

## ORAL HISTORY WITH DALE TROWBRIDGE

My name is Gerald Wasser. It is now approximately 10:05 a.m. on September 22, 1999. I am in the home of Dale Trowbridge. Mr. Trowbridge will be interviewed as part of the City of Glendale's Oral History Program.

Jerry: Mr. Trowbridge, do you mind if I call you Dale?

Dale: Oh sure!

Jerry: Usually I begin these interviews by asking people in what year they were born and how old they are.

Dale: Well, I was born January 1, 1910.

Jerry: Oh my goodness--that's wonderful.

Dale: I wasn't named until about three weeks after I was born and when I went into the service, I had to have a birth certificate. Well I asked for it by mail and they had no record of it. So my parents told a lie and filled out an affidavit that I was born and they were the parents and the doctor is such-and-such and so I go in without it. But years later when my family was visiting Yosemite, on the way back we were going through Fresno and I was born in Fresno and I thought I'd find out what went wrong. So I went to the Bureau of Records and I asked them--a very nice old gentleman for the--well sorry, let's see, he went up to the third floor and pulled out the record on the top---it hadn't had a birth name because the parents haven't given it. So he filled it in and he said anytime you want to send for a record of your name, just ask for it and you'll get it.

Jerry: What a wonderful story. You said that you were born in Fresno. Of what point and time did you or your family come to Glendale?

Dale: Well the last time we came to Glendale was about 1919. I was 9 years old at the time.

Jerry: And they moved here permanently?

Dale: We've been in this house--we got this in '52 and we lived here--well we lived other places, but this is the longest. My sister was as far as an adult.

Jerry: And how about when you were a child, you said that you moved back there in 1919.

Dale: No, in 1919, they moved to what you call it Toonerville; have you ever heard of Toonerville?

Jerry: No.

Dale: Well, Toonerville is the name of that little area just across the tracks from Glendale. And so he bought three lots for \$250 a piece.

Jerry: This is your dad?

Dale: Yes. And he built a house there with his helpers and friends that knew him in the south.

Jerry: Do you know what street?

Dale: Yes I do, it's LaCleed(?) But my grammar school experiences were varied because we moved all around. My dad, he was only six years old when his father died. They pulled him right out of school, of course, because he had to help his mother and all that sort of... He had a younger brother which couldn't be over three and that brother was my uncle Elby and he looked at my father as a father-figure for him. And that guy, well I can't talk too much about him, but he stuck to my father like a leach and every time my dad moved, he moved too. And dad used him when he could, you know. Every picture I have of my father, my uncle, I believe, he's right there. My dad was chief of the fire department in Fort Smith, Arkansas, up in the corners was uncle Elby and up in this corner was my uncle Lewis and they didn't rules against hiring elders in those days. But he was a nice guy and he had a terrific singing voice but dad was quite elderly before uncle Elby moved back to Chicago with some other relatives and stayed there until he passed away.

Jerry: You were born in Fresno in 1910?

Dale: Yes, north.

Jerry: And you grew up starting in 1919 in Toonerville?

Dale: Yes.

Jerry: Did you have a close association with the Glendale community?

Dale: Oh, that was the only community there was. You had be surprised how, now it's called-- what is the term they use now for that area? But at that time there weren't 40 homes in the whole area in there. You couldn't do any shopping there. Everything was done in Glendale and no one, practically no one owned cars, certainly no one owned two cars and if you wanted to Glendale, you walk to Glendale, which is, you know, just up the area a ways. The two theatres were in Glendale. All the big markets were in Glendale. Brand Boulevard had a street car went right straight up to the end of the line. And I worked for three years for a union oil company. And part of that time to get to work, I'll catch that streetcar up at the head of Brand because every time the streetcar stopped, it stopped at the top of Brand Boulevard and stayed there for the night. And the next morning, anyone going to Los Angeles, get on that street car and that street car and that street car, you know in old days went through tunnels, underground and wound up at the bottom--it's only about four blocks from the union oil--so it was a great

experience. And instead of having to buy tickets, you bought a monthly pass and they changed the color every month and when the conductor came by, you hold up your pass, he went right on by.

Jerry: What years?

Dale: Oh yeah, I started working at the union oil company in 1931, 32, and 33.

Jerry: But let me take you back a little bit further than that. When your family in Toonerville in 1933, you were about nine years old. Assuming that you were in elementary school or grammar school at the time, where did you go to school?

Dale: Before we came to Glendale, dad, part of his life, was a laundry man and he was good. And would buy a laundry; it's sort of run down, build it up, sell it, and go on to another place and so we went to a lot of grammar schools in a lot of different areas, you know. Our early education was fragmental because we didn't stay there long enough to get a very good education, but we did enjoy life, you know. And we lived, well in places like Gary, Indiana, Laporte, where it snowed in the wintertime and I remember slogging my way to school when snow was up to here, you know. And there was no other way to get there.

Jerry: So you lived in Toonerville for a relatively short time and then moved out of state.

Dale: No, we moved to Toonerville, that was it.

Jerry: Okay, that was a permanent move. So where did you go to elementary school?

Dale: We went to elementary school in Gary and Laporte.

Jerry: Yeah, oh, I meant in the Los Angeles area.

Dale: Well it was in Toonerville.

Jerry: Oh, okay.

Dale: The minute we landed there, we registered at the, they called the Park Avenue School. It had two buildings. One of them had the first to the fourth grade and the other had the kindergarten to the third grade. And you imagine how much education you got in that situation. But it did had it advantages because for one thing, what they taught in those early school days was penmanship and you wouldn't remember this because where in time, you had to this arms up and back and forth.

Jerry: Oh I remember, I remember.

Dale: You do? I loved it. Most kids hated it. And I finally got to the point where it was good enough that they send a copy of it to the Los Angeles Board of Education and they sent

me back a nice school, I'll show in there.... And then when I went onto high school, I was lucky to get a class from the school register at our Glendale High School. And he taught two classes and both of them were penmanship and spelling. Well I got managed to get into one of the classes. And when he found what I was doing in writing, why after a few weeks, he sent a copy of my writing to college back and they sent me a penmanship thing, you know. And after penmanship,

Jerry: An award for penmanship?

Dale: Yeah and he was good in what the call Spenserian penmanship. I had examples of it; it's hard to do and you do a lot of work to learn it. And after I found the Spenserian penmanship completed, the next thing was to get into calligraphy. Boy, that was a mistake because when I good enough in calligraphy to be needed, the Los Angeles Board of Education used me to make banners for, I mean plans for their people graduating, you know passing on.

Jerry: And this is while you were in high school?

Dale: Well I stat learning it in high school but when I got into college, then they really poured it on. I had something from the City of Glendale area, you know. They asked me write for a gale who was a 100 years old and they were celebrating it; so I had to make the brochure, explain it, and invited it when the time was going to be. And Glendale had this old building where they hold annual old timers...

Jerry: Oh, the Case Adobe de San Rafael?

Dale: Yeah. And I had to invite everyone to that. Well you know it was t\_\_\_\_\_. People think that when you learn calligraphy, you just sit down and ten minutes you do it. Some of those things took four days because I didn't have a lot of time and I had to do it at night and all that, but I enjoyed it and a lot of it got around.

Jerry: You went to Glendale High School?

