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## FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

### Transcript

Name: Homer Bruce

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Tape 4

Project Number 20012

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06:01:15:01

Q:

All right, terrific. If you could just say your name?

A:

My name is Homer Bruce and I'm a former worker here at the Fernald project. Spent about 42 years here.

Q:

Great. Well if you could just tie down when we talked earlier, before last week, you told me about the series of jobs that you had. (Response: oh my goodness yes.) Could you just cover the series of jobs that you had first of all.

06:01:39:09

A:

Well ah, when I first started here, I was a clerk out at plant 6. And that's when it ah, first started. They were ah, hiring so quickly. It took about three and a half months to get the clearance, three to three and a half months. And once I came in to the personnel building at that time, they were hiring on the spot. And that's how I was first hired in.

06:02:03:58

A:

I started out at plant 6 and I spent about 5 2 years, I use to ship all the a, finished product out. Finished fuel cores. And from there I went to ah, the reproduction section, the printing area, because I have some talents in ah sketching and drawing. So I spent some years in that area as a technical illustrator.

06:02:25:07

A:

Then ah, for some period of time I was a, over the photolithograph in the print shop. Eventually moved into another area of ah, editing and a personnel work. Interviewed for several years here. And then from there, after interviewing ah, we had ah, a mishap out here in the midst 80's that brought about forming our ah, public affairs department.

06:02:58:25

A:

And I joined public affairs. It was within the same division it was just a matter of, Pete Kelley came in at that time and I worked for Pete Kelley and Kathy Rhodus. The three of us actually were the first ones to begin the ah, public affairs department. Which has grown quite a bit since then.

06:03:20:00

Q:

Great. Tell us a little bit about um, about the plant 6 inspection department. You had a system out there.

A:

Well the machining area, once they were finished in the machining area, and they ah, were finished with what we called slugs at that time. Later on they called them fuel elements, ah, once we shipped them off they went out as fuel elements for the reactor facilities.

06:03:43:28

A:

There were two ah, facilities we sent the material too, one in Hanford, and the other at Savannah River, and those two facilities did have different type of material, there was different in size. But it was uranium. Once they were finished in the machining area they brought it into the inspection area where it was inspected. Once it was inspected, it went to ah one of ah three routes.

06:04:09:25

A:

Either it was work in process which meant it could still be salvaged it was sent back to machining or it could be sent over to plant 5 for remount which was scrap. And they use to call one of the areas out here scrap plant which was a misnomer. That didn't go over to well later on in years, it was changed later on from scrap plant to a different title.

A:

And the finish product went out to Savannah River or to Hanford. And we had some other special materials that we made for government facilities.

06:04:47:15

Q:

How much did you know about the process when you were hired here?

A:

Nothing. Nothing what so ever. They had some ah, material in the, that they'd written in the papers. However, I'd been in the service, I got out of the service in ah 50 and from the service I went into business college. And a lady that was a receptionist here, at that time had just started said why don't you come down to the plant, their hiring, I'm sure you'd, you know that they would hire you. So I came down and was hired on the spot. So that's how it came about, word of mouth.

06:05:26:26

A:

That's what happened with a lot of the maintenance personnel. (Laugh) The word got out that *Champion Paper Company* and *Beckett Paper* and some of the other facilities and we were robbing them to start the facilities out here. Didn't go over to well with any company that's like that. I use to do the same thing in personnel. (Laugh)

06:05:44:16

A:

If we had openings, we would go out and seek people and if you need to get an ok, you know what type of employee was or for a reference and so on you had to go back and it did hurt your feelings a bit. But we had jobs to fill and they were seeking employment and that's how it comes about sometimes. Rob Peter to pay Paul.

A:

At that time it was ah, quite a race on it was a, a terrible time right after the war there was such a scare with Russia building up their own atomic programs, weaponry programs that the United States felt they'd better get started much quicker. So some of the buildings that were built out here, they hired people before they ever got a process started. And plant 6 was somewhat like that, the rolling mill wasn't completed yet when I started out there.

06:06:42:23

A:

They were still putting in that facility. Which probably has more concrete than any building out here. They have floors that I guess 5, 7 feet thick. That's a, that a huge piece of (Laugh) of concrete out there in that facility. I've often thought when they start to tear it down, what are they going to do with the base of the facility itself.

06:07:08:14

Q:

Now I've heard that there's some kind of like little room down there, where they would put dignitaries if they were here visiting and there was some kind of threat. Is that true?

