

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Project

Hubbard Bicentennial History

O. H. 822

DONALD HEGFIELD

Interviewed

by

Dorothy Bullock

on

November 12, 1975

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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INTERVIEWEE: DONALD HEGFIELD

INTERVIEWER: Dorothy Bullock

SUBJECT: theater management, buildings, houses

DATE: November 12, 1975

B: This is an interview with Mr. Donald Hegfield for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Hubbard Bicentennial History, by Dorothy Bullock, at 44 1/2 Orchard Avenue, Hubbard, Ohio, on November 12, 1975, at noon.

When did you come to Hubbard?

H: Oh, in 1934 I guess it was.

B: Is that when you opened the theater, right when you came to Hubbard?

H: Oh, practically, yes. It had to be remodeled and everything after we got here. Yes, that was 1934.

B: Was it a theater when you came here?

H: Yes.

B: Was it?

H: It was closed but it had been a theater.

B: Who owned it before you, do you know? I mean, who ran it?

H: Joe Klutcher owned the building and Danko or somebody ran it before Mr. Frish took it over. That's about as much as I know. After we got it remodeled and got started and going, why, that was it.

B: It was quite a place then.

H: In those times it was.

B: Right, right. Our kids asked me a couple days ago, "Was that ever a really nice theater?" I said, "Oh man, we thought it was really good." (Laughter)

H: It was in those days. It was a nice, little theater.

B: That's right.

H: It was remodeled in 1938, I believe; that back part was put on, the big part down in front where the screen is. Before it was cut off right where the first seats stop there. There were 175 seats or something like that in the old part and then the new one was 300 and some.

B: I didn't even know it was that many. We used to have that full a lot of nights.

H: Right, yes, that's for sure.

B: The kids nowadays never even heard of bank night like we used to have.

H: No, those were the good, old days.

B: Boy, that's for usre. So where did you live when you came here, on Water Street?

H: No, first we lived down on North Main Street just in some furnished rooms until we got an apartment on East Liberty Street right by Stiver's down there. We lived in just about every section of town. From there, let's see, where did we go from there? Up on South Main Street I guess, just before you go down the Hollow there. Then we went down to Water Street,

B: You tried out everywhere.

H: And from Water Street we took those little cabins out on Youngstown Road there, right as you go around that first curve there.

B: Yes, I know where you mean.

H: Then we moved back to Mrs. Wise's house up on Hager Street. Then we moved from there over to Christian and from Christian we moved down onto Park Avenue in those apartments down there.

B: On East Park?

- H: No, West Park. We moved there before we moved to Christian because that house wasn't ready so we had to move in that apartment until we could. . . Mrs. Wise sold her house and we had to get out in a certain time so we had to move down there. Then Mr. Omeyer's house on Christian there was open and we rented that. Then we stayed there for quite a while. Next move was to Ashtabule to run a theater down there. My aunt had it. Then I guess we moved back here to the apartment up over Patton's grocery there on Main Street. From there we moved over here on Orchard.
- B: You've been around a bit.
- H: That sure was a move.
- B: I guess so, yes.
- H: So we've had our share.
- B: Yes, right. What do you remember about when you first came to Hubbard? The buildings that were here or the people that were here or the things that happened?
- H: Well, I remember the streetcar was still here when we moved here.
- B: I know there was one.
- H: Yes, well, I remember that. Of course, there was the Ford garage right next door there, Mr. Bowers, and Liberty Confectionery was on the corner. Of course, you knew about that.
- B: Yes, I liked that place.
- H: When we first came here, the post office was over on North Main right across from Guy's drugstore, somewhere in there. It was just a little, dinky place. Then they moved it down on Orchard Avenue here; it's part of the hardware.
- B: I just found that out a couple weeks ago. What was on the corner where Watson's Ambulance is now?
- H: Well, that was Martin's Army store and there was a big, long building right on the corner and there were several different things in there. There was a bakery in there; there was a drugstore in there. Up over that they had a dentist's office, Dr. Romo I think. Then there was a little building beyond Martin's Army store and they had a barber shop in there. Next to that there was another thing in there; it had a shoe shop in there for a while. There was a

restaurant in one side, a little lunch counter like. Then on the other corner was the old Five and Dime. It was a big, wooden building and there were apartments upstairs. Right next to that there was a small, vacant lot and then Doc Hayman had his store there. When we first came to town, Livingston's Tire shop was right on the corner, a great, big, wooden building with a big porch all the way around the doggone thing. It was an old hotel at one time.

