coal industry primarily, and the Mt. Savage brick making really took off, it really boomed after the iron company left. And there was also mining there--they had fire clay mines and coal mines.

The area was really changed; have you ever seen a gob pile? It's an enormous black heap of...they call them slag heaps, gob piles, slate piles—a lot of different names for

Slag heap in Pennsylvania

them. It's coal that was either chopped up too fine, or too rocky or something—it was just waste, and they just dumped them in these enormous piles and as you go up the road, you can see these on either side of the road, usually near mine entrances. And you're lucky if you can find mine entrances, because most of them have either collapsed, or been buried in other gob piles, or have been destroyed by the companies when they're done with the mining.

There were some other industries: in Lonaconing there was brickmaking too, and a throwing mill—a silk mill, actually: Klots Throwing Mill—early in the 1900's. Westernport was developed by the railroad; that's an important railroad intersection where the C&P Railroad meets the B&O there, and that's basically a railroad town—I'm sure there are mining interests there too.

SB: Is there a difference between sites in towns and sites in the countryside?

Dorsey: Sites in towns are a bit easier to document because of plats that were drawn of the town, you know, town lots which make it easy to identify the same property through time; those town lots usually stick with the property. Let's see, an example would be Woodland, which is south of Frostburg—it was set up by the Consolidation Coal Co. in the 1890's. I was researching a church there, and I don't think they have the deed; I don't think anyone's been able to find the deed of this church. But knowing where it is, which lot number it occupies, you can basically get the age of the building through the plat. I don't think we did find a deed for that one—that's a bad example. But towns are easier to survey: there are people around, there are pictures….Say a house in Mt. Savage, it's inside a town, even if the owners don't know anything about it--say they just purchased the place—the neighbor's been there for eighty years, he can tell you everything you need to know. But in the countryside, you don't have that opportunity to talk to as many people about it; also, in the countryside there are sometimes vast tracts of land involved, especially in the coal areas. I have a good example: there's a building outside of Barton—it's an old log house, a man named Mr. Fazenbaker lives there. He doesn't know too much about it except that it's been there for a long time. And you can't find the deed—I mean, you can't trace the deed any further than, say, 1920 because prior to that it was owned by a coal company. I think it's owned by a coal company now. Once you find the coal company, which owns, you know, ten thousand acres of land, you can't trace that one property too far, because they never bothered to say where they got it—actually, once you find that a coal company owns a place your title search is just about shot. But towns are definitely easier to survey in.

SB: What kinds of sites have you found in Mt. Savage?

Dorsey: Industrial sites are really good in Mt. Savage—the old iron furnace where they made the first iron rail, that's a big site there. Those are pretty obvious ones…the Castle,

where the superintendents lived….But using an old map, made in 1842 by the company—there are a couple different names for that company; the map says the Maryland and New York Stone and Coal Company, although it's the Maryland and New York Coal and Iron Company in other records. This map made in 1842 shows many of the buildings that were first built there, because they started building their operation there in 1839, so you have a pretty good idea where the earliest buildings in the town-- where they were.

I located an old rolling mill which is inside the Mt. Savage refractories now; this is part of the brickyard. There have been buildings added on to it, but you can see this old stone building down inside there. There are old foundries…the map shows schools but I haven't been able to find any of the old schools in Mt. Savage; I think they've all been torn down. There are commercial buildings downtown--the street, Main St., used to be a solid commercial district, businesses that are in operation—but now most of those buildings are empty or being used as residences. One building in particular that is still in its original condition, and is still in its original use, is the bank in Mt. Savage, which is really a fantastic building—the interior is almost like they just closed it up in 1901 and opened it, you know, two weeks ago. It's this fantastic place. Next door to that is Pratts Grocery, which is an old variety store. I haven't done too much research on these buildings yet because I'm still in the fieldwork stage; but from what I've learned from talking to people and interviewing people, I have a pretty good idea of date of buildings and things. A lot of company housing in Mt. Savage—"Old Row"—those were plank buildings that were built around 1840 by the iron company for workers there. There are only six of about twenty-three buildings left--the others were all torn down within the last ten years, I think. The Historical Trust—I wouldn't say restored—they rebuilt one of those buildings, the Cardinal Mooney house, where Cardinal Mooney was [born]. There is one thing I've been looking for in Mt. Savage, but I haven't been able to find, is the birthplace of…I can't remember his name—John Thomas Williams [note: John Charles Thomas, born in Meyersdale, PA], or something like that, he was a famous operatic baritone, a famous singer. He was born [note: lived] in Mt. Savage, but I've never been able to find his house. Mt. Savage is just cram-packed with historic sites, though—I surveyed seventy-some sites in that town. I was trying to confine my activity to what could become a historic district; I didn't try to get all of the town, that's practically impossible.

Edward Cardinal Mooney

SB: Ok, what is the final product of your survey?

Dorsey: Well, this particular survey, the final product is going to be what is known as a multi-resource nomination: the boundaries of a nomination for the National Register of Historic Places is going to be the entire valley. Included with that will be certain districts and individual sites that are worth being on the National Register—not all buildings in the valley qualify for the National Register, but we're going to end up with a lot of data for the Bureau of Mines. This is also going into the Maryland Historical Trust Inventory of Sites--I think I mentioned that before—and be published at one point. It was added to the inventory that already accumulated in Allegany County. I am going to be preparing district

Borden Mines Superintendent's House

nominations for a great many towns in the area: Mt. Savage for sure, Frostburg, and a lot of the smaller towns, where you have your basic coal operation—you know, the coal town, the company town. For example, Borden Mines, which is just north of Frostburg, you have the resident's house…not the resident's house, the supervisor's [superintendent's] residence, which is a really nice house, an Italianate building, and you have a school--unfortunately there are no churches there--and in a neat little row, the workers' houses. And it's about the same thing throughout the region, although not all towns have these buildings intact.

SB: This is really interesting Dave, thanks. And thanks for letting me interview you.

Dorsey: Ok, thank you.

PHOTO CREDITS:

Kroll House inventory form sections
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Cumberland Quadrangle Map
https://apps.nationalmap.gov/downloader/#/

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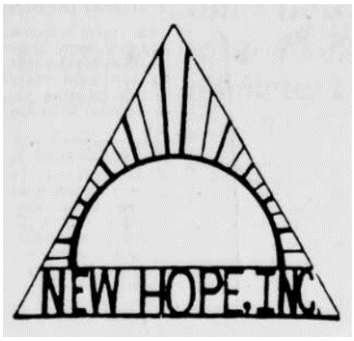
Teaching the Mentally Handicapped at New Hope, Inc.
Name: Joan Twigg
Occupation: Teacher at New Hope Day Care Center
Residence: 18 N. Chase Street, Cumberland, MD
Date and place of interview: April 27, 1978 at New Hope.
Transcribed by: Celeste Bartlett 5/19/08

Today is April 27, 1978. My name is Christopher Tolfree. I'm here to interview Ms. Joan Lane Twigg of 18 North Chase Street. The topic of this interview is New Hope School for the mentally retarded and handicapped. Ms. Twigg has worked there for two and a half, going on her third, year. Ms. Twigg was born in 1955 on September 9, in Texas and now she resides in Cumberland. I'm going to ask her such questions as what New Hope is, how it started, and is there a great demand for New Hope.

Joan what is New Hope in fact?



Twigg: New Hope is a learning center for severely and profoundly retarded handicapped children. Their ages range from three to sixteen.

CT: When did it start?

Twigg: I think that it started about 9 or 10 years ago in a church in LaVale. It was founded by the parents so that their children would have some sort of educational facility which was not provided by the state at that time and they contacted, they got funding from the Mental Retardation Association and the Health Department at that time through grants to start the center.

CT: And now you get funding from the government?

Twigg: No, we get funding from the Board of Education because of public law 94142 the Board of Education has to assume responsibility for educating all citizens.

CT: How much since you have been there, you have been working there three years, how much has it changed and what changes have been going on?

Twigg: The changes that have been made have been mostly in recording and recording behaviors and charting behaviors. What I mean is before, we just worked on skills with children and we didn't basically follow a developmental sequence and the staff has become much more educated as to the normal development of children and how we should be taking the children that we work with, the retarded children, and developing them along that same line. And we have evaluations by that state, so they come in and check to make sure that we have specific objectives set up for the children, yearly, long range objectives and then we have short range objectives to meet those long range ones.

CT: What, well, when I worked there, I saw a lot of progress, but what is, is there a certain progress rate or does it just happen anytime?

Working with a child with cerebral palsy in 2016

Twigg: The progress is really variable because of complications. You have a child who has Cerebral Palsy. You can't just deal with that Cerebral Palsy because they also have a seizure disorder or maybe hyperactivity compounded on top of that. So, you may reach a plateau with a child who has just fallen back into a seizure disorder that has been eliminated through drugs over the past year and the medication has not been working for the past couple of months so the children will regress. So, it's hard to really set time standards on these children. All we can pretty well set is, set our expectations to is what we want them to achieve and we really can't say how much time they will achieve that and how long they will retain it.

CT: Do they retain it mostly?

Twigg: After review, like we, New Hope is only in session for 11 months out of the year and we have a month break in the summer time. Usually when the children come back, they have regressed at least two or three months, but that regression can be picked up rather quickly with review.

CT: Can their parents during that month break keep them up to?

Twigg: They can, but it is very hard for most of the parents to work consistently with their children, because they have to take care of them. They have been taking care of them for so many years; it is so much easier to do for them than it is to help them do for themselves.

CT: What is like a typical day, can you run through the schedule?