A:

A threat.

Q:

Yea, if there was some kind of tornado, or

06:07:20:15

A:

Oh yes. That's probably the safest place on the site. Your protected all the way around. They had some offices in the basement there. Yes. They had a lot of, I think they had transformers down there and motors what have you, to run the equipment upstairs.

A:

At one time the rolling mill there was probably one of the most elite of that type in the country. Because it was a continuous mill and quite nice. We were restricted at that time back in the 50's going from one building to another. We usually stayed within our own building. But being in plant 6 and the doors were open, we got to see them build the rolling mill.

06:08:02:03

Q:

That is neat. It's still out there too. I go out there and look and go wow. Um, so you remember the building of the plant pretty much. (Response: Oh yes.) Um, talk about that just a little bit, tell us a little bit about the what it was like during the early years while they were building the plant.

A:

When I first came in, there was only one access and that was on the north side. In fact, the same road that I came down to come in to have a physical is the road that they recently opened up for, I believe, for construction to come in to do work. That's the old access road.

06:08:33:07

A:

And when I first came in after I was hired, they told me to come in on, on that ah area or into that area and go to the Cone building. And the Cone building was a farm house and we had our physicals in the basement of the Cone building. That's ah before they ever had a medical department out here.

A:

So we had our physicals there, and I believe we also had some ah x-rays what have you at hospitals or someplace to, as part of the examination.

06:09:07:18

Q:

Great, so that's, that's the first thing they did then, was give you a physical and then um, so during the construction (response: laugh) what, what was going on during the construction?

A:

It was a dust bowl. Ah, as it ah states in one of the articles that I'm sure you'll come across, that it was a dust bowl when it was dry. Because some many vehicles were driving around, there was so much digging going on and every time you had a little wind blow through here, and were right on that, it comes out of the southwest. So you had quite a dust bowl.

06:09:41:29

A:

When it rained, you had a mud bowl and I can still recall, ah we rode a bus, if you were lucky to get on the bus you could ride from the ah locker room, which is still the same locker room only its been expanded, catch the bus and you could ride over to plant 6. But it was so dusty that you could hardly breathe inside the bus.

A:

It was an old school bus, and they had a, I recall they had a weapons carrier, an Army weapons carrier with a winch on the front and all he did when it was muddy outside was drive around and pull people out of the mud either physically or pulling their vehicles out when it became stuck. It was quite a mess. And plant 6 if you went into plant 6, security was so tight ah, they had another gate you had to pass through. And as I recall, they called it Stalag17 and we were (laugh) we felt like prisoners going in through that area.

06:10:46:28

A:

Then inside of plant 6 and the other plants also, they had security forces that would patrol the different buildings. And at one time they had ah buildings, facilities built on stilts around the Fernald project all 135 acres. That's what takes around 135, 136 acres of ah facilities out here. So they had ah guard shacks built up on stilts with spot lights, that didn't last too long and they finally ah got rid of those.

06:11:23:01

Q:

Let's talk a little bit about security. Um, what did it take to get a Q clearance?

A:

Q clearance, they, you put down references, several references. They look into your military background if you had military, work records, schools that you've gone too. And also check the neighbors out that you put on as references. And one thing that stood out to me, was my next door neighbor didn't want to (laugh) talk to the I believe it was the FBI, he said he was a FBI man. And he said he didn't want to talk to him, and he says I like Mr. Bruce and if you want to ask him any questions, you ask him. (Laugh) I don't want to answer questions (Laugh) on my neighbor. (Laugh) So it was sort of a fun thing when you look back, but not at that time it was very serious.

06:12:16:19

Q:

Were you able to discuss your work with your (Response: No) friends and family at all?

A:

No, not outside. Inside even certain parts of it inside were restricted between one plant and the other plant. And most things that you wrote down became classified. It's either secret or confidential or need to know basis. Ah, it was very tight. Practically every person in an office had a safe that they kept their documents in and you dare not lose a document, because they would put traces on it. Any time you transferred one document to another person they had to sign for it and that became their property at that point. And if you had a notebook you had to make sure you locked it up at night before you left and sign your safe what time you went out and put your log on there that ah, or the little board that they had you'd stick in the ah handle to show that its locked, closed. If they found it opened at any time of course, you'd be called on the carpet.

06:13:28:25

Q:

So how did they check up and make sure that people weren't talking on the outside? Did they have ways of checking up on people?