Dale: Yes.

Jerry: And what year did you graduate?

Dale: In 1928.

Jerry: You know I know something happened at Glendale High School in 1928 and I believe that was the insulation of the Miss American Green Cross Statue. Are you familiar with that?

Dale: I think so. It's up in the Brand Park.

Jerry: Do you recall that insulation at all>

Dale: No I don't. When I was going to high school particularly in those days, I had a paper route, you know when you deliver paper, and it was Atwater, that's what they call it there, but in those days Atwater didn't have a lot of people and they didn't have many paved streets. So on my bicycle, particularly on rainy days, I hit a rut, down to the axle, and I had to get off and push it through in the pouring rain; it was terrible, but I guess it was character building; it couldn't be any \_\_\_\_\_. Well, yes, I went to Glendale High School, undersized. I weighed 86 pounds and I hated it, I just hated it like \_\_\_\_\_. So I started trying to find out how these fellows with big muscles got that way. And what their scam was is they would tell for \$25 they tell exactly how it happens. Well they send...I didn't do it, but some of my friends did. They send you a memo graph copy of exercise where you push one arm against another, you know. And that doesn't build big muscles. And I found out that they used barbells, well I made myself a set of them out of cement and it was easy because the L.A. River had all the sand that you possibly use and cement was 70 cents a sack. And I take two big cans and put a piece of old pipe across them and I had good \_\_\_\_\_. Oh, I'll show what the results were.

Jerry: Sure, I would like to see that.

Dale: Oh it's been interesting life and very, very busy.

Jerry: When you graduated from high school 1928, you said that you went to college. Where was that?

Dale: When I graduated from high school in 1928--hello honey! She's busier than I am. She's going to teach third graders in the mid-school term. There was a young man in Toonerville who had graduated from college and he had a very good job with the Union Oil Company as a Division Manager and when he found that me and my brother and very dear friend, Carl Alback, we didn't have any work to do and he gave us jobs at the Union Oil Company.

Jerry: This was immediately after high school.

Dale: Oh yeah, one year after and we worked there for three years and I worked hard at that thing. My brother didn't work at all, when he had to, but I found out that anyone that anyone who was an employee at the Union Oil Company between the ages of 18 and 25 could go to Citizen Military Training Camp; they call it ROTC now, same program. Boy, that thing gave you one full month of June. You didn't have to wear clothes because they furnished World War I uniforms. The food was terrific and your salary continued. So for that month alone, three years of it, I managed to buy myself a little 1929 Chevrolet Roaster. I just barely got a skateboard. And then came the recession. Boy, when that recession hit, what a change it made in this world. The Union Oil Company cut out the department I was in and I saw men, grown men in nice suits, coming out of the boss's office with tears in their eyes. They were out a job. And you don't go and find a job in those days. Infact, people were firing instead of hiring. And...

Jerry: Where were you living at the time? Where you still in...

Dale: Let's see at time, I was in Glendale at that time. Oh, when the recession came along, I lost my job and I had to have work because I was helping to pay some of the expenses at home. The Woodcraft Rangers for which I've done some volunteer work for the few years that I was at the Union Oil Company, told me if I would take five to seven tribes, we called them tribes, why the pay me a \$1.10 for an afternoon tribe and \$1.60 for an evening tribe and the afternoon tribe was from 3:30 p.m. to 5:00 p.m. and the evenings were from 5:30 p.m. to 7:00 p.m. Well I make nearly \$2 a day which I got to figuring out I could take classes at the Glendale City College and fit them so that they said I can get out in time to get one of those jobs. And so I joined the Glendale Junior College, they called it at that time. And at that time, when I went into to register, it was a year after I got out of high school, no, it was more than that; it was about four years after I got out of high school. The young lady who is helping with registration was my future wife. Oh, I fell in love with her and for the next six years we were inseparable.

Jerry: Was this love at first sight?

Dale: Oh, it was love at first sight and love forever, you know. She died in '76 but she gave me three of the most wonderful kids and they all had their masters. Thank goodness they all got their masters before she passed away. And she...

Jerry: She must have been very proud.

Dale: Oh, very. Well I have one letter there from my oldest son. I'm apt to say that he is, he would become the genius in any terms that I know. They advanced twice in grammar school. So he entered high school twelve years of age. And when he finished high school, he was 16 and went into junior college. And in junior college, he won a full two-year scholarship at Woodier, that's where Nixon was...

Jerry: Right.

Dale: And that paid for everything: food, lodging, the whole works. The second year, we wouldn't take it because by that time I was in administration. We were doing very well; my wife was teaching; we didn't need the money so we skipped it. But he had worked enough on his own, that he didn't either. And he went on there until he finally went to Berkley. Well he worked for two years for a United States \_\_\_\_\_ outfit. He was trying to make fuel for the rocket they sent the rocket to the moon. Very dangerous job because they worked with miniscule amounts, but they were so powerful and if they exploded, why you are in trouble. All the work was done behind heavy leaded glass and all that sort of things. And he worked for them for two years and then he finally decided he was gonna go ahead and get his masters degree. The outfit told him that if he would promise to come back for two years after he got his master, why they pay for everything, the school lodging and everything, but he had enough money saved up he didn't want to be bond by it and he went on to Berkley and got his teaching credentials and finally entered writers school for PHD, boy the problem they gave him just fired me

because they wanted they wanted a phosphate or chemical that could go all through the human body without being destroyed by the body itself. So they could follow it, you know, with these instruments that they have. Well, he worked on that thing day and night almost for two years. And I don't know, I think that he was going to get a bit discourage that I was getting discourage, you know, because he would leave the house at 7:30 in the morning, take a lunch with him and come back for a little dinner and go back again to work. He worked his head off. But finally one glorious day on Monday, a report came back at exactly what it suppose to. Boy, did that make his life; he had 11 requests for his preliminaries, two of them from behind the iron curtain, and he was offered a job right away at Sonoma State College, where he is today as an Assistant Professor and he finally came full professor and finally head of the chemistry department.

Jerry: Oh, that's wonderful.

Dale: Oh yeah. Oh well, that son of mine, I can't say nothing about him, he such a lovable guy. His name is Dale Bryant Trowbridge. My name is Dale Beverly Trowbridge. We got to calling him Bry for Bryant because so all the people know him as Dale and all the people down here know him Bry. Well anyway...

Jerry: Dale, what I like to do is take you back just a little bit because that story about your son is fascinating but I think the reason you started talking about him was, you were talking your first wife in meeting her when you were in college. And I was wondering if you can tell me a little bit more about your experiences in college and what you studied.

Dale: Well the two of us registered at the same time. She had a semester ahead of me but it was in some kind of economics or something. She changed her program for as much as mine as she could, but I was in science and she couldn't take a lot of the stuff that I had to take, but we graduated together in 1934.

Jerry: And this is from Glendale Junior College at that tome

Dale: Right.

Jerry: What was her name?

Dale: Her pre-marriage name was Alison Goldsborough. There were English in their ancestry and the minute she graduated, she got a job with the Glendale Merchants Association. And she was with them the rest of the time and I was at UCLA. Now UCLA to me is...

Jerry: So after Glendale Junior College, you went on for the last two years at UCLA.

