

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

JAMES BABCOCK

Interviewed by Chrystyna Huk
8 August 1989
OHRC accession #88-101-1,2,3

INTRODUCTION

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DEED OF GIFT AGREEMENT

I, James Babcock, hereby give
Interviewee (please PRINT)
my oral history interview with Chrystyna Huk,
Interviewer (please PRINT)
which was conducted on August 8, 1989, to Indiana University.
Date.

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OK-CS

In full accord with the provisions of the Deed of Gift, I hereunto set my hand.

<u>James H. Babcock</u> Donor	<u>August 8, 1989</u> Date
<u>Chrystyna Huk</u> Interviewer	<u>August 8, 1989</u> Date

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INDIANA UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

INTERVIEWEE: James Babcock

INTERVIEWER: Chrystyna Huk

SUBJECT: Paoli history, growing up in the '40s and '50s,
changes in values, Vet. celebrations

DATE: August 8th, 1989

TRANSCRIBER: Elizabeth Racette

H: Today is August 8th, 1989. This is Chrystyna Huk and I'm interviewing James Babcock at his office in Paoli, Indiana and we will be talking about his life in Paoli for the Paoli Project.

Mr. Babcock can you please tell me where you were born and a little bit about your family, and how you grew up?

B: OK, I was born in Greencastle Indiana and we moved here when I was 4 years old, when I say here I'm talking about Paoli. I don't remember much about my early life in Greencastle except I remember living beside a real busy railroad track and my dad worked at Barnaby's sawmill in Greencastle. Mom and Dad were both from Paoli but they had lived in Greencastle due to employment and when I was 4 we moved back to Paoli and lived on Sandy Hook. I have always lived on Sandy Hook which is in Paoli township, kind of on the northwest side of Paoli. In that general region. I'm the oldest of 4 children, 4 boys. I was born in 1937, my brother Do was born in 1939, my brother Rex was born in 1943 and my brother Danny, who is better known as Buck, was born in 1949. And growing up in Sandy Hook was probably the highlight of my life in that as I was growing up we really didn't have a lot if you measure it in terms of today's standard of living. We probably didn't have a lot, Dad worked at Carpenter's Body bus in Mitchell at that time. And we got along, my mother stayed at home and took care of the family and the household. Like I said, we probably didn't have a lot but we were a very close family. A lot of love was manifested between the parents and the children and the children and the parents. And I began to grow up and entered Paoli elementary school in about 1943 and the ironic thing about this is in growing up and living in Paoli I envisioned that some day I would probably leave Paoli and never come back and here come 40 years later, I'm still here. But I went to Paoli school and had some excellent teachers and I can sit here and name every teacher that I've ever had in the elementary school, junior high school and high school. And got my training here through high school and then had no idea that I would ever be back sometime even as a classroom teacher but ultimately that happened and I've stayed on presently the principal of Paoli high school which is a job that I enjoy very

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much. But looking back on my childhood I can remember growing up, I really didn't have a lot of clothing. Nothing like what my children are used to having. My daughter just recently married and she was in the process of moving some of her clothing out of our house to take it to her house, and we told her husband we had several loads that we had taken out and put in the vehicle and said "Hey, listen that's only about half of it." [laughter] So, you know, "Don't despair." As I was growing up I didn't have that many clothes. I remember Mom and Dad taking me to, they had a place on the square called the Jews Store, Mr. Sol Strauss owned a little dry goods store on the northwest, corner of the square and his clothing was very cheap so Mom and Dad would take me in there and outfit us. Usually we had a couple pairs of blue jeans and maybe a couple or three shirts and Mom kept them washed up real good. And that's what we wore to school. And probably had one pair of shoes. OK now as I see things, talking about change, this is one area that I've seen a lot of change in and that is that kids today are no longer content with maybe a couple changes of clothes. They have to have lots of clothes.

H: Your's included?

B: Yes, right. Especially mine. I guess we have probably spoiled our children in some respects because of the things that we have bought for them. But I look back and I think I really didn't miss out on a lot when I was growing up. As I said we were a close family, we didn't do a lot of things but one of the things I remember us doing, and we probably don't do anymore, we visit the neighbors. I can remember Mom and Dad loading us in the '35 Chevy car, which at that time was an old, you know, it was an old car even then, and going to the neighbor's house. And we'd visit maybe 2 or 3 or 4 hours in the evening. Well, as a young boy that's not very much fun to sit and listen to older people talk. Sometimes there were kids at the house and we enjoyed our visit with them. But I think that's one of the changes I see that we've gotten away from and I still think about some of those, what I would call now or at that time would have been called very insignificant visits are now very significant because people don't do that that much anymore. I think we've lost something because of that, people have kind of gone their own way even in a small rural community and I think probably television has had a lot to do with that. And now that you can go and rent your own movie, my mother, my grandfather and grandmother if they could come back now, several years after their death, they wouldn't believe some of the modern conveniences that we have. And how much things have changed. But I think I see this as where we have gotten less interested in the welfare of other people and we're more concerned about our own self. And I think that's,

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unfortunately, that's probably not a good, a good thing. Another thing, talking about change, this, the area that I live in has totally changed. Totally changed. At one time my grandmother and granddad lived on the very last house on Sandy Hook road, nothing past their house. Now there must be 100 houses, there's a hospital, two nursing homes, a very large doctor's clinic building, the 4H fair grounds, all of these things have sprung up in the last several years. Housing projects, apartments. My grandfather would not believe that the area that he used to farm is now completely turned over to housing projects. You know, in that respect there have been lots of changes. And some of them have been fairly recent, I'm talking about since early 1960s most of these things have taken place. We were, as we grew up being the oldest in the family I guess I was kind of the forerunner and when it came time to graduate from high school I was the first one in my family to ever attend college. I still remember the day that I left home to go and how much my mother cried when that happened. But I realized it was something that I wanted to do and Mom and Dad both wanted me to do it but it was still kind of a hard thing to do when we kind of parted company. My high school principal, Mr. Merl Lamon, kind of saw to it that I got on to school. He took me down for a visit during my senior year and then when it came time to go, he drove me to Western Kentucky University and made sure that I got enrolled and found me a place to live. And I'll always be grateful for that. So two years after I graduated from high school my brother had joined me at Western Kentucky and in fact one year we roomed together. And believe it or not brothers can live together, we found that we could. And then I ultimately graduated from Western Kentucky and went on into the military. And my brother next to me, the one that was two years younger, did the same thing. He also went into the military after he graduated. My two younger brothers decided they were not fit for college so they stayed around Paoli and sought employment and then my one brother went on to military service and served some time in the Air Force. In fact served a little bit of time in Vietnam. And then my youngest brother, who now works in the coal mine operations above Loogootee, did not go to military but has been a very successful person in terms of his employment as well as my brother who is in the car business and the brother next to me is a chemist in Louisville and working in industry. So I guess in one way of looking at it, Mom and Dad had, what I consider done an outstanding job raising 4 boys who continue on the Babcock name. Three of us live in Paoli. We live within a stone's throw of each other, and the fourth lives in Louisville and we periodically get together for family get-togethers. I can recall, I don't recall much about World War II because I was pretty young at the time but I don remember on a couple of occasions Mom sending my cousin and me to town to get

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sugar 'cause we heard that there was going to be a load of sugar come into town, because sugar was one of those items that was rationed. And I can remember getting a coupon books and the tokens and bringing them to the, we had a store on the lower side of the square, I think it was A&P store. And getting in line, and I remember the day that we came in we brought a sled, it was snowing and we had a sled and we loaded the sugar onto the sled. Sugar came in cloth bags, and I remember getting our allotment and loading it onto the sled and pulling it back home. And then I also remember Dad going to buy gas and having to pull out his tokens and ration book and paying for it with the, you know, with the stamps or whatever it was that they used. That area, you know; I just remember a few things. I remember when World War II ended and all the jubilations, first that was the day we celebrated. And I remember listening to it on the radio and seeing the headlines in the newspaper. I was probably about 9 years old when that happened. It's funny because the kids today about living in a time when nobody had a television set. I remember the very first television set I ever saw. There was a business on the lower side of the square, Paoli square, a man had a radio shop there and on Saturday nights he would turn the TV on that he had and turn it around and face the sidewalk. And there would be as many as 100 people standing on the sidewalk watching TV through a window. And, you know, here you would be transfixed there watching maybe a basketball game or something. And, of course, the reception was terrible, it was very snowy but you stood glued watching something for the very first time and I'll always remember that how astounded I was that there was such a thing as television. And then it wasn't too long after that that my aunt and uncle, who lived about, at that time lived about 3 blocks from the school building got a TV set. And we would go over in the evenings and watch, it would be a great thrill for me, wrestling or ball games, baseball game or something like that on television. And now, of course, every home has two or three television sets or more. But that was a change that probably has had as marked an influence on people of anything that I know, at least in my lifetime. And how it has effected society in general since that happened. I look back with a lot of fond memories on my childhood and on my formative years at Paoli schools. I've always felt like Paoli schools was a good place to be and we raised, my wife and I raised three of our own children and they've all gone through Paoli school. My two sons graduated from Purdue University and both have been very successful in their jobs, on is a chemistry major and working as a chemical salesman, the other is a civil engineer and works for Ely Lilly in one of their departments. My daughter is, will be a junior this fall and she'll be attending Purdue north central campus at Westville in that she lives near Valparaiso. So she is continuing her work on

