

INDIANA UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER

MARSHALL "BILL" BARNES

Interviewed by Chrystyna Huk
1 August 1989
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INTRODUCTION

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my oral history interview with Chrystyna Huk,
Interviewer (please PRINT)

which was conducted on 1 August 1989, to Indiana
Date

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

Marshall H. "Bill" Barnes by Ruth F. Barnes Oct. 1, 1989
DONOR DATE

INTERVIEWER

DATE

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BARNES

ORAL HISTORY RESEARCH CENTER
INDIANA UNIVERSITY

INTERVIEWEE: Marshall "Bill" Barnes

INTERVIEWER: Christyna Huk

SUBJECT: Paoli history

DATE: August 1, 1989

TRANSCRIBER: Elizabeth Racette

H: Mr. Barnes can you please tell me where you were born and what your life was like as a young child and what you parents did.

B: I was born at Williams Indiana at that time my dad helped build the Williams dam. Of course I don't remember too much about that but then we moved to Paoli when I was 6 months old and he ran a rock crusher during my early years. Then some time in there he worked at the blacksmith's shop and he shod horses for all the farmers around. Of course growing up I just grew up like any other kid.

H: Where did you grow up in town or in the country or?

B: I grew up in town. We lived on 2nd Street down there, I grew up in town.

H: And where did your mom and dad come from?

B: My father was born in Huron.

H: I'm sorry I don't know where Huron is.

B: Huron Indiana, it's a west of Mitchell.

H: A small town?

B: Yes, 15 or ... Yes, very small town. And my mother was born at Trinity Springs which is another little town between Shoals and Bedford. Very small place they used to have a swimming pool and people would come just to have some place to go. recreational place.

H: And you mother's folks and your father's folks were from Indiana of several generations back?

B: Ah, I tried to trace some of that back. My mother's mother lived with us a while but can't go back much farther than that on my mother's side. I don't even remember what her father's name was. Anyway on my father's side, I tried to trace back with my cousin and he said instead of burying people in the cemetery back then they would bury them in their yard and the fellow right now

that owns the farm he said no doubt they have plowed over it for years; there's no way of finding out where he was buried.

H: How long ago did they bury people in their back yard?

B: Well, that must have been back in the early 1800's.

H: So it's kind of hard to find out, by looking at cemetery markers

B: Yes, I like the... I went to the Huron cemetery and tried to find some Barnes there but I couldn't find any.

H: But you told me before we started the interview that our mother was part native indian.

B: She was part indian but I don't know which one. Which ever one lived close to that area of Trinity Springs. I can't remember the... Can you name some Indian tribes?

H: No. [laughter] Sorry, but she had some of the features?

B: Oh, yes, she had high cheek bones and a big nose and real black hair and she had very little grey hair at 80 when she died. She didn't have much grey hair at all.

H: So your people have lived in Indiana at least since the beginning of the 1800's.

B: I would think so, way back.

H: OK, did you have brothers and sisters?

B: I've got 2 brothers and 2 sisters. One sister's dead, one lives at Charlestown. My brother lives at Charlestown. And a brother lives at Owden and the sister lives at Franklin Indiana.

H: And which child number were you?

B: I was in between. I was in between the girls and the other two boys. I was the third one.

H: And you grew up in town?

B: Grew up in town here, yes.

H: Can you tell me what Paoli was like when you were a small child?

B: To me it's always been a nice little town and it was a Saturday night town. The stores would stay open at least 'till 10 o'clock at night and at the hotel (by the way I worked my way through high school at the hotel), the guests would come in and I would take them to the room I was night clerk there and most every night we had plenty of people. Especially on Derby week

H: What was Derby week?

B: Oh, Derby week was when the cars came through town they'd come from all over through town to go to the Derby at the Louisville.

H: I see. So your recollection of Paoli, did I say it right?

B: Paoli yes, that's right.

H: As a small child was that it was a lot more active. It was ...

B: Well, especially on a Saturday.

H: OK, what did you do for fun in town when you were a child?

B: We would fly kites over the hill there as you can see from here there was a big field and people of all ages would go up there and make some kites, we made ourselves. I made a whole lot of mine myself. And they would be from 6-7 years old on up to 50 and we would fly kites. There was a big hole, they call it 'the big hole', where they built for a reservoir at one time that was empty. And we get in there and play baseball 'cause you couldn't knock the baseball out of there and you always could always find it. We would play baseball in there, we would skate on the sidewalk. We put wagons across the sidewalk and skate down hill as fast as we could go and then jump over the wagon. Most of the time we got over it but occasionally we didn't. We had coaster wagons we'd make and ride down the hill.

H: You found plenty of stuff to occupy?

B: Yes, we always kept busy.

H: Well, in 1925 you were about 10, is that right?

B: Yes.

H: Any idea about what the size of Paoli ?

B: Probably at that time I would say there was probably at least 1,500 people.

H: Did you know most of the families in town?

B: Most everyone.

H: How did the town square look differently than it does now?

B: well, actually most of the buildings that are there now were there then with the exception of the big building on the corner. There's a brick building on the corner, I think there was a wooden building there at that time and the fire stand was there, that had the fire bell on was there. And coming on around I remember all those buildings were there. The theater burned in the corner but they rebuilt the front and back and you can't tell a whole lot of difference. Going on around at the hotel and on around the, it's about the same as it was with those few exceptions.

H: And was there a lot to do for a kid on the town square?

B: Yes, especially at night. They had the theater there and on Tuesday night they had a pal night and you go to town and you would stand on the street that was staying at the hotel or going toward the theater you'd ask him if he was going to the theater and you would explain to him that if I could go in with him I could get in free.

H: Cause it was PAL night?

B: It was pal night [laughter]. And you know 2 for the price of 1. We did that every Tuesday night for a long time.

H: Did you know these people?

B: No.

H: it didn't make a difference?

B: No, it didn't make any difference. Anyway to get in the show.

H: It was a much safer time to do that though.

B: Also they were silent movies.

H: That's right.

B: They were silent movies they had the words underneath.

H: I had forgotten. In 1925 sure. When did sound come in?

B: I think some time in the late 20's. First came in it was on record and they had to sincronize the movie on the screen with the record and some times it would get out of sync' and people would be saying things that wasn't coming out of their mouths.

H: That still happens today you know.

B: And later on when they started putting them on the sound track of the film.

H: Were you walking distance to the square?

B: Oh, yes. Everybody walked then. We didn't have a car 'till ... well we had a car but of course I was too young to drive it. We got a car in 1920 it was a 1918 model and we bought it in 1920 Model T Touring. I liked that.

H: Was it black?

B: It was black. We went everywhere in it. Mom liked it. We used to go to Levenworth in it and watch the boats go up the river. You'd have 4-5 flat tires on the way down.

H: That was normal?

B: It was normal.

H: How, this might be sort of a strange question, but how fast did a car go in 1920?

B: In 1920 they would go 15 to 20 to 25 mph. The roads weren't good enough to go much faster than that 'cause you would slip in the rocks. There was very few, I don't think there was any paved roads, but later on some of those Model T would do about 60 mph. And that was about top speed.

H: That's pretty fast. What, you said you'd go to Levenworth and watch the boats....

B: The boats go up and down the river. They had locks down there.

H: And how far about a drive was that?

B: Well, I don't know it's about 35-40 miles.

H: So it would take you ...?

B: Take us all day.

H: All day, to get there watch them and come back.

B: Yes, we'd picnic on the river bank.

H: Could you all fit in the car? It was big enough?

B: Oh, yes.

H: How did you change the tires? You just brought extras with you?

B: Well, our's were on the wood weren't changeable. No, you had to fix them right there. You'd have tire tools and long flat spring like thing with a handle on it. And you would take them off the rim and patch the tube and put it back on and pump it back up with a pump.

H: OK, [tape turned off]. Mr. Barnes can you tell me a little bit about the house that you grew up in? What it looked like and what kinds of ways your mom cooked and cleaned and did it have electricity?