Dale: Yes, and by that time I was big and powerful and they had what they called a "men's due;" its really a men's evening where they had all sorts of demonstrations and tennis and it lasted from about 7 to 9 and among the things they had was the wrestling team

challenged the whole school and whole alumni and anyone else was daring to go in there to wrestle our team if they do in the same weight class if they were on the team. Well I thought that would be kind of fun so I put my in the hat and no one else seem to want it. And I was involved in the classes at UCLA, which were tough. Boy, they were the last two years was a very strong course. But, when it came time to the wrestling, I didn't have any shoes; I wrestled barefooted. I didn't have any t\_\_\_\_, so I wrestled in a swimming suit and this guy came out in his \_\_\_\_\_, you know. I grabbed him and put both of his arms to the side, threw him down on the mat and held him there and the coach kept circling around and finally in discuss, told him, well you can't grow up pinning with your arm around his shoulders, can you? I didn't know you had to have both shoulders touching the mat when they counted so I took his arm and them out, one, two, three, and the next Monday, I was on the wrestling team and I didn't want it; I couldn't afford it, and I told them so, and they said, well you, if you late, we'll give you the last bottom of the mat and all that, so, that kind of hung me for the two years, I kept being called on.

Jerry: What did you study at UCLA?

Dale: Well, I was a science premed. It was all science. And that was another thing; I be in the midst of a the dissection of a pig or a shark, or something like and looked up and it was three o'clock and I had a class I made at 3:30 p.m., I had to bundle everything up and take off in my car to the place to conduct \_\_\_\_\_ and come back to school, oh, it was a mess. I remember a term that in college a 'C' is a gentleman's grade. Well I wasn't very proud of the 'C,' but once you get into college, they don't give a hoop what kind of grade you get, as long as it passing. So I had about three 'A' and couple of 'B' and the rest of them were all straight 'Cs'. But I had some wonderful teachers at UCLA. I have to admit in the English department and in the Science department too. In 1938 I graduated, got married and started a married life. And it was a wonderful marriage. We were married in the little church, the \_\_\_\_\_ at Forest Lawn and the church was so crowded, that about 40 people had to stand outside and the weather wasn't very good. But my problem in that respect was that I've been through three different youth organizations, plus education, and those people, we liked each other. I am still sending Christmas cards to a lot of them. But life went on from there. Our first son was born in 1940. We wanted children. We were both a little old for most marriages. I was 28 and she was about 24, I guess, going on 25; but we didn't have much luck, so finally our first son came along in 1940 and he's the one I've been talking about just recently. But my second son, he was a little guy, but he enjoyed high school and he discovered the girls, you know. He didn't distinguish himself much there, but to my amazement is when he got into college, he went to San Francisco State and he got on the Dean's List. He finally realized that education is important.

Jerry: What's his name?

Dale: His name was Dennis. Dennis R\_\_\_\_\_. My third son lives with us here. That's quite a story too.

Jerry: What's his name? And his name is?

Dale: Don, not Donald, just Don. And Don went through several different jobs. He worked for a photography outfit, Drewery. They special in color pictures and all that. And Don did some courses at Long Beach State in photography. He is an expert in photography. He could do anything he wants to. I have three enlargers out there in the back. I was in some photography before he did that. I took pictures of every school I worked in. One of the things they did, my school was mostly black and to keep the kids dressing as well as they could, we had a little contest that who was gonna come to school looking better. I take the picture, bring it home, I have a closet back there so full--I have my enlarger in there. And I would enlarge the picture in 8-by10, put it in the showcase at school, leave it there a week and then give it to the kids. It made a big difference.

Jerry: Dale, you kind of hinting at what you did for a living and I suspect that you were taking...

Dale: I was a woodcrafter most of time but when this happen in 1950, I left Woodcraft Rangers as a way living and started teaching and the first year I taught, I had teaching credential that will let you teach anything you want to--general, secondary teaching credential. So I love handy craft and I have been doing it all through the years I was woodcraft because the Woodcraft Rangers. Let's see, that was in 1950. Oh yeah, the first year was terrible. The beginning paved for a long-term substitute, which was \$283 a month and I left the job paying \$460. Oh brother! But the boss of the woodcrafter at that time was having a lot of trouble and he resented me because I had left him. I left him because I really had to for accelerating. And the minister of the Methodist Headquarter in Los Angeles came over to Woodcraft Rangers and I was there and Bob Gould was there and he told Mr. Gould, he says: I gonna pay your man here for twice the salary you pay yourself now. Now that was amazing how but he met and it happened that the All Nations Boys Club, I don't know if you ever heard about it or not; well it was institution started by two millionaire oil men. And they built three buildings; the first one three-stories and the middle one was a big three-story church and the last one was another three-story building. And my principle job was to take over that three-story Boy's Club and try to bring it back. It been neglected for about 10 years and he said: Mr. Trowbridge, we want this thing brought back the way it should be and the cost is not important. Do what you think should be done and get it going right away. What a job--so I said the first thing we're gonna do is paint the inside beautiful light blue. He said the kids would just tear it apart. I said they would not, they'll love it and they'd be proud of it. So when I took over I hired a slight \_\_\_\_\_ woman, motherly type and put her desk right at the door. And the past system was is when the school was out, these kids just barreled in there, you know. We didn't know who belong, who was strangers and who was the kinds of graffiti (?). But I had little cards made, tough little cards and each one was given one within three weeks. He knew every kids name and whether they were a member or not. And if you weren't a member, he better become one or he better behave himself, because the kids were killing each other. Well, it was a wonderful two years and you couldn't get help in those days because the draft took all the eligible young men into the Army, Navy, whatever.

Jerry: Now, this is while you working as a teacher?

Dale: No, this is when I was at the All Nations Boys Club.

Jerry: Okay.

Dale: And at the end of two years--well, before the two years started, I went junior high school around there and picked out a man who was a electric shop teacher.

Jerry: And what area was this.

Dale: It was down 810 East Sixth Street and I found another man who was a wonderful wood shop teacher, another person who was good at stories and all that sort of thing, and a third one who was a terrific coach, boy he was manager as well as a coach. Well, by the end of two years, boy, that place was just humming. In the meantime, I was getting awfully tired of being--I was excluded from the draft too, because I belonged to a lot of committees throughout the city on camping and other things. And I'd be seven, eight, ten men or women in one woman and I was the one working. So I finally asked the board, I said: "Could I get a two-year layoff to serve in the service because I'm tired of being the only one"--by all means, because that place was just as smooth as glass and the gym teacher was a good coordinator. So I went into the service as a lieutenant junior grade and took the 90-day w\_\_\_\_\_ course and the minute that was over, I was shipped out to Oahu.

Jerry: What year was this?