Twigg: Well, the children come in off the bus, they are brought to school through the Board of Education, that's the transportation system. New Hope is divided into four classrooms with five children in each and the teachers go out and bring the children in off the bus; it usually it has to be a one-to-one basis being with the children at all time when we are outside of the building. They come in and we usually have a group in each classroom they usually have a group hello, good morning session. The children are toileted and they work individually on the five areas that we chart, which are communication, self-help skills, (that is toileting, dressing, self-feeding), fine motors skills, (playing with toys), gross motor skills, such as walking, and socialization and a interaction with their peers. And then we go to lunch and that is over at SS Peter and Paul's. We put them all in their wheel chairs and take them to St. Pete's for lunch. And that's done every day. After that we go, at lunch time we work specifically on their self-feeding and all the children have programs set up on that, and then we take them for a

walk every day and this is done mainly for public awareness, that New Hope is in existence and there are children like this and people should learn to handle this and there are such things as wheel chairs and helmets. That usually lasts about a half an hour. By about 12:30, we are back in the center. We usually have some sort of a group activity where maybe there is an art project, fingerpainting, or a group lesson on how to brush your teeth, or something like that and then they have a half hour to an hour of nap until they're gotten up, toileted again and they have snack and go home.

CT: What, earlier you mentioned socialization, what do people who aren't aware of kids like this, what is their reaction, how do they handle this?

Twigg: Usually on the walk the only thing I ever encounter is lots of stares and that is what we want, we want people to look and see that we're there and that is… lots of people feel a lot of sympathy and some women and men will come up and say I feel so sorry for these children; this is a wonderful job that you are doing. And it's not really; the children are wonderful people and it's such an easy job to do.

CT: Is it easy?

Twigg: Yes.

CT: Do you get attached to the children?

Twigg: Yeah, but it's not an attachment like a parent would have because I don't have to deal with the child all the time and I can look at them and I can direct my love for that child in the form of making him grow and be more independent and that is how I can express my love.

CT: When you have conferences with the parents, what usually happens there and how do they react?

Twigg: It depends on what conference is like. If we have lots of good things to tell them, that their child is learning how to walk with a walker and getting toilet trained, the parents are usually very happy and want to start working on more things at home with their child. But if we don't have too much good news everything is sort of staying the same, then the parents sort of accept it and their child is retarded and this is what we accept.

CT: How do you handle a parent who does not accept a retarded child, or have you come across that?

Twigg: I have never come across that no, because usually by the time a child is

admitted to New Hope it has been three years of age at the youngest, the parents have come to grips with this.

CT: That is good, where do the children go after New Hope?

Twigg: Right now, at age sixteen there is no place for the children to go. They are hoping to establish centers at the New Penn Ave. School. Cresaptown, I think there is a facility for special children and I think there is one on Cash Valley Road that they are starting, I would presume that is where they would go. At this time there is no facility open for children after sixteen years of age…on the severe profound level.

CT: New Hope children are considered severe?

Twigg: Yeah, that is they have an IQ under 50.

CT: Why do you work there?

Twigg: Well, I got started at New Hope because I was collecting unemployment and I didn't have anything to do with my time, so I volunteered, thinking it would be an interesting thing to do and it's very rewarding I guess to see the progress and to be a part of that progress and I really enjoy the children. I enjoy children. And these children, they are handicapped and they are retarded so they don't know how to play games, they don't know how to. They try to pull one over on you, but they you can usually be on top of it and it makes a very nice break in the normal day to go to work.

CT: How, do you have any special techniques of your own that you have developed to work with these children?

Twigg: No, not really. I'd say most of the teachers basically follow behavioral modification techniques, that is reinforcing good behaviors, and punishing or ignoring bad behaviors. And that is by I guess the way we specialize on this behavior modification is using things like, for punishment for some children, for example, one little girl spits quite frequently so she is squirted with a mixture of lime juice and vinegar every time she spits. Now that is, I don't think too many people use this technique for punishment; this is a New Hope technique. [laughter] We use a lot of water for reinforcement and food for reinforcement. A lot of the children are on medication for different disorders and so the medication dries them out and water is a very effective reinforcement.

CT: Do you think New Hope will grow more than it has?

Twigg: Right now, it is very questionable of what the fate of New Hope is going to be. With the Board of Education taking over, there is a possibility that within the next year New Hope will be completely phased out and will go into one of the other facilities that I

mentioned. Or it will remain as is, only instead of handling children from age three to five, they will deal with infants; they will deal from birth to five. And so those are the two options for New Hope right now. If New Hope is deleted and the children go into the Board of Education, into another facility, our Board of Director's plan to stay together so they can provide the children with summer programs, since under the Board of Education the children will only receive education 180 days out of the year and they are used to 220 days now.

CT: Alright. How do you in a lot of volunteer, no not volunteer, public service things of this nature, people get burnt out. Is there any, have you ever been burned out with working there, or have people? How do you conquer that?

Twigg: The only time that I really feel burnt out working there is when I don't see progress or I run across a behavior that I don't know how to conquer, I don't know how to stop a child from let's say sucking his hands. I can't figure out how to get this child's hands out of his mouth and so that's the only time I really feel frustrated where I feel that I shouldn't be doing the job that I am doing, if I can't control it. But then I usually call in some other professionals, like we are in touch with the Western Maryland Directions Center. Alex Weinstein comes in for consultation with the children and with staff. Dr Koch (?), Deloris Koch (?) from the Health Department she comes for consultations, she is a psychologist also. And so, I can tap these different resources to help me out.

CT: Is there anything else you want to say?

Twigg: No, it is a nice place and everyone should come and visit.

CT: Ok, thank you very much.

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Twigg's Cave: Being Trapped 12 Days & the Story of the Dramatic Rescue

My name is Helen Greise, I'm a student at Allegany Community College, my speech instructor is Joseph Valcourt. I will be conducting this interview for the oral history of the Cumberland area with Anita Mongold, who with her husband Bob was trapped for twelve days and thirteen nights in Twigg's Cave.
Anita, I'd like to review a little background information first before we discuss your experience of being trapped in the cave. Firstly, what is your full name?

Mongold: Anita Rae Mongold.

HG: And your maiden name?

Mongold: Payne.

HG: Your address and your age.

Mongold: 110 Greene St., and I'm twenty-six.

HG: And at the time that you were trapped in the cave, how old were you, and where did you live?

Mongold: Twenty-five, and in Burlington, WV.

HG: Ok, and who were you with?

Mongold: My husband.

HG: And his age, occupation, and your occupation.

Mongold: Bob is thirty-two, he's an artist, and my age is twenty-six, and I'm editor of The Shopper newspaper, an advertising newspaper in Cumberland.

HG: And at the time?

Mongold: At the time, I was unemployed for the summer, my husband was unemployed—so to speak—he's an artist, which is a continuing occupation.

HG: And your respective families live in the area?

Mongold: Right--my parents live on Greene St. and Bob's parents live in Cresaptown.

HG: And can you give me the exact location of the cave?

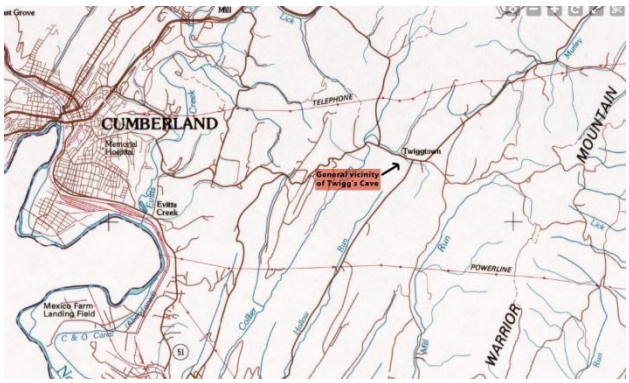
Mongold: On Hinkle Rd., off Williams Rd.

HG: And it's about six miles east of Cumberland?

Mongold: A little more than that.

HG: Is it around the intersection of Williams Rd. and Brice Hollow Rd.?

Mongold: Brice Hollow Rd., right. It is on Brice Hollow Rd.



General location of Twiggs Cave in Allegany County

HG: Is this out in the open, or is it in a field? Can you describe where…how to get there?

Mongold: It's surrounded by woods, but the vertical shaft entrance to the cave is right to the left of a large field. So it is in a partially wooded area, but it's still more field than….

HG: Then you can't see it from the road.

Mongold: No.

HG: And what is the full name of the cave, do you know?

Mongold: As far as I know, it's just Twigg's Cave.

HG: Twigg's.

Mongold: Uh huh. It's on…the man who owns the property is named Twigg, so.

[tape stops; when it resumes, either Mongold or Greise is stating information about the cave. Sound quality is poor]

…I believe his name is Homer Twigg, and the cave is located on his property; and is in the area called Twiggtown, which is near Flintstone. The elevation is about 1360 feet. The vertical shaft is [section unclear] below the entrance.

HG: There's a technical name for caving.

Mongold: Spelunking.
HG: [laughs] That's a [little odd?] word. Had you ever been caving before?

Mongold: No. I had never been.

HG: Had your husband?

Mongold: My husband had gone in Twigg's Cave several times, and has been in other caves also.

HG: And he'd been in Twigg's Cave before this happened?

Mongold. Yes.

HG: And what was the day and the date?

Mongold: August 7, 1975.

HG: And what day of the week was that?

Mongold: A Wednesday.

HG: How did you get to the cave? Obviously, you didn't walk.

Mongold: From the road.

HG: You came in a car?

Mongold: From the road, by truck. And then we walked to the entrance.

HG: So, you parked the truck…

Mongold: On the road.

HG: Ok. Was it off the main road, or was it right on the main road?

Mongold: It was on the main road—I mean, it could be seen from the main road. It was just parked on the shoulder; it was a wide shoulder.

HG: Did anyone see you going into the cave?

Mongold: No, not that we know of.

HG: There's no checking in or anything like that?

Mongold: No….There was supposed to have been some people who were trying--in fact, the three people who came to get us--who were trying to have some standard procedures set up for entering the cave. And they were never very successful with anybody they contacted in the area. Their idea was to put some kind of a grate with a large lock and to distribute permission slips, or to have on hand permission slips, so people could fill those out—the date and time they were going in, etc.--and that way somebody would always know who was in the cave. But because they didn't have any success, there was never anything at all done, it was just a…

HG: And you did not tell anyone that you were going.

Mongold: No. No one knew we were going in.

HG: Why *were* you going?

Mongold: We went to get clay for pottery: my husband was going to make some pottery.

HG: And what did you plan to do with the pottery?