B: The house that I grew up in had ..., it was a kind of fancy little house, it had little fancy things around the outside. We had one drop in each room for electricity. At that time as I remember the electricity cost a dollar a month but there's the time since we were a pretty good size family that we couldn't afford to pay it, so the town would come along and cut off the electricity. One of my brothers I think was born or maybe both of them were born while we lived on the house over on 2nd Street. It had 2 bedrooms and a dining room, a living room and a kitchen and a wash house and a cellar. Let's see, a porch with a swing on it. What else?

H: You had electricity when you were little. You remember having electricity?

B: Well, yes part of the time and the times when we couldn't the power station was not too far from our house and they would shut that off at 11 o'clock at night.

H: Really, you didn't have electricity after 11?

B: After 11 o'clock they'd turn it on about 7 o'clock in the morning and it was run by steam and an engine and it pulled a generator or dynamo or whatever you want to call it. And they won't run it all night, they'd shut it off at 112 o'clock at night.

H: So if you had to do something after 11 how would you ...?

B: We had lamps, kerosene lamp. Yes, I've got my lessons many a time with kerosene lamps.

H: No kidding. How did you mom cook and clean and do those things?

B: We had 2 stoves in the kitchen. One was a wood stove which I split wood, one of my chores was splitting wood for it, for the next night, that night and the next day. And then we had a kerosene stove that she used a lot and also there's time when we would heat the water outside, build a fire under a five gallon lard can and heat the water for clothes. Also she would boil the clothes out there at times, they would boil these clothes for certain period of time. I don't know what for but anyway they did that and then she finally go a ..., she did them with a wash board. Have you seen a wash board?

H: I haven't.

B: You have never seen a wash board?

H: No.

B: A wash board was a, it would sit down in the tub and it had corrugated brass things on it and you'd pick up these clothes and you would rub the clothes on this wash board, in fact my mother had calluses right there on both hands where she did a lot of washing. Later on she got her a fancy washer. It was one that done like this, it had pieces across the bottom, pieces of wood across the bottom and you'd run this against the clothes to agitate the water in there.

H: It was a machine?

B: Well it was more or less a big tub like thing.

H: A portable tub?

B: Well, not portable. Well yes you could move it. Well, it had this agitator on there where you could run over the clothes and that's supposed to help. That was a big improvement over the wash board.

H: And but they'd still have to take the clothes out to rinse them and hang them up to dry?

B: OH, yes, put them out by hand and hang them on the clothes line.

H: So there was still a lot of work involved in terms of...?

B: Oh, yes.

H: But before, when you had the wash board you had to boil the water on the stove?

B: Either on the stove or outside in one of those cans of lard that I was telling you about.

H: Did you have indoor plumbing, outdoor plumbing?

B: We had an outside toilet.

H: That's what I wanted to know.

B: It was a way at the end of the lot. And we had boards that we walked on all the way up there at the end of the lot. My dad would wait to a certain time of the moon to take those boards out and I never did know what time that was but he put them out so the boards wouldn't curl.

H: Are you serious?

B: The boards, if they were put in and dark of the moon or in the light of the moon, why at certain times the boards would curl up on the ends. And he would wake to a certain time and put those boards out to walk on because they didn't curl.

H: When did your house get indoor plumbing?

B: The one we lived in their never did have it.

H: And you lived in that house ...

B: Not all the time we were there. We lived in there 'till 1930. And then we moved to West Bayview where he had a job as a blacksmith and the house that we moved into had an inside toilet.

H: So that was ...

B: And water inside.

H: How did you bath?

B: In a big tub. In the wash tub.

H: So you would have to boil the water for the wash tub and ?

B: Yes we'd have to heat it off something.

H: Your chores as a little boy were to chop wood as far as you
....

B: Yes, carrying coal and chop the wood. I got to where I could
split wood real good.

H: And what about your brothers and sisters? What kind of chores
did they have?

B: My sisters worked at the clothing store, one of them did,
worked at a clothing store here in town. The only Jew that came
to town Strauss I believe was his name and one of them worked
there and one of them worked at the basket factory. They made
baskets there and her fingers would wear off 'till they would
bleed and of course they didn't pay anything but they made a lot
of baskets. And my brothers were both younger than me and I
don't remember too much of what they did while I was home.

H: Did your sisters ... How much older were your sisters?

B: One was 4 and one was 6.

H: Did they finish high school?

B: Oh, yes...

H: And then they went to work and stayed at home?

B: Yes, they stayed home part of the time.

H: What kind of chores did they have when they were little, when
they were in grade school or high school? You probably don't
remember grade school.

B: Oh, I remember... yes, dishwashing, no doubt they helped Mom
wash and Mom would make their clothes. I can remember hearing
them talking about cloth, she would take me to a store and she
would buy cloth in these big bolts and they'd cut a little place
and rip it the rest of the way. I can remember such a cloth as ?,
yes, I remember that was some kind of cloth that had little dots
in it. And then there were some kind of white cloth, I forget
what they called it. But she made most of their clothes.

H: And what about your clothes?

B: I was 5 or 6 I got my first pair of overalls and I wore overalls and I had to wear knee pants with ..., came down over my knee and buttoned with socks. Oh, I hated those things. I finally got to wear long pants.

H: But those were bought? Your pants were bought?

B: Well, yes.

H: Who did, your mom was a full time home maker?

B: Oh, yes. She worked hard but she was a nice lady.

H: Did they go, did your folks go together to do the grocery shopping or did your mom go?

B: I think that she would write down what she wanted and my dad would take us kids and go. Usually everybody bought groceries on credit and he'd pay the store bill and we'd get a sack of candy, they'd give us a sack of candy which we could divide after the store bill was paid. Of course it was cheap candy but it was, did taste good to us.

H: I bet. And did your mom have a garden?

B: Oh, yes. We had a garden. We raised about everything there is to raise. I remember at the basket factory when they would turn the logs to make those slates they would leave a round piece about that long and about that big around and that long and my dad made a roller out of that. Put a seat on it and he pulled some of us kids on that roller and beat the ? down in the garden. That was real interesting.

H: What kinds of things did you grow in the garden, do you remember?

B: Oh, corn, we'd plant the beans in with the corn which would grow and vine up on the corn. A lot of tomatoes but we didn't stake the tomatoes back then like they do now. Just let them grow, if they rotted OK we always had plenty. And potatoes and she had some horse radish and always had a mole bean plant. Lettuce, radishes, anything that you could grow in the garden. Why we had a little of it anyway.

H: And did you can some of these, did your mom?

B: Well, yes. Remember one thing she would take the peppers that we would grow and take cabbage, mix it up some way and put it in

the peppers and fasten them together with tooth picks and put them in vinegar and take them down in the cellar. And boy, those were really good. We kept the potatoes in a bin in the basement.

H: But it was pretty cool in the cellar?

B: Yes, it was about...., well I don't know but it was much cooler than it was upstairs.

H: Do you remember when your family got a refrigerator?

B: They never did get a refrigerator. An ice-box.

H: Right. Refrigerator came out later.

B: And they would put a sign in the window for how many pounds of ice they wanted when the ice man came around. I could be 5-10 or 15 pounds or anyway the ice would break up.

H: Did they have an ice-box when you were little or did that come later?

B: I don't remember an ice-box. They surely did have sometime but I don't remember it. I know when Ruth and I got married we had an ice-box.

H: And what year was that?

B: In '37. But we didn't have an electric refrigerator for some time but ours was just an old ice-box.

H: And how did that work, it was the block of ice would keep everything cool?

B: Yes, it would, it had air vents, the block of ice as it melts it had to have heat to melt so it would take heat out of where you put your food, it would take your heat out and drop your cold off the ice down there. And as the ice melted it kept the food cool.

H: What did the water drain into?

B: You had a drain plug on it.

H: How long did it take to, how often would you have to put new ice in it?

B: Maybe every couple of days.

H: And there would be an ice man in town?

B: Yes, he'd come around in his truck and us kids used to follow him. And he'd give us a little chunk of ice.