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her degree. We've always felt like education was an important aspect of our lives. My wife didn't complete college, she did have one year but she and I have always encouraged our kids to get as much education as they possibly can. And that perspective, it's been a very integral part of our lives and will continue to be and it's such a pleasure to be employed in a job where you can be around young people all day long. And we have, we have a number here of just what I would call truly outstanding kids and it's... we get involved in their activities, my wife and I, for years and years following every band contest, everything that the band did as well as the athletic events, beginning early in the fall before school ever starts the band gets active. We get into football season and the band for the last five years, three of the last five years has won the state championships at the Hoosier Dome. One of the highlights of my life was being there the first time that our band was declared state champs, and that's kind of a nice thing to be able to point with pride and say we've got state champion in something. So, it's been a, in the 27 years that I have been in education, I have, looking back on it it's been a real positive experience. I enjoyed this time that I've taught in the classroom, I did enjoy the times as a counselor and administration there are times I wish I was doing something else because some of the headaches get a little bit bothersome at times but overall I really I guess I'd have to say I really enjoy what I do. And in terms of change in the educational system I guess probably there's been a lot of them. Looking back over the years one of the big changes for us is that we're in a new environment, the old building finally was ruled incapable of handling the students, due to decrepid conditions, so in October 1967 we officially closed up the old building over on the east side of town and moved into this building. And this building covers approximately 3 acres, it's completely air conditioned, something that we knew nothing about in the old building. It's very modernly equipped, everything that the teachers need to do a better job in the classroom, the superintendent and I make sure that they get it. I can remember doing experiments in the old building in chemistry class where there was not lab, and the best that could happen was two students could go up in front of the room at one time and perform some little simple experiment that didn't amount to anything. Now we have a very modern equipped lab that kids can go in there and work any time on practically any project and have every material that they need. Some of the other changes are, we are constantly, I suspect now we're more concerned about accountability than we were several years ago. Due to changes in state programs for the guidelines due to always being evaluated seemingly by somebody. I think there is more attention paid to are we really doing for kids what we need to be doing for them. And we're constantly

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looking at ourselves here in terms of trying to do better things, the things that will challenge our kids more. And some relatively new changes are we're offering college credit courses here at this school that a few years ago would have been completely unheard of. Students can receive college credit in English Composition, Literature, and Calculus. So it's possible that if a kid can before he leaves Paoli get 11 semester hours of college credit through the advanced college project at the Indiana University. And a number of our students did take advantage of this and so they've kind of got a drop on their first year of school by already completing that many hours here. I would have to say that our teachers here probably, there's been a change that maybe has not been a real wholesome change, and I have to say that this started probably in the early '70s with the advent of mandated negotiations between the teacher bargaining unit and the board, school board bargaining unit. When I look back on it, and I was involved very early with this in that I sat on the side of the school board when I first became an administrator and prior to mandated negotiations it seemed like teachers were more interested and quicker to volunteer to work after school, work ball games, work with students. And they were less concerned about how much pay they were going to receive in a settlement. Nowadays that's changed. The whole picture has changed and I think, I may be worrying but I have to think that a lot of this goes back to the early days of bargaining and there's been some pretty, pretty hostile feelings through the years especially when contracts were not agreed to prior to the beginning of the school year. We're notorious here for not having a contract when school starts, very fortunately this year we did agree last spring for a two year contract, so that hasn't been a problem this fall. It's one of the big changes I see that teachers are less, they're less prone to do things and they are more concerned about the minimum amount of time that they have to spend at school versus what other things can I do to help improve the school situation. And I don't know whether things will ever change in this regard or not. Paoli is a town of non-union industry, the only union in town is the Paoli Classroom Teacher Association made up of approximately 80 members. So, they're represented by the Uniserv director who is quite vocal in his demands for teachers and has created because of some of the things that they have asked for through the years quite a problem between his teachers and the school board. Hopefully that'll change, I'd like to have a good working relationship with our teachers here. I do not sit on the bargaining team any longer which I'm thankful for. But I do try to show appreciation for the teachers very often and let them know how much I appreciate the job that they do here. We do something here every year that's probably a little different from what is done in other school districts. For probably the last

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dozen years, at Christmas time the last day that we're in session I have a big Christmas party for all the teachers. And every teacher is guaranteed some kind of a gift and we go through and the names are drawn out of the hat and believe it or not this is something that the teachers look forward to from the very first day of school. They always, start talking about it "I can hardly wait until the Christmas party". So it's something that they look forward to, it takes a little bit of work to organize it and to get all their gifts together. But it's one day when we can kind of forget about our troubles, we can forget about our differences and we can have a lot of fun and a lot of good wholesome enjoyment. And I think that kind of renews the teachers to go ahead and come back after the vacation and start over for the remainder of the school year. But that's just one of the things that we do to try to let teachers know how much they're appreciated.

H: Going back to focusing on some of the things that you said, Mr. Babcock, why did your parents come back to Paoli in 1943?

B: About '42. '41-'42 they came back. I think the work was growing scarce in Greencastle plus we were away from family, both sets of my grandparents lived near Paoli. As long as we lived in Greencastle we were not able to visit very much back here in Paoli even though it wasn't that far away. Cars just weren't as well made at that time and the roads were not in very good shape. So I think to be near family was probably the biggest reason that we came back.

H: And your dad was able to find something, employment?

B: He was able to find employment.

H: Did you live in town in Greencastle and here?

B: We lived, in Greencastle we lived in town. In Paoli we have never lived in town, well for a short period of time we lived in town on Sandy Hook Road. And then we moved farther out on Sandy Hook Road where we were out of town and we moved to my mother's home place. She was raised, a lot of the years that she was home she lived in this same home. So we moved there in, I want to say about 1944. And all of my years through high school and college we lived there.

H: And this is out in the country or?

B: This is in the country, it's not far from town, about a mile and half to town just off Sandy Hook Road. We lived on the south

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of the hill, we lived in the middle of the woods and we had a private drive that went back to our home. And all the time that I was growing up the house that we lived in was quite old and we heated primarily with wood. That was the time before it was fashionable to have a wood stove. You know now everybody has wood stove.

H: Now it's fashion. Back to nature to do that.

B: Yes. But when we had it that was the only thing we had and the wood stoves at that time were not the efficient burning kind like we have now. I remember very vividly seeing Dad fill the stove up with wood and the stove would get so hot it would just be red around the exterior. And you could stand facing it and you'd be quite warm but your backside would be very cold. And so, you know, it was not efficient at all. And parts of the house were very cold.

H: Did you have like one big wood stove or one in the kitchen and?

B: We only had one big wood stove that heated the entire house. And then my mother had a kerosene stove in the kitchen and I remember going to town... Another thing I remember, going to town and getting kerosene. Another thing I remember, we had an ice box and I remember going to the feed mill in town and getting 100 pound blocks of ice and putting it in the trunk of the car and bringing it home. And getting out the ice tongs and carrying it in the house and putting it in the ice box.

H: Did that block of ice go on the top part, on the bottom part, ...?

B: this went into a side part. It was large enough to accommodate the 100 pound block of ice and that was in the side compartment and then there were two other compartments on the other side, an upper and lower one.

H: So what would happen is that there were holes or something where the coolness was...?

B: Yes, somewhere or another, and I don't remember that for sure but somewhere or other the cold would permeate where you kept your food stuff.

H: You can tell my youth right now, I don't know about these things. And where did the water melt into?

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B: In a tray at the bottom of the ice box. You would constantly have to take it out.

H: A couple times a day?

B: In the hot weather. I can remember emptying it at least twice a day.

H: Well if you were going to leave for a couple days, which maybe you didn't do that often, you'd have to plan

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H: If you were planning to leave would you have to make some plans or?

B: Well, generally not. But I don't recall, I don't recall being away from home that much were we spent over night somewhere else. Occasionally we would go to Anderson to visit my aunt and uncle and cousins that lived there but for the most part we were always at home. That's another thing that I see that's changed a lot is that all of our meals were eaten at home. I never remember going out to a restaurant when I was a youngster, we ate all of our meals at home. And the only time we would ever eat at a restaurant was if we happened to be out travelling somewhere and that wasn't very often. You know, now it's not uncommon for people to eat out two or three times a week. And I see that as a big change.

H: Well, they didn't have fast food restaurants?

B: No fastfood. The first fastfood restaurant I recall was a place called the Tee-Pee in Indianapolis.

H: I've heard of that.

B: And that's the very first fastfood restaurant I ever recall eating at. And you're right, there were no fastfoods at that time. Now there's one practically on every corner and if you ate, you went in, you sat down, you were served.

H: Do you remember say when you were 10 years old, that would be in '47, how many restaurants there were in town?

B: In Paoli at that time there was the V&V restaurant on the north side of the Paoli square, there was Markland's going out west on Main Street. There was the Wagner's had a restaurant on the lower side of the Paoli square. And on the east side of the

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square there was two restaurants, one was called Andy's which was kind of a teenage hang out and then the other one was Lane's. So those were probably at that time, those were the only restaurants that I recall.

H: That's quite a few though?

B: yes, for ... Some of them were... The V&V and Wagner's were a sit down type meal where you could order a plate lunch. The others mostly were hamburgers, short orders.

H: Who would go to those? If your family never went, who'd go to those?

B: Well, some of the more affluent people that lived in town certainly frequented them. But I think probably, and it's still true, a lot of the people that worked around the square, depended on those restaurants for at least the noon meal. There is, I forgot about one there was Welcome Inn which is still on the Paoli square.

H: I've been there.

B: It's still there, but it was not that common to go out and eat because people didn't have the money and it was just a normal thing to stay home and the family eat around the dinning room table.

H: The lifestyle was a lot different. Well, what did you do around the dining room table, did you only eat or did something else go on that your...?

B: Well, we talked quite a bit. Meal time was a time that I think we all kind of looked forward to because being a closely knit family we all managed to sit down and eat together. Nowadays the families are maybe they eat in two or three shifts and maybe there's times when they don't all eat at the same time. But I remember always all of us sitting down and eating and conversation was pretty, was pretty much a part of the meal.