Dale: That was in 1944. And I was there about nine days waiting for transportation and when it came along, they shipped to the Island of Guam, what a place, it was still under fire, you know. They were just taking away from the Japanese and there was no place really to live and not very good facilities but boy, they blow those Japs right up in the hills and those that they didn't wipe out surrendered and well that was a....I enjoyed the work in a way, but boy, it was hard. It got so bad that every ship that came in had to be boarded--ask what they need and wanted fuel, and all that sort of thing. It wasn't a very popular job because all the officers had to that job and a lot of them would board a merchant ship which had all the food you could think of and spend the evening there, you know and they got so terrible that finally they made an eight hour day your day, and another four hour, which they call auxiliary duty, that's when they did the boarding. Well a friend of mine and I got real discussed with it and we talked to the board director and said if you give us a job of boarding those ships, you won't have to be bothered about the fellows gripping all the time. So we took it and it was a hard job. We worked as long as we had before, but we every ship in very satisfactory. Well, I had several jobs on Guam; one of them was boarding officer. I had to, oh, some of it going on ships out there, I had to numerate them, read the papers and make sure they went, and finally, they came along to where there were going to invade, it wasn't in \_\_\_\_\_. Well, it was the first invasion after Sitan and these young Marines went out to the ship on big rafters, you know, happy, you know, yelling, you know. Three weeks later they came back and I

wept because they missing arms, legs, you know. They came back from a terrible, terrible experience and it lasted a long time, even after they got back, they were still trying to keep that place under control.

Jerry: So you were in Guam your entire period of active duty? So that was two years?

Dale: Yes. Well, I had some little things to do inside then, just associate with board director's job but I enjoyed that. My boat crew was kind of proud of the fact that I could lift more than anyone else around. And they had friends down at the other end of the island where all the ship building, ship repair was done. And they take a piece of armor metal that thick and cut within a s\_\_\_\_\_ torch into a round plate and a hole in center and take a shaft, which I had lots of, had a whole set of barbells and I had all that. I had an enjoyable aspect. I was sure glad to.... And when we finally got released, I have been sending everyone home by plane because we had a big plane arriving every 15 minutes and leaving another in 15 minutes. I got mailed every second day the whole time I was in Guam. My wife kept apprised on how my kids were doing and all that sort of thing. When they finally, the war ended, there were no connection with the main land and had to come home on a \_\_\_\_\_ transport and should have taken five days; it took seven. The seats were so bad that, well it was really, really felt.... The officers all allowed, of course, to put their stuff in a little trunk. And they put them in a stateroom where they lived, and I put mine a big sea-bags and last them through the--well that trip got so bad that during the night it rocked back and forth, all of those things came 'bam,' 'bam' and they all broke open and the next day the floor was covered with the things that they were bringing home as souvenirs, you know. It was terrible, but we finally made it back to Oahu and we were supposed to go from there to Los Angeles. What happened was that the captain of the ship, all of his people were in Seattle. So all these people, about 600 of them, were suppose--had to go to Seattle, get off the ship, and then they gave them tickets to get to Los Angles. We finally got there and rejoined my family.

Jerry: What was it like when you returned? Your family was living in Glendale at the time; do you recall what the atmosphere in Glendale was at the end of the war?

Dale: Well I think the effects of the war had largely warn off because an early Glendale, if you had a car, there was no traffic problem and most of the shopping was done by foot, you know, walking, but by this time, traffic has picked and building had starting to go up and I didn't like it a bit because we had some favorite stores there on Brand Boulevard, a hardware store, a jewelry store...

Jerry: Do you recall the names of those stores?

Dale: Yeah, let's see. Well, it was a, well; as a matter of fact it's still in business, Bakers Hardware. We knew Mr. Baker and he passed away and my father's manufacture was right besides it. And when his son, when the Baker's son passed away, the present owners bought the trademark as well. It's still Bakers Hardware. But they wiped out all of those little stores and put buildings up instead. That's the right of them in its domain in which I kind of--hard to understand, a person has to be put out of business. Brand

Boulevard, right now, has some big buildings, you know, and they were building and I try to have some copying work done, one-story doing a wonderful job and the person they took away, they paid to relocate him, but the other two hadn't been promised anything, and was going to move. It was because of the--I'm trying to think of the, not the insurance company, the... Well anyway, they had enough influence that the City allowed them to do that. My youngest son, the one that lives with me now, had a very bad experience. He got his Masters Degree and he worked for Drewery Photography for two years and he attended, not Redondo, the college down at the beach...

Jerry: El Camino?

Dale: No. You have to excuse, I lost some of my marbles. Anyway, he had very, very bad experience. He used to come home, just after my wife, my first wife died, coming home, drunk-driving a borrowed truck, crashed into the side of his camper and demolished it, broke his \_\_\_\_\_ and scalp and of course they took him to the hospital and got him all fixed up and he wouldn't charge him because he wasn't insured for it. A lawyer that was apart of my Rotary Club said "let me have him; I've got some doctors who will get him a new car" and Don refuse to do it; very, very honest, but he came to live with me and as time went on, why he stayed here and I was alone for eight years, kind of a lonely time, but I was going to the Presbyterian Church over here. I taught Sunday school there for 47 years.

Jerry: Oh my gosh!

Dale: Yeah, my gosh in deed, but you know Sundays I had relatively free and as part of that experience over there, I met my present wife, that was after eight years of loneliness. Now she worked in the church. Outside of the church, they had a little booth there were they sold church books, all that and she took that job over and had...

Jerry: And what's her name?

Dale: Elmis. And she is half; of course this makes me half too. What's those people that--in the Glendale Adventist, oh Armenian, yeah she's half Armenian, her mother was English; her father was born in the Old Country. Well, I start helping her because it was quite a job, a lot of people there and after a year of two yet of that, boy, she looked interesting to me. She's been a widow for four years and I've been a widower for eight, and we finally got married. We've gone together; we will go to the Hollywood Bowl, you know and she had two sons and a daughter and I had three sons and they weren't involved anytime, but they liked me and they both doing very well and they had tickets to the Bowl, for example, and if they couldn't go, well we will go together. And we finally got married. I finally...

Jerry: And what year was that?

Dale: We were married in 1931--Well, let's see now, oh brother--she'll kill me. Well anyway, we got married; Don was living here and she liked him right away. He's a very nice guy.

And boy, if I didn't have him now, I will go nuts because he does jobs that I can't do anymore, and does them normally willing but glad to do it. Just two years ago, about two and half years ago, my number two son Dennis had built himself up for reputation as a water expert. He worked for the City of Sonoma for 10 years and the pay was very poor. While he working for it and supporting his wife he'd been married, he took these course in water management and there's four level of it, one, two, three, four. Well the top one is very seldom won by anyone and he got them all four. When he got the fourth one, he applied to the water district of Wyning, I think the name was. When they saw him at the door and heard his name, they pulled him in. And within three years, boy, he was at the top. And thy said "if you will replace this water plant of ours, everything, why you'll get this job permanently with a raise and pay and a bonus and all that. Well he undertook it and for one year that guy just ripped his tail off because every inch of it that had to done, he had to okay and if they had any problem, they would call him at night, anytime. And when it was through, he had a mild case of pneumonia and they put him in the hospital and they found that he had leukemia.

Jerry: Oh no!

Dale: Now, I was a medical premed and I remember in my textbooks, it said leukemia, a deaf sentence, there's no known cure. Well I nearly died, you know. And it proved me true because for one solid year, he took every known cure and every one of them he took, he lost all of his hair; he got skinny, ah, it was just terrible. Well, finally he passed away, but we were all there at the time.

Jerry: I'm sorry.

Dale: Yeah, Well we were all there at the time. I never forget that because when he was unconscious, the doctor said he's gone. His wife went up there that haven't been--you can go now Denny, he opened his eyes and smiled and said, "are you sure?" And that was the end of it.

Jerry: I'm so sorry.