H: I've never seen an ice truck. How did the ice stay cold his truck?

B: Oh, they had it padded pretty well with a canvas over it and they spread this canvas and they'd take this ice pick and I don't know they didn't weigh it or anything. They ...

H: They kind of guess-omated.

B: Yes, they guessed at the weight and they had ice hooks they called them and they would lift it and took pressure to hold the ice and they'd bring that and put it in the refrigerator. Take out what you had if there was anything left and put it on top.

H: So, some time your family, before you got married probably got an ice-box?

B: Yes, I'm sure I had one 'cause I can remember the card in the window.

H: It was just like a cardboard card that you would ...?

B: Yes, it had a number on top of it, which ever amount of pounds that you wanted you would put on top. And the ice man would come along and he would see that and he would know how much ice to bring in the house.

H: How was your house that you grew up in heated?

B: Well, most of the time it was heated by a big stove where I learned my first letters. I learned to spell it, Garlands, before I learned how to spell anything else. In the dining room there was the fire place. And it was a coal fire place and I used to sit or lay down on the floor on my stomach and watch that coal burn it would come out to be a big black bubble come out and there'd be a shriek of fire come out where the gas from the coal would burn. I spent hours watching that.

H: Did it heat the whole house, even your bedrooms?

B: Oh, no, it..., houses weren't built that good back then. Maybe it would heat ten feet in front of the fire place.

H: So you would just snuggled at night time with lots of covers?

Did you share a room with somebody?

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE ONE

B: The girls had a room to theirselves. And as I remember I slept with my father and my mother slept with the 2 kids. And they had a little wood stove and it had a green carpet on the floor and occasionally we'd go in there a build a fire in that little ? stove and that was a real treat to go in there and get that room warm but most of the time we didn't stay in there ...

H: Only to sleep?

B: Yes.

H: So, a lot of your activity was centered around close to the fire?

B: Oh, yes in the winter time.

H: How far away was your table from it, the table you ate at?

B: Our eating table was about..., well you had to go through the front room to the room where the fire place was, that was the dining room.

H: And what was your evening meal? Did you talk about events or were you quiet at the evening table or ?

B: Well, my dad wasn't too much of a ham for too much foolishness at the table, he said you came to the table to eat. And if we'd cut up on him why we'd get sent away. But most of the time it went pretty smooth.

H: What about week-ends? Would you have different kinds of meals on the week-ends? Was Saturday night or Sunday dinner a little bit different than the rest of the week?

B: Well, the main courses back then were beans and potatoes and you had to have them almost every day. Occasionally one of the girls would bake a pie but as I remember we didn't you know...., my dad made pretty good money but there was such a big family that we didn't have too much extra.

H: Did you have meat occasionally on the week-ends?

B: Yes, there was times when we would have..., well most of the times there was beef and there was times when for breakfast we would have gravy and beef steak but my father would get to eat

the steak and we would get the crumbs and the gravy off of it. Because we couldn't afford a whole lot, he would get the meat because he had to work and nobody said anything. We were tickled to death to have the gravy.

H: Sure.

B: And used to have home made biscuits.

H: What did you do on week-ends when you were a kid?

B: The same things we did. Well,...

H: You went to school when you were a kid on school days....

B: yes, most of the time we'd take a trip some where in the old Model T.

H: Did you have friends that you visited? or that visited your family?

B: We visited Michel and we'd go to my dad's folks at Williams Indiana where the two of them lived. Three of them lived, he had a sister and 2 brothers there.

H: But taking a trip over the week-end a day trip was a pretty special thing ?

B: Yes, you'd have to plan it ahead because of course the old Model T wouldn't go very fast.

H: Did you go to church on Sundays?

B: Well, part of the time. My sister one time played piano for the United Brother church that's where we went when I was a kid but occasionally they would up on the school grounds they would have tent church and she would play the piano there and we would go to that. But we didn't go to church every Sunday.

H: Regularly. What did you do something special usually on Sundays? Did you work a little bit less on Sundays and try to do a family outing or?

B: I didn't remember too much about that. It seemed like Sunday

was kind of like any other day. Kids get out and play, usually played in the garden when it was about done and we'd get out and play in the corn pasture with a little cars, dig holes and drive our little cars through.

H: Tell me about school? What was the very first school you went to and what was it like?

B: it was up here in the old building which is gone now. I didn't want to go and my mother went with me and...

H: You didn't want to go ?

B: I wanted to come back home. Of course, she said I couldn't.

H: How old were you?

B: But then it got to where I liked school, I particularly remember a teacher who had a little box with letters cut out called them Anagrams, I believe. And she would tell us to pick out all the A's that we could find in that box, she had a box for every child. And boy we would tear in those and whoever got the most got a little star on some kind of little card. I don't know it seemed like I got through school awful quick. First thing I knew I was Senior. I was in a play or 2 that we had in school I remember most of my teachers. One of them still comes to our church and I see her about every Sunday.

H: How old were you when you first went to school, 6-7?

B: I was 6.

H: And did they have all the grades in one room?

B: No. They had a room for every grade.

H: They did? So you didn't go to a like, the kids in the country ? You already had separated?

B: They had a room for every grade.

H: And how many kids were in the building do you think?

B: I don't have any idea.

H: How many were in your first grade classroom? You didn't go to kindergarten?

B: No. They didn't know what that was then. I don't know, at

least 20.

H: And did you go all day, like from morning to afternoon?

B: Well, it seemed to me like we went from 8 to 4.

H: That's pretty long.

B: But we came home for lunch.

H: You came home for lunch?

B: Got an hour off for lunch, of course I came home. I lived about 3 blocks away. But It seems to me the kids don't go to school that long now.

H: I think they've shortened the day a little bit. And do you remember liking anything particularly as a young child in school?

B: yes, spelling. I liked spelling.

H: Why did you ...?

B: I won a spelling match one time. I was really proud of myself. [laughter] I won that spelling match in the 4th or 5th grade. With the word 'myrrh'.

H: What word? Like incense and myrrh?

B: Yes.

H: That was a toughie.

B: Yes, I won it with that. I was a good speller, I really enjoyed it. And finally there was just 2 of us standing up and this girl I'm sure was much smarter than I was but the reason I knew this word was my dad was a blacksmith and they had a medicine to put on horses and it was called Balsam of Myrrh. And I particularly remember that word because it was spelt a little different from any word that I'd ever heard. So they asked this girl and I forget how she spelled it and then they asked me and boy, I was up there with my chest out I said 'MYRRH'. That's right you know. And I won't have spelled it if it hadn't of been for that.

H: Good for you. You still beat me. That's years later, that's still one of your prized memories. Why didn't you want to go to school in the beginning?

B: I didn't.

H: You don't remember why?

B: Well, I'd rather play.

H: Well, that was good.

B: It got to where I liked school, I knew I had to go. So I gave up.

H: You mom wouldn't let you come back that very first day, she wasn't about to ... She had been planning your departure for while there.

B: When I got to where I could take industrial arts, manual training or whatever they call it now, I really liked that. When You make things out of wood. And I liked Indiana history, I didn't like any of the other kind of history, I liked Indiana history.

H: That was required?

B: Yes, I liked typing. I'm sure glad I took that too.

H: Paid off for you later?

B: Yes, it's paid off.

H: In your very first school that you went to was it all the grades, 1 through 6 or was there a separate building for the ...?

B: Yes, from 7 to 12 is in the building that's up there now. 1 to 6 was up in the old building, it was an old time building. They tore that down.

H: What was the name of it?

B: The name?

H: Was there a name of the school you went to? Did it have a name?

B: I don't know, Paoli elementary.

H: Maybe that's what it was called. Did you know most of the kids in your class?

B: Oh, yes.

H: 'Cause they were all town kids.

B: Yes, well but in the 7th grade there was a lot of people came in from the country.

H: 'Cause they still had country schools? They didn't come until ...?

B: And certain grade, I think it was 7th, they would come to the town school. They'd have to take some kind of a test and then they'd... but if you were already here you didn't have to take the test.