H: What did you talk about?

B: Well, we talked about....., of course when school was going on a lot of times the topic was on school, school activities. We talked about the family, talked about things that were done that particular day. Mostly not real thought provoking kinds of conversation but just what was happening.

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H: Kind of like a sharing of the day's events?

B: Yes, I would think so.

H: And then your family, your wife and your three children, did you maintain that same kind of...?

B: We tried to. And I think pretty much we did. My, all our kids were active in high school with sports, the band and those kinds of things and sometimes the meal times were early or late but we all tried to sit down together and you know, share things in common. I think that's important, I really feel like that's one time when families ought to make time and get together and have kind of a common sharing of ideas and day's events, what's coming up in the near future and give opportunity to talk about a number of things.

H: But you think that that's a decreasing trend?

B: Very definitely. I'm afraid a lot of our kids that are in school here now very seldom ever sit down at home as a family unit and share things. I'm afraid that's a loss.

H: I'm afraid you're right. I want to get back a little bit more to your home that you grew up in. Can you tell me a little bit more about how big the house was and did you share a room with your brothers?

B: OK, yes. The house was a fairly large house but it was not, there was not that much room in it. First of all I remember very vividly we had an outdoor toilet.

H: Really?

B: Oh, yes.

H: Did you ever get indoor plumbing with that house?

B: Yes. I was a freshman in high school when we had indoor plumbing.

H: Which would have been about?

B: 1949, 1950, 1951. Something like that.

H: And that was about normal, I mean about average for that community at that time?

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B: Well, the people that lived in town had, you know, they would have had it before that time. Even though there were still outdoor facilities in Paoli but I suspect, most of my friends already had it in their homes before that time. And downstairs, this was a two story house, we had a cellar I can recall going down into the cellar, it was not finished it was a dirt floor but Mom kept her canning things, her canned good down there. And it always scared me to go down there because it was not well lit and there were snakes, very often we would encounter snakes down in the cool cellar. But on the main floor was the living room and later the bathroom, dining room, two bedrooms and a kitchen. And then we had an upstairs with two bedrooms upstairs. But the boys, I say boys my brothers and I, all shared the one room and...

H: Upstairs, downstairs?

B: Upstairs. We were upstairs. And I can recall, I can recall three of us sleeping in the same bed.

H: There wasn't room for four otherwise you might put all four in there?

B: There really wasn't that much room. And I'm going to tell a comical story OK? And this is what happens when you grow up with four brothers. We had a bed, we had an iron bed and it had posts on it at one time and they had been cut off leaving the hollow legs on each end, especially on the foot. During a real hot summer, and by the way we had no fans, we had no air conditioning and the hot nights were very uncomfortable, but I can remember one time when we noticed this very strange smell. And the hotter it got the worse the smell got. And we began to investigate and found out what had happened. My brother who is now a car salesman instead of getting up and going out to the bathroom outside, decided that he would fill up the posts that were in our bed and this we finally found it and it was, it had the most... the stench was unbelievable. So, you know, that's part of the hazards of not having indoor plumbing. You, on maybe cool or cold nights, you have a tendency not to want to go outside so we found out the hard way that he'd been taking some shortcuts. [laughter]

H: I think he probably learned his lesson after that didn't he?

B: yes, we were made to mind as we were growing up, I remember my mother especially, you know we had a peach tree in the back yard. And I can still see her going out and cutting off peach tree limbs and you know we would get our corporal punishment but I look back and I'm thankful that they took enough interest in us to do that. So, three of us at least slept in the bed and..

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H: Where did the fourth one sleep?

B: I think he had his own bed, a smaller bed. He was younger at that time. And then later we, somewhere another rearranged it so that the upstairs was all ours and Mom and Dad then slept downstairs but I recall early we all three slept in the same bed. And then when we moved there as a family, our three children were all three born at that time and the upstairs was given over to the two boys and then we had two downstairs bedrooms and my wife and I had one and then the daughter had the other. But the house that we lived in as I was growing up was very uncomfortable, in the wintertime it was very cold, it was a... it had been made out of logs and had been covered then with weather boarding as they called it then. And then later on was aluminum siding.

H: What is weather board?

B: It's, well that's the old name for it, it's just wood strips, you know, that were painted. They overlapped each other. Was about, probably about four inches wide. And it was cold in the winter and in the summer time it was hot, I mean it was just miserable in there, but we made it. We survived.

H: So you would get warmed up by the stove and then run to bed?

B: Yes.

H: it was cold up there?

B: The flue came up close to our bed and made it warmer because of that, you could feel the heat coming out of the flue.

H: And the stove was in the living room? Is that where it was?

B: Stove was in the living room.

H: Did you tend to congregate around the stove in the evenings?

B: Yes, we did. That's ... and when company came. We had another room that, as I was growing up I remember Mom kind of called it her good room, and our better furniture was in there. But it had no heat source and so most of the time it was closed off. You walked in there it was uncomfortable. So we did most of our living around the stove. And company came, if it was family, we stayed there in the, around the stove. If it was other than family well we'd usually open up the good room and go in and...

BABCOCK

H: This is a percussor to the different routine of a family room and a living room?

B: I think so.

H: Sounds like it, doesn't it?

B: Yes, at that time you didn't call it family room but that in essence is what it was. [tape turned off]

H: Did you have a garden?

B: We always had garden, always had a fairly large garden. And Mom, we had our fresh vegetables in the summer time and then my mother always canned, always canned.

H: like what ^{kinds} ~~kinds~~ of things did she can?

B: Tomatoes, green beans, peaches, blackberries, I can remember picking blackberries and getting chiggers and getting scratched and all that.

H: they grew wild around your house?

B: Yes, yes they did. And we didn't have to go far to find the blackberries. And Dad later on put out tame raspberries and we consumed a lot of them. And Mom ended up usually freezing those. But probably the main stays were tomatoes, green beans and peaches and then occasionally pears and we always had a potato crop and we would put those down in the cellar.

H: You had potatoes in the garden too?

B: yes.

H: And in the winter time you lived off a lot of that ?

B: lived off a lot of it, yes. I can remember coming in from school, it was not uncommon, I loved blackberries and raspberries, I can recall coming in from school and opening up a quart of blackberries and maybe eating all of it. Put sugar and cream on.

H: Who helped your mom with all this work if there weren't any girls?

B: Well, you know believe it or not the sons helped.

BABCOCK

H: Good.

B: We all pitched in and helped and I know Mom probably would have liked to have some daughters as she was, as you know we were growing up but it was not to be. But the boys helped a lot, we cleaned house, we helped around the kitchen, we washed dishes, we helped out in the garden. And you know we had, we never had much livestock about the only thing I remember having was a few hogs and we raised corn for them and we'd go feed them a couple times a day. We lived in the country but we really didn't farm at all other than just a little bit of corn Dad needed for the pigs. Otherwise we didn't do that much.

H: How did your mom cook? On a kerosene stove?

B: Yes. Way back she had a kerosene stove and then eventually we got an electric stove and I remember you know how glad she was to get that. And when we first moved there we didn't have running water in the kitchen. And so I remember having to carry in the water.

H: From?

B: Well, we had a cistern but we didn't drink that water. She used it to cook with and also to wash dishes with but we had to carry our water, that's another change too, we had to carry our water from a source here in town.

H: Which is how far away?

B: It was probably 3/4 of a mile away from home.

H: And who did the carrying?

B: Well, we did, I say we did we would take the car before we drove, before I drove Mom and Dad would take the car and we would help them. And we had 5 gallon glass containers. And we'd carry it in there and put it in the car and drive it home. We did that for years and years and years.

H: When did you get running water?

B: We got running water at the same time we put in the bathroom so that must have been 1950.

H: Wow, and that's just when the sewer system was being expanded in the country and where?

BABCOCK

B: Yes, let's see. We put in city water but that wasn't 'till later. I'm trying to think.

H: Did you have a well?

B: [pause] We didn't have a well there. I'm trying to think where we got the water for that.

H: Well we can come back to it later.

B: We put in city water in about 1958 and we dug our own line and laid the lines from the corporation limit up to our house.

H: Did it yourself?

B: Yes.

H: How far was that?

B: 1/2 mile.

H: Kind of fun, you wouldn't be allowed to do that kind of thing nowadays.

B: We did. We laid plastic lines all the way up to the house.

H: Did you have electricity in that house?

B: We had electricity, I can always remember having electricity.

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B: We did. We laid plastic lines all the way up to the house.

H: Did you have electricity in that house?

B: We had electricity, I can always remember having electricity.

H: And a phone?

B: We had it. We didn't have a phone until I was probably a sophomore in high school.

H: Party line?

B: Party line, eight people on the line. You could never get the line.

H: Well tell me how your mom cooked and did wash? And things like that?

B: She washed with an old ringer type washer and I remember she had that washer out on a, we had a concrete slab out on the west side of the house and that's where she did her washing. And it was an old ringer type and you had to have rinse water in another container. I can remember still seeing her run the clothing from the washer into the rinse water and then running it from the rinse, there were two things of rinse water, and then running into the other rinse water. And the one rinse water got pretty soapy with what it was over with. And I look back on that and think there was no way that those clothes ever got clean using that kind of an arrangement but that's what a lot of people used at that time. That was before the automatic washers. And Mom cooked, Mom was an excellent cook and she still is. And we had, we had a very stable diet of beans, potatoes, usually some kind of meat and then depending on the season, if it was the summer time sliced tomatoes and cottage cheese and those kinds of things. And in the winter time, the canned stuff that she had made. But the one thing I'll always have to say even though we didn't have much, we always had plenty to eat.

H: with four boys I would hope so?