A:

Well from what I understand, they did and ah I sort of believe it, because one party had told me that ah he had been questioned, he had. We were working 7 days a week. Its hard to understand sometimes working 7 days a week, 12 hours ah during the week, 8 er 10 hours on Saturday and 8 hours on Sunday. You don't have time to even get a hair cut.

06:13:54:23

A:

You can't do the things that you were normally doing on the outside and sometimes you might stop in to have a beer, and you had ta, you know watch, watch what you said. And it was very tight and sometimes ah well I've heard a couple of cases where they've been called in because it, maybe said the wrong thing outside to a stranger. I don't know if other people have heard it, but I've heard of a couple. I've never been called in (laugh) I was thankful for that (laugh) I hope I kept my mouth shut. Because there was certain fear and even today you feel that once you signed that document that it meant something.

06:14:38:29

A:

A documents today to some people doesn't mean much. But when you had ah, you felt you were in charge of classified material that's in your grasp and you should take care of it and you sign a document that says you would ah under the Atomic Energy Act, I think it was 1954, that you would abide by the rules and regulations. It's either 54 or maybe it came out in 46, it was tied in with a couple of dates, that you stuck to that and ah, that was part of you job.

06:15:14:05

Q:

Tell me a little bit about patriotism on the site. Was there a lot of patriotism.

A:

Absolutely. Absolutely. Um, I think that's why not much information got from the site. They knew it was a cold war. And there was a race between the United States and Russian, Great Britain and France at that time. And the only way you can ah look back is ah to talk to some of the other people that you worked with or read some of the material that came out back during that period. There was a lot of patriotism, it wore off on ah, later years.

06:15:49:22

A:

The tremendous in the 40's of course, and I know what my brother went through, my cousins went through, my mother went through, and my father and you know when you had members going through the conflict at that time that what you are brought into a facility like this you feel that you are doing something that will increase our safety I guess you might call it ah, maybe not environmental safety, but safety overall of the United States. Yes.

06:16:25:16

Q:

Um, lets see. (Shuffle of paper) I've got lots of notes here. I think that's a really interesting point about cold war. I'd love to go into a little bit more about the cold war. Um.

A:

The people were very, very dedicated. You might, If you think back the people that were working here that served in the war. Now I came out of high school in 46 so I came in, I came to the facility after that. But I'd gone into the Air Force right after that in ah, 46 to 50<sup>th</sup>, four years. Then when I came out, when I started working here, I started working with a lot of people that had come out of the military. So there was a lot of patriotism. Yes.

Q:

That's great. I know of a few people that I've talked to that came (Response: There was a lot of heros that had come from the service. There was a lot of em.) Can you tell us anything sort of unusual that happened while you worked here at Fernald.

06:17:44:04

A:

Probably lots of things. You mean unusual things?

Q:

I was thinking about the cicadas.

A:

Oh, the cicadas. We're due for them again so that must have been 36 years ago, or something like that. They come around ah, no it was seventeen years ago, 34 years I guess it was. The cicadas were so thick over at the pilot plant, one of the motors on the outside of the plant made a hum I guess it was similar to what the cicada makes, it was sort of like a mating call. So we had absolutely barrels and barrels full of cicadas that were falling dead around the pilot plant. They were using coal shovels to scoop them up and whisk brooms. I'll never forget it. And at home I captured some of em, and I still have some in my freezer from 17 years ago. They ah, they're great for fishing. So if they come around this year, get some for fishing, freeze em. They'll last.

06:18:46:01

Q:

That's great. And um, NLO had ah aircraft here at one time.

A:

The parent company out of New York, flew a Beechcraft twin engine Beechcraft a few times, very few. And that was on the north end of the facility here. Out where the pine trees are. And they ah, I guess they just bulldozed a flat piece out for them, with a little riser on end so they could get their air, you know get to the air a little bit faster. I don't know if they even had a windsock on it. They use to have a windsocks on the buildings, on plant 7 and some of the other buildings. But that was back in the 50's and some of the ah people from the New York office, hierarchy would come down and that was their means of coming in here quickly.