Dale: But his brothers and I and his wife put on a Champaign celebration of his life. We had more people come to that thing that than I ever seen in my life. The three doctors, the nurses, and the people he used to work for, his college friends. Fortunately, we had a big preparation for it; but it lasted until nine o'clock at night. And then he was cremated and the boys took his ashes up to some beautiful park and...

Jerry: What a great tribute.

Dale: Oh yeah, well, he was so successful, and so well--oh, another thing, the office that he worked for paid his salary until the day he died. And I thought I had to put my house up for a mortgage. They paid his bills clear up until the time he passed; and that was for the doctors and nurses. Those bills in those days, was \$400 a day just for a room, but

what a relief, that would have ruined my life because I couldn't possible meet that, I was retired. Well that was Denny.

Jerry: I'm gonna try to take you back to a little bit happier times.

Dale: Yeah, please do.

Jerry: I know that mentioned to me before the interview began, and also during the interview, that you worked for the Woodcraft Rangers. You started to mention to me that after high school, I believe, that you took a job with the woodcraft league.

Dale: After high school, I had one year with no job. And I got a job in \_\_\_\_\_ Shop, unskilled, but my job was to saw half and three quarter inch bars because the little shop owner had taken on a contract to put fence around the big estate, you know. Well after a year...

Jerry: Was that in Glendale?

Dale: No, the place was in Los Angeles. But after a year, he went bankrupt and I was out a job as well as my brother and that's the time I told you the young man who was raised in Toonerville, was the supervisor at Union Oil Company.

Jerry: Oh, so that's when you went to work.

Dale: He's the one that gave us jobs in the mailroom, and we worked from the mailroom until we became clerks in the Information Department and we were there three years. And during those three years, I was able to go to sit in the military training camp and save my money and buy a car and when that ended, why, I was out again. But the Woodcraft Rangers--and during these three years that I was at the Union Oil Company, I was taking a tribe, and taking places I couldn't have done, otherwise. Well, we will go down to L.A. River and build a fire.

Jerry: So you had started with the Woodcraft Rangers.

Dale: Oh yeah, from the time I was 14 years old.

Jerry: So you were actually a member and a woodcraft ranger?

Dale: Oh yeah.

Jerry: Can you describe your working experience with the Woodcraft Rangers? And what I'm really interested in is how it differs from the boy scouts, what your work experience was?

Dale: Well that's something that the world doesn't really know; but the boy scouts was started by a man named Ernest Constantine. He was a genius himself. I read two of his

books; one of them was entitled "Two Little Savages" and the other one is "Ralph in the Woods." And the experiences that they had, just fired me, you know. And then I found when I was 14 that the Woodcraft Rangers were....and a wonderful man, an employee of the Los Angeles City School came down and gather about 10 of us up and formed a tribe, we called them tribes in those days. He was a terrific fellow. And he taught me allot and he stayed with me until I was in college as an advisor. And then another fellow came down who was with the Methodist Church, and he took us to the Methodist Church and down in the basement, he had a little gymnasium and, you know the horse they use for all \_\_\_\_\_, he made one out of a eucalyptus tree. He had a bar and when he went as far as he could with us, he introduced into the Glendale YMCA. And boy, the Glendale YMCA had some instructors that were terrific. They taught us swimming, diving, acrobatics...

Jerry: And this is the YMCA on Louise?

Dale: Yeah. And what an experience. Well, I guess the next step to that was, oh, we got a job with the oil company from this young fellow was raised in Toonerville.

Jerry: Dale you said that you were working for the Woodcraft Rangers. Tell me a little bit about your experiences when you first started and then how you came up through the organization.

Dale: Oh when I first joined, of course, there was... as a woodcrafter, this man that got me started in the woodcraft, stayed with me, actually running the tribe, I became his assistant on the job. It came September of 1928, I was 18, I found a note said, it said "it's all yours" So I took the tribe over and I...

Jerry: And where was this tribe?

Dale: That tribe was in L.A., just across from Glendale, the \_\_\_\_\_ School.

Jerry: .And what did that involve when you took the tribe over?

Dale: I kept up the one that he started. There were about 22 kids in it; and they were all woodcrafters and I was teaching craft and all things that we did, but we hadn't been too long before I had moved to Glendale, when my father moved to Glendale. And I still did work for the Woodcraft Rangers because when they found out that I was out a job, when the Union Oil Company stopped their, cut the...,I bought five piece of stocks from the Union Oil Company for \$45 and by the time I got out of there, it was \$15 and I had to have the money because my car wasn't quite paid off. And I tried to sell them to stockbroker and he said "son, it will cost you \$5 before we handle that, you only got \$5." I said, oh well, and I went back to the place and find that the big rigs at the Union Oil Company will pay me \$15 for them. So I sold them out and I managed to get out free of that. And once I left there, the woodcraft, from whom I been doing volunteer work for the whole time before, said "alright if you would take these seven tribes, you know, three o'clock and the one at three thirty, and maybe another one at five, we'll pay you a

\$1.10 for one and \$1.60 for the other." And so I was able to enroll in Glendale Junior College by putting their program in the work. When I enrolled at the Glendale City College, a little gal at the registration desk was Allison Goldsboro. Oh boy, what a wonderful...well we went together and we alliance after about 4 years. Her father worked for a big carpet mattress in Los Angeles; there were doing pretty well and we bought a hope chest from him; I still have and it still mostly \_\_\_\_\_. Unfortunately for him he had a stroke and the family really had a hard time. Now her next older sister had graduated from USC because they were able to afford it in those days and she was a very good music teacher and she could accompany anyone. She was a pianist beyond comparing. And she was with us until quite recently she passed away but by the time all this occurred, why, I was making a pretty good salary.

Jerry: You were making, working at the time where you were working?

Dale: At the time, I was still at Woodcraft Rangers, but...

Jerry: Working full time.

Dale: Well it turned out that way. When I was with the Union Oil Company, I was doing volunteer work for the Woodcraft Rangers. In other words, I kept the tribe in \_\_\_\_\_, but when I lost my job and need to work, they said well if you take some tribes, I would pay you for them. So I \_\_\_\_\_ my way through and I'm sure I was little hard on Allison too, but she was working for the Glendale Merchants Association. So 1928 at which time we had a glorious marriage and started married life. We started our two boys two years late. She has three children, and I had three boys. She has two boys and a girl and they both boys are very successful; one of them is a lawyer and one of them is terrific electrician; I mean he is much in demand. The woman, her daughter, is a CPA and she does all of our income tax, all of my problems that I have and well, it's been a wonderful experience because all six of them like each other, get along well and they do things together. But this house cost \$16.570.

Jerry: Do you recall what year that was?

Dale: Yes, that was in 1952. And I spent the next eight or ten years almost rebuilding the place. You can't image the roof had 12 buckets upstairs in the attic, you know; that's how bad the roof was and most of the rooms, the walls were so bad, I couldn't paper them, so you'll find them here that they have been paneled to cover them up. Now this right in here, hard to see, right there, there was a crack like that down there really wide and I finally found out that I could have the thing sprayed and it covered a lot of it. I loved that kind of work; I just loved it. I bought that clock.

Jerry: Oh, that's beautiful, a grandfather clock.