B: And everybody had a good appetite. My mother and dad are both fairly large people and we all had good appetites. We've always eaten well in that regard.

H: I wanted to ask you was the ringer machine a hand thing or was it electric?

B: It was electric. It was electric.

H: And she had it outside?

B: Yes.

H: Like the cord went outside somehow?

B: Yes. It was on this slab and then there was this little cubical like thing that sat under it.

H: And she cooked on a kerosene stove did you say before she got an electric one?

B: Yes.

H: Was that, do you remember, I don't know what that's like. Was that a hard thing to manage? Was it, it took more watching than a wood stove, better than a wood stove?

B: It was probably better than a wood stove in that she didn't have to constantly go out and bring in wood and keep stoking it. But I don't know if it heated better or not, if it was a good heat. But you know, you were limited in what you could do, there wasn't much burner space and I don't think that the oven was very good that she had in the stove.

H: Do you remember when she got the electric stove?

B: I don't know, it's hard for me to remember. I'm going to say I was probably, you know this is hard to say, I'm going to say probably I was in junior high school. So in the late '40s. And also remember the first refrigerator we had.

H: That was my next question.

B: That was a great thing to have then. To make your own ice cubes and not have to go to town and buy ice. I thought we were really coming up in the world when we got our refrigerator and then when we traded our '35 Chevy for a '38 Chevy. That was the

greatest day of my life.

H: Those things happened close to the same time?

B: I would say fairly close, well... Yes, fairly close. This, I think we got our refrigerator and I don't know why I remember this but I think it was 1947 when we got our first refrigerator. That meant that I was about 10 years old. And I think if I recall correctly, I know it came from Sears, it was... And I think we bought it in Anderson. And I remember how glad we were to hook up that refrigerator and marvel at it making ice and keeping everything real cool and a very constant temperature. And then the old '35 Chevy that we had was very, it had had its day and Dad, I still remember the day that he went and traded it in town here. Bought it from Popeye Sinclair, we bought a '38 Chevy and it was already probably 9 or 10 years old but that was a great car. You know, it just seemed like we had really come up in the world.

H: The three year difference in the cars made, the technology was much better?

B: Yes.

H: Did it go faster? Did it look snazier?

B: It looked better, the interior, the upholstery was clean and there were no tears and it was not worn. And it had that new car smell even though it wasn't new, it had that newer car smell. It was a classier looking car.

H: Did it go faster?

B: it went faster but Dad had never been a fast driver.

H: OK. [tape turned off] Can you tell me what you did for leisure activities when you were a child, like how you played?

B: My brothers and I played a lot of cowboy and indian. And I can remember going out, we had some fields nearby our house that we cut down little small sassafras trees and made horses out of them and we rode the horses. And played cowboys and indians all the time. And some of the neighbor kids would come up and we would play a variety of things like I spy and those kind of things. Playing tag, the kinds of things that it doesn't cost very much to do. We didn't really have that many toys, we had some toys but we didn't have all that many. And then as we got older we put up basketball goals and we had a little baseball field out by the house but most of the things that we did didn't require an outlay

of cash.

H: When did you go to town?

B: That's another interesting thing. At that time, town was the big thing to get to do. We would probably, well we may go to town everyday but the thing that we did, every Saturday night we went to town. The town at that time every store on the square stayed open until 9 o'clock. And Wilson Roberts had a store up on the north side of the square and everybody went to Wilson Roberts variety store.

H: How come?

B: Things were cheap, and he had it. And Wilson Roberts always had a slogan and that was "If it's in Paoli, we have it." Now it might take Wilson a little while to find it, but he would eventually come up with it. But if you had a quarter in your pocket you could probably go into Wilson's and buy several items and still be able to pay for it with a quarter. We had an ice cream store on the square, we had a drugstore, we had a couple of restaurants and the hardware store stayed open and Jay C store was on the square at that time and it stayed open. And there was one doctor's office on the square and a couple of clothing stores. Just different things. Everybody came to town. The big thing was to get to town and find a parking space on the square so you could watch the people walk around and then the people would come and visit with you in your car. And that was the thing to do, everybody went to town on Saturday night without exception. We always went to town.

H: Young, old and in between?

B: Young, old, everybody went because it was of the few things to do and it really didn't cost much to do that.

H: And when did that begin to change?

B: Well, as a youngster I remember doing it all the time and then as I gradually got older it seemed like probably in the early '50s there was a tendency not to do that so much anymore. And probably to the middle '50s. In the '40s that was the thing to do. And again probably, and I've said this before, but with the advent of TV I suspect people got less concerned about coming to town because they could stay home and watch, they could be entertained at home. And..

H: And in the '50s TV started to?

B: in the '50s TV really became a part of a lot of people's homes. It was fun, I enjoyed it. I looked forward to going. We'd take a bath and get cleaned up a little bit and go to town and spend the evening in town. At 9 o'clock everything started closing up and people started going home.

H: And what happened in the late '50s was there a revival of town then or? You said from the early to the middle '50s it kind of declined...

B: No. No, I'd say the town, the visits to town, the social visits to town died out in the early to mid-'50s. And people just, it never did come back. Stores started closing at 6 o'clock instead of 9 o'clock because the people just weren't there.

END OF SIDE TWO TAPE ONE.

H: Ok so it never came back to its hustle and bustle?

B: No. People began to think in terms of not the square so much anymore but going into outlying areas so things began to pop up off of the square and it wasn't the thing to do anymore. Plus people were a lot more mobile. Instead of one family car, in the late '50s it was not uncommon for there to be two cars in the family and so people were not content to going necessarily and sitting on the square any longer, they were wanting to get out and go places. So the square kind of lost its significance. At one time I recall, not one time, but I recall having the band stand on the lower side of the square which has long since been removed. But the police station was on the lower part of it. And the band, the high school band would every Thursday night go to the band stand and play. And a lot of people came and parked on the square and listened to the band play. And that was kind of thing, this was primarily in the summer time, summer time and early fall. But this was something that people turned out for. The court house has always been the focal part of the square and of course our court house is a very picturesque building. It has been pictured on the front of a lot of publications. Unfortunately it caught on fire and was damaged very heavily but has been restored. And then another court, city county building was built in the last few years and so a lot of the activities which were formerly carried on in the court house are no longer there. The square is, there are some empty buildings on the square now which is not in common with a lot of town square so the emphasis was less on the square and more on maybe other areas off the square. And now we have the Jay C and Hooks and formerly 3D on the north side of town and of course the hospital is on the west side of town. And people are not so concerned anymore with going to the square, even Wilson Roberts moved off the square

into his building. So, things changed. And unfortunately we'll probably never be able to see those days again. I say unfortunately because I think it caused families to be closer together because they were together, they wanted to be together, they enjoyed each other's company. And that is in a by-gone era. And that's a shame.

H: But when you were a teenager in the mid-'50s there was still activity on the square?

B: There was still activity on the square, probably not as much as there was when I was 4, 5 or 6 years younger. But there was still activity on the square. For our, what we did as teenagers when we, anytime we could get the car, we drove around, drove to Orleans. It was a common thing to drive to Orleans, and French Lick and just see what was going on there.

H: Cruising?

B: Yes, we didn't call it cruising at that time. That's a more modern day term. But we'd go out and see what was happening, there was a skating rink in both Orleans and French Lick and there was some activities around that. And there were, at that time there were a few drive-in restaurants that you could go to. We had a drive-in theater at Paoli and also we had a theater on the square, I neglected to mention that.

H: the Strand?

B: yes. The Strand and a lot of kids on Saturday would go to the movies. And that would be a good place to take your date. If you really wanted to go, to go up town, you took your date to Bedford to the movie theater on the square in Bedford.

H: Was that a better theater, or was it more prestigious to go out of town?

B: It was a better theater and also it was the thing to do to go to Bedford. That was 21 miles north and if you got to go to Bedford you'd really made a long trip.

H: Maybe if you smooched everybody in town would know about it right away?

B: [laughs] Yes. Especially if you went to the drive-in.

H: Yes. I can see that. How important was church in your...?

B: Very important. When I was very young [phone rings, tape

turned off] we didn't go to church anywhere. And I recall probably when I was getting close to junior high school age and my mom and dad decided it was important for us to get involved in church activities so we began to attend a little small church, it was called the United Brethren Church about one mile north of our house. And we became quite active. We went to church on Sunday and again on Wednesday night. And this continued through high school and all the rest of the family continued to attend there and my mother and dad still attend there years later. It's a very small church now a United Methodist church. In the late '50s I became a member of the Church of Christ. And church has been a very integral part of our family's lives. My wife and I and our three children are all members of the church. We're quite active, we continue to attend anytime there's a service, Sunday mornings, Sunday nights and Wednesday night. And occasionally they have meetings and we attend every one of those. And our sons are establishing their homes it's been a top priority and my daughter the same thing. Church activities take precedent over all the other activities and sometimes with school that's a little difficult to do but our school board after 6:30 on Wednesday evening we're not allowed to schedule any kind of school activities. Which does not interfere then with church. Church is very important and it was stressed to us as we were growing up even before we attended church. It was important to be honest and to be, to not lie or anything of that nature. And especially after we became active in church, spiritual things became a real important part of our lives.

H: Was that common in Paoli when you were growing up?

B: I think it was pretty common. But Paoli has always been what I call a religious community in that a lot of different churches are found in the town. And the outlying areas, there are numerous churches. So this has always been something that has been stressed in most families.

H: Still today you think?

B: Still today. I think there are a number of people that still attend church somewhat regularly. Maybe not regularly, but somewhat regularly. And they consider themselves good people in that respect. I don't think we've gotten too far away from that. I think church is still very important to a lot of people.

H: How was, when you were growing up, how was Sunday afternoon at the church then?