H: They wanted to make sure they admitted...

B: I liked that, I didn't like tests.

H: I bet not. How was your school heated?

B: Steam. [tape turned off -- someone entered room]

H: How was your school heated?

B: It was steam heated, you could hear those pipes bounding when they fired the furnace.

H: And what did you do for recess?

B: Recess, we rode the swings and the slide. There was a little hole in the wall and in the winter time I would get and sit in that hole 'cause the warm heat would come out of the ventilation there and I would sit in there for a portion of the recess in the winter time.

H: And what grade did you go to the next building? Was it in 7th grade did you say?

B: 7th grade. The building was brand new when I was in 7th grade.

H: Do you remember what year that was?

B: Yes, 1926.

H: OK and how was school different from 7 to 12, in those grades?

B: Well, you had to go to different rooms for every class.

H: Oh, the other ones were like the traditional elementary

classes?

B: Yes. A different room for every class and they had a big auditorium where you went in to study.

H: Did you have lunch in school by then yet or still no?

B: Most of the time I came home.

H: But they already provided lunch?

B: Not until later, much later. You'd have to bring your lunch or go home.

H: And your favorite subject was industrial arts or wood working?

B: Yes, that was it, the industrial arts or manual training or whatever they call it.

H: What did you do for fun? Did they have any organized activities for high school kids for fun?

B: Well, yes, they had basketball.

H: Did you play basketball?

B: No. I was too little.

H: And what else did they have?

B: I don't remember anything else. We played baseball in the field at recess at times. But I don't remember anything else.

H: You were telling me what you did as a young child on the square, how was your social life different when you were say 16, 17 or 18 years old? What would kids that age do?

B: My social life was a little bit contained because I worked at the hotel during that time. I worked, I forget when I started there but I lived at the hotel and I would get a night of maybe to go to Dave Ruth but most of the time I was there working.

H: This is already after high school?

B: Yes, after school.

H: When did that hotel shut down?

B: Oh, gosh. I don't know. They ran it a while after I left there

but ... I don't know when it shut down.

H: I'm just curious. The building's still there right?

B: I can find out.

H: Oh, could you? It's the building that's still there on the square. What happening with it?

B: It's called a land mark and they have receptions there in down in the basement. The basement is fixed up real nice. But the up stairs would cost 1/2 million dollars I expect to fix it up 'cause you would have to plumb it for fire extinguishing and every room would have to have a bathroom and shower. It would cost too much to fix it up but the windows are coming out of it... It's going to catch fire one of these days and then it will burn that whole end of town. It scares me every time I look at it.

H: That's pretty scary. When you would take out a girl on a date or when you would go out with your friends, in the late '20's or early '30's, what would you do? What would you do for fun?

B: Well, there'd always be some kind of movies or two.

H: The strand was still standing then? The movie theater was still standing then?

B: Yes. We'd get somebody's car and we'd go to Bedford mostly.

H: What was there to do in Bedford?

B: Go to the movies.

H: There was more choices there?

B: There was 2 of them there.

H: Or else you'd go out and get something to eat or something like that?

B: Well, wouldn't eat much maybe have a Coke.

H: OK Can you tell me the first national event that you remember as a child as a teenager?

B: What kind of event?

H: National event. You're too young to remember World War One,

you were a kid. But ...

B: I can remember when it was over. The whistles all blew all over town.

H: You can? You were three years old then. You remember that? Cause it was a big noisy event?

B: Yes that's right.

H: What do you remember of the '20s that was going on in the country?

B: The Charleston dance.

H: Do you remember that?

B: OH, yes.

H: The '20s are kind of an exciting time. Lots of things going on. Did the kids dance the Charleston?

B: Yes, they was some of them that did. I never did. I wasn't much of a dancer, my wife was, I knew about dancing she taught me.

H: But you didn't have school dances or things like that did you?

B: No.

H: So it was like privately? Tell me what you remember of the Depression. Did your life change?

B: OH, I can remember the Depression very well. There wasn't any money around. My father got sick about that time, it started in 28 or 29, and there wasn't any jobs to have and even if you got one you didn't make much money. I went to school without having a hair cut and my sisters would try to straighten it up. In the winter time I'd go to school with holes in my shoes that I'd put cardboard in to keep the ice water from coming in. And during that time my father died, he died in 1932 and the Depression wasn't over then.

H: And you were still in high school then?

B: Yes, but I'd been hungry.

H: Were there a lot of people out of work that you remember? Like were your friends families out of work a lot?

B: Well, yes there was a lot of people out of work. Mostly ... we had a chair factory here and it worked some people but they weren't paid too much.

H: I had forgotten when I asked you before what you did for fun I said the wrong date. You were in high school during the Depression so it was kind of hard to go out and spend money on a date or ...

B: i had a little money at the hotel when I worked there I made \$3 a week, and I kept \$1 and my tips and I gave my mother \$2 for the rest of the family. But I still had a lot more than some of them.

H: That was kind of the standard thing if you were working during high school you would give some money back to the family and then keep only a little bit for yourself? That was the usual thing to do?

B: Yes, well I don't know about the usual thing to do but I felt maybe I should.

H: How old were you when you started working at the hotel?

B: Oh, I may have been 16 or 17, I forget how many years I worked there.

H: And what did you do?

B: You name it, I did it. I washed windows, I tared roofs, I carried suitcases, I made beds, I refinished the furniture. I mopped the floor.

H: Was it hard to get a job there?

B: Well, I don't know I was lucky I guess to be working there.

H: And it was particularly busy during Derby days you told me?

B: Oh, yes, even served meals there and a meal cost 35 cents. But they would serve the good parts of the chicken to the customers and the help got to eat the backs and I got to where I liked backs better than anything else. [laughter]

H: That was lucky for you. It brings back good memories to you.

B: oh, yes, I still remember mopping the floor. I'd go back in the kitchen, I'd get a big bucket of water and mop that floor.

One night I decided it didn't look clean enough to suit me so I got some scouring powder and I scoured that floor, it was a marble floor. Boy by the time I got done that floor really looked like.

H: YOU had told me that people would stop in on the way to Louisville? What time of the year was the Derby?

B: It was in May sometime. I remember watching it on TV but I don't remember what ...

H: It was an hour drive from here so they would stop here on the way down. What other kinds of jobs did you hold right after high school? You stayed at the hotel for a while?

B: Worked at the A&P store, worked at Krogers, shined shoes at the barber shop, worked at the mill.

H: Can you tell me about the flour mill? What did you do there?

B: Packed flour. Ground feed for farmers. Every so often they'd make a lot of flour, I'd pack it out of the bin.

H: And when did you start your job as a leads man for the boat painters that we talked about?

B: That was in 1942 or 1943, I worked there from '42 to '46.

H: And prior to that you had a whole host of different jobs. You worked at the flour mill

B: Yes, anything to make a dollar.

H: And we had talked before we started the interview that during World War II that's when there was a lot of was time industry in painting boats.

B: Yes, we made LST down there.

H: And where was this at?

B: Jeffersonville. 50 miles east of here.

H: And can you tell me a little bit about your hob there, what you did?

B: Well mainly the foreman come around and tell me where to send my men and tell me how much he wanted done and I would tell the guys and take them where they're supposed to go. And tell them

what they had to get done and I'd tell them you get that done you can do anything you want to. I had no problem with it.

H: And the work was, there was a lot of work to be done?

B: Spraying paint, that's what it was. Spray painters.

H: And there was a lot of it?

B: OH, yes.

H: Where would these boats go then?

B: They would go to the war. They were LST's, landing boats. They would have all kinds of big doors that opened up and they'd drive them up on the beach and the heavy equipment would come out the doors.

H: And sometimes you'd put in 12 hour days? Can you tell me during the war there were an awful lot of women that worked in the industries. Were there women working there? What did they do?

B: The ones in our department taped up. Like you would go and spray a room and they would tape up all the paint that you didn't want painted. Like some kind of gear or a valve. But there were other women that were welders and they made better welders than the men some of them, they were good.