06:19:41:12

A:

Course Westinghouse had to ah, come in to the facility in Hamilton and also over at ah Lunken Airport. Course they could take a jet, (laugh) we couldn't take a jet here. And we've had ah, I remember one time outside my office when I was in the administration building a huge skorsky (??) it think they called it, helicopters. They're huge, they could pick up a tank or a truck landed outside our window. I can remember the ladies in the office (laugh) all running (laugh) out of the building. And he gets out of the helicopter, and I called security and they came over and they said who are you with and he says is this *Procter & Gamble*? (Laugh) And of course the answer was no. (Laugh) They're across the river, directly across. That was a frightening time. Because those units are about ah I think he's about 3 floors, 3 stories up inside of that unit. Its quite large.

06:20:39:20

A:

We had an aircraft land on the south side of the project where the ah, oh the south portion where the cinders or the cinder pile, and that was a flat area because. If you look at some of the earlier photographs of the facility and something looks unusual looking like a diamond shaped that's what that is. That's a baseball diamond we had. But that's on early photographs. You'll have to look ah look very closely. But we had a ball field there and we had a ball field north of here where they're building the underground unit on the north access road. We had a ball field there. Quite manicured, it was beautiful and they had their games here on site rather than going off site. They had paid umpires that would come here.

06:21:33:09

A:

But we had a plane landed in that area, and ah couple of men that were out for a good time. I think it was on the weekend. Landed the aircraft and ah, became a little hostile, because security had brought them over to the guard house and they locked them up (laugh). And the FBI came out and questioned them, because at that time no aircraft were to fly over this facility at that time. Even many of the aircraft from Greater Cincinnati Airport and Lunken did not come over this facility because it was a no no area. And so they landed on the facility. And they felt they wanted to get in their plane and fly it off, but that was not to be they had to cut the wings off and put it on trailers and (cough) hauled it off site. (Laugh) After they detained them here for some time.

Q:

Wow. (Laugh) I had never heard that one. That's a great story.

06:22:26:24

A:

We had a little boy come in one time on one of our railroad coal johns or coal carriers and ah, they had to find him, he was quite young I don't know if he was 12 years old or 14 something like that. They brought

him in ah, brought him in to the security building. And they had him take a bath, at security and they cleaned him up quite well. Found out who he was and how he got into the car, called his parents and some how they got him back home.

06:23:06:19

Q:

Fugitives (laugh) that's great I hadn't heard that one either.

A:

It was a small ah small aircraft

Q:

Probably a little Cessna. (Response: Yea, a little Cessna) That's insane. Um, yea, security's is different now than what it was then um, and ah, (shuffle of paper) when you would have visitors in, what was it like to bring visitors on site back then?

06:23:39:28

A:

You seldom ever saw visitors on site. We saw employees, if a visitor come on site usually over on this area. You stayed on the non-classified area. But it would be a rarity to take someone out on the other area. Unless it was someone that had been hired as a contract operator. For instance when they put the rolling mill together the gentleman was from Pittsburgh, a Mr Snyder I think his name was, and he had been retired came back in to show them how to put a rolling mill in, and have it centered, and everything build solidly so it wouldn't, when their running the metal through there you didn't want metal going though the roof of your building if any thing malfunctioned so ah that was put together very, very slowly. Everything had to be zeroed in. Today they could do it much faster with some of the electronic equipment for surveying and laying out the equipment.

06:24:43:21

A:

That's quite, that's one of the most interesting places. If we had outsiders come in usually they were someone like Seaboard or in charge of the atomic energy commission. There was a lady, I'm trying to remember her name that was in charge of the atomic energy commission at one time. I can still remember she brought her (laugh) poodles in (laugh) her dogs. (Laugh) I think they were poodles. Every place she went her (laugh) dogs were with her. (Laugh) So, that was sort of a running joke with us out here as to who had to go walk her dogs. (Laugh)

06:25:22:02

Q:

So the site was operated by the Atomic Energy Commission.

A:

The Atomic Energy Commission was the beginner, then it was the Energy Research Development Administration or ERDA and now it's the Department of Energy. At one time we had one person assigned out here from the ah, Energy Research Development Administration, only one person. Now I think ah DOE has one or two floors in the administration building.

06:25:48:19

A:

We had an auditor that was assigned out of ah Oakridge. When I first started ah, Atomic Energy Commission was on the second floor of the administration building. I think they had around 22 or so employees. And speaking of employees, I was looking at one of the old magazines since I talked to you, and ah in the cafeteria we had 30 some employees in the cafeteria at one time. And probably one of the

best cafeterias (laugh) in the state of Ohio. We had ah master cooks over there and bakers. They were masterful cooks, wonderful. You'd come in and ah lunch time and eat a big t-bone steak that would be hanging off the plate. It was wonderful, really. The food they had but you worked a lot of hard and long hours out here too.