B: Sunday afternoon probably was spent at home reading the newspaper, just kind of enjoying the day. We didn't do much on

Sunday other than going to church, we didn't Do much. At that time it was considered a day of rest more or less. You really didn't get involved too much in any other kinds of activities. Occasionally family would be over on Sunday and once in a great while we'd have a get-together with maybe large groups of our family. I can remember going to my grandmother's house and having a family get-together and those happened a lot of times on Sunday afternoons. And occasionally they would all come to our house but really not much going on.

H: Did you maintain that tradition when you were raising your own family?

B: Yes. We kind of use Sunday as a day for the family being together. And you know, having a good time together and not really wanting to involve ourselves in too many outside interests. Sunday has never really been a shopping day or that kind of thing when we were growing up and when we were raising our children. Now my wife and I occasionally go on Sunday afternoon, we'll drive to Bloomington to the mall. But as we were raising our children that didn't happen as much.

H: So even now it's a little bit of an exception? it's not that often?

B: It's not that often that we do it. We use Sunday now as a time to be at home.

H: And your kids?

B: Pretty much the same thing. Both of our sons live in communities where they're very active with other church people and they get together very much a lot of times on Sunday evenings after services and you know, enjoy each other's company. But Sunday is still kind of a special day.

H: I forgot to ask you about your parents' people. Did they come here or were they local?

B: My grandparents were locals, my grandparents on my dad's side were local people. And they had brothers and sisters that were here and so it was kind of a family tradition to be in Paoli. And then my father's brothers and sisters all lived around Paoli for a number of years and one moved to Anderson and the others pretty much stayed around here. On my mother's side they were also .. My grandfather grew up in this area. My grandmother came from another area but as long as I can remember both sets of grandparents lived in Paoli and it was kind of the family tradition to be here.

H: So you never heard stories of their coming from another state, like a lot of people...?

B: No. No, our family are, the Babcocks originally came from North Carolina but I'm not sure how far back that was. And the Claxton's on my mother's side were, they've been here for lots of years.

H: The other thing I wanted to ask you, we had talked about like you know an average day in your household and what you did but I forgot to ask you about shopping. How did your family do their shopping or where did they go or when did they go? For groceries and otherwise.

B: The grocery shopping was always done at the Jay C store. Always done at the Jay C store. Mom would go basically one day a week and do the grocery shopping and then there were times when we'd have to go maybe for other smaller items but it was basically once a week. As far as buying clothing and that sort of thing I don't remember us doing that much of it. I was telling you earlier about the ~~Jay~~ store that we had in town and we bought some things there but I don't remember us shopping like people shop today where they'll drive to a mall and be there maybe for a few hours. I don't remember us doing that. The only time that we bought things was when we absolutely had to have them and that was usually maybe a pair of shoes or clothing getting ready for school to start. And we'd always do that every summer. But otherwise I don't remember that we did that much what today we would call shopping.

H: It's almost like a leisure activity today.

B: it is, yes. And then at least with our family it was only out of necessity. It was not something that you would while away the time doing. It was only because you went there and had to have something, so we didn't do it that much because we didn't have that much money.

H: So you think a lot of this leisure activities and affluence occurred in the last couple of decades?

B: At least in our way of living it has, yes. Prior to that time, my wife and I probably one time a week now go shopping somewhere. Well, even when we were first married, we've been married 31 years, even when we were first married we didn't do that. And so I'd say that's something that's a fairly recent thing to do.

H: You mean shopping besides grocery shopping?

B: Yes. Just going to look or to get small items.

H: There's one thing I meant to ask: Do you still presently live in the house that your parent's house?

B: No. We moved. We moved down the road about 1000 feet to another house that my mother and dad had previously lived in. And we have resided there about 11 years. But it's real close, very close to the old place.

H: Is it bigger, smaller?

B: Bigger.

H: So you still had the children at home and you needed..?

B: Yes, all the children were still at home.

H: OK I think we've covered a lot about the town and your growing up and I'd like to change our focus now on what kind of national events that you seem to remember that effected you or your family or the town, like let's start back to World War II. Do you remember the end of the war?

B: I remember the end of the war, I remember my uncle was in World War II and I remember after it was over and he came back home and what a good feeling that was. I had two uncles in World War II and I remember both of them coming back. I remember several around the Paoli community that came back after the war was over. And then I remember going through the cemetery seeing those that came back who did not make it through World War II and you know, I remember a little bit about those too. But you know my mind's a little foggy about World War II because I was so young and then...

H: Was there a celebration in town or?

B: I don't remember a celebration although I'm sure there was. But I don't, I really specifically don't remember anything.

H: Do you remember anything in school celebrating you know veteran's day?

B: No. We celebrate Veteran's Day now in our schools every year. And have for about the last four years. Prior to that time I don't remember any ever having any celebration regarding veteran's Day.

H: Can you tell me what you do in the schools?

B: We have a neat Veteran's Day program. Being a Veteran myself I guess it means more to me and generally speaking I usually [tape turned off] We've got some good programs and every year a number of people compliment us on the program that we have here. It's focusing back to the reason for Veteran's Day and in some way recognizing what veterans have done to ensure the safety and freedom of all of us. This past year, this is an example of this past year, I had a veteran from World War I, World War II, the Korean War and Vietnam War to come into the school and we recognized each one and told a little bit about their experiences in the wars that they were in. For example the man that represented World War II was a Japanese prisoner of war for four years and he had just received a POW medal about two weeks prior to that time. And it was a neat thing to be able to put a little highlight or focus on these four gentlemen who kind of represented all the other veterans in the area. And by the way, very very few local people any more are World War I veterans. Most of those people are gone. The man who was here representing World War I was 95 years old. And we had our own honor guard made up of Paoli high school students who were in the national guard unit in Salem and they posted the colors and retired the colors. They were in complete dress uniforms and it was, it kind of gave you cold chills to see them come in and the commands that they were following and the posting of the colors and then we had a little ceremony talking about the Veteran's Day. Why it is, how we celebrate it and then we interviewed or introduced the four gentlemen and then at the end a band member played taps on the trumpet in the background. And everybody stood for a few moments of silent meditation. It was a nice program.

H: it sounds really nice.

B: Yes, we do that every year. We change it a little bit every year but I think it's important to remember those people.

H: it's a school wide assembly?

B: School wide. Very few schools do it the way we do, some of them just get on the intercom and read maybe five minutes about it. But we have a full fledged program. Maybe it only lasts twenty minutes but at least it's twenty minutes well spent.

H: And you started organizing this four years ago?

B: Yes.

H: What made you, what prompted you to do that?

B: OK the state passed a ruling, a guideline that you must have a program of some type. If you're not in school on Veteran's Day you must do it the day before Veteran's Day or the day following Veteran's Day. Some schools take Veteran's Day as a holiday. We used to take it as a holiday but now we go to school on Veteran's Day and that's the day that we have our assembly program. I think it's more effective to have it on that day than to have it the day before or the day after. That's why we do it.

H: And this is a state law that was passed?

B: Yes, it is.

H: I wasn't familiar with it.

B: Yes, it is.

H: Do you know if the town still does anything for Veteran's Day or is there a...?

B: The town has a, they have up on the square, it's on the court house lawn at 11 o'clock on Veteran's Day they have a program put on mainly by the American Legion or VFW. And it lasts for a few minutes. The reason I know that is because they have called on some of our trumpeters in the past to come up and play taps at that time. Not much but it's a little thing there.

H: Is it attended?

B: Yes, somewhat.

H: I'm sorry I interrupted you. It's a little ceremony...

B: Yes it's on the west side of the court house. There's a monument there erected to the veterans who have served from Orange County and it's in the vicinity of that monument where they have their program.

H: Can you tell me a little bit about why you joined the army?

B: I've always had a secret desire to be in the military and I don't know, I don't know why but that was just something that I felt that I needed to do. And I decided early on when I went into college that I wanted to get in the ROTC program. And I thoroughly enjoyed all of my military training and all of my military experience, I would not trade it for anything. I just felt like it helped me as a person, I thought it helped me, I felt I was a more effective classroom teacher. And I feel like in

some ways it helped me to become a better administrator to have had a little bit of as background in the military.

H: How did it help you to come across better in the classroom?

B: in that I was more informed about things that are going on in different parts of the world. I was very fortunate to spend, I think I mentioned earlier, I spent 33 months in Alaska in the service of the military. I took numerous slides and as a Social Studies teacher I was able to show things that I would never have been able to, for example, Mount McKinley, taking a train ride through Mount McKinley National Park. And viewing Mount McKinnley from a number of different locations. And all of the Yukon Territory and the rivers and so forth that are contiguous to that part of the country. I would never have had that opportunity probably had it not been for the military. And the fact that it helped me to communicate with people, learn to get along with people, people who minorities for example. I've never been around minorities in my life until I got into the military and I think I had a much better appreciation for people because of that experience. And it gave me some training in specific areas that I felt has just been a tremendous asset to me.

H: But joining the military in, I'm guessing, the mid-'50s for you, late '50s?

B: THis was, yes actually I went on active duty in June 1960.

H: Was that still a popular thing to join the military then?

B: At that time it was.

H: More of a patriotic in sense?

B: Yes.

H: What about a little bit later on? Can you tell me like the impact of the '60s and the '70s on your life and the life of the community and how maybe going to Vietnam and how Vietnam vets were treated?

B: Of course, I don't think we noticed that much here. I think this was going on in other communities. I think still, I think Paoli has always revered the young men and the young women who have served in the military whether it was the Vietnam war or any other war. I don't think, I honestly don't feel that that, that there has been, that veterans have been looked down upon with disdain.

H: Even Vietnam?