B: Oh really?

H: Yes.

B: Now is this the same corner as the Five and Dime, or across where Queen's is now?

H: Yes, right on the corner there on East Liberty Street and South Main Street. Livingston had a tire shop there.

B: And there was a hotel?

H: Well, not when we came here.

B: No, before that though.

H: Before that it used to be a hotel there.

B: Where the post office is now, was that just a vacant lot there before that was built? After Hayman's what was between Hayman's and Mathews Street?

H: Well, there was a little house right next to the post office, that's where. . .

B: Richie Walker lived there, didn't he?

H: There was a big house right next to Hayman's, a double house; Walker's lived there. That was a great, big, double house. Next to that there was a doctor or he was a dentist, I believe. Was it Jacobs? I'm not too sure about the names. Then after his house there was another little house that would have been right next to the post office. I imagine there must have been a house on the corner there, but I don't remember on Mackey's corner, Mackey and East Liberty. Where Stiver's is, of course, that was a great, big field and we used to play baseball there and stuff like that.

ALICE HEGFIELD: When we first came here I think the post office was on Orchard Avenue.

H: No, it was on Main Street first, North Main Street, and then it moved down to Orchard.

AH: Mrs. Randall was the postmistress.

H: I don't remember who was the postmaster.

AH: Randall I know was down in the one that was on Orchard.

B: Did you go to school in Hubbard, Don?

H: No, Ashtabula Harbor.

B: That's what I thought.

H: Well, that's where I went to high school and grade school.

B: What brought you to Hubbard?

H: My uncle had the theater and he was getting the theater in Campbell. Before that he was running one of the theaters over in Farrell, the Capitol I believe. Then he finally got this Campbell theater and then he brought us down here to help remodel the Campbell theater and to get this one going. That's the only way we had ever. . . I had just graduated from school in 1933 and in 1934 we came down here.

B: So you came and went right into the theater.

H: So, that's what I've been doing most of my life. I spent almost five years in the Army from about 1940 to 1945.

AH: Oh, you were five years in the service and then you came back and we had the show up here.

H: I was still working for Wellman. Hathoway was really the first guy--Frish and then Hathoway and then Wellman and then Vernoskey. We went to Ashtabula in 1956 I guess it was, then we came back here and I worked for this Vernoskey. Mr. Wellman sold it to Vernoskey and I worked for him, my dad and I and all of us. But, let's see, who had it next? There's so many different people who had a hand in this, but when we came back here, like I said, I worked for Vernoskey and then he closed it up. Then another fellow from Youngstown took it, Paul Petrella and I think there was another fellow from Sharon, Pennsylvania, Charlie Brown, and he had it for awhile. Then after he let it go it wasn't too long that I picked it up in 1959. I bought it from Joe Klutcher and then I just sold it here in 1973.

B: Oh, you kept it all that time?

H: Yes, from 1959 to 1973. But it's no longer a theater now.

B: No, it's real junky.

- H: It's just a secondhand store and stuff like that that he has got in there. So I don't know what he intends to do with it, probably just what it's doing now I suppose or something else. I don't think it'll ever be a theater again.
- B: No, I doubt it very much. Too much television now.
- H: Yes, that's true.
- B: Do you remember any exciting things that happened when you were in the theater business?
- H: Nothing real exciting. Every once in a while the kids would get unruly or something like that and some of them would have to be put out, but you couldn't do that nowadays.
- AH: They weren't as bad as they are now.
- B: No.
- AH: They're much worse.
- H: Kids were pretty good on the whole.
- B: As you look back.
- H: Yes, a lot better. I guess that brings it up-to-date as far as the building is concerned.
- B: They're going to try to put together a booklet of where things were located and who owned what buildings and so forth.
- H: When I was in the Army this store right across from the theater, the big one on the corner, Martin's Army store, it burnt down. That was when I was in the Army. I didn't see it. I've got some pictures of it somewhere, but I haven't seen it. I didn't see it. I wasn't home when the fire was.
- B: And then nothing was ever rebuilt there?
- H: Nothing was ever rebuilt there until. . . I don't really remember when they put that gas station there, but that was the next thing that was there. That corner there belonged to Scotty Moore. I don't know; it was leased for ninety-nine years so I don't know who owns it now.