Dale: And I came interested in art and I got interested in watercolor. Now these four pictures, the one on the end down there are mine and this one over here is done in blackboard

chalk and take a test, stand in place in the room and see if he still looking at you, close as you want and as far away as you want.

Jerry: I see pictures of a clown. Oh yeah, he is looking at me, no matter where I go.

Dale: That's right, he follow you around. And I took a course over here on that--that course was not in architecture, it was in gilding, gold leaf and the final test was to reproduce a picture that was done in the middle ages, using the same tools, we couldn't use brushes, we had to use feathers, it was hard, you. That was my final exam. I enjoyed that. That was USC at the Mount, something other R\_\_\_\_\_ College. Anyway, it lasted for six weeks and I really enjoyed it.

Jerry: Dale, I going to interrupt you just for a minute while I change cassette tapes.

Dale: Okay.

Jerry: It's the second cassette tape in the recorder now. I know you were talking about your artwork and you started talking about that after talking about the various early positions that you had with the Woodcraft Rangers including the organization when you were a teenager. I'm really fascinated by the fact that you were full time worker within the Woodcrafter League and I was wondering if you could describe them for me. What were the functions and purposes and then what you did in your various positions and what you ultimately obtained at the Woodcraft Rangers?

Dale: Well, I got to Glendale Community College because the Woodcraft, as I told you, paid me for taking tribes, you know. I can synchronize the \_\_\_\_\_ together. But the guy who gave me more responsibilities and finally made me a part time field ranger, which means I had several tribes I had to take of and in 1938, they made me a full time employee with a salary that would support a family. That's when I married my wife, Allison Goldsboro and we worked for the Woodcraft Rangers, let's see, how long would that be, oh, up until the time I was invited to join the Boys Club of America, you know and the salary twice as my boss has been getting. And so, then from there I went into the Navy and I was there for two years and when I got out, I got two letters, one from Woodcraft Rangers and one from the All Nations Foundation and both made exactly the same offer. Now before the war, Woodcraft Rangers was having a tough time. He worked, my boss, at one time earning a salary and hard time paying mine, but during the war the youth problem became rather acute; there weren't enough people around and the Bureau of D of \_\_\_\_\_ got rid of that. So Woodcraft Rangers got money they suspected before. The Government gave them donations and so they were able to offer me exactly the same money that I was getting from the All Nations Boys Club and I had to decide which one I was going take. Well, for a very strong reason, I thought, I decided to go back to the Woodcraft Rangers. I don't know rather the \_\_\_\_\_ or not. But with the All Nations Foundation, I had a younger assistant who has just gotten out of the Army, very faithful young man and he worked for me when I was the head honcho there. In another small building is an old church and we set a club there. But the club burned down and when he got of the service, they put him in charge of the All Nations

Foundation until I got back. Well had I gone back, he would have lost that job and gone back, you know. On the other hand, the Woodcraft Rangers..... Oh, another thing, our \_\_\_\_\_ was all Mexican and I knew the former supervisor and he was really nothing; he was working for himself. And his voice had the most foul language I ever heard in my life. The owner was playing with the Mexicans; he was playing basketball with them. I just couldn't...

Jerry: And this was in Los Angeles?

Dale: Yes, over on 8th Street. I didn't want my kids to be subjected to that because I could have them \_\_\_\_\_ up. So I went back to the Woodcraft Rangers and well, I guess I worked for the Woodcraft Rangers until in 1950. This very good friend of mine said 'Trowbridge, you better get out of the Woodcraft Rangers. Your boss had a hard time getting through high school. He can't write a letter if you have, if he can't correct it. He's going nowhere. He doesn't have the education for it.' I belong to six or seven different committees in the city and Bob couldn't get into any of them because he didn't have the background for it. So I told Bob that I was going to start teaching him. Boy, he was angry because he was getting himself time. I said 'Bob, I got a friend of my family and I have a hard time getting along with this fellow and far as I know, why, \_\_\_\_\_. Well, I tell you what, he says, if you come by here on Saturday, every Saturday, in the morning and work until 5:00 p.m., why we pay you a \$100 a month and give you a \$25 car allowance. Well a \$100 a month was nothing, but \$283 would be. The two of them, we just made it straight buy, but he, within a year, was going fix me. He called me in and said 'Trowbridge, we don't have a contract and you're not suppose to sign an employee.' He said 'We gonna pay you \$3 an hour for your work here and the car allowance will make our three cents a mile basic, you know. But it was so little, I said Bob we can't afford that even to sign. So we dropped it and unfortunately it was just a short time before I got a permanent future, but Bob Gould then had to do other jobs that he wouldn't had have to. One of them was he had camp \_\_\_\_\_ on the Air force near the San Diego River and the way he was using weekend was to rent a truck, fill it with kids, and send it down there with two liters; one liter would fill save up the \_\_\_\_\_, the other would bring the truck back so we didn't have to pay all the rent, you know. And it finally came a time when Bob found that he had no one to go down there to pick up the kids, he had to go himself. So he went down and picked the group, brought them back, put the truck back in the rental place, and went to the office to call his wife and tell her that he'd be late. When he starts talking to her, he had a heart attack and died right there.

Jerry: Oh my gosh!

Dale: Yeah, that's right. So, the poor guy and we were awfully good friends with his wife Georgia because she was a wonderful neighbor and we lived right next to her for quite a long time. So we kind of lost track of her and when I finally passed the exam for principle ship, my last goal was that all of Luther Burbank Junior High School, I was there for five years. And the school right behind our fence was an elementary school. It had two separate schools with nothing to do but a wire fence. And we got along all right, except that one of the activities was right up against the fence and their balls kept

popping over, you know. So I thought I go right over and talk with the principle and see one of us can rearrange our places of \_\_\_\_\_. And when I went up to the institute, the lady at the desk was Georgia Gould; she's been working there for years.

Jerry: This is at Luther Burbank Junior High School?

Dale: Yes.

Jerry: Was this in the city of Los Angeles?

Dale: Oh yes.

Jerry: In Hollywood?

Dale: No, I never worked anywhere but in Los Angeles. So we resumed our places again and she lived in, well I write to her and I sent a birthday cake and all that stuff of thing. We were good friends; she was always a very good person and her kids turned very well. I think when Bob passed away, it was an advantage for them, because one of them was an insurance man and when he was a kid, he was shy. And when I was at another junior high school, one of the tuff ones, they had sort of a fight going on out in front of the school and I went out there and breaking it up. Up came a police car, stopped and this great big six foot one fellow stepped out named, he was Tommy Gould. You know, was I glad to see him? So and then they had a very beautiful girl. She got married and divorced and all that sort of thing. Well Tom, he....

Jerry: You know I know you were talking about working for the Woodcrafters for many years, but what was the ultimate level that you had reached in the Woodcraft Rangers.

Dale: Well, I seemed to have very persistent and our system of honors, we call Coups, you know. And I got fascinated with them, not only because I liked we were doing it, but it as it took many different activities and well, .... And I finally decided that I was gonna get to be a grand s\_\_\_\_\_ pow-wow which took 100 \_\_\_\_\_. One of them was for crossing the equator which seen done by a lot of people. I got them through every kind of handicapped that you can possibly imagine and a lot of them for athletics, but I was 86 when I finally got the last one and I have a record of them. Could we go into the other office for a minute?