B: Even Vietnam. Now we all read and we still see the Vietnam veterans were poorly treated in lots of parts of the country. I don't think that was true here. I think, I remember one young man who gave his life in Vietnam, a Paoli graduate. And he is honored by, our football field is named in his honor.

H: What was his name?

B: John Cook.

H: COOK no E?

B: Right. John Cook died in Vietnam, he had ten days left. He stepped on a land mine and took his life.

H: What year was that?

B: That was 1964.

H: Did you know him?

B: Oh, yes. Knew his family well. Knew John well, he was a good friend of one of my brothers.

H: A little bit younger than you?

B: He was younger.

H: And so the football field here was named after him?

B: Our football field is named for John Cook. So I think if there had been a community, if there was wide spread feeling in the community had been that we looked down on Vietnam veterans, Cook Field would never have been named for a Vietnam veteran. I don't think it happened, I think people respected the military and continue to do so and we still have a section in our newspaper "Men in Uniform." It comes out, it tells what the activities of these people are doing. We had an active reserve program here in Paoli for a number of years and a lot of young men got involved in that.

H: And when did that dissipate?

B: Ok that left here in about 1966, we lost the unit it was transferred to Bloomington for a short period of time and ultimately ended up in Jeffersonville.

H: And Jeffersonville is?

B: Jeffersonville, Indiana.

H: I don't know where that is?

B: It's across from Louisville. Across the river from Louisville, near New Albany. So yes, we've been... I can remember you know, in parades that our local reserve unit taking part in those parades maybe in the Fall Indian summer parade. You know, we would have them there and the people always kind of respected that and it was a, I think it was a proud thing for a son or daughter to have been in the military.

H: Could you tell me how the community looked upon Vietnam? What was the local talk about it? What did your sons think about Vietnam?

B: Probably wouldn't discuss that much. It probably wasn't. Probably not nearly like it was in bigger communities but I know that people wondered about if this was a good thing to be there, should we have that many troops there, should we just leave them, just pull out and leave those people there and let them fight their own battles. I think generally speaking Paoli is a conservative community, OK, we've always been conservative. We'll always be conservative, we've always voted Republican here.

END OF SIDE ONE TAPE TWO

B: We've always been a patriotic community and I don't think people questioned it a lot should we be there. I think they felt like we should be there because we were protecting freedom and freedom has been a necessary part of the heritage of this country. We still start out every morning here at Paoli high school by giving the pledge to the flag. And no, I always hope we do that. Trying to make sure that we instill some patriotic pride on our students and hoping that as they grow up they'll do the same thing. I don't think Vietnam was really that hot a topic here. I think we probably felt like it was the thing to do, we were sorry that so many young men and women lost their lives there. But still we felt like probably overall we needed to help stem the flow of communism and if it meant lives, then unfortunately that was the price that had to be paid.

H: And so Vietnam vets were treated with respect? Like World War II vets, there wasn't...?

B: I don't recall a single one being discriminated against, being looked down on, being ostracized. When those men came back, they were treated in my way of thinking with the same degree of

respect as those that came back from World War II and the Korean War.

H: it's probably a little bit different knowing people in a small town. In a large city where a lot of them were not treated well, you don't know those people so it's more distant. What was the reaction in Paoli about things like the draft card burning and demonstrations?

B: it was not the thing to do. We didn't like that. And burning of the flag and so forth, that's something you don't do. You have a duty and that duty is to serve your country. If you can serve your country, if that means being drafted, if it means enlisting, you do it. And now my sons didn't grow up with that same feeling. Neither one of them has done the military and they don't want anything to do with the military. But, and maybe that's the next generation that came along was a little less ready to accept that responsibility. Of course, things were different. After the Vietnam conflict was over, the demand for an army being, a draftee type army was kind of the thing of the past. And so maybe since the need wasn't there, the feeling wasn't quite as strong. But in my generation, that was the thing to do and when it came time for you to serve your time, then you did it.

H: So the community felt that the things that were going on in the large cities, like they looked at the demonstration, the demonstration were looked upon unfavorably and none of that occurred here?

B: None of it. To my knowledge it never occurred it in any fashion.

H: What about the other kinds of you know, '60s and '70s events. How did the community and you and your friends react to things like Civil Rights movement, Women's rights movement, you know, that kind of thing? Did that?

B: Here again we only had one black family that lived in town and those kids were well accepted by the other students in school and they were well accepted in the community. Civil Rights really didn't effect Paoli. We accepted the black people on the same level that we accepted the whites of this community. So when we were hearing about the events that were happening in Alabama and Mississippi and Georgia, that was kind of like something totally removed from this community. We'd see it on television, we'd see the results in the newspaper. That's something that wouldn't, I don't think would ever happen here.

H: it was foreign?

B: yes, it was just like it was happening in a way off place.

H: Well, did people support the Civil Rights movement? Did they think the blacks should have equal rights?

B: I think everybody, most people that lived here were on the side of the blacks. They left like they should have equal rights and this part of the country there are a couple of houses in the community that served as refuse points for the Underground Railroad during the Civil War days.

H: No kidding.

B: And so this part of the country tried to protect the blacks and they were sympathetic to the slaves. And wanted to see them gain their freedom.

H: I understood there were some black families living in French Lick during the '60s and the Civil Rights movement. Any talk about, from them, about them?

B: None. None that I recall at all. There's still a number of blacks that live in French Lick mainly due to the hotel being there. They work at the hotel. The one family here, one of the sons was a cheerleader, one of the sons was an outstanding basketball player, the other kids got along tremendously with our student body. There was no problems at all. The blacks were considered I think pretty much on an equal. There may have been some, I'm sure there was some resentment but it was never vocalized. It was, if anything it was down played. Those people I think the community wanted to see the blacks win their causes.

H: And what about women's issues?

B: Here again being a conservative community, I think probably that was fairly unimportant too. The women, you know, what went on with those kinds of activities, it was never... I've never seen a demonstration, I never hardly seen any newspaper articles concerning women's rights.

H: Would they talk about what was going on in the world?

B: Oh, yes sure. There was talk about it but, you know, thinking back there was nothing... To me there was no, it was not played up, it was not something that you really sat around and talked about a great deal.

H: Do you see any changes in women's opportunity or attitudes, like say from your mom's day to your daughter's day in Paoli?

B: In Paoli, much more, I see many more professional women. Women involved in professional kinds of positions today than there were at that time. I see more women engaged in what I call managerial type roles, you know, where maybe in my mother's day women probably didn't, weren't considered for those kinds of jobs. We have women, believe it or not, we have women on our school board. Up until about four years ago there had never been a woman on a Paoli school board, ever.

H: Four years ago was the first time?

B: Yes. We had a lady who was an elementary principal here for a couple of years.

H: At Throop?

B: Yes. And...

H: A little while ago did you say?

B: yes, she was... year before last and the year before that she was elementary principal. She was here for two years. She's still currently the assistant. At one time there was a lady principal at Paoli high school. She was the principal here for 25 years. And ruled the school with an iron fist but then after she left, it's all been male principals.

H: For 25 years there was a lady principal?

B: She was a lady principal. But you know, I do see women taking... women involved in government. The town's, country clerk is a woman. The country auditor for a number of years was a woman.

H: County clerk is now a woman?

B: Yes.

H: But the county auditor used to be?

B: Used to be, yes. I'm trying to think now. I can't remember who the auditor is right now, but she was in office for a number of years. See, there was a time when probably that wouldn't have happened.

H: When 30 years ago?

B: Yes, women wouldn't have been elected to those kinds of position 'cause they didn't run for it. And so, in that respect there have been changes made.

H: Well, you know, it sounds like that maybe those changes, weren't very obvious or very drastic but national events in terms of women's issues trickled down to Paoli in terms of what kinds of jobs women would take or maybe what kinds of opportunities.

B: Yes.

H: What I wanted to ask you in terms of being a teacher, did at a certain point do you remember girls looking at different kinds of jobs? Or you know, does that stand out for you at all?

B: NO, I don't recall that really, anything significant there.

H: But the difference between when you went to high school, did the girls in your class go to college?

B: A few.

H: A few. And your daughter's class?

B: Many more girls.

H: So there was a huge difference?

B: Yes. Of course a lot more boys went to school, went on to college now than did in my high school days.

H: So it's more for both sexes?

B: Yes, right. College at that time, in the middle '50s, wasn't necessarily the thing to do. The thing to do was to go out and get a job immediately out of high school. And still a lot of kids do that. But now I see many more, especially more girls, wanting to go onto college. Get some kind of training.

H: Those that go to college do they come back to town?

B: Very few. Most of them leave.

H: Why is that you think?

B: Well, I think probably because the employment possibilities are just not here. Outside of just a few professions, there's probably not that many jobs here that require college degrees.

H: So they'd be over-trained?

B: Right. So they'd go where the jobs are, Indianapolis, Cincinnati, St. Louis.

H: Boys and girls both though? What was the last one?

B: Chicago.

H: Chicago. Were there any other national events that stand out in your memory, in your growing up or as an adult that you can tell me about?

B: [pause] Well, right now none come to my mind. I'm sure there are, but I can't think of any.

H: Let me throw them out at you since this is Republican territory. How did Watergate effect this town?

B: [pause] People here were sympathetic to President Nixon. I think everybody knew what had happened but we all still kind of felt like he was a great president, he made a tremendous mistake and ... But in a way we're a pretty forgiving people too. And I think we're all saying it's a shame it happened, so let's don't let that over-shadow all the good things that he did while he was in office. So I think most of the people here would say Nixon was an outstanding president, maybe one of the better presidents we've had, but he did make a mistake.

H: What would they applaud, what kinds of things?