06:26:42:02

Q:

I'm glad you mentioned that because I'm trying to get a hold of ah Mary Ann Stewart. (Response: Mary Ann Stewart, right) She's having some respiratory problems right now but as soon as she's better (Response: Oh really) we're gonna interview her cause she was a manager (Response: she use to work) the cafeteria manager. (Response: Right) I'm looking forward to interviewing her.

06:27:00:24

A:

She'd do a, I see one of the ladies that use to work in the cafeteria out at ah, a church we visit a couple times a year. In fact here when you folks what to have a good ah turkey dinner, ah chicken dinner, ah strawberry festival, Masadonia Church just outside of the facility here, not too far out by Oakeana, out in that area. One of our employees belongs to the church out there and I see her when I go out. She worked in the cafeteria for many, many years. Woods, Mrs Woods.

Q:

I'm writing that down cause I want to get a hold of some of those people...

A:

Ah she worked for Mary Ann, Mrs Woods did.

06:27:48:12

Q:

You want to go ahead a take a break. Then we're gonna break real quick here we have...

07:01:07:21

Tape rolling, conversation taking place between camera crew, interviewee and interviewer.

JT: You were still in school then, weren't you?

HB: You know it was always satisfying to walk around...

07:01:13:12

Q:

One thing that I did want to ask you that I remember you mentioning from the pre-interview was the red and white water towers.

A:

Well they were painted that color for a reason. That's so for the aircraft flying around this area can identify the height of the tower. And pretty much tell ah, gather what the hillsides are around here by the shadows that are cast by the height of the tower. The red and white its easier to see. Course it looks like Ralston Purina so some of the people tried to convince us to believe that they felt it was Ralston Purina dog food chow. Because it said Feed Materials Production Center on the sign out front.

07:01:57:24

A:

However, if had they read in to it further they would see that it said Department of Energy or Atomic Energy Commission or Energy Research and Development Administration, government properties, keep off. But they tried to convince us that they (laugh) were convinced that it was Ralston Purina dog chow.

07:02:17:04

A:

But if you count the stripes on those towers, and I forget what the ah, what the feet represents, but the legs of the tower are a certain distance apart, you'll have a red, and a white, red and white. If you add those up you get so many feet or multiply them, maybe 25 feet or 50 feet each stripe. And if you count the blocks, which is easy to do because they were scattered the blocks are red and white you can tell how high, how high totally the unit is. They represent like every 10 feet between blocks.

07:02:55:21

A:

And that's the old, they finally changed them under Westinghouse. They painted them a light blue, but the one over by plant 6, when I first started I use to ah park close to that and by the time the day was out the car was covered in dust. Everything was covered in dust. And the roads were just ah covered, even though there was asphalt under concrete, they were covered in dust. As soon as the people got off work at night, it would just be chaos out, you couldn't see anything. But they would race out of here for some reason. To be first in line to get out.

07:03:36:00

A:

And I recall one time, a fellow parked in front of ah, he parked in such a way that they was a manhole that they were working on in front of him, and they were excavating and he forgot it was there, and jumped in his car and (laugh) drove right into it. (Laugh) So I guess ah he was there late at night trying to get out of there.

07:03:56:22

A:

But I use to pull underneath that, water would run out of the water tower on the east side and pull underneath and if you could stand the noise you could wash you car under there, free car wash. (Laugh)

Q:

That's great. I love that story. (Laugh) um, just real quick before we get into the 80's, um, how do you think the construction and process years, mostly just Fernald being here, how do you think it changed the surrounding community?

07:04:33:16

A:

I guess I look toward it as a positive, positive way. People were dedicated to what they were doing. The people, most people around here knew what was happening here at the facility. In fact many of them worked here and ran businesses on the outside. The antique facility, Pavilion down in Ross Ohio, use to be ah, a place where we got our food. That was about the only place you could find to eat around here except over at the Castle also

07:05:02:03

A:

And some material that ah I've brought might point out some of this to you, how many people they fed in there a day. They would eat, come in and for breakfast, and for lunch, I know I use to go in there for lunch on weekends, when we were working seven days a week. And ah, you couldn't bring food into the facility, the cafeteria would be closed at that time, and that was the only, we'd go outside to eat. Or carry our lunch and go out and eat.