Mongold: To sell it.

HG: Were you going to sell it in a store, or individually…?

Mongold: Just individually.

HG: What time of day was it when you went into the cave?

Mongold: It was around ten o'clock at night--around ten, ten-thirty.

HG: When the truck that was parked along the side of the road—then no one would have seen it that night, probably, anyway; because it's not a very well-traveled road.

Mongold: Uhhh, not well-traveled but I'm sure that probably at least half-a-dozen or more people saw it.

HG: Do you know how long this cave is--what area it covers?

Mongold: I'm not sure, I just know that it's the largest cave in Maryland.

HG: So, it covers about a mountainside in that area?

Mongold: Right. It goes over an entire mountainside.

HG: Are there any other entrances into the cave other than the one you went in?

Mongold: No, there's only one entrance.

HG: And how did you go in?

Mongold: With the rope ladder. There's a vertical shaft about ten feet down--a straight drop ten feet down—and then it slopes down. [note: there is a 25-foot vertical shaft]

HG: Was your original focus to stay in the cave very long—stay there a couple hours, or…?

Mongold: Right—one or two hours; at the most, two hours.

HG: What did you take along?

Mongold: The only things we took were a couple of pillowcases and rope to hoist the clay back out. Other than that, we had nothing. Luckily, we had long pants on, I had a flannel shirt on, because I knew it would be muddy, from Bob's descriptions of the cave. He was dressed similarly.

HG: You didn't have jackets.

Mongold: No. Just T shirts, I think we both had T shirts and flannel shirts on.

HG: And you had flashlights?

Mongold: We had one flashlight. And extra batteries. Those batteries didn't function.

HG: Was it too damp, do you think, or what?

Mongold: No, we weren't in long enough for the dampness to have affected them; they just didn't--for some reason, did not work.

HG: What does the cave look like? I've never been in a cave except a cavern—is it like a cavern?

Mongold: This particular cave has a few large rooms but most of the cave is passageways, and it's pretty rugged terrain, say, compared to the valley and the mountainside--it's the inside of a mountain, you know, in this area.

HG: So there were boulders and rocks you had to climb up, or so?

Mongold: Well, there aren't boulders; there are small rocks, meaning (indicates size to interviewer) at the most.

HG: Could you carry them?

Mongold: They were very heavy; in fact, we're going to--when we go back, when I go back--have the rocks analyzed. The particular ones that were in the area we were in were just unbelievable—a small rock that you could pick up with two hands and hold weighed a tremendous amount. There weren't any big rocks that you would have to go over, say, as if you were hiking. But a lot of formations; the roughest part of the cave is

moving through things and keeping your foothold, because it is *very* slippery and muddy. It's just like walking *in* mud, in packed mud. But it's still moist and slippery.

HG: So, there wasn't any water running?

Mongold: No.

HG: Did you fall right after you got into the cave?

Mongold: No, that was a common misconception of the newspapers. I think one newspaper picked that up, then the rest of them picked it up. Consequently, people asked me about it several times—how did you fall, and everything; and then when I would start to explain….we'd actually been in there, I would say, seven or eight days—somewhere around there…a day or more left.

HG: Before you fell?

Mongold: Right. Before I fell.

HG: So it wasn't that you fell and were injured.

Mongold: No. We simply got lost.

HG: When you realized you were lost did you talk about it? How long had you been there when you realized you were lost?

Mongold: I think we had been traveling into the cave probably for fifteen, twenty minutes, *may*be a little longer; and at that point I was ahead and I said, "is this the way we go next?" and Rob said, "yeah, I think so", because he had been familiar with things up to this point. Which is very easy to do—if you're in a room with the lights turned out, even though you know where certain objects are in the room, you might touch an object and not even recognize it—something that's been there for ten years. This is basically what happened: Bob said, "I think, I'm not sure" and then he came up around and said, "no, that's not it, it must be down here", and went in another direction, and said, "no, *that's* not it"….

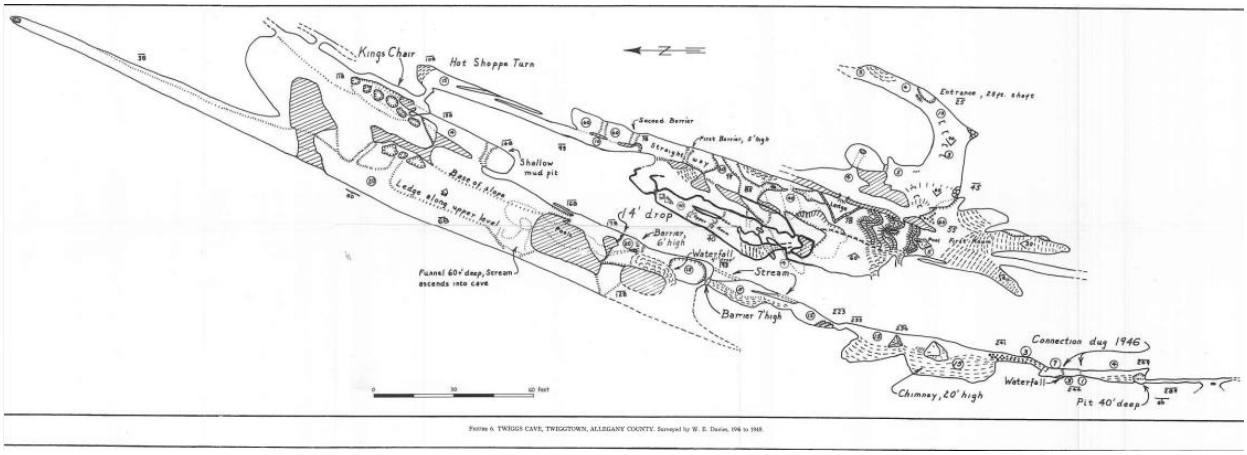
HG: Were you with him the whole time he was doing that?

Mongold: Right. And at that point I knew—after the third try, say, him traveling ten feet in one direction and ten feet in another direction, saying "no, that's not it, that's not it"--I could tell by his voice that he was a little apprehensive. And at that point I picked up the vibrations—the tone of his voice—that we were lost. And I think I knew it probably even before that point, but that was the final…realization of that fact, was at that time.

HG: What did you do then? What did you decide to do—did you have a plan?

Mongold: Right. We had, fortunately, done a lot of things outdoors in some pretty rough country, in all kinds of weather, all seasons; we said, well, this is what we'll do next: dig in, which is what we did; we have to survive, we'll sit here and be as comfortable as we can.

HG: How do you "dig in"?



Map of Twiggs Cave

Mongold: We found a shelf which was a dry, high spot that was flat and was surrounded for a good deal of distance by other flat surfaces. In other words, parts of the room had ledges that went off into maybe a ten or twenty-foot drop—we think, we couldn't tell—so we tried to find a place that was pretty far away from anything like that, so we could sleep without worrying about rolling or….

HG: Kind of like a bookcase—you know, like a bookcase has shelves?

Mongold: Right. Just a shelf up against…well, if you can imagine climbing up the side of a mountain, if there is rugged terrain on one side, you're going to stay up close to a part that's been worn [in travel?]—and this is what the shelf basically was. It was up along the side of one room that was filled with holes and other things that would have been too hazardous to sleep near.

HG: Ok. Was it dry, then?

Mongold: Fairly dry there, uh huh.

HG: Was it warm in the cave—I would imagine underground it would be warm?

Mongold: No, it was only forty-two degrees, that's the average temperature in the cave.

HG: So that's fairly cold.

Mongold: Chilly. And with the dampness…

HG: Was there a draft going through?

Mongold: Right.

HG: Seems like there would be a draft underground. You mentioned that there was dampness and mud, so there must have been water—that's how you really survived, then, there was water?

Mongold: Right. Uh huh.

HG: Did you have anything along to eat?

Mongold: No. We ate nothing from around seven o'clock that evening until we were rescued.

HG: How often did you go for water?

Mongold: Every day, sometimes twice a day. There's really no way to keep track of time; some times we were thirstier than other times, so it seemed like, if you were judging time by your thirst—you know, say you got thirsty every eight hours—it's hard to tell, really.

HG: How did you get the water?

Mongold: We traveled back in the direction we had come from, partway, and we knew there was water within a distance that was feasible—that we could get to fairly easily. We did have to travel over an opening by shimmying across; when we put our feet against one wall and our backs against the other, we shimmied across this drop. And then up a hill, so to speak, and down the other side—and there was a very small area there, a room big enough to sit in. And we dug out troughs that filled up overnight, or while we were gone, and we'd travel back and forth from the place where we dug in--we actually dug in the side of the wall to get back as far as we could from out of the draft. It's like putting curtains up, I guess. [laughter]

HG: Sounds a little harder than that. What did you dig with?

Mongold: Bob had a hunting knife; and he dug with that, I dug with my hands sometimes, and we would change back and forth. It seems to me I might have had a penknife, I'm not sure—but if I did, I probably used that.

HG: Was the water muddy?

Mongold: The water we drank? Yes, that was one thing that we had to continually keep on top of—we would drink down, and maybe there would be an inch left. Thirst for me

was just, like, overwhelming. Bob didn't seem to mind it so much, but he doesn't drink as much water [unclear] as I do. So, we would get down maybe to the last inch--and at first, we're leaning over these troughs, which were oh, maybe, eight inches in diameter. And you alternate and just keep leaning over to get a drink. If you got down too far, you got mud—which made you very, very, very thirsty. But it was tempting to get that last drink anyway—just to be satisfied for that moment, then worry about the thirst later. I did that a couple times, but that was about the end of that, I learned my lesson.

HG: That would make me ill.

Mongold: Oh, the water was great water, though.

HG: It was very fresh and cold, I'm sure.

Mongold: Uh huh. Very cold. Yeah.

HG: Alright. When you first realized you were lost, did you go looking for water first thing?

Mongold: That was one of the first things we did.

HG: That and digging into the side? When did you look for the entrance—did you do it all the time?

Mongold: Each day, or each…a day was a period of sleep, talking, going to get water, and trying to find the right direction out of the cave—that was basically a day. One day might have been a sixteen-hour day and another one maybe, you know, twenty hours…

HG: You didn't have a watch?