B: I think his, maybe, his decisiveness, his ability to project himself as the national, as the leader of our country. A man who was respected, maybe by Democrats and Republicans alike. Maybe kind of in a way no-nonsense type person who was able to deal effectively with leaders with other countries.

H: Usually his international dealings.

B: yes.

H: The other thing that was going on in the '60s that I neglected to ask you was you know, during the '60s kids did a lot of demonstrating and I know there probably weren't that many demonstrations, I mean there weren't demonstrations in your town but kids were rebelling an awful lot nation wide. Any of that filter down to Paoli?

B: Yes. Especially in the early '70s. Now you have to remember here in Paoli, it takes a while for things to get here. What may be happening on the national scene may take two or three years to get here. A good example of that was when kids first started wearing long hair. That happened in the early '70s. We had a definite school policy here on how long their hair could be worn

and we had kids that were constantly challenging that rule. And there were at least, I remember students being expelled from school because their hair was too long. And so there was some pretty tense moments over there. And there were some town's people that got involved in that. Even the ACLU at one time was willing to come in a finish the case of this one young man to try to keep him in school. So, yes, it effected us but maybe it was later than when it was happening on the national scene.

H: So that's when the dress code was enforced and all that kind of thing?

B: Yes.

H: Where were you in your career at that point in the early '70s, were you?

B: Assistant principal.

H: Assistant. So you directly remember cases of long hair and... Do you remember what the policy was on long hair, how long it ...

B: Yes, the hair could not be down on the forehead. It could cover the top half of the ear, could not be on your collar. That was basically the type of provisions we had for hair.

H: That was for boys, did you have any rules for girls?

B: No rules for girls as far as hair.

H: You didn't have any problems with mini-skirts?

B: Well, a little but to my knowledge we never had anything at that point in our handbook about mini-skirts as such.

H: And what about the introduction of drugs to this community, into the schools?

B: OK this started happening also I'd say probably in the early '70s. 'Cause I recall having a meeting here, there was a meeting where the town's people were concerned about this particular thing. And we met and to try to get people concerned about it, parents especially. This was probably only about 1972 or 1973. Marijuana was the big thing at that point. And also they were beginning to be concerned about pills of one kind or another. So, yes there was a lot of concern about it.

H: But it wasn't as major of a problem in other towns ?

B: it wasn't, it has never been as major here as it has probably

been in larger communities. However, it's always been here. Always I'd say since the '70s. Now as far as alcohol, that's been a problem ever since I was in high school and even before that. The thing to do on the week-ends was to go out and party and bring your alcohol along. But the drugs, the drugs really didn't come in until probably the early to mid-'70s.

H: And did they, did they decrease a little bit in, or did they stay about the same or?

B: It got probably a little worse in the late '70s and then toward the middle '80s it began to drop off. We still have a problem with it but not like we did probably ten years ago. I'd say it hit it's peak here '80 to '85, somewhere a long in there. That's probably when it was at its highest.

H: '85?

B: yes.

H: And it's decreased since then. [tape turned off] To summarize your involvement with the schools, can you tell me what Paoli schools mean to you as an individual and as an administrator?

B: Ok as an individual the fact that I got my elementary and secondary training here, Paoli schools has always been very much important part of my life. When I came out of the army, Paoli schools is the only school that offered me a contract before I got out of the military. They told me, it was quite a, I guess it was quite an honor, they hired me without having the standard interviews. And so, my intention was to come back to Paoli and spend one year in a teaching position and then going somewhere else because I felt like probably my role was to go somewhere other than Paoli. I came back and now the rest of the story so to speak is, I have spent 27 years in the Paoli system. So, and from a number of different kinds of jobs. So as an individual, Paoli schools and the Paoli community means a great deal to me. We have raised our family here. Much of my family still continues to reside here. As an administrator I take a great deal of pride in what our school does, what we stand for here. We have a number of kids that distinguish themselves every year and I always get a little lump in my throat when I see a small town, student in a small town school that goes somewhere and does a fine job. As an example, in the last ten years we have had, in nine of the last ten years, we have had at least one student in the International Science Fairs. Now this means that somewhere somebody is doing a fine job in our schools preparing our kids for science fair. We've had papers presented, students from this school who have presented science papers in such places as the University of California Berkley, at Harvard University, at West Point Military

Academy, at Gainesville Florida, the home of Florida State. We've had a number of paper presenters to go all across the United States to present papers and then defend those papers. My own daughter was fortunate enough to be able to travel to San Juan, Porto Rico to show, to give information on her science fair project. So I take a great deal of pride in seeing our kids do well. We've had three state championship band programs here, our basketball team did a tremendous job this past year. We've had a number of students do exceptionally well in Superbowl and Hoosier Spellbowl contests. So, you know, when I mention Paoli high school I still get cold chills because it's not only the place that I was educated in, it was also the place that my wife was educated in, our children were educated here and both my wife and I continue to work here. The school is a big part of our lives. We dedicate our lives to Paoli school. We spend hours upon hours of time here, but I feel like it's time well spent because hopefully in the long run the kids are the ones that benefit from it. Paoli schools will always be a very major part of my life and it's hard for me to say this but [pause] you have to give me a little time here. Well, when I walk out of here the last time [pause] that's going to be a sad day.

H: I could tell that you have a lot of pride in the school and thank you for, you know, sharing that with me. I appreciate that. [tape turned off] You mentioned when we chatted that you and your wife have a team effort and can you tell me what your wife does?

B: For a number of years she has been our receptionist. And she works in the outer office, she takes all the incoming calls, she handles all the, anyone coming to school that must come to the office, they see her first. And she does a variety of jobs, she handles all of the sales of school supplies, she handles requests for transcripts, she handles 100s of phone calls we get here in a week's time. She takes care of teacher's requests. Does a lot of the running off the materials for the teachers. She keeps the computer going as far as recording grades, running off the report cards. She does so many things, and she does them very well. I feel fortunate not because she's my wife, but I feel fortunate to have her to work along side me here at school. And it's a pleasure because it's one of the few jobs that husbands and wives can come to work together and leave together.

H: teaching you mean or schools?

B: yes, right. Most husbands and wives if they're both working, go in opposite directions. We come together and we can leave together. I've always kind of thought it was one of the few jobs where I can call our secretary "Honey" and get by with it.
[laughter]

H: That is pretty cute. But the pride that you have, I wish I could put it on the tape. You were telling me when we were chatting informally about the Semi-State. Could you tell me about that now and how the town was feeling?

B: For the first time in the history of our boy's basketball program and this goes back to the early 1900s, and we have pictures out here in the hall, by the way, of some of those early 1990s basketball teams. But first time ever we won the boys basketball regional at Washington high school. And the attitude of the community was tremendous. Going back, we knew we were going to have a good chance that year. And we won the sectional. We were set to win the regional and between the regional and the semi-state we sold at this school something like 900 T-shirts. And we were allotted about 1800 tickets to the semi-state at Evansville. That's at Roberts stadium. Seats about 10 and 11 thousand people. The 1800 tickets that we were allotted were not enough so we went to Terra Haute south and bought a couple hundred tickets from them. We sold every ticket we had except for six tickets. And I have those six tickets with me when we went to the semi-state in case we ran into some Paoli people that still didn't have tickets I was going to sell them to them. We had in the neighborhood of 2000 people that came to Roberts Stadium. We played Floyd Central, Floyd Central was a much better team than we were. We were out-manned, we knew that. And in the second quarter we were hopelessly fell behind by lots of points and it was evident that we were not going to win the game, however, the outstanding thing about this is our fans stayed with us the whole game. Not a one of them got up and left. When the game was over our coach called our kids out on the floor and they huddled on the middle of the floor for about two minutes. And I talked to him later and he said we were looking ahead to next year, saying "Hey, we made it this year. We can do the same thing next year." And when they broke out of the huddle 2000 people got up and applauded them.

H: They waited. Good. Half the town went. I'm really glad you told me this story.

B: That was the highlight, to see our people still willing to be behind us.

H: That was in May of this year.

B: No, it was in March.

H: I could see why you have never left town. That was one of my questions I don't need to ask. I could sense it in your answers. And the kids haven't changed that much except for some periodic, you know?

B: The kids here are good kids. I wouldn't say they've changed all that much. We've had some movements during the years that have brought some, maybe, a little different value systems into the community but the kids that have been here are pretty solid kids. And I have to say I really appreciate them and it's been enjoyable to work with, be with.

H: I think they're very lucky to have both you and your wife here.

B: Well, there are a number of dedicated people here. You know not only the two of us, my secretary Jane Barnett is most dedicated. Our superintendent, a number of our classroom teachers have been here for lots of years and you know, they have the same commitment to the community that I do. So, you know, I don't think it's fair just to single the two of us out, I think there's a lot of us here. That we're all here for the common goal to educate the kids and to do the best job that we can. And that takes a team effort. Takes a lot of people to do that.

H: Do you see any change in the future for Paoli, for the school?

B: I think we're always going to be looking for ways of improving instruction, ways to make our kids more aware of what's going on. better educating them, getting more out of our tax dollars. Yes, those kinds of things I see constantly changing. I think accountability is going to be much greater in the future than we have ever noticed in the past. I think this is something the new state PBA requirements. Every five years we must undergo a very stringent self-analizacion of ourselves.

H: I'm sorry, I don't know what PBA is?

B: Performance Based Accreditation. We're a member of North Central here.

END SIDE TWO TAPE TWO.

B: Every seven years in North Central you must do a self study and then the following year a team of educators come in and evaluate your self study. We're coming up with that this year. So, you know I see these as very important things that will continue to happen here. As far as the changes, I think, I don't know. I think we all have to have a vision of what's going to happen in 5 years, or 10 years or 20 years. We're trying to make some physical improvements that will make things better for kids here. The community uses this building a lot and we make it available to them and I think it's important to continue to do that. As far as other kinds of changes, those remain to be seen.