H: What happened to the women after the war was over? Did they stay, did they leave?

B: Well, most of them went back to their old jobs or their husbands came back from the war. And when they came back why they just went back to where they came from because after the war why the boat business like that was over.

H: And so that business thrived, you worked there from '42 to '46? And after you left there?

B: I came back to Paoli and I started working in the tin shop for a fellow named Mitchel we put in furnaces and did all kind of tin work, rooves.

H: And when did you start your work in Louisville? I though you worked in Louisville for a while?

B: That was after the boat yard, I went from the boat yard over to Louisville.

H: And what did you do at the Ford?

B: Spray cars.

H: It's kind of like your job training transferred over from boats to ...

B: Yes, we sprayed... I didn't ever have to spray and prime. I sprayed the good stuff. Wonderful color.

H: And after worked at the Ford motors then you worked in Mitchell? What other things did you do for a living since that time after your retirement?

B: Well, most of the time I worked in the newspaper office which was a variety of different jobs. I

H: You started off as the advertising manager for the newspaper?

B: OH, no. I started in as the, well I was painting the building inside-is when I got the job.

H: Are you serious?

B: That's how I got the job. Then I learned how to run the press so I would come in and run the press, they were having a centennial here in town at that time. I would get pages ready and I would come in and run the pages they had ready at night and then one time I got a call form the boss and would I come to work for him. And I said no I work at nights but I got a job and I don't need a job in the office. Just come in and work part time to start off with, which he talked me into it. It may or may not have been a good thing but I stayed a long time.

H: And when did you start doing that? When was the centennial?

B: 1950.

H: It was the centennial of Paoli?

B: Think it was the centennial of the court house. It was built in 1850 and it was 1950.

H: And so that's when you were first doing the printing ...

END OF TAPE ONE SIDE TWO

H: So when did you start working in the newspaper office?

B: I started there in 1950 and as I remember I went to work steady in 1952. And I'm still there.

H: OK but your jobs have changed.

B: Yes, I don't , I used to do a whole lot of everything and now about all I do is haul papers and keep the electronic machines running and sell a few special ads.

H: And what else have you done for the newspaper in the interim? You've done, you did all kinds of different things?

B: Well, yes I was running the press, keep the machines a running, go out and sell ads, come back in and set them on line and type and put the ad together, put them in form and run them on the press.

H: And how did you learn to do all these things?

B: Just picked it up.

H: You trained yourself? You just... that's really remarkable.

B: I taught myself to run a linotype by the keyboard is altogether different on a linotype as on a type writer.

H: Can you explain that for me?

B: Yes. The keys on the linotype are, the ones nearer your fingers. Of course the typewriter well, you know the typewriter keyboard the letters on the linotype is E-D-A-I-O-N-S-H-R-D-U-C-M-F-W-Y-P and so on. And you capital letters you type a different key for the capital letters.

H: So there are more

B: Oh, there's 10,000 parts to a linotype and I could take one of those linotypes apart and put it back together. After a period of time they were obsolete, nobody used linotype anymore. One fellow that I know kept his linotype in the basement and covered it over with concrete. he had a print shop or a newspaper office took it to the basement and covered it with concrete. Ours is still up there.

H: What do you use now at the office?

B: We use compugraphic machines. Which are electronic they print your type of a little ribbon of paper about three inches wide, type on about two inches and comes out machine developed like a

picture would be and they cut and paste it on a page which is photographed. They make a negative of the whole page and print it off.

H: So they cut different sizes like the headlines are one size and ...

B: Well, they either one, two, or three columns or full width.

H: OK and initially in 1950 when you first started they used linotype. Linotype is a lot more keys than a typewriter...

B: Linotype put out a metal slug is molded with the type on the end from a mat that falls down out of a magazine. it's hard to explain it without showing it to you.

H: Right, I'm trying to envision this. And so it doesn't print a letter?

B: NO, it offsets. They put it on this metals plate and wrap it around the cylinder and the cylinder turns and they have liquid they put on it so it won't smear. And the ink goes on only the part that's printed and it prints it onto another roller and the roller touches this paper which prints it on the paper. We call that offset.

H: And was there a transitional phase between a linotype and what they use now or did they go from one to the other?

B: Well, actually a lot of people didn't change as quick as this came out but the printing was so much better that eventually everybody did.

H: What they use now was the next step? There wasn't anything in between?

B: Not for printing.

H: When you first started working for the newspaper was it the same name and similar to how it comes out now? I've seen the newspaper here.

B: When I first went to work there it was called the Paoli Republican. While I was there they bought the Paoli News which they put out 2 papers in the week, put out the Republican on Tuesday and the News on Thursday. Since that time the fellow I worked for sold out to another guy and they kept me and they've added two more people see. They've added the Orange Countian and the Hoosier American. The Orange Countian goes in every mailbox

in Orange County plus a few more, a portion in some of the other counties. And the Hoosier American goes in every mailbox in Martin County plus a few more. So they've got four papers that goes out of the office out there.

H: Where is Martin County?

B: Loogootee in Martin County.

H: Which is where from here?

B: About 30 miles west.

H: OK I don't know it.

B: You go to Shoals and keep going to Loogootee.

H: OK, so now your office puts out 4 newspapers. But when you first came you said that the Paoli Republican bought the Paoli News. There were two different papers in 1950? There was actually competition?

B: Yes, not competition really but they both made their money.

H: Were they similar kinds of papers?

B: yes.

H: And now they put out, the same office puts out a newspaper on one day it's called the News and one day it's called the Republican.

B: Yes. Put out the Republican first and then the News but there's no news that's repeated unless it's paid for.

H: OK, it's really the same paper? Sort of, it's called a different name?

B: Well, the Paoli Republican is listed as a Republican paper and the Paoli News is different type of paper but they print them both.

H: OK and they are both basically a local newspaper gives you local events and...

B: That's true.

H: Did they ever print any national events or do they stay away from that?

B: They stay away from the kind of stuff. You used to get some of that stuff in years ago, they'd call it "boiler plate", it would be a filler. It would be a little strip of metal you fastened on and you'd put in the form of the rest of the paper and it had well all kinds of different articles but not much that wasn't local.

H: Today is Tuesday and what paper comes out today?

B: The Republican.

H: And how can I get a copy of it.

B: We can go to the newspaper office when we're done. There's a little chair and you get a paper and put 35 cents in the cup.

H: Will it still be open when I leave or does it close at ?

B: it's open 'till 5.

H: Can you tell me how many newspapers are put out. How many people read them?

B: I don't know how many read them but the Hoosier American and the Orange Countian are free papers, they go into every mailbox free which is a good thing for the advertisers because they see all the ads in there and that's mostly what they are. There's some news and mostly ads. The other papers there's not near the circulation that is, about maybe 3,000 of the Paoli News and the Paoli Republican.

H: But it's a paper that's read by people in Orange County?

B: yes, and a ways. We send them all over.

H: Really? You have people that have moved away from here that still take them?

B: Yes, even send them overseas. There's some that are overseas.

H: Like where?

B: Oh, some are service men that are overseas.

H: And some people that are retired in Florida or something like that?

B: Yes.

H: You worked at that job and you still work there a little bit there now, correct?

B: Yes, I work Mondays and Fridays.

H: What do you do on Mondays and Fridays?

B: Monday I go to the office and I clean the developing processor and fill all the cassette that goes into the typesetting machines and any other thing that I can find to do. And by that time the Hoosier Americans are there and we sack them up and I take them to Loogootee to the post office and take a few there and then I go to Odon and take some to their post offices which is a little town 15 miles on down the road from Loogootee and then by the time I get back to Paoli it's time to quit. On Friday I go to Jasper and pick up the circular that is to be stuffed into the Hoosier American which I take down to Loogootee on Monday and that's about all I do on that day.

H: That's quite a bit though.

B: 5 or 6 hours.

H: How did you,... you had also done photography for the newspaper and that's really how I heard about you first as a photographer and later as the court house clock tower custodian. So can you tell me how you got into photography and ...