Mongold: No.

HG: You couldn't have seen it if you had, probably.

Mongold: Well, our batteries recharged slightly for, I believe, four, five, six days—somewhere around there, when we could flip the light on and off. And then after that it was just so dim, it was more frustrating than anything to try to use it.

HG: How long were you in the cave before you fell into the pit, the mud pit?

Mongold: About seven or eight days. Somewhere around a week.

HG: When you fell into the mud pit, how did you feel at that point?

Mongold: When I fell, it was a very interesting sensation: I could see myself falling--I was very relaxed. Bob said to me, “why didn’t you put your arms up?” Well, I guess it was probably that I was afraid I would break them, as a natural instinct. And the other thing was just by that time--complete apathy. “We’ll see what’s at the bottom.” [laughter]. Really. It’s strange, I guess, for somebody to imagine that there was…that I can really speak about it with a humorous attitude—but Bob and I both tried to be humorous about it; in fact, we did laugh. Bob’s humor was very good up until the end of the thing—mine wore out a little bit, and I’m saying, “oh please, no more jokes, I’m not interested anymore.”

But the actual fall was just a sensation of seeing myself. And then I fell over the top of the mud pit, which was just, like, a hole in the ground six or seven feet around. The mud pie is actually that whole area; this pit was somewhere in the middle of that. And I fell and landed on a cross tie on my bottom with my hands down each side—it stung my hands. At that point I said to Bob, “are you coming down?” He said, “where are you?” And he was trying to tell which direction I had fallen in; where I was obviously it wasn’t going to be a sure thing that I was directly below him, because I did slide back and forth like a sliding board-type thing, a chute of some kind.

HG: It was muddy? Very muddy?

Mongold: Right. Very muddy.

HG: How did you get to the pit? What, were you just walking along and you fell in?

Mongold: No, we were going down into the cave, out another direction—this was one of our hopes, that we would find our way out in this direction; we were going….[conversation stops, resumes] We were going down and it was very slippery; I was coming down behind Bob, and I was shifting around to the front of him, and I was going to go down legs first, and I lost hold of my foothold--I thought I had a better foothold than I did. I had Earthshoes on, by the way. They’re terrible—never go caving in Earthshoes—square toes don’t fit in any kind of foothold. Consequently, my foot slipped and I went *down* a thirty-foot drop, just like slithering down a chute, and then landed on the crosstie.

HG: Did he immediately come down?

Mongold: Not immediately; first of all, Bob went in another direction. This is the only time--I did say once before that we stayed together—this is the only time that we split up. He said, “I’m going to go in this direction, I think this might be the right way.” And he started in that direction, and then he said, “No, I won’t try; it’s silly because I really don’t have any plan, I’m afraid that I will get lost, and we’ll be separated, and that will be bad for morale.” So, he did come down; he flashed the light and said, “Can you see the light?” and I said no. First, he said, “Say something so I can tell which direction you’re in.” And he flashed the light three or four times, and finally got to me—and landed directly beside me; he came sliding down the dirt and landed beside me on the crosstie.

HG: You said there were handholds on the side of the pit—or was this in other areas?

Mongold: The actual pit or hole that we were in was about five feet; in other words, I fell from one room of the cave down a chute into another room, and on the very bottom floor of that room was a hole—and that’s what I fell into. It was like about a five-foot drop; I didn’t fall into it, I fell on a crosstie over top of it. And that’s what we set in.

HG: How did the crosstie get in there?

Mongold: Well, that’s interesting. Two of my husband’s friends—two of my friends--Mike Patterson from Flintstone, and Ron McFarland, who’s now living in [?] Neck, AK with his wife, said that they would remember one time particularly when they were in the cave, either Mack or Ron kicked a crosstie into this area—and they heard it go down, down, down and it did hit something. So, it’s possible.

HG: Ok. Your attitude at that point was pretty low--you were feeling pretty bad—did Bob give up at the same time, or did he…?

Mongold: Until the last two days, I hadn’t really given up; there were a couple times when I was to the point of frustration and I really could have, but I always came back. Until the last two days, really, or three days, however you can approximate it--you really can’t. At that point I was glad that I hadn’t broken every bone in my body, especially when I realized that underneath this cross tie, four more feet down, were these boulders of unbelievable weight considering their size. It just, you know, was great because I knew if I would have hit my head even on a small one, I would’ve fractured my skull, and maybe not died, maybe laid there in agony and pain for another whatever—because at that time we didn’t know anybody was coming. At that time I had my doubts if anybody was coming; sort of, you’re in another world at that time--there’s no reality to that kind of situation. It’s hard to explain in terms of feelings, you know, that you have or that you can describe.

HG: It’s not like feeling depressed one day, then…it’s a total…

Mongold: It's a total…yeah. It's completely different from anything that I have ever experienced, *naturally*—you can say that if you can just imagine being in the dark, with no sound, with that knowing that you may never get out, that you are possibly going to be there until you die. And as each day passes, you know that it has been a *reasonable* amount of time for somebody to at least investigate further, and all your hopes for that start eliminating themselves…and then it really is a reality. And that on top of not eating—and fasting, you know, is very good for the mind, and it is for spiritual enlightenment also--that does move you into another realm, or another type of reality, that is hard to describe unless you've done it, or unless you've done any reading on it. Things just…your perceptions are different—you think differently.

HG: Well then, did you feel that this was a mystical experience, or a religious experience, after, you know, awhile?

Mongold: Uhhh, I don't think that I felt that it was a religious experience: it wasn't quite…at that point it wasn't quite beautiful enough or comfortable enough to be a religious experience. Although I say…it wasn't a reality—it was a reality of being cold and damp and uncomfortable. I would say within another two or three days, if I hadn't died I probably would have gotten very religious. [small laugh]

HG: Did you feel…you said that Bob believed that he was going to be rescued--did you share the same feeling?

Mongold: No, I really didn't think so. I thought that logically it was impossible; it was going to have to be a very, very odd set of circumstances—a chain of events from not very many clues given to anybody--in order for us to be discovered. It wasn't that somebody was going to say, you know…. And actually, what we were planning on was somebody seeing the truck, or the truck being discovered, and some kind of rescue squad checking the area, having sense enough to check the area for somebody who might have been lost. Umm, we are in western Maryland….so.

HG: At that point, though, you were living in Burlington and you were registered with WV tags in Burlington.

Mongold: Right.

HG: So, State Police would have contacted by telephone, possibly? Might have…if anybody knew…did you have a phone?

Mongold: Right. No, we didn't have a telephone. But it would have been very simple for them to go to the post office; they did go to Burlington, as far as I know—that was the information that they gave out. They did go to Burlington. However, it's impossible to go to Burlington and not find out where somebody new moves in; that's just the way it is, and they could have gone to the post office and gotten our names and addresses from the postmaster.

HG: Did you feel…did you and Bob share feelings of fear in the cave—did you hear sounds, or…did he have feelings of fear, did you have feelings of fear? Were you afraid of something else happening there?

Mongold: Uhhh. No, no. There wasn't any…you know, it's just the reality of Mother Nature—at that time, in fact all the time, it was the reality of Mother Nature. At one point Bob said, "I don't know why they send people to prison, why they send people to jail—let's just put them in caves and let them…"

HG: Heavy punishment. Ok, he really felt that he was going to be rescued—why do you think he felt that way?

Mongold: Bob's a very strong-minded person, and very logical; through process of elimination, all the hopes that we had, I think he realized that Drake—and he's a person that he has experienced many good things with--some bad things--but a very tight, lenient(?) relationship, especially for two men. Bob and Drake have done lots and lots of things together outdoors; and Bob perhaps was communicating with Drake—I cannot speak for him on that—or Drake perhaps was communicating with Bob, wondering about him. But Bob was certain that it would be Drake who found us—and Drake and my brother, and some of his friends, were the key to the whole thing, luckily.
[tape is paused—switched to other side]

HG: Ok, we were discussing that Drake—your husband's friend—was going to come and rescue you—he believed that. Did *you* have any kind of communication in your mind, or, you know, did you think of anyone who might be thinking of you at that time?

Mongold: Consciously, I don't remember any particular individual—other than probably my mother, who I tried to *really* send vibrations out to and concentrate a couple of times that way: "if you ever do anything about it, now's the time!"….But afterwards, I realized that somehow subconsciously I must have been communicating with these people--there were several people who've said to me that they ran for food and water. Nina McFarland, who is Chris [?]'s wife, when I talked to her early on, said she painted a picture of a woman who was in a cave-like area. I've seen the painting, and it looks just almost exactly like the inside of Twigg's Cave—except that there is light. It's a beautiful oil painting. And Nina painted that during the two-week period.

There is another woman that I worked with at McCoole Elementary School who was going across the bridge in Keyser toward McCoole, who said that she thought of me during those days and she just couldn't stop thinking about me. She tried frantically to remember my mother's name; she knew that I lived in Burlington [unclear] invited her to visit me that summer. And she had been thinking about me, I believe, for a couple of days, on and off, but this was thinking in terms of "Oh, I'll go visit", or something; and then when this happened, she said it was just incredible—she got very frantic and very panicky. And she and I had done some talking about scientific theories, as opposed to religious theories about creation of the universe and about Bob [Bannekin?]'s books. And I think that that ties in somewhere. I'm not sure, but I can say as far as I know,

without being emotional about it, or…you know…accepting it at face value—the experience has taught me that there is a communication.

Anyway, at Nita McGee's—this woman's name, her name is Nita, which is very interesting also—she went home, and was cooking, and she moved her recipe box on her kitchen counter; my name and address fell out—and she said she got cold chills when that happened. She had given me a recipe for Easter eggs at Eastertime, and I had exchanged addresses with her that same day; she had wrote it on the back of an index card and put it in her recipe file. And then she went to watch the news—but they're from Denver and her husband works on the East coast and travels, so they don't really watch local news unless it's something on the national level, because they relocated. She went in to watch, and instead of turning from the local news channel, which apparently was on at that time—her son had watched some program and then the local news got on, and she left it on that channel--and discovered, within five or ten minutes through the television, that we had been found. At that time, she called my mother and she said my mother [unclear] and she said yes, because by that time—I don't know how long it was until it was on the television, but anyway, between the time we were discovered and this happened, about four or five experiences like that had occurred to some people that I knew, that I heard about. My mother said, "I knew that you weren't dead, you were alive. I knew there was a very terrible thing that you were going through, but I knew that you were alive somewhere." And there is no way to say, "oh sure", now that it's over with—but that was my mother saying "I knew you were alive".