But we're constantly striving to always improve ourselves, to encourage teachers to become better informed in the classroom by way of going to seminars, going to workshops, going to take graduate classes, in service programs. This past year we had an outstanding in service program for all of our teaching staff. We also invited a neighboring school corporation to bring their teachers, it was tremendous. So I think these are the kinds of things that we're going to see on a teacher level. And as far as the students are concerned, we just recently had a upgrade on graduation requirements: extra year of science, extra year of math, extra year of English. I see the trend continuing, I suspect we're going to see even more upgrading there. More credits being required. Additional years of math and science. The advent of the academic honors diploma that came into existence this past year I think is taking on a significance in school corporations. A lot of students are going to be working toward earning that kind of a diploma. So those are changes that I see coming and other kinds of changes I don't foresee but I know they're going to happen.

H: What about, what kind of changes do you see in the community, in the future?

B: In the community? That's a good question. I really hadn't thought that much about community changes. We have a very active Chamber of Commerce who is always striving to bring in new industry in town. When we went to our water source being Patoka Lake now, means that we have a very good water supply. Prior to this we didn't have it and that was one of the things that was holding us back. I see our community taking a very active interest in promoting Orange County and especially Paoli. I see the community getting involved in tourism, I see the community taking advantages of what natural resources we have both human resources and other kinds of resources and trying to accentuate that. And make it better. We've got right now our..., one of the things that really needs to be improved is our, we've got a good water supply but the underground water pipe system is constantly breaking down and creating a problem. So these are some things I know the town is going to be working on, the town board, etc. So you know, improvements of one kind or another are going to have to take place in town and in the community. But one thing that's happening this next school year, something totally different. We're going to have a latch key program at our elementary school and people will be able to bring their kids in at 6 o'clock in the morning and can pick them up as late as 6 o'clock at night. And they're going to be supervised all the time. That before has not happened and I see more of this kind of thing happening in the future. You know where we give more attention to providing for day care services and maybe more emphasis placed on providing good wholesome recreational things for kids. Whether it be a

community center or what, I think this is something that we're seeing being discussed a great deal.

H: Sure would help if 37 became a 4 lane highway though for you economically?

B: Yes, it would. Of course right now there are three options being considered. Well four actually, one is not doing anything. But there are three options, one of which would come near Paoli, the other two would by-pass Paoli.

H: That sure would help. A little while ago you had brought out this issue of Life Magazine from December 22nd, 1947. And I'd like us to kind of like talk about this and I'm going to put a copy of the article in your file. Thanks for the copy.

B: OK at that time Paoli was a small town. Paoli is still a small town. If you'll notice in the very first line, "the 2218 citizens of Paoli". I suspect now we've grown to a community of about 35 or 3600 so maybe in all those years we haven't grown that much, but we have grown some. The very first page is, you'll notice in the background a picture of the court house which is probably our biggest claim to fame. And then the ensuing pictures have to do with typical life of a small town: a couple getting married, church services, an evening of people getting together playing country music, from the hospital news a son is born and then by the same token you see a group of mourners carrying a body into the Stamper's Creek cemetery to be buried.

H: Stamper's Creek is just a little township west of here?

B: It's east of here. And then there are some social life scenes, a Sunday afternoon shoot for turkeys or hams or something like that. A bridge party, and then a scene from Paoli high school showing the Latin club having its pictures taken. [phone rings -- tape turned off] Yes, the Latin club was a real active organization and I also participated in it when I was in high school. At that time Latin was the only language taught other than English. And Latin is no longer taught in our school. And then the next page is a big page devoted to a pie supper. And a pie supper traditionally the girl brought the pie to sell and the boy bid on the pie and very often two boys would be bidding on the same pie. And sometimes the price went up fairly high because the boy wanted to make sure he bought the pie that his girlfriend brought. And then after the pie is purchased then you get to eat the pie. And then there are some other scenes from police scenes, fire department, a young man being tried in court because of a crime that he's committed, and then two pages on the Paoli Ramblers who have now the name has been shortened down to the Rams. But in the old gym we had lots of really good ball games

there and the rivalry was intense. And people from all, from throughout the community came to ball games, on Friday night that was the thing to do. And then there's one other story here about, has a dog picture that, and I know the man, know the man very well who left his gun in a place and the dog stepped on the trigger and the shot gun went off and injured the man. He had to be taken to the hospital.

H: Are you serious?

B: Yes. It's a, I would say it's pretty typical of any small town. Why Paoli was chosen I'll never know but I think they chose a pretty good community to typify small town America.

H: Do you know who the reporter was who did this? Did this article, I'm trying to come up with a name.

B: His name was Peter Staggpole. Well, he did the photographs. I'm not sure who the reporter was, I'm sorry I don't know that.

H: Should be in here some place, I'm not finding it. And you don't know why it was chosen or whether it was a series of towns chosen?

B: I really couldn't say, no.

H: Maybe it's in the table of contents. The other thing you had mentioned to me is that you knew most of the people that are photographed in here.

B: Yes. Yes, I did. Many of them are no longer living. But in practically every case, every photograph I can pick out somebody and then in many cases I can pick out several that I knew.

H: How about Kenneth Murray, could that be the reporter?

B: Kenneth Murray? No, Kenneth Murray was a local person who was, later was on the school board.

H: You know why, his name is, they had a xerox copy of maybe a local article some place in here. And do you still know most of the people in town because you're the principal, that's...?

B: Yes, I still know a lot of people. I don't know, I used to know more people than I know now. But we've had so many people move in that I don't know that many, well I still know lots of them. But I don't know probably the percentage that I used to. By virtue of growing up here and working in the school system, I get to know a lot of people.

H: And you know we mentioned the court house which I could see the cars in here and I could see the weddings an the funerals, there's even a picture of someone going through a divorce. How many of these things have changed, I mean they don't have these music celebrations as much do they?

B: Not as much. There are still some but not probably as much.

H: How about turkey shoots?

B: We still have shoots. This one I'm not sure where this was but up until just a few years ago we still had shoots. And it's still, and some communities maybe a little distance from here, they still in the winter time, they still have the shoots.

H: I'm sure they still have card parties.

B: Yes, those are fairly common. The pie suppers are all gone.

H: When did they kind of go away?

B: That's a thing of the past. I'd say in the '50s those things pretty much died away.

H: that's what I remember from reading. What replaced those things?

B: [pause] Well, probably more school activities.

H: Organized?

B: yes, both girls and boys now have athletic events. OUR drama department is very active and so there are a number of lays put on here each year. We have Orange County players, that's a county wide group that puts on a play every summer. And a lot of the school activities have their own activities. And you know so there are a lot of things maybe to take their place. That's why we don't necessarily have them any more.

H: So organized school activities went on the rise in the '60s and the '70s with the community still very involved in basket ball games. Can you on the record tell me about your famous gym?

B: Yes. It's unique to have a gym, I suspect, to have a gym that seats more than the population of the town. We have a gymnasium that seats 4433 people and...

H: I'm sorry, how many?

B: 4433, that's the actual number of people we can get in our

gym. And we have a community here of about 3500, so we can more than adequately take care of any of the crowds at any of our games.

H: So any large community that would also be housed in the gym.

B: Right. Yes.

H: I heard a story some place that you're the school that has a gym surrounded by a couple of classrooms, you know. Some one told me that. [laughter] This is very interesting but I don't see the author of this article which is kind of, kind of too bad. Well finally before we close up here, can you just tell me maybe what your best and worst memories of living, working and raising a family in Paoli?

B: Well, the best memories I suspect are the tremendous pride that I get from being associated with, being able to work in an environment where we have a lot of young people. You see I've been here long enough now that the kids that were here when I first started their children are now coming through school. So you know, not only do I know them but I know their fathers and mothers and so you know that's... I can identify with a lot of different families because of that being in the same location as long as I have. So I guess I get a lot of pride from that and seeing our school do well in a lot of different ventures. As far as the bad times, I guess I don't really focus so much on the bad times. As I look back things have been pretty positive. I can't really, I can't really characterize any really bad things that have happened to us or to our family.

H: What a positive attitude.

B: In all the years that I've been here I just can't recall anything that I would say has really been bad. [tape turned off]

H: Anything else about Paoli that you'd like to me to know about before I leave today?

B: Well, I think you can gather from what I've talked about at least that Paoli is a community where there's a lot of closeness. There's a lot of community pride here. If somebody needs something, other people rally to the cause. And take care of it. We kind of take care of our own problems. And it's a good place to raise a family. There are a number of areas close enough by that you can get to them easily and back in a relatively short period of time. So even though we're kind of nestled down here in the hills, we still have access to a lot of other larger areas that afford opportunities that we don't have here. Because of the dedication of a lot of people in the schools and out of the

schools, Paoli is a tremendous place to live, it will always be my home no matter where I go. And I think a lot of people feel the same way. We have people that leave here after high school that some time or other in their lives gravitate back and in their late years will spend their time here through retirement. So it must not be a bad place to be or I think probably more people would not consider coming back. It's home and home is, will always... Because it is home it will always occupy a very warm spot in my life and especially since I have, the job that I have has made me even have closer ties to Paoli and the surrounding community, areas. it's been a tremendous opportunity for me and I still hope I have a few years left that I can continue to be a part of the community here.

H: Well, I'd like to thank you for your time and allowing me to come to your office at Paoli high school today and visit with you. Especially for showing me the Life Magazine article and making a copy for our records, I really enjoyed seeing Paoli through your eyes. And having been a former teacher I, it was really fun to hear about your commitment and your pride towards your school. So thank you very much for your time and your information.

B: Thank you it's been my pleasure.

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