B: well there was a kid that lived down the road from me that was experimenting with photography and much younger than me. I seen some of his pictures which didn't look too bad and I started doing it and I kept advancing and I'd read books and I kept advancing along with it and first thing I knew why I had all I could do. It wasn't a hobby any more.

H: And how did you start taking pictures for the newspaper?

B: Well, he knew I took pictures as a hobby. So I just started taking whatever came up, I'd go to basketball games, do family groups or 4H or lady with a quilt she had made, little boy with a hog. And a calf or whatever and any time anything happened, a wreck or something I'd go and take a picture.

H: And how did you, when it stopped being a hobby... You taught yourself how to do all this?

B: Yes.

H: Did you enjoy it more when it was your hobby?

B: Yes, I did. It got to where it wasn't a hobby.

H: Yes, I could tell that.

B: That's why I decided I had to have a hobby so I took up electronics.

H: And when was this?

B: After I decide photography wasn't a hobby anymore.

H: This is like in 60's maybe?

B: Maybe a little later than that. I don't know. I wasn't very good at math and I knew I would never make any money with having electronic as my hobby. Well there's a kid in town who liked me real well and he forced me to study more than I did. So I got to where I can do pretty good, I can make a radio if I wanted to. By looking at a piece of paper I can make a radio if I had the components. And I don't know, one thing led to another. All at once these linotypes went obsolete and they got in those electronic machines as well and here come my studying on electronics to keep the machines running.

H: So it was a real good time for you to have learnt that lesson?

B: Yes, but he pays me extra to be on hand. He pays me if something happens I go down there and I can fix it quick as I can get there. Pays me extra for that plus the time that I work fixing it. I can tell in just a little while whether I can fix it or not. Most of the time I can.

H: That sounds really good, sounds like you've always been able to have a skill that came in handy. How did you become Court House clock custodian?

B: Well there was a fellow that was auditor at that time name was Bill Boyd and I don't know I knew him pretty well and when the guy that was doing it told this Bill Boyd that he was going to quit. Bill said it took him a little time to study it and all at once he decided that I was the guy that should be able to do it.

H: Just because he knew you?

B: Well, I guess.

H: And you already were sort of handy with ...electronics, you

had a reputation?

B: well, I been doing it every since. It started out it was something like \$100 a year and so much money each time you put in light bulbs, you have to go out and climb a ladder and put light bulbs in around the face of the clock. You got \$2 extra for each time you did that. But I don't know the old clock was put in there in 1899 and it keeps better time than one of these electronic clocks. You hardly ever have to set it at all.

H: It's the same clock? It hasn't been replaced? Since 1899?

B: Yes.

H: The court house was built in 1850, but there wasn't a clock on it then?

B: There was one with wooden cogs that they used for a long time. This is the second clock.

H: And can you ..., we talked a little bit about this before, but can you describe this clock for me and tell me what your work there entails?

B: By looking..., I mean if you see it you wouldn't think it was a clock. It's a curved shape machine with 4 legs and inside there's 2 big drums, one bigger than the other, one for the striking part and the other for the winding part, for the running. And there's the escapement movement like in any old clock that you ever seen that ticks. The pendulum on the thing is about 8 feet long and it's cherry wood, the bottom part is a big chunk of metal. Looked like a clapper and a bell of some sort but it's big chunk of metal. The working parts, the escapement and the rest of the working parts are brass. And it just sits there and runs as long as you keep it wound, it'll run. During the fire ...

H: What fire?

B: We had a fire in the court house August [pause] Anyway we had a fire there and it stopped running for a long time.

H: Last August or a while back?

B: Yes, it's been several years ago. I thought I'd never forget that date August something,.. Anyway it didn't run for a long time and people would come up to me and say can't you just make in strike, we want to hear the bell. Of course it wouldn't do any good to try to make it run while they were going up and down

those stairs working on the roof. But when it was on fire, I was fire chief at that time, and I had the key so me and another guy went up there, we had tanks on and we got to the first level before we got to the clock and smoke was rolling in there, popping, cracking... Stuff dripping down out of the roof, and had we been able to stay there for 1/2 minute longer swirling around with the hose, we had the hose with us, swirling around the steam that the water would have made when it hit the fire would have put the fire out. But that was the hottest place I have ever been in my life. I never want to see anything like that again, we just couldn't stand it. We had to go downstairs.

H: I've seen the clock tower but I don't have an idea of how high up it is. Do you have to go up a certain enclosed staircase to get there?

B: Yes, there's steps on the outside [tape turned off]. OK you've brought out this post card for me to see of the Court House and I'm going to get one to put in your file. You have to walk up these front stairs first to the pillars.

B: That's one set. Inside the columns is another set, you got inside the door there's a ladder there. Go up that ladder, there's about 8 steps and open another door, there one with 10 steps to a landing and you make a turn and you go up one with about 12 more steps and you go inside to the clock room. Now the clock is inside this bottom part right here.

H: It's in the base of what was the tower.

B: Where the louvers are is the bell. From the clock there is one rod that goes straight up to the clock faces and there's a universal joint that goes to the four faces. It operates off of one rod.

H: I didn't notice that there were 4 faces of the clock when I went by the Court House, I'm sorry I don't mean to be offensive here but I didn't notice it until right now when I looked at the post card.

B: People really look at that. If it stops I get calls.

H: I bet you do. So, you're weekly you have to go wind it?

B: Once a week, yes.

H: Your weekly work consists of going to the bottom of this base, right? You don't have to go way to the top?

B: Yes. That's right.

H: And that's quite a few steps just right there. And is it pretty tight up there?

B: Oh, no.

H: There's a lot of room.

B: Well, I've had Brownies and Scouts in this room. Sometimes I'd have to divide them, I'd take kids up there, maybe 6 or 7 at a time. And get them away from the machinery 'cause when that strikes there's a governor on the thing, it's like a big couple of blades that turns that keeps the clock from striking too fast. It slows the time between the strikes. Slows it down, if that wasn't there why it would hit real fast.

H: How does a visitor get to go up there?

B: He asks me.

H: When is the next time you're going up there?

B: I could go up any time.

H: I would love to go up there.

B: You'd have to climb.

H: I can climb. I would love to go up there. I would live to take a picture of you at your work. Is that a deal?

B: Any time except Monday or Friday, why we'll go.

H: We'll make an arrangement, I think that would be really neat. OK so, now when you had told me before we started the interview that what you have to pull, how many times, can you repeat that for me? Your weekly job.

B: You crank.

H: Can you explain that to me?

B: Oh, the cranking is about a foot and 1/2, that would be twice that much for the winding. Wind it 190 times to fill up the drum enough for it to run a week. The part that runs the clock is the much smaller drum, the ratio on it is 1 to 1, the ratio on the striking part is 5 to 1. And you fill up the drum and it lasts a week. The weights are in a big box that goes down the shaft in

the court house, it goes through the basement, it runs down, the box goes to the basement. The running weight sits on top of the striking weight so when you wind it you have to wind the running weight first; bring it up and then when you wind the striking weight you give it up underneath.

H: How long does this winding/cranking take? A couple of hours or?

B: Oh, no. It only takes about, well right now it would take me about 1/2 an hour. But you rest the body in between times. Wind about 20 times and you stop and you rest a little while and then you get your breath and then wind 20 more 'till you get 190 in.

H: And so is that it for the week?

B: Well, every other time you oil it.

H: OK, do you know where the clock came from?

B: Yes, D.E. Howard and Company [pause] I think it's somewhere in Pennsylvania but I'd have to look on the clock, it's on there printed on it and also the bell. Bell tells when it was made, it's solid brass.

H: Can you see the bell when you're ...?

B: Go up another one more flight of ladder and you can see.

H: And you don't have to do any maintenance on the bell do you?

B: Well, just keep everything oiled. I was going to try to take something and see if I could polish it and make it shine. It's pretty well corroded but it sounds good.

H: How often does it ring?

B: Every hour.