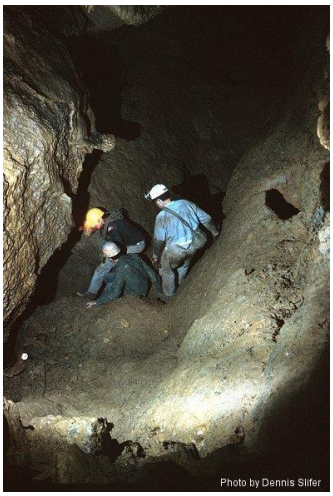
HG: And there were other people that had the same feeling that you were communicating with them while you were there?

Mongold: Right. I lived with my [unclear] John McIntyre, who was talking to a cousin of his and kept calling her Anita, and he contacted a mutual friend in Lonaconing and said, "I'm for some reason very worried and very upset—is Anita [unclear] alright?", and they said, "No, she's missing, and I don't know where she is." And he said, "Oh, I knew something was wrong."

HG: And he had no idea anything was wrong—or, he hadn't even been in touch with you?

Mongold: No. We weren't…we had seen each other in certain situations about two, three times at the most. You very easily get to know…[words unclear] ten years—so there's really no limit as to time you are acquainted with people who do communicate, who can pick up these communications from you. It doesn't necessarily have to be someone you are very close to or have been very close to for a very long period of time.

HG: Ok, according to the rescue team, you took approximately forty-five minutes to go those five hundred yards [note: five hundred feet]—which was about how far it was from the entrance where you were, in the pit. And I'm sure you had a lot of feelings and thoughts when they came. Did you hear them first, or did you see a light—or how did that happen?



Twiggs Cave
Courtesy: Maryland Geological Survey, Baltimore, Maryland

Mongold: This is a very interesting story. Let me start with what happens as far as your hearing. For one thing, you lose some weight, a great deal, while your heart beats very fast--and in a place that's closed-in and quiet. You're moving along, at times, to get water, lots of times where areas without—like, we had to crawl on our hands and knees, to feel and avoid slipping and falling into a hole or crevice. But when Rob and Mike and Jim found us we thought that…I believe I heard them first--Bob was asleep, we had both dozed off, and I heard voices. And up until this point we had heard so many things that sounded like voices: heartbeat as you were crawling through a passageway, or water dripping, or just something that wasn't *anything* that could be explained by listening closely to say, "Oh, that's your heart", or "that's water dripping". You know, just the sound that you might hear—hallucinate--you know, whatever. But when I heard voices, it just took a split second after I heard the first sound 'til I heard the second one—I just was, like, total relief; I knew that those were human voices. And I immediately started to grab Bob's leg, and said, "Help! Help! Help!" Bob listened--he just couldn't believe it at first. I'm fairly sure that--Bob and I disagree who heard them first--but I'm fairly sure that we had dozed off because by that time I was very much awake, very much…not edgy, because it's not—but that's what I can think of to describe…I just was not relaxed enough at that time to go to sleep. That's one reason my energy wore out so fast: because up 'til that time, the last couple days I had been sleeping—we had both been sleeping—probably eighteen or nineteen hours every other day, or maybe every day—we're just not sure.

HG: [words unclear] there's something I forgot, were you still able to get water?

Mongold: Right, because there was water right in the hole we were sitting in. There was a water hole that filled up within reaching distance. We sat on a sandstone—we think it was sandstone--and there were many stones around the area; I lifted up one after I had fallen there, and the water immediately started to fill up--so that's what we used to drink from. There was plenty of water there.

HG: Ok. One question that I'd like to know: did you ever blame your husband for taking you into the cave?

Mongold: No. He said at a couple different points that it was his fault, and I said, "It isn't your fault; I'm a tomboy, I've always been a tomboy", and that's what I said. "I wanted to see what was in here. It's not like you forced me down. Hey, we have this

clay, what do I get to see? I came all the way out here." Just like a little humorous exchange there. [section unclear]. And I charge.

HG: You mentioned about how the cold seemed to bother him more—so what did you do?

Mongold: On the shelf that we dug in, in the area that we dug in, I slept on the outside most of the time--unless I got extremely cold, then we would switch; because Bob minded the draft. In exchange, or as a favor to each other, I slept there; and since Bob wasn't as thirsty as I was, I drank more water. So, it worked out. That's one of the things we talked about—I'll sleep out here, I don't mind…

HG: Did you feel closer to each other during that time?

Mongold: Yes, well…closer in the sense that I said to Bob at one point, "if we do survive, I think it would be nice to have a child", which is something that we had never seriously considered at any time in our relationship, because of our own individual views about the situation that the world is in now; and the possibility that none of us may be here--from an ecological sense. It's not a radical thing, and it still isn't to me, but for that reason we had decided not to—and then I said, "I think it would be nice to anyway".

HG: So, you still wanted to go on surviving.

Mongold: Yeah. That developed between Bob and I that may never have. Shortly after that, coming back into the world, he did say no, that wouldn't be fair to do that at all.

HG: Who found you? Can you tell me how they knew where to look, and who they were?

Mongold: Drake Gibbs was in contact with my mother-in-law, and there was a friend of ours out in Washington State who had come to the area trying to visit Bob and I in Burlington; they wanted to know if we lived there, and we didn't have a telephone. So, they contacted my mother-in-law. And she said, "no, they're missing", and she told Drake where the truck had been towed from; and I'm not quite sure the set of circumstances of how she knew exactly what happened there. I believe that's what happened, and Drake realized that that was that area. They didn't quite put two and two together. He had been asking Bob earlier that winter, when Bob was making this rope ladder, if he wanted to go back into Twigg's Cave—it'd been some time since they had been there. So, Drake asked Bob's mother, I think, if the rope ladder was missing or…no, my brother came to Burlington several times to try to find us also and Drake said check for a rope ladder, and I think Steve said it wasn't there anywhere with the rest of Bob's [unclear]. So Drake, I think, from that realized, you know….I think it was, like, a two-day period--I'm not really

sure about this because this is the side of the story that we haven't all sat down and talked about.

But Drake and my brother ended up down in the area of Twigg's Cave this same night—this is another odd set of circumstances. My brother is *not* familiar with car types, or van makes, or anything as far as looks, but he recognized a van going around a turn in a direction in front of him on an opposite road, and thought that it was Drake's van. He immediately caught up with him. At this point, Drake hadn't been in contact with my family. Steve, and either Denny Fields, or Randy Twigg, or Danny Twigg--one of the three--were with Steve, and they followed Drake and began to talk and discuss the whole thing up to that point--what had happened, and just an exchange from Drake's point of view, and Steve's point of view, and that Steve had come to Burlington--to check and see if we had come back from a camping trip or something—several times. He was friends with Drake.

But Steve and Drake and whoever Steve was with that night met in that area. From that point, Drake went to my parents' house and said, "I think I know what's happened." And my dad and Drake contacted Leo Swanger, who's a professional spelunker, as far as I'm concerned, in the Narrows Grotto Club.

HG: Narrows Grotto Club? And that's in this area?

Mongold: Un huh. In Cumberland. Leo Swanger contacted Mike Small and Bob Kreiger and Jim [unclear]. And they immediately came in—got all their gear together and were just *there*. They realized the danger. But aside from that, they were very beautiful, great people. I haven't seen Jim but I have been in contact with Bob Kreiger and Mike [words unclear—voice is quieter].

HG: And then they helped you both out of the cave?

Mongold: Right.

HG: Then what happened after you got out of the cave?

Mongold: After we got out of the cave, we went to my mother's and I took a shower, and they washed my hair, and [section unclear—her voice is low again] That's something that I've always enjoyed doing, so that's what I wanted to do. [unclear again]
HG: You lost quite a bit of weight.

Mongold: Right. I weighed probably around a hundred and forty, and I went down to a hundred and twelve. A hundred and forty, forty-five down to a hundred and twelve.

HG: Did you feel really weak at that point?

Mongold: Not as weak as I would have imagined after that amount of time. I did say that I had fasted for eight days at one time, and that was true fasting.

HG: Any particular reason?

Mongold: I wanted to lose weight but I also wanted to experience fasting; it's a very nice experience.

HG: You recommend it?

Mongold: Oh, I recommend it. Let me finish up….after eight days of fasting, I wasn't weak; and I guess—twelve days, thirteen, is a big jump from eight days. Your body is without food for eight days and another five really makes a big difference, so. But I wasn't as weak as I thought I would have been; in fact, coming out of the cave there was a net, like a wire mesh net that we climbed to get back out, in addition to the ladder. And going out is harder than coming down—you get stuck a lot easier because you're pulling yourself up. And you do it inch by inch, whereas when you're going down, it's smoother. And Bob and I both did that without any help at all—I think I did have a little help, a boost here and there; basically, there wasn't room enough for another person to be there with me. Bob really pulled himself out; Drake was at the mouth of the cave, and he said "How's he doing that?"

HG: So, you were pretty strong, then.

Mongold: It was adrenaline strength.

HG: I guess. [laughs] When you got home, did your mother give you anything to eat?

Mongold: I think I had tea and a cup of chicken noodle soup. Bob drank a glass of milk, and two cups of chicken noodle soup and something else. He ate a lot—well, not a lot, but [words unclear].

HG: He didn't get sick though?

Mongold: No, uh uh.

HG: Then what happened?