Jerry: Sure, well I like to see them, but if don't mind, we could keep talking and after....

Dale: Oh yeah, I got a few of them.

Jerry: Okay.

Dale: Well this is one \_\_\_\_\_.

Jerry: And it's a sculpture of a camel.

Dale: Yes, it is a woodcarving.

Jerry: We are now in Dale Trowbridges's office and he is showing me some of his mementos. You were pointing at a frame of some metals.

Dale: Most of them from the Citizen Military Training Camp, except there are two from UCLA.

Jerry: It looks like a photograph of you and in the center of it as a body builder.

Dale: That's right. I started and then I found out what a runt I was. Now some of the things I refer to before when I was in the eighth grade, yeah, that was the one I got in eighth grade for penmanship.

Jerry: That's an award for penmanship?

Dale: Yes, when I was in the eighth grade. And that picture is of Susan B. Anthony. Do you know her?

Jerry: Oh my gosh! Yes.

Dale: She was the first, and only woman superintendent of the L.A. city schools. And that is a picture of her and a class at the school; I didn't attend at that time, but she was at the school on that occasion. And those girls, of course, are all white all of the school.... And I went on to high school, I met this teacher of penmanship and he sent us back to some college and they sent that to me.

Jerry: And that's while you were at Glendale Union High School.

Dale: Right, my first year there.

Jerry: Very nice. You know we came into your office and you were showing me some of the cues?) on the way that you had gotten through your work with the Woodcraft Rangers.

Dale: Oh Yes. This is the record of them, although...I got the Los Angeles County light heavyweight lifting championship.

Jerry: That's weight lifting?

Dale: Yes. And another here was for wrestling and to do that, I had to join the Southern Pacific Amateur Athletic Union, AAU, and this is the honor. Now ever time we did something like that, we had to have witnesses and they had to be signed and....

Jerry: And this was so that you could attain your cool?) for the Woodcraft Rangers?

Dale: No, I was in the Woodcraft Rangers when I won these. And volunteer work, I was an \_\_\_\_\_ policeman, what a job, I had to start out at eight o'clock in the evening and tour to

see if all the lights were out. In those days, they were afraid that the Japanese were gonna shell us, you know. So I was with them for a year. And I was with the....

Jerry: And that's First Civil Defense.

Dale: Yes, a jury policeman really. I was also working with the police department. And from then on, these are all individual; this is from Glendale College. I won my letter there and this is a uniform that we had when we were in CMPC. Those were World War uniforms; we had rat lagans and well that's the way they did during World War I and this is a friend of mine and he got the medal for best athlete and I got the medal for best swimmer. See how tall he is?

Jerry: Wow.

Dale: Wonderful little fellow. He went to SC and for a long time he was competing with a fellow from UCLA for the pool haul. At that time, 16 feet was a terrific height; they were fighting for it. Oh, this is for the best all around swimmer, best track athlete and then I got a first medal for diving all these other things. And these are athletic things put out by citizens training.

Jerry: So these are all the awards that you got?

Dale: This whole thing is a thing that had to be done to win these darn cues?).

Jerry: Interesting.

Dale: Yes, fascinating.

Jerry: I know that one of your friends Will Facker, who I spoke with, mentioned that you had a very high rank within the Woodcraft league. And I that was, I believe.....

Dale: Chief, chief.

Jerry: Can you talk about that a little bit and explain what the duties of the chief are.

Dale: Well, when I was mad chief, I was given this.

Jerry: And that's a piece-pipe.

Dale: Yes, I put the \_\_\_\_\_ work on there but this is real pipestone. It has a date on it.

Jerry: Oh my gosh, and there is a little flack on it.

Dale: Now let me explain it, at times the chief entitled me to go to meetings and make talks and no money involved at all, but boy, did they keep me busy. They had these little district meetings and I represented the organizations and every one of them. Well I

had nothing else to do that was really important, so I was glad to do it. Yes, this Los Angeles City School District and they had me doing calligraphy.

Jerry: On certificates?

Dale: Yes and on all sorts of things. A lot of them were just this. Here's my three sons when they were little. Oh, now here is when I graduated from elementary school. That is I; this is my brother, he was a year and nine months older than I. And this youngster was a year a two months younger than I. And that's a terrible way to start high school, 86 pounds.

Jerry: Oh my gosh, look at that. And then from there, he went onto be a weight lifter and a swimmer.

Dale: You darn right, it wasn't that time first. When I won the Los Angeles County weight lifting organization, it got into these local shrink magazines, you know. And here a fellow in New York, look at that guy, he read about it and wrote me a long letter and gave me 10 pictures of himself in various poses. No reason, just a good guy, you know. And boy, it was a big encouragement to me to keep on working out. And I did, I kept on working out. Now when I became chief of the Woodcraft Rangers that was the year...

Jerry: And this is you and in headdress?

Dale: Yes. And I had to make the headdress.

Jerry: Oh my gosh; and the headdress is made out of eagle feathers and beadwork?

Dale: Well the imitation is eagle feathers, but this is all beadwork. I think this is all part of Woodcraft.

Jerry: And you're showing me a lot of beadwork pieces.

Dale: Yes, I lot of beadwork and these are cues?). If they had red tip on them, they are called grand cues?), otherwise they are regular cues.

Jerry: And its embroidery of feathers that indicate the successful completion of those cues.

Dale: Yes, each one represents it. Now when I finally got that \_\_\_\_\_, I was aloud to wear two of these banners and I haven't got it finished yet. Beadwork is slow, very slow. And I enjoyed it if I...

Jerry: It looks like pain-taking work.

Dale: Yes and this called a special name; it's core work, not tying. You know it just indicated I had some many interest, I couldn't....

Jerry: As truthfully, you became chief in 1962?

Dale: Yes, that was the title I got; although I have been working with the outfit for a long time before that. And the one that was chief before, was the one that got me started in Woodcraft Rangers.

Jerry: Oh, and that was Mr...?

Dale: Steve Jessup.

Jerry: Steve Jessup?

Dale: Yes. I had some wonderful men in my life. How they got there I don't know, but I sure profit by their, you know, their teaching and that sort of thing. Yes, it's been amazing.

Jerry: You know what I like to do is, Dale, is switch gears a little bit. You had mentioned to me before the interview began about one of the fellows that you knew in Glendale. You asked me if I had ever heard the name Westin. Can you tell me about both at Westin and the Westin family, as you knew them in Glendale; and what he did for a living?

Dale: We lived right around the corner from the Westin Family. And Edward Westin's wife was a schoolteacher and how long they remained married, I don't know.

Jerry: And Mr. Westin was a well-known photographer?

Dale: Yes, he was the photographer of international fame. And had his four sons and they went to the same grammar school we did. And Bret Westin was a bit bigger; he was a bulky type.

Jerry: He was one of the sons?

Dale: Yes, but, boy he was impossible; he was impossible. So they had to finally... our principal, Mrs. Kindred wrote to the school board and said that she couldn't have this boy anymore. So his father took him over, there was no place to take him; and I guess Bret profited by it, but not to great extend because Mr. Westin was a very sensible man too. And I have, well, you'll be surprised I have boxes out in the garage just filled with \_\_\_\_\_ and all that, but one thing was written by his ex-girlfriend, you know. And they were...and she described the new secretary, she said, 'I was gonna show him that this scar I had for (whatever it was, it didn't make much difference) but I knew that the one that he has now would win.' So he dropped one of them and took the other...he was a very immoral person, basically. And of course, Bret had that same training and he was with his father all the time.