H: Every hour. You know I haven't heard it, I'll have to make sure I hear it today. And then how often, there are lights on the outside of the four sides...

B: Well, that depends I use instead of a 120 volt bulb I use a 130 volt bulb or 150 watt. Which by use 130 instead of 120 it lasts about 10 times as long, a lot longer. But if it's hot and it gets water on it through a hole, it'll go out.

H: How big are these bulbs?

B: Size of what's in that lamp.

H: And you have to climb a ladder on the outside to put the bulbs in?

B: Yes, there's a white ladder on the outside, it slants a little backwards [laughter].

H: I hope you're not afraid of heights.

B: Oh, no.

H: Is there one on each side?

B: No, no.

H: just one the

B: Put one bulb in, screw one out, put one in, walk around that ledge up there.

H: There's a ledge, OK and there's only one bulb on each side, in each face?

B: Yes.

H: OK I can't see that.

B: Do you see the light?

H: OK now I see it, is it by the 12? Is the bulb by the number 12?

B: Yes.

H: And tell me how long have you been the Court House Clock Custodian?

B: Sometime in the sixties, I'm not sure ...

H: But Mr. Barnes, what happens to you when you're sick?

B: I got a guy that winds it for me.

H: You have a substitute. Because if you ...

B: He doesn't put any bulbs in or he doesn't oil it or do anything else to it but he does wind it.

H: It's hard to get someone to replace you, you know how that is.

B: Since I've had all my trouble, I've only been winding it a time or two when he forgot and let it run down but I'm going to start winding it again, I'll do pretty good.

H: Well, I can imagine how this clock is a part of everybody's lives here and I can imagine then calling you up and saying 'hey Bill, what's wrong with the clock? Get your act together.'

B: They not only call me, they see me on the street. 'What's the matter with the clock?' I go up do something to it, keep it running.

H: What's the next day you're going to go up there?

B: Any time you want to go.

H: Well, when we finish I'll make an appointment with you. I would really be honored if you'd take me up there.

B: OK any time, well if it's after 4 o'clock I'll have to go up to other guy.

END OF SIDE ONE TAPE TWO

B: In all the years I've wound the thing I haven't had any problems with the parts wearing out.

H: That's amazing.

B: You see, all the parts are made out of, all the movements and all the cocks are made out of solid brass and it is good stuff. You would think that over a period of time, especially the escapement movement which I will show you when we go up there, would wear but I keep those lubricated real good so far they haven't worn out.

H: Did you tell me who did this before you?

B: No I didn't. But a fellow named Roburner did it and before him a fellow named Nobly. When I was a kid, I wasn't very old, this Mr. Nobly took me up there one time and he had cleaned that clock all up and he was really proud of it. But he got to where he couldn't climb those stairs.

H: Is it dark inside?

B: No, well you have to turn the light on. it's dark as pitch up there with no light. Even in the daytime.

H: Let's just sum up the clock. So that clock was put in in 1899.

B: 1899 by John Hollingsworth, his name is on the instructions that's on the wall.

H: Is that right? Was he a prominent citizen?

B: He was a watch maker around here at that time, a jeweler.

H: And as far as you know, that clock has never needed major repair, even after the fire?

B: Not after the fire, no. I see some parts up there but I don't know who put them in or when, I know where they came from on the clock but not during the time that I've been up there have we ever replaced anything.

H: You know, someone had told me there was an article about you and the climbing up the stairs every week, was that in the local paper? Do you happen to have that clipping?

B: I don't have it, my wife may have it.

H: Is there a way that I can go to the newspaper office, I would love to have that clipping? And like, there's a way I could go back through the files or something.

B: You would have to know exactly what issue it was in.

H: They don't have a good index. OK we'll have to ask your wife to see if she happens to know when that was.

B: She might have saved it, I don't know, if she did I don't remember.

H: Now one of the people that I had interviewed had told me that there was an article about you that I ought to read. You know of climbing up the stairs and repairing the clock and ...

B: They got a picture of me up there one time when I was repairing the roof at that time. There was some metal that had blown loose and I was up there walking around on the roof. Nailing a pin down and somebody got a picture but I don't remember anything about me doing a clock, it may have been.

H: You know I think it might be a great book to get all the

Court House clock custodians in a certain state and write about their work. What do you think?

B: Not too much interesting about winding an old clock.
[laughter] You sweat and you wind some more.

H: There isn't any organization, the Court House clock custodians of the United States?

B: No. [laughter]

H: A while back you were telling me that when the Court House was on fire that you were the fire chief and it dawned upon me that we haven't talked about at all about your work as a fire man. Can you tell me was that, you had several jobs at once? You worked at the newspaper and you worked as a fireman?

B: Yes, and I ran the projectors at the drive-in theater.

H: At the same time, I mean ...

B: Yes.

H: You had three job titles.

B: Yes, well, and maybe more now, I don't know.

H: You'd go do this job and go do this job... OK so let's ...

B: I did a lot of painting and I took, sometime I in 1950 I got on the fire department. And I took a job at the drive-in theater around about that time. I was painting the screen I think when I went on the drive-in theater. And you could hear the fire whistle out there they don't blow it anymore they ave electronic alerterers but I would have ropes and a swing that I painted with, well if I'd hear a fire whistle I'd slide down those ropes. And wouldn't have to climb from the inside of the screen. I just slide down the ropes and go to the fire and come back and climb back up. I could do that then I couldn't do that now. But I was fire chief for 8 years.

H: When was that?

B: I've been to lots of fires. [tape turned off]

H: So when were you fire chief?

B: It had to be in the 60's, along in there somewhere.

H: At the same time you were working for the newspaper, you were projecting movies and you were a fire chief, but you were a fireman for about 30 years.

B: I still am, I'm still on the fire department.

H: Oh, so when you came on you were

B: I haven't been off. I've been ... I'm their secretary right now.

H: No kidding.

B: In case of necessity I drive one of the fire trucks.

H: And how many do they have?

B: Three.

H: And when you first started of becoming a fire man in the early 60's, you were a fire man before you became fire chief right?

B: Oh, yes.

H: So you probably came on in the early 60s as a fireman. How many fire trucks did they have then?

B: They only had two when I came on. There was an older model and a newer model and now as time passed we got rid of some of the older models and some of the newer models are some of the older models. But we've got real good equipment, they pump good. And we got good fire fighters.

H: How has the equipment and fire fighting and house construction changed since the time that you first became a fire fighter?

B: Well, the biggest change was all these trailers that come in, they were built, the wiring is not heavy enough in most of them and most of them had this panelling that's thin as paper that will burns like gunpowder. The rest, the older fires at the older houses where the wiring is not heavy enough.

H: Up dated.

B: Right.

H: [sneezes twice]

B: That sand bothering you?

H: No it's just allergy season for me, it wouldn't matter where we were. So the new trailers that came in, it was real popular a while back for people to have trailers.

B: We have trailer courts here, we have lots of car fires, not very many false alarms but a few. But we've got some factories that we go to occasionally and go through the factories to acquaint ourselves with the lay out of the building and sometimes they give us lay outs of the building on paper. We were out to the edge of town, they cut foams for the furniture factory which is very toxic when it burns and we had a demonstration of how it burns and now we could put it out if it burned. Unless you get a good start there's no way we could put it out, we'd have to keep the houses from around it from burning.

H: Did you get training? How did you first become a fireman?

B: I was doing a little carpenter work along with the painting as I did back years ago.

H: That painting got you into everything.

B: I was building a tree house for some kids. And this man was on the fire department he came long and wanted to know about me being on the fire department. I said well I didn't know but I'd try. So he taught me a whole lot of stuff, I worked with him during the fire. I can remember one fire we had down on the other street we went to one time, we crawled in on the floor with the hose between us where we could get to the fire put water on it. But he taught me more than any of the rest of them. As far as putting up ladders was concerned, I was a painter and I already knew how to put up the ladders.

H: Has the way of putting out fires changed at all? Equipment has changed?