Mongold: Then we called…my mother had already called Memorial Hospital; first we called Sacred Heart, then we decided to call Memorial. So, they said "Bring them up right away—don't give them anything else to eat, you got the wrong directions." So we went to Memorial Hospital, we were taken to the Emergency Room and Dr. Farah—a great doctor—happened to be there. This is another odd, or unusual, or strange set of circumstances--for whatever reason, it ties in: he had worked in Biafra with malnourished babies—mainly malnourished babies—and adults, and he recognized the symptoms as soon as we came in—in a split second, probably. And from there, he took every precaution to do the right thing; not to give us anything until he knew exactly what the vital signs were, as close as they could determine without doing extensive testing.

HG: How long were you in the hospital?

Mongold: Ten days. Bob and I were both in for the same amount of time.

HG: [question unclear]

Mongold: Right.

HG: Then the newspaper and the radios contacted you about it?

Mongold: Right.

HG: What did you think about all the publicity?

Mongold: I wasn't interested in giving any information; I wanted to assimilate all the knowledge up to that point and take time to reevaluate everything. I knew that the experience was something that *I* wanted to write about *myself*, and I didn't want to release it to a newspaper or a radio or a reporter or anybody at that time; it was something that was very sacred to me. I wanted to do it in my own way, and I knew the reporters were interested in it as a sensationalist type of news.

HG: As you were recovering, then, you were having all kinds of feelings, you know, about your experience; did your feelings about your husband change?

Mongold: Um, no, not at that time, I don't think. I can only say how I felt consciously at that time—whatever's in the subconscious, which I think has a lot more value, or worth, or influence than people think…whatever was happening then, and I'm sure something was, on a conscious level—on a conscious level now--I can't say that my feelings have changed; I basically feel the same way.

HG: And did you want to be with friends?

Mongold: Uh huh. Yeah. I was very anxious to see my friends—and I could relay this story to you; I wanted to talk to *some* people about it.

HG: And did you make any definite plans what you're going to do in the future while you were in the hospital?

Mongold: Right. I decided that I'm going to write about it. Bob had said while we were in the cave, "If we get out, we're going to have to write about this—you're going to have to write about this." And I said oh yes, I will. Then I didn't think about [words unclear] need to worry about writing. Anyway, I decided that I would write. And I gave you a title, right? Which was *Life, Birth, Death* [unclear] *and Rebirth*. And I feel that at this stage, from last April, 1976, until tonight and hopefully forever and ever, I'll be in a stage of rebirth; I will be discovering what these things are that control your mind—that you can control your mind. You can be what you want to be, you can put your energies and your experiences to work for you—and it doesn't make any difference who or what you are. If

you believe that, and therefore believe in yourself and your own mind, and make it work for you, there isn't anything you can't do.

HG: So that's the kind of book you're going to write?

Mongold: Right. Positive energy.

HG: Positive energy. And will it be about surviving?

Mongold: Surviving. Right. Surviving. [section redacted for privacy]

HG: And now you're writing a news article?

Mongold: Right, for the great newspaper, the [Charleston News? unclear] as editor. I'll be writing a piece this week but there'll be more next week. It will be the story of my experience, my own personal experience.

HG: Ok. Is there anything you want to add?

Mongold: Just that it is necessary to take precautions when you're dealing with nature; and I might tie in with that that "mind" is nature also. For whatever that is worth, and I hope a lot, for everybody, surviving is more than outdoor school.

HG: True. And also, would you recommend doing anything in particular if you go spelunking?

Mongold: Take food, batteries, water, and let somebody know where you are.

HG: Ok. Excellent.

Mongold: Thank you.

PHOTO CREDITS:

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Twiggs Cave
http://www.mgs.md.gov/geology/caves/twiggs_cave.html
Courtesy: Maryland Geological Survey, Baltimore, Maryland; photographer: Dennis Slifer.

Rope ladder
https://pxhere.com/en/photo/1263203
Photo by form PxHere

United Parcel Service in the Cumberland Area
Name: William B. Beem
Occupation: Cumberland Center Manager, UPS.
Residence: 715 Louisiana Avenue, Cumberland, Maryland
Birth date: July 14, 1947
Date and place of interview: Nov. 7, 1978 at Mr. Beem's Office
Transcribed by Celeste Bartlett 3/2008

My name is Steve Law and I am interviewing Mr. William B. Beem of 715 Louisiana Ave. He was born July 14, 1947 in Mattoon, Illinois. He has been a resident of the Cumberland Area for the last 16 years. He is Center Manager at United Parcel Service and the topic will be United Parcel Service and its relations with the Cumberland area.

SL: Bill, for starters could you give us a brief historical background of UPS?

Jim Casey

Beem: UPS was founded in 1907 in Seattle Washington by a gentleman by the name Jim Casey. The company originally was a message service. A few years down the road we got into the business of retail delivery, whereas the major function of our employees was to deliver retail purchases to customers' homes. In post WWII with the advent of the automobile and the changes it was making in American society, it became rather evident that retail delivery service may be a thing of the past. At that point the board of directors with the United Parcel Service made what has turned out to be a monumental decision in electing to go into competition with the United States Postal service and get the license to operate as a common carrier. To this date we still run five different sections of the company that encompasses retail delivery service, common carrier service, furniture delivery service, red arrow messenger service, and blue label air service, but our primary business at this time in our history is the common carrier delivery service.

SL: Bill, when did UPS first arrive in the Cumberland area?

Beem: United Parcel Service opened its doors on June 25, 1964 in Cumberland, with approximately eight people and five vehicles. The original location was 143 Offutt Street and we had half of what was at that point in time of the Rudolph garage building.

SL: Where is the location now for United Parcel Service?

Beem: United Parcel Service today is located at 211 Bowen Street in South Cumberland in a building that was erected in 1972. The initial planning for that building was a ten-year facility, however, because of the growth in the operation locally it is now apparent that we won't be in it near ten years.

SL: What is the reason is UPS constantly growing in this area or is it just a need for a new building?

Beem: United Parcel Service as a whole is growing all over the country and all over the world as far as that is concerned. At this point in time, we are the largest delivery operation in the world. We have more vehicles and people on the street every day than anyone in the world with the exception of the United States Army and the U.S. Postal System.

SL: What is the ratio in delivering of parcels between the United Parcel Service and the United States Post Office?

Beem: The common carrier business which as I stated is our primary business is regulated by the federal government to pertain primarily with small parcels. Our particular restriction allows us to handle parcels up to fifty pounds in weight. In trying to set some kind of a decisive figure on the percentage of parcels that we've now handled, 92% of all small parcels, is the figure normally given. The other 8% is being split up by other carriers from the private sector and the United States Postal Service.

SL: Uh, Bill what is the major difference between United Parcel and Postal Service? Why are people more willing to come to United Parcel Service with their parcels than to go to post office?

Beem: Well, Steve, we would like to think that there are numerous reasons there. Number one, service is all we sell, although that may be true also with the United States Postal System we do it at this point in time for a cheaper rate and our time and transit in most cases is much, much better than the Postal Service. However, I think that it should also be stated at this time that we are geared as a company for the parcel business; that is our only business. All of our facilities, our vehicles, and our people are geared for the parcel business. The postal system encompasses a much larger area of service, of which parcel delivery would be just one small section. For that reason, they run into a lot of problems that are not common to our particular business.

SL: Are there any other competitors in this area?

Old Railway Express Agency car

Beem: The common carrier business has grown to be one of the most competitive fields in the country. At one point REA, Railroad Express [Agency], was the largest common carrier outside of the postal system. They are no longer in business, but along with the United Parcel Service there are numerous independent local delivery services operating all over the country and there are a number of other private national delivery services such as Federal Air Express and Overnight Purolator, so it is a highly competitive field.

SL: Changing the subject here a little bit Bill, since the introduction of UPS to this area has there been any changes in this area that have been created as a result of the UPS service?

Beem: Well, I think more than trying to develop certain areas that the United Parcel Service would stand up and take credit for changing in any geographic area, I would have to say that there have been numerous changes in the Cumberland area and in other areas with our similar geographic characteristics that were brought upon not so much because of, but as a result of, the United Parcel Service and numerous other changes in our society. Certainly, among those would be United Parcel Service allows small business people to maintain a minimum of inventory because of their quick turn around with their manufacturers and vendors. And in years past small businessmen in the community of this size were forced to maintain a rather heavy inventory because of the problems of transportation and getting these things to them.

SL: Bill, if UPS or other carriers would happen to go out of business what effect would this have on the community?

Beem: Well, like anything else Steve, dependency is created when a service or services are provided to an individual or a community that are proven to be substantial enough in nature to allow in this particular case, I think you are speaking primarily about the commercial people, to make changes within their own systems to allow for the dependency of an outside service. Unfortunately, we have some very good statistics available on this particular subject because of our rather lengthy work stoppage that we experienced in this part of the country in 1976. At that point in time, we were told that for every day the United Parcel Service was on strike approximately about 20 small business people were forced to close their doors in the 13-state effected area in the eastern part of the United States because of their inability to operate without the services rendered by the United Parcel Service. However, I should also add that in the case of our work stoppage or if in any point in the future that the United Parcel Service ceases to offer the services that it does render, alternative methods of transportation and other areas of service are available and would be most happily rendered by the US Postal System and other common carriers that we spoke of earlier.

SL: Were there any businesses in this immediate area that were forced to shut down because of the strike?

Beem: I'm not aware of any. I know that during the time of our work stoppage there were numerous businesses that were affected in the early goings of the work stoppage

because of plans that they have made in terms of maintaining what we refer to as a movable inventory, but because of the other agencies available in the area and because of our proximity to the three metropolitan areas of Washington, Baltimore, and Pittsburgh, after a short disruption in their normal activities, I think they were all probably able to carry on without too much problem.

SL: In a business such as this, Bill, a strike you would think have more of an effect on their business. Did this lessen UPS business to an extreme?