07:05:34:13

A:

We use to go over by swinging bridge over on here at Paddys Run and sit over by the little swinging bridge over there and have our lunch in the summer time just to get away for just a bit, yeah. But we had a bowling, there was a bowling league that was formed that bowled down in the basement of the Pavilion and later on it became ah, an archery range, today it's all antiques. But that was quite a buzzing place down there.

07:06:00:03

A:

I think they had the first telephones they had for use out here at the facility. For some of the people they had to go into Ross and talk there, because they were overloaded here. So they had phones at the Pavilion and also out here at the facility. That's how busy they were.

07:06:22:04

A:

Then they built the Atomic ah Motel in Ross (laugh). Of all names the Atomic Motel, it's still standing I believe. And a lot of changes have occurred. We had a major fire in Ross Ohio at one time, ah which caused havoc. There was a flooding in Ross that washed out a bridge, so there were times when we had to find a new way to get into work or to get home. The bridge up by Ross High School was washed out, so you had to go around, circle around and go up by Potter's Park, or go a different route through Lindenwall. Or they might close the bridge, the main bridge in Ross.

07:07:08:14

A:

It was ah, strange to go out on 128 and look down over the hill and see archers down there shooting carp, huge carp fish that were coming into the area, that were stuck in the fields. The corn fields were, was almost like a ah fish bowl, so many fish were in there, and ah if they let them rot of course it was just so much of an odor but a lot of archers use to go down and shoot the (laugh) carp and the fish and that were in the river there, that had flooded, formed big pools of water there.

Q:

That's a lackey.

07:07:44:08

A:

And I have, one thing I'd like to point out, ah the people here during all those years, were always ready to help out people on the outside. Ah, I know the junior achievement that was started in Hamilton, one of the charter members was from right here. National Lead started that. Westinghouse started things here at the facility and also Fluor Daniels. So, through all the years we've ah, I think this place has been a good family to the people on the outside.

07:08:19:20

A:

I know when I left here, they said what's the, what do you miss the most. It's the people, I miss the people. Because when you work in ah personnel for so many years, you see so many thousands of people, you interview so many of them, and some of them become close friends here on the facility, that you become very attached to them, and the only way you pick that up when I left here was of course at church.

07:08:45:24

A:

You have all these people at your church that are this way. So it's not a trade off, you still have the group there, but you miss the group here too. It's always a pleasure to come out and see the people that I do know out here. And to attend some of the ah retirement ah breakfasts that they have in Harrison Ohio. It's quite nice.

07:09:08:17

Q:

Great. Well um, lets talk a little bit ah, about your role especially when in um in 19, what was is 1984 when they discovered the um, leak in the dust collector (Response: In Plant 9) yes in plant 9 um-hm what were those years like.

A:

(Laugh) They were frantic, once that ah release happened, the data was release to the public I'd guess I use the term and maybe I shouldn't, all hell broke loose. (Laugh) Um the media it was, we were bombarded by the media, and that's why they started the ah, public affairs department. That was under National Lead. They had a spokesperson, but they didn't have a department set up at the time. That's when Pete Kelley came in.

07:09:57:14

A:

And our first press conference was held over of Paddys Run Road. And that press conference consisted of mostly local, all the different channels in Cincinnati and reporters from the *Enquirer* and *The Post*. And as the cameraman looked to the people that were giving the talk at that time, you could see the K-65 silos in the background. That's the reason they set it up over there. We set up a platform specifically for that.

07:10:30:02

A:

Then they could broadcast to their local stations, they had some sort of hook up with a couple of the, couple of the TV crews did. And that was the first one. From there it went on and on. We've ah, over the years we've had *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, *48 Hours*, *British Broadcasting*, *Canadian Broadcasting*, Japanese ah newspaper, one of their top newspaper groups, we had ah reporter from there.

07:11:03:15

A:

We had reporters ah oh golly, from Germany, ah and they, many of your top programs, *60 Minutes*, *20/20*, *48 Hours*, they already have their script written pretty much. They just want to come in and root around and sort of build on it, and you become accustomed to it, you have to go to school yourself to be up and running with them, so you could be prepared for them when they did come in. And that's what we did.

07:11:43:21

A:

Get up and go with it, because if you know what someone's, someone's going to ask it makes it a lot easier. But when you get out into the area and start taking your tours it starts changing a bit. One of them I find. We had several, John Glenn and ah several of the senators, ah two of the senators, house representative Tom Luken, they use to come out often.