B: To a certain extent. They make a lot of different type of nossels now that will spray and make a shield of water that you can walk up pretty close to the fire. Also they have foam now that you can cover a fire with foam and put it out. Other types of tools, we have a tool where you could run it right through one of these trailers, it's a long sharp pointed spear like thing with holes in the end of it, in the sides of it, not on the point. Shove that right through the trailer and turn it on without going into it and just spray that trailer good. or you can cut an opening in the top of a trailer and put this foam machine and fill it with foam in a matter of minutes.

H: These are fairly new things, they weren't around 30 years ago?

B: Not 30 years ago, no.

H: So 30 years ago fire fighting was little bit simpler?

B: well you just turned the water on as much as you could, you'd try to use a little sense. And not spraying on the fire where it wasn't doing any good. You try to get the base of the fire which you still try to do that. You get to the base of the fire you've pretty well got it whipped, if you turn it on the flames you aren't doing anything.

H: Someone had told me that there was a building that burnt in Paoli that they couldn't put out the fire because the water main was underneath the building and when the fire broke the water main bust so they couldn't do anything. Does that sound familiar?

B: That was Cornwell's. I was chief when that was...

H: Is that right?

B: We were coming in, I forget, anyway we were coming up Salem Road and I could see a big smoke in the sky I said 'oh, that's a big fire'. Well when we got here, I came home and changed clothes right quick and went to town and the police took me down there. Siren on red light, the whole bit. But this fire started between the where the sprinklers didn't work and the roof. How it ever got started up there no one knows. But the sprinklers came on but of course they weren't putting water on the fire. And it got, it was going so good that we couldn't get to it to put water on it. The main was underneath the building but as I remember it didn't burst, but they couldn't get to the place to shut the sprinklers off as I remember. And we never did get it under control, all the machinery fell in and it was just, a big fire.

H: And Cornwell was the, what kind of factory was it? I forget.

B: They made TV cabinets.

H: And about when did this factory burn down? Was that in the seventies?

B: I can't tell you that, I've forgotten.

H: Not that important. You were a fire chief then, so it had to be in the seventies. Early seventies 'cause we figured out when you were fire chief. Tell me about the Court House fire. We just kind of talked about it real briefly before, it's the one in

August of 68.

B: Yes, I think it was August 17, 1968. And there were some people that was painting the Court House and they were using torches to take the old paint off. And I had told the boss of that company to not use those torches I told them to use the ... because inside was dry, it had been there since 1850 and all the stuff was pretty dry. I said any of that flame gets in there and catches maybe a birds nest or something there's no way that we can get it put out. He didn't pay any attention to me, I don't reckon because I think I told him twice I said just let it go whatever it is just paint over it. Not on the brick, on the outside where he was doing it was all right. But I started home one day and the fire whistle blew and I looked down there and I saw smoke coming out of there, that Court House. Oh, we fought that long time. We finally saved it by using the town's cherry picker. It raised us up there and we shot it through the whole in the attic and it ruined everything with water, the water ruined a whole lot of stuff but we saved it. We got a lot of good help from the towns people, they carried a lot of important stuff out 'cause we didn't know if it was going to go to the ground or not. For a while there we thought it was.

H: So you carried out the records out and things like that?

B: Yes a whole lot of the stuff out.

H: And how long did you have to rebuild part of the Court House or just the roof?

B: No, upstairs they had to rebuild some of the beams up there and some of the tresses they replaced with iron, you can still tell where the fire was, when we got up there you can see.

H: No kidding. And you could sense it, or smell it, or ...?

B: You can see the char. Right in the clock part, squirted the water right up in that round place on that. Gosh, fire, charcoal, smoke.

H: So it didn't damage the clock? You just couldn't wind it back up again until all the work was...

B: Oh, you could have but they were running back and forth up there with, going out on the roof and the pendulum was down there they probably would have hit it, so I didn't even try to get it running 'till after they completed their work up there. And then I went over it with oven cleaner.

H: Oven cleaner?

B: Yes, the oil that was on it the heat baked it on there just like it would in an oven. And I used oven cleaner up there to take that baked oil off of there. I got it in pretty good shape, it's been running good ever since.

H: Well, I bet it does, but I can't imagine how much work that was for you. What was the worst fire you had to fight?

B: I believe the Cornwell fire was the worst we ever had.

H: It just completely burnt down.

B: We had a hasher here one night that burned and I remember crawling under the highway through a culvert to take a hose so cars wouldn't run over the hose. It had a double ceiling too.

H: We talked a lot about what kinds of occupations you've had. And we've sort of gone through several decades of your life. Can you just generally tell me how you sense that Paoli has changed since you were a kid? How has it Paoli changed? How do you sense it's changed?

B: Well, I've been here all this time and I don't really think it's changed all that much.

H: It's grown bigger.

B: Well, yes the population has increased some but ...

H: I think it's about 3,500 now or so.

B: You know I don't know what it is now. it's up over 3,000 I'm pretty sure.

H: But do you still know most of the people in town like you did when you were a kid?

B: People round the square I know 'cause I got ads for them. But it's the younger generation I don't know, probably their parents. I don't know.

H: And that's because you don't have contact with them but if you were

B: That's right, I used to have contact with them all the time the school kids and their parents and the business men, I don't do much of that anymore.

H: Well, how about the town square, how has it changed?

B: Well, it hasn't changed very much.

H: Was it more active a couple of decades ago?

B: Well, they was a little more action, back years ago they used to have a band stand there which has been torn down. But the band would play on Thursday night and people would come up and sit in the Court House yard and listen to the band play. And the stores would stay open 'till 10 o'clock on Saturday nights, we had business here up 'till 10 o'clock.

H: So there was more of a hub ub of activity?

B: Yes, I'd say. It's a little more dead now than it used to be.

H: I've been here in the evenings and on the week end and the days and it doesn't seem like it's as active as some people used to tell me it was. When do you, can you give me a sense of when it stopped being so active and what do you think happened?

B: Well, probably one of the things shopping centers out north and town there that may have stopped a portion of it. They get a lot of activity out there which I'm sure that a whole lot of it came from the town.

H: So part of it was people didn't shop on the square anymore so you didn't see everybody.

B: And the fact that they didn't stay open 'till 10 o'clock, I don't know they must close by 5 o'clock on Saturday and they didn't used to do that.

H: And so people used to go up there and listen to the band play kind of talk to each other. What did that get replaced with?

B: Well, they tore the band stand down they didn't replace it with anything.

H: People just did their visiting privately or ...

B: I don't think they do that at all anymore. They see each other in church maybe.

H: People don't visit as much as they used to. They're kind of on the go or something. What about technology,. we talked about the fact that you had a car when you were growing up and you had

electricity, did you have a phone when you were growing up?

B: Yes, an old timer.

H: The kind that you cranked?

B: Yes.

H: Was it a party line?

B: No. I don't think ours was.

H: In the country it was. What kind of technology had an effect on you life, do you remember when the TV came in or when you listened to radio, those types of things?

B: Yes, I remember the first radios, the first radios were magnetic, had a magnetic speaker. And I still got one of those. Sounded funny but you could hear voices, had three knobs you could tune the tuning condenser to the same, all three of them to the same place. Later on they connected those two and you just do one knob but it still operated the three tuning condensers. We didn't have a radio but I made one out of a box, varnished it all up, put these tuning things on it. Painted it all up. People came in, 'you got a radio'. [laughter] and we didn't have anything. Did have any money at all. But I made them think we had a radio.

H: So you kind of fooled them?

B: Barnsey [wife, Ruth called barnsey] bought me the first radio I ever had.

H: Your wife did?

B: Yes, the first I ever had of my own.

H: In the thirties? Must have been in the thirties.

B: Yes, probably in the thirties.

H: Is that how you got your news about what was happening in the world?

B: Yes. The Mills brothers. You don't remember the Mills brothers?

H: No, please tell me who the Mills brothers were?

BARNES

B: Oh, it was the best quartet around at that time.

END OF INTERVIEW

N.B. This interview was never completed due to illness and subsequent death of the interviewee.

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