Beem: Well, I think number one the greatest effect of any work stoppage especially in a service-oriented company is one it disrupts the cycle, by that I mean, the United Parcel Service being a common carrier has just that, a delivery cycle where packages are constantly being picked up, sorted, and moved to different points within the country for delivery. This disruption creates major problems, not only for the company on strike, but the company that it services. In our particular case the work stoppage certainly had some rather negative effects on our image in terms by how we're perceived by the public. Of course, there you would also have to take into consideration that strikes and work stoppages seem to be a thing of the day and people on a whole seem to accept them as a realistic part of life. And I think that I am safe in saying that any character damage at the United Parcel Service suffered during their work stoppage has been recouped. I certainly feel that this is true in the Cumberland area.

SL: Did you think that this strike affected the Cumberland area more so to speak than other parts of the country or was it all balanced out?

Beem: Well, because of the type of operation that we run I would have to say that the problems created by our work stoppage in the Cumberland area are similar to the type of problems that were created for other communities of our size with the geographic characteristics and the proximities of the major metropolitan areas. I don't think that the problems in the metropolitan areas are nearly as bad during a work stoppage in this nature as they are in smaller communities because of the availability of other private carriers.

SL: Bill, changing things around a little bit now, what is the exact location or geographical region that Cumberland, United Parcel Service covers?

Beem: Out of the Cumberland center we cover approximately 10,000 square miles. To try and put that down in more definable terms; we handle delivery service for all of western Maryland; that being the counties of Allegany, and Garret and even though we are awfully close to PA, our deliveries are restricted to Maryland and West Virginia. We deliver to a six-county area in northern West Virginia. I guess that our

farthest point from this particular building would be down through the Lost River/Lost City/Mathias, West Virginia area which borders the Virginia state border. The Terra Alta/Kingwood, West Virginia to the north which borders Garrett County, and the Grantsville/Springs Pennsylvania area, which of course borders the Pennsylvania state line.

SL: Can the United States Post Office in any way compete with the way you deliver to these rural areas? Do they do the same thing as the United Parcel Service?

Beem: Not only can they compete, but in the past four or five years they are making a very, very strong effort to compete. Not only with the United Parcel Service, but with other delivery services in the private sector. Our services are different in so far as most of the things delivered by the United Parcel Service demands a signature, so the personal contact with the consignee is necessary. Whereby with the United States Postal Service, unless it is something sent under a restricted class, such as special delivery or registered receipt requested, no personally contact with the consignee is necessary. I think that the type of service that we offer lends itself a little more to the package delivery business primarily because of the cost, the average cost of the merchandise being shipped.

SL: Bill, what changes in the United Parcel Service in this local area have been made since beginning serving this area?

Beem: Well again, I think the changes that have been made in Cumberland and in the Cumberland area which pertain to the United Parcel Service are very similar to the changes that the United Parcel Service has encountered throughout the country. We have grown from the original eight-man operation for instance to an operation of some forty-five to fifty regular employees. We've also changed the local operation from a primarily full-time employee operation to what is now an almost fifty-fifty part-time full-time operation. The use of part-time employees during peak periods of the work day is brand new to Cumberland, however it has been used in other areas in the country for a long, long time. It also makes the hours of service for your full-time people more available for the business at hand and that is delivering packages.

SL: What are some of the full-time jobs at United Parcel Service?

Beem: In the Cumberland area, we have first a staff of three full-time managers and supervisors. We also have three part-time staff employees who work in the clerical classifications. We have a seniority list of 25 full-time package delivery drivers; three full-time tractor trailer, or what we refer to as feeder people; one full time mechanic, and 15 part-time employees who are used in various classifications. Part-time employees

locally are used to sort and load package cars in the morning. They are used to unload and sort packages in the evening and they are used in the maintenance of our vehicles, by washing them each and every night.

SL: Bill your tractor trailer drivers, what are their destinations every night to receive packages and bring them back to this area?

Beem: Our tractor trailer people are quite unique in terms of their position in the transportation business. Most tractor trailer drivers, or the old stereotype truck drivers, were people who were forced to leave their homes on Monday and drive all week long from one point in the country to another. Because of the nature of our operation, all of our tractor trailers are round trip day trips. From Cumberland, we send tractors to Baltimore, Washington, and Pittsburgh each evening. They take the merchandise that has been originated here in Cumberland to our hub sorting facilities in those areas and they bring back the merchandise which we will deliver on the next delivery day.

SL: Ok Bill, so what are some of your other part-time jobs other than sorting and loading trucks?

Beem: Well, in the Cumberland area now, the only part-time work that we have deals primarily with the sorting and loading of vehicles in the morning. However, I can say that we also have part-time employees who wash our vehicles each evening. We have part-time employees who unload the package cars when they come back in the evening and load our tractor trailers for dispatching to the hubs, and we use part-time people in the clerical classification in areas such as receiving counter, which deal with the public, payroll and some of the various reports that we need to do to run our business.

SL: You would think that having people wash your trucks every night would be an expensive burden on the company, but the United Parcel Service tries to keep a good image, don't they?

Beem: I think we talked a little earlier, Steve, the fact that the United Parcel Service does no formal advertising. This is a decision that was made early on in the company and has been maintained throughout the history of the company. The United Parcel Service feels that the best possible advertisement they can get is number one, to give the best possible service available, and number two to maintain a good looking fleet and class of employees. The United Parcel Service maintains a very strict standard of appearance for all employees it provides all employees with a uniform, and like I said it also washes each and every piece of equipment every night.

SL: Ok Bill, what economic impact has United Parcel Service had on this area as far as jobs?

Beem: Well, in think we have talked a little bit about the growth of the United Parcel Service in the Cumberland area in terms of the number of employees. Some of the things that are a little tougher to gage would include the economic impact of a company of this nature on a specific area. The best way I can answer that, Steve, is to say that locally our payroll runs somewhere in the area of $15,000 a week. On a yearly basis, that would mean approximately $780,000 a year being pumped into the local economy in the form of wages and I'd have to say that figure would even be a little bit higher than that because of our use of casual and extra people during the peak season.

SL: The United Parcel Service as you said has 45 employees and they serve within a hundred-mile radius, but when you consider that it is no really that much money is it?

Beem: Well, no, but we are only talking about payroll there, primarily because it is the easiest to gage and approximate. Now of course if you're talking about total economic impact of any one operating company in an area such as Cumberland, you also have to look at such things like the amount of money spent by the company, with venders in the local area. We do an awful lot of business with for instance, a number of the automotive parts people in this town. We have a rather healthy account with the First National Bank of Western Maryland who deals with our COD money every night. We deal quite often with Kelly Springfield Tire; we have dealt rather heavily with a number of the automobile leasing agencies in the Cumberland area as well as unfortunately a number of the outside service garage type businesses and towing businesses. We have our uniforms cleaned on a daily basis by outside local people. So, to try and really define the real economic impact of one company the only way you can really legitimately discuss it would be in a formal business type report dealing with the amount of money spent to run a facility of this nature in a local area and I do not have those figures right at hand.

Kelly Springfield plant, Cumberland, MD

SL: But it is definitely, it helps the economy in this area and the employees of the United Parcel Service are well to do?

Beem: Well, a lot of communities have a misconception, at least what I feel is a misconception, of on the impact of an industry to the community. You'll hear the terms Cumberland needs or Cumberland lacks major industries in the area. I for one feel that

this is an incorrect statement or a misconception because 9 times out of 10, people are making that statement because there are not more facilities in the area such as Kelly, or Goodyear Tire or General Motors, but when you are dealing with a smaller facility, smaller operations, groups of 40, 50 employees, I would personally much rather see an area that has higher density of businesses of that nature than I would one or two controlling type corporations.

SL: Bill, the United Parcel Service you see most of its' businesses in this area and most other areas, by picking up some small and larger businesses. How does the regular person who wants to send a package, is it hard for them to do this or does the United Parcel Service favors receiving packages through big businesses?

Beem: Ok, the best way to answer that question is to give a little run down of what our rights are in terms of the Federal licensing. As a common carrier we are licensed to do pickup and delivery within certain specified geographical locations within the guidelines set forth by the federal government. Part of this licensing includes the availability of our service to the private sector or individuals. In the Cumberland area, our receiving counter is open to private practice or the individual shipments Monday-Friday from 5:00-6:30. It is true however that most of our business is done on a commercial contract basis. And I should point out that that is one of the things that has made us a bit different from, for instance, the U.S. Postal Service or Railway Express, or most of the other common carriers in that we do make pickup. Anyone dealing with the postal service, be it large or small, must take those packages that they have to the post office to get them into the system. In our system we provide a service where we come on a scheduled basis due to a contract to the manufacturer or the shipper's location and pick the parcels up.

SL: That has to be a definite advantage in United Parcel's favor. The service they provide seems to be a lot better than the post office.

Beem: I think it has been a combination of the different types of service that we offer. Again, we spoke of the fact that the United Parcel Service is in the parcel delivery business and all of our facilities, equipment, and people are geared for that business. And the services that we offer are over and above the services offered by other people in the business are those we felt are most necessary. Currently they have proven out to be correct that the company has prospered in the past 10 or 15 years.

SL: Uh Bill, can you give us any instances where UPS has changed local businesses, so to speak, in this area?

Beem: Well, because of the type of service that we offer Steve, it has expanded the sales and retail delivery business. Well, let's speak for instance of the Kelly Springfield

Tire Company. Kelly being a major manufacturer of tires for use both here in this country and abroad, has always done most of their own transportation of their product.

Although they also rely heavily on some of the other freight agencies on the area, they have never really gotten into small consumer orders, let's say. Because of the availability of the United Parcel Service, Kelly Springfield is now able to fill much smaller orders than it was 15 or even 5 years ago. I think proof of that would be today Kelly Springfield deals with Sunoco gas stations throughout the country. Some Sunoco gas stations can be quite small and as a result when they make an order it may be for one or two tires instead of one hundred or two hundred. Ten years ago, Kelly Springfield was not in a position to make the sales to that particular Sunoco gas station because they had no way of getting the merchandise to them. Today, when they need an order for one tire, two tires, five tires, they can get the merchandise delivered to the vendor through the United Parcel Service. I think that is one major change. I think there are other changes such as the inventory that is necessary for a businessman to maintain. If he is in the type of business that he has adequate supplies available to him in one of the metropolitan areas. It's no longer necessary for him to maintain a large heavy inventory. He can go on a revolving inventory basis whereby if he sells an item he can return to the vendor and ask to have it replaced the next night and through our service that replacement is made possible.