B: Was the bank always. . .

H: The Dollar Bank was there, always there.

B: It was the old Hubbard Banking Company then I guess.

H: Yes, I believe so. It wasn't the Dollar Bank when we first got here.

B: How about grocery stores? Do you remember about grocery stores?

H: Let's see, the A & P was where Hayman's store is now. That was the A & P in there. Stewart's I guess was always there.

B: It must have been. (Laughter)

H: Then there was a little shoe shop. On this side of the A & P there was another little thing in there, right in back of the Five and Dime; in between the back of the Five and Dime and the A & P there was a little building in there. Later Marie Tate had a card shop in there. I think at one time, I'm not too sure about this, but I think Riordan had a store in there. I'm not too sure about that.

AH: Yes. Riordan's had a store in there.

H: They even had a newsstand in there--cigars and stuff like that.

B: Before he expanded into a bigger place.

H: I don't know when Riordan dumped that store, I don't remember. Well, then old Frank Lochter had Isaly's Dairy store there.

B: Well, then where that barber shop is next to where Isaly's used to be, that's an awfully old building.

H: That was a beer joint, garden or whatever you call it.

B: Beer joint.

H: Then the bowling alley used to be there where the dry cleaner is now and the wash launderette. That used to be a bowling alley, Chufu's I believe. Then what was that other big building? There was another big building there that they tore down. Do you know where the vacant lot is now?

B: I know where the vacant lot is.

H: There used to be a great, big building there. I can't remember exactly what was there. It was a pretty good sized building.

B: Yes, I remember when they tore it down.

H: The kids used to have a what-you-call-it in there, a place where they could go.

B: Like a youth center?

H: Yes, something like that. There used to be a youth center in the basement of Isaly's and the kids wrecked it or something.

B: Do you remember anything about Dairyland? I can remember there was a place called Dairyland here.

H: Yes, Freddie Miller and his wife ran that. Yes, it was a nice, little restaurant.

B: Well, was that after the post office was there?

H: No, the post office was in back of that. Do you know where their office is for the hardware up here? You could go in the door on this side. It's right down to this end. Well, that's where the post office was. You can still see the iron bars on the window if you're looking this way.

B: Oh yes?

H: Yes, in the big windows in the back, big, iron bars.

B: Oh, and Dairyland was in the front?

H: That's where this insurance agency is right now.

B: Yes. Stewart Hardware was always in that. . .

H: Stewart Hardware was always in that same place. Ernie Price used to run that. I suppose Stewart's must have been connected with it some way. Mrs. Price used to own that house over there too.

B: She doesn't anymore?

H: No, we rented off of Mr. Price. That was in probably 1960 I imagine. We were renting off of him for the last six or seven years.

B: I remember when Artie Salo had a gas station or something up there.

H: Yes, that's for sure. He had a gas station there. He used to sell Hudsons I believe over there. Then he had Western

Auto supply there too. He finally sold it to the insurance man, Devine.

B: Was he selling cars right across from. . . Bowers was selling them on one side and. . .

H: I guess so, he had a Hudson agency.

B: I didn't know that.

H: Then up where the supply parts is, Ray Mathews had a Plymouth agency there.

B: Then Stiver's was almost across from him, wasn't he?

H: Stiver's? Let's see, where was Stiver's? To tell you the truth, I don't know where Stiver's, the Chevrolet garage was or if there was one here.

B: I place them up on the corner where. . . I can't think what's there now.

H: Where the Baldine Plaza is at?

B: Across from that though.

H: Where they built that plaza?

B: No, across West Liberty. Right across where Shaffers. . .

H: Yes.

B: It was an old, stone building like.

H: It's the same, old building. That's where that used furniture store is. See, you're recalling something for me. I almost forgot about, but that was it, that was Stiver's up there. Then when they built this, they moved down there to the lot down there.