07:12:12:04

A:

But I can still remember Luken on pit 5, we were, they had the TV crews had a van and they opened the back door of the van, they swung open and Pete Kelley and I went out. And it must of been 15 or 20 below zero, it was extremely cold and the wind was blowing across pit 5 and they told them not to flush out, there's a pipe that runs out to pit 5 and from over in one of the plants they can open a valve which flushes, back flushes, (laugh) that blows air out into, up at pit 5, (laugh)

07:12:50:25

A:

Well right in the middle of the interview out on pit 5, with ah the assistant manager here at the time, or assistant, vice president. Someone opened that valve, and it was a person that hadn't worked here very long but he know on the schedule he was suppose to open that valve every hour, every two hours. And right during the most intense part of their interview, he opened that valve and it spewed white (laugh) material out into pit 5. The TV crew almost fell (laugh) out of the truck, Luken started running (laugh) and of course they wanted to know right away, ah the gentleman that was vice president here, what the hell happened. (Laugh) So I spent the next 15 - 20 minutes until I found out what had happened.

07:13:46:02

A:

They just happened to have a new person coming through (laugh). It was quite a thing, I don't know if you've ever seen them blow that pipe out. If you ever get a change, go over and take a picture of it when they blow it. (Laugh)

07:13:47:00

Q:

That's great. So there was a lot of work to be done just ah, to started to get, um, is that really when Molly would you consider that the beginning of our um of our efforts to ah to educate the public.

A:

The public had been educated for many, many years. I have ah provided you with a list of some material that will show you that they gave talks to different groups back in the 50's. And its quite a long list. They went out and talked to the public, they didn't tell what we made here specifically you know, the size of it, ah the configuration of it, the tonnage, the pounds, ah the nuclear make up of it. But they did go out and talk to the public as early as the 50's and that's something misconception on the outside. We had it going on all the time but it was in a different form.

07:14:55:02

A:

Once that broken in the mid 80's, it took on a different perspective. We're talking about an environmental ah, mishap that was on site that ah they felt may have been carried off site, some of it. This is why they went to more the oh, units on the outside for testing the air, testing the waters and so on. It became much heavier. And ah air sampling, ah which was for the best. We didn't have the technology when you went back in the 50's and 60's that you have today. That's quite a bit different.

07:15:36:28

A:

Then over a period of years ah each time they came in ah to make changes, it was always to tighten something, tighten it down. It use to be little more open in certain areas of a, you know parts per million then they put the screws to it and they tightened it down a little bit, then a little bit more, then a little bit more. So it would be very difficult to stay within some standards if you try to go back into manufacturing today. With what you'd needed to do back then.

07:16:10:00

Q:

How do you feel about what's going on now, on site with all the clean up?

A:

Well, with what had happened with the cut back and manufacturing, which I do hope we have a source that we can continue to have, as far as safety for the United States and its people. That we do have a source that we can maintain the strength that we had years back. Ah, we see what's going on at the present time overseas ah. You know you can only run so long until you start to run out of ball bearings (laugh) and this sort of thing, ah out of materials, ah, the ball bearings I threw that in because that's usually what they usually knock out first is the ball bearing factory and then nothing runs.

07:17:05:05

A:

But the ah, its going in the right direction there's no doubt, because we're not manufacturing, so it's taking it back to, try to take it back to where it was at one time, which you'd never have. It's impossible for that, because too many changes have been made, too many roads have been put in, too many drainage ditches have been put in, and so on, and it will never be the same but it will be perhaps ah better than if you had it stand for a long period of time.

07:17:38:19

A:

When they started decontamination out here on the facilities, on the outsides of the buildings, insides of the buildings, big step. If you're not going to use it then you have to get rid of it some way. So, no doubt it's the right direction. Long term I don't know how it'll take ah, how long something like that will take, but it's not overnight that's for sure. (Laugh)

07:18:08:04

Q:

Is there ah, anything you want to add.

A:

No. I just ah, I enjoyed the people out here and ah, I enjoyed the work and the number of years I had here and I was, I felt ah elated when they asked me to come back after I'd retired, come back the next year for a short period of time, which I, I was ah flattered and I enjoyed it. I always enjoy coming out.

Q:

Great. That's it. I know you don't have much time. OK. Excellent.

Tape ends

Conversation between the camera crew and the interviewer takes place on the tape while shots of various articles are shown.