Jerry: So kind of a wild streak?

Dale: Oh yes, well, and he was a nonconformance. When he left the school system and started photography, why he described himself as being too intelligent to be in that kind of school, you know. As a matter of fact, he didn't pull out, they kicked him out. And his real training was with his father. And his father had a very interesting life. He won a couple of scholarships for photography, fully paid and he took a lot of pictures out in the desert, you know. And he took some scenes I didn't find exactly beautiful, but they were very well done. Another thing, he didn't bully even taking a 35-millimeter film and enlarging it; he took everything with a full size film.

Jerry: Was that a view camera?

Dale: Yes, and that's why when Bret came into the business, he must of had a 1,000 of them and he had the whole family in his home and he burned them while they were there, you know, utterly unnecessary. And he did many requests from colleges for some of samples.

Jerry: And this is before he died; this is shortly before his deaf before he did this?

Dale: Yes. Of course he was well known by that time and I've seen towels with lions head on it. He had taken the picture of him; commercializing; he became very wealthy, I'm sure, but the other hand, and he didn't live a longer life as he could of, had he been a normal person.

Jerry: Did you know the family well when you were..?

Dale: No. I met Mr. Westin and the time I met him was when Bret had broke into his \_\_\_ and his \_\_\_\_, you know.

Jerry: Oh, because you were in the Woodcraft League together, is that?

Dale: Yes. In fact Neil was in my tribe.

Jerry: And Neil was another one of the Westin's sons?

Dale: Yes, Neil Westin and a very nice kid. Of course Bret was never in my tribe; he couldn't be bothered with something like that. I remember one time his father had purchased an old big car and Bret came driving through the place with his nose in the air, you know. He was uptight; he was just a show-off and I think of any good thing to say about Bret. He didn't do many good things to be told about. This is the first album I made of pictures and is still around some place and I'm still trying to dig it out and find it.

Jerry: And you showing me some pictures...

Dale: Oh yes, that's when I was about six years old.

Jerry: What a great photograph.

Dale: This is from high school. And this is the type of writing....

Jerry: Oh, looks very difficult.

Dale: It's called Spenserian penmanship. Now about the Spenserian penmanship, the constitution of the United States was made; was Spenserian penmanship, here look at it, but he didn't have steel pens, they made them out of quills and yet he did a beautiful job. And then when it started to become popular, why and outfit in England manufactured a pen that was so pliable and when he pressed down on it, it would spread, and that's how you get that. You have to a very light job and spread and light again. It's hard to control and take hours of work to do.

Jerry: I bet, I bet.

Dale: But once you get it, boy, you are kind of condemned with it because from there you go into calligraphy and calligraphy is printing outfit that has its...calligraphy, oh yeah, this is calligraphy,

Jerry: Also very nice, a different style, but very nice also.

Dale: Yes, you don't spread into it, you use a broad pen. Now here is what I had to expect when my son was in...

Jerry: What a great testament to your son.

Dale: This is my father when he was the chief of the Fire Department in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Jerry: And that's before he went into the laundry business?

Dale: When he married my mother, he was 24 years old. She was 18, and he owned a laundry in Fort Smith, Arkansas. The guy never went pass the third grade. And boy, he was driver. I mean, very nice, but he was busy all the time.

Jerry: Pretty incredible.

Dale: Yeah, those are the names of the crew there.

Jerry: You know Dale we have been talking for about an hour and a half now. You told me some great stories about your life and you know, a lot of them had to do with Glendale. I don't want to take a whole lot more of your time today. What I usually try to do with people that I speak with is part of the City's Oral History Program, is kind of reserve to \_\_\_\_\_ with them, come back and talk with them again.

Dale: Oh sure.

Jerry: And I really like to do that. One of the things that I do when I close interviews with just about every body that I've spoken with over the last few years is part of this program. I don't want to put you on the spot, but I know you lived in Glendale, what almost 80 year now. If you could use one word or phrase to describe your feelings about Glendale, what would that be?

Dale: I think Glendale is a wonderful place to grow up. I thought that the Glendale High School is one of the best schools I ever been in, you know. The teachers were sympathetic and for example, when we came out as one-room schoolhouse and started Glendale High School, we didn't know very much because she was teaching eight different grade levels and one of the teachers said today we are going, what's the term—where you part a sentence and split it into places—well we didn't know a thing about, she said I can't believe this well come in during the times where refreshing like, I'll teach you. You know that's something teachers don't usually want to do is give up their time for refreshing to teach a kid. And when I was in the chemistry department, by that time I had learned to do calligraphy and for other writing and the chemistry professor took the school students on an annual trip to Death Valley. I couldn't afford to go, but when I got back, he had me do the map(?). Life is like that, and I enjoyed it. I didn't get many friends there, I always left school the minute the bell rang to go to my work, but some of them I made a few friends with. One was the fastest man in the United States at that time, Frank White\_\_\_(?) You don't remember him?

Jerry: No, not even the name.

Dale: Well he was the fastest human being and another thing about Frank...

Jerry: Was that in the 100-yard dash?

Dale: 100-yard dash; he was the first one to break the ten second under \_\_\_\_\_. He went to the Olympics and didn't do much at all. He was beaten out in the dash, but he was on the relay team and of course did very well.

Jerry: What year was that? Do you recall which Olympic year that was?

Dale: It must have been about 28. But you know when he got out of school, he went to work with the school system, Carpentaria and he got to be a superintendent in Carpentaria School and he died of cancer because he became chain-smoker and before he died, he wrote and had it printed an apology to the youngster to the United States to be...so...he was so stupid as to leave a strong healthy body and go into smoking cigarettes. I admired him for that, but he didn't last over a month or so after he wrote it, but, yeah I got to know him quite well.

Jerry: Well Dale I appreciate all the stories and antidotes that you shared with and ultimately with the City of Glendale, all of its citizens and its future students who might be doing some research on Glendale citizens and I think you will fine p\_\_\_\_\_ to the city and to all the organizations that you had participated in, particularly the Woodcraft Rangers.

Dale: Well, I enjoyed it all. You know the annual old timers thing? I had one clipping, it's around somewhere, me and two women, their names and when they arrived here, but is the name Merriken familiar to you? Well they had her name misspelled but Sam Merriken was a young man that worked the Union Oil Company who gave us jobs as mailroom boys where we can start climbing up the ladder.

Jerry: So it was a Glendale resident who helped you start your career?

Dale: Oh yes; he spelled his name MERRIKEN and his, I guess, his sister marries a famous baseball player, honey, what was his.....

Wife: Herman; Babe Herman.

Dale: So he was so popular and this young man here...

Jerry: Was that Babe Herman?

Dale: Yes. This young man here was his nephew, that's Stanley Merriken and we envied him because his uncle would come by and pick him up and take him to the game, you know. In fact, he dressed up to go to the game and that \_\_\_\_\_, but quite a famous family, the Merriken and the Hermans.

Jerry: Well I appreciate the information Dale. I'm going to conclude the interview and stop the tape. Thank you very much.