SL: Now in a fairly rural area such as this, that is almost a must, you have to say, keeping a small inventory.

Beem: Well with the inflationary trends that the country has gone through in the past few years nobody wants to have money tied up unnecessarily, and inventory you might say is just that, tied up money, so it has given the small businessman especially more flexibility of what he has to sell.

SL: Uh Bill, moving around here, what about the Cumberland Mall? How does UPS going to change towards that or how is it going to work out so that effective delivery can be accomplished?

Beem: That's an interesting question Steve, because as a private company and a service oriented company, we have to do whatever is necessary to render our service to the people, and regard to the Cumberland Mall, I really don't feel that the United Parcel Service will be affected in any great manner in terms of comparing the two to let's say deliveries to the downtown area a year ago prior to the beginning of any construction on the mall, United Parcel Service as well as most of the other motor carriers in the area have been in on the design of the downtown mall since the very beginning. The people who were in charge of the development and planning of the mall were most receptive to

any comments or suggestions that were made to them by the United Parcel Service or the other motor carriers in the area. The downtown businessmen showed a lot of consideration and concern for the service that we offer them and how it would have been affected in this area by the mall. So, I really think that all though we are experiencing problems during the construction period, once the mall has been completed and becomes a reality there will be no major changes in terms of our service.

SL: Are there any changes in the Cumberland area that has an effect on the United Parcel Service or vice versa there?

Beem: That's a big question Steve. There are always going to be changes in a geographic area which will affect everyone in that particular area. Because the United Parcel Service is in the transportation business we are certainly always concerned with the highway systems in our area and in that respect, we are looking forward very much to the completion of US Route 48 and the National Road. We are also looking down the road at the completion of Corridor H which will link the Cumberland area with the south by way of West Virginia. Corridor H has been completed through most of the southern portion of the state of West Virginia and the construction work that's going on today in the northern portion of the State, I would have to say it is probably ahead of the construction in the Cumberland area on the completion of 48. I think you can see the tremendous impact on an area like the Cumberland area just with the link up of 48 to the west. Whereas it's met with West Virginia, 48 and has given you divided highway interstate transportation from Cumberland uninterrupted to hookups with, for instance, Interstate 79 in Morgantown, West Virginia or by Interstate 79 to US Route 50 in Clarksburg, West Virginia which eventually hooks up uninterrupted four lane divided highway traffic with Interstate 77 in Parkersburg, West Virginia. And we are very much looking forward to the completion of 48 to the east which will give us the same type hookup for instance with Interstate 81 in Hagerstown area. And the total concept of the development of Corridor H will be very, very important, not only to us, but to the Cumberland area as a whole.

SL: Would this bring in any new business for the area do you believe?

Beem: Well, there is certainly many, many other people who would be better suited to answer a question like that, but as an individual and a longtime resident of the Cumberland area, I'd have to say that a complete hook up of the interstate system here in the Cumberland area would have to make Cumberland a much more attractive area for future industrial development. I think we have an awful lot to offer industry here in Cumberland and all of the positive things that are presently available will only be greatly

enhanced by the completion of the highway system: the natural resources that are available, the people. Unfortunately, at this time, unemployed people who are available are attractive to industry. The climate, the geographic area, and the availability of land, all these things make us a very attractive area for industry. One of our major hang ups in the past has been the problems of transportation with the area and the completion of the highway system to go along with the rather extensive railway system that is available, makes transportation really a positive aspect for Cumberland.

SL: Bill, what does UPS do specifically in order to attract like the building of US Route 48 and Corridor H?

Beem: Well, in a formal manner, the United Parcel Service I would have to say really stays back in the shadows. We like to be as up-to-date as possible of what goes on around us in the communities that we operate in, but you have to remember that any cooperation of our size that operates in as many different local communities as we do, it becomes awfully difficult to become rather extensively involved. However in terms of situations on a national level, and I would have to consider the completion of Corridor H and US Route 48 in this classification because it does have a great national importance. We do our share of lobbying in the Nation's Capital, we use outside services for the same aspect and in terms of that kind of thing, we have ways of making our feelings, I guess you'd have to say, known to the people.

SL: Uh, Bill, sort of changing things here, why does the UPS operate in Cumberland? Is Cumberland the capital of this area more or less, or whatever?

Beem: Well, the location of our facilities originally again to try and develop the exact method that the United Parcel Service use in selecting its centers has to do, number one, with the areas that we got the license and the privilege to operate in, in accordance with the federal laws. Any company requesting a permit to operate as a common carrier is very closely guarded by federal restrictions, United States laws governing monopolies. In that respect the United Parcel Service was only allowed to expand by x number of square miles per year. So during the years of expansion, which were roughly 1948-1972, the United Parcel Service had to request license for specific geographic areas on a yearly basis, and the selection of specific locations, and more directly, the selection of locations for operating facilities, was based on the type of business that was projected for that area and the proximity of that location to its major sorting or hub facilities. There are a lot of people in our business who would like to have seen the operation which is now located in Cumberland, a little further south. For instance, near the Keyser, West Virginia area. But I don't ever see any changes being made along those lines.

SL: Bill, Cumberland operates in the West Virginia district in the United Parcel Service and as only Maryland center in the district. Why is Cumberland in the West Virginia district?

Beem: Well, Steve, I think that's just a little, inner company development. To understand that one would have to understand the structure of the corporation of the United Parcel Service. First of all, there is a national company which is divided into regions which deal with specific geographic areas in the country. Each region is divided into districts, which are nothing more than divisions of operating territories. The problems that are created by growth necessitate certain changes. Five years ago, we were part of what is known as the Allegany District, which was headquartered in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and at that point, the Allegany District was comprised of all of Western Pennsylvania, Western Maryland and the state of West Virginia. Because of the growth of the company and the amount of people, facilities, equipment, and problems, it was decided that that district was no longer the proper size and it was split whereby West PA became a district of its own, West Virginia a district of its own, and Cumberland, Maryland just happened to be assigned to the West Virginia district.

SL: Bill, just checking things here, if you lived in Cumberland, Maryland and you wanted to receive a package from California, how fast could UPS get your package to you, and what is the expense usually involved?

Beem: The question of time and transit, Steve, within the United Parcel Service, is an ever-changing proposition. First, let's answer your question. A package originated on the west coast destined for delivery in Cumberland, now has two services available within the United Parcel Service, one being the normal common carrier ground service which is approximately a four-day, a four working day delivery cycle, meaning a package that got into our system on Monday on the west coast would be delivered by Friday in the Cumberland area. However, to certain spots in the country we also offer what we call the blue label air service. The west coast has always been a blue label air service area, and that service would get that package delivered in the Cumberland area in two working days, the cost of course would be proportionately higher. That's an interesting proposition, however, and the United Parcel Service, although it is a motor carrier, found it necessary to incorporate in its system, an air service. Because of the years that the common carrier licensing was developing, and we just touched briefly on that a few moments ago on how many square miles a year you were allowed to expand, because we did not have the rights in the Rocky Mountain states, the only way we had to hook up the west coast, which was where the company originated, to the east coast was by air. So, ten years ago it was an absolute necessity

In 2024, UPS offers Next-Day Air and 2nd-Day Air services

that anything going to the west coast had to be air. Today even though there are alternatives, the blue label service is still offered to the west coast and now to expanded areas in the country.

SL: Bill, what opportunities does UPS offer to an employee or a perspective employee for that matter?

Beem: Well, United Parcel Service as we spoke of earlier, is a major national, well, correct that, an international cooperation, and thereby has a tremendous opportunity to any employee. At this point in time, I would have to first say that our greatest problem has been growth. A lot of people would question how growth can be a problem, but increased business regardless of what business you are in, is only a positive result when you are prepared for it, and if you're not prepared for it in terms of people or facilities or equipment, it can become a rather cumbersome problem. This has been true in the United Parcel Service. I would be remiss if I did not say that the United Parcel Service offers an awfully good livelihood for all of its employees. It offers just about an unparalleled area of opportunity in terms of career advancement for people who are career minded. It offers an excellent opportunity for employees who find it necessary to work while they are continuing their education, for instance. I began my career with United Parcel Service while I was a student, and it allowed me the opportunity to earn the money that I needed for my very existence and survival while continuing my education. And upon completion of my education, it provided me with a very good job and now potentially, a very very lucrative career. I would say that these opportunities are available to each and every employee who is presently involved with the United Parcel Service system and we have at this point in time no reason to believe that this opportunity won't expand to even larger numbers of people in the future, and for that matter, larger areas for those people in terms of management careers, hourly employee careers, the possibility of diversification within the cooperation which would open up all kinds of doors to present employees and the prospective employees.

SL: Bill, how do United Parcel Employees compare with the average person in Allegany County on income basis?

Beem: Well, I really don't have the figures at hand to answer the question of what the average earning of the people in Allegany County. However, I do have figures which tell me rather realistically exactly what kind of income United Parcel Service employees are earning at the present time and I would have to say that they are well above the average, at least what my vision of the average is. United Parcel Service employees in the hourly classification are all members of the International Brotherhood of Teamsters and as such are covered under a contract or a current labor agreement that in the past five or six years has become very, very lucrative. It has followed what is called the

National Freight Master Contract and wages, for instance, go from $7.53 an hour for a seniority part-time employee to $9.48 an hour for a seniority full-time mechanic, with various degrees of different classifications between those two. So, I'd have to say that is a very good wage.

SL: Bill, do you have any other final comments or conclusions to this tape?

Beem: I think that United Parcel Service is very definitely a major cooperation or concern in the Cumberland area today and I think that it has grown continually since its conception 14 years ago. And I think that it will continue to grow in its service to the Cumberland and surrounding areas in the future. And I hope that the service, the system, the facility, the operation, will not only continue to grow in the Cumberland area, but that at some point in the future, perhaps the selected area of diversification of the company also opens operations here in the Cumberland area.

SL: Well thanks a lot for your time. I appreciate very much.

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