B: It's funny to think that there were car garages practically right in the middle of everything. You've just about gone up and down all four streets for me.

H: Then, of course, Bessie Barnes was always there.

B: It looked like it. (Laughter)

H: It wasn't her place.

B: Who did have it? Someone else had it before her.

- H: What was that guy's name?
- AH: I think she's had it ever since we've been here.
- H: She has had it for a long time. No, there was another fellow that had that. I can't think of his name right now.
- B: That was probably a pretty busy place though.
- H: Oh, you're doggone right it was.
- B: Were there many cars in Hubbard in 1934? I guess there would have been quite a few.
- H: Quite a few I guess but nothing like. . . We had a 1927 Ford when I came down here. Scotty Moore had a garage right in back of where that hotel would be on the corner. There was a great, big building and then another one alongside of it and then Scotty had his garage in the back there. I bought a 1929 Nash, four door sedan, off of him.
- B: Do you remember what you paid for it?
- H: I paid \$125 and I left it right there until I got it paid for. I was only making about \$6 a week. I left it there until I got it paid for and when I got it paid for I took it out. We used that thing to haul film back and forth to Cleveland, Campbell.
- B: Then the Greyhound bus probably didn't start through here until the streetcar tracks were gone?
- H: I don't think so. After the streetcar was gone, why, I think maybe the Greyhound came through. I'm not too sure of that because I can't exactly remember. But I do remember the streetcars.
- B: Was there still, at this time, anybody using horse and buggies or was it either streetcar or car?
- H: There might have been a few horse and wagons around someplace, but I never saw too many of them. Some farm people might have come into Bessie's with a farmer or something like that, a load of hay going through or something. But it was mostly cars and the streetcar and bus.
- B: Was there anyplace to buy gasoline besides at Artie Salo's?
- H: Oh, Bowers had a pump right at the theater, right out front there, right out in front of the city building there, the water department there.

- B: Can you imagine trying to stop there for gas now?
- H: Hell no, you couldn't, but in those days everybody stopped right there and got their gas.
- B: There were probably a lot of empty fields around back then where we think there have always been houses.
- H: That place up in Hubbard Estates, that was all just fields. That was Mill Street and the dump was down over the hill there. We used to make a lot of trips there to take junk and stuff. But that was all fields until that company started building those houses up in there.
- B: No fields anymore.
- H: No. I was surprised. You go out South Main Street here and turn off there just before you go down the hill, all of those houses down in there. Chuck took me out there one day and man oh man, the houses out there.
- B: They've really built up out there.
- AH: I would think Mann's house is about the oldest in Hubbard, isn't it?
- H: It's one of the oldest.
- AH: It's over 100 years old.
- B: Now which one is that?
- AH: Where Kerrigan's used to live up there. She's renting it now to somebody.
- H: She's living in an apartment.
- AH: Yes, that's over 100 years old.
- B: It has got to be one of the oldest houses then, I would think.
- AH: It's a good, solid house. They built one of them. The building in the back Joe built up. That wasn't always there. Her brother built those. It's up and down in the back there, in back of the regular house. It's connected, all of it together, but I know that's over 100 years old.
- H: That's probably one of the oldest places in Hubbard.
- AH: I know that when the tax man came up there he told Mann once, he said, "You've got one of the oldest houses in Hubbard." It has stood up pretty good.

B: It sure has.

AH: But they built things different then.

B: That's right. It probably kind of sat all by itself up there when it was built. There probably wasn't much around.

H: Yes, that's about right. There used to be some sort of a lane. Where the driveway is there was a lane there that went back into the fields and there was a big barn back there. I don't remember a barn being there, but that's what she said there used to be there.

B: It would be interesting to find out which houses. . . Maybe through these interviews I will find out what the oldest houses in Hubbard are.

H: I think another old house. . . I think that's torn down now. Do you remember where they built the Shadow Run Apartments?

B: Yes.

H: There used to be a house, an old-timer house right there and I think they tore that down.

B: On the main street?

H: Yes.

B: It sort of sat down in a little grade like?

H: I think one of the Stewart's lived there. It was an old house, but I believe that's gone now, I'm pretty sure.

B: This school must have been here for a long time.

H: I was here in town a long time and I never even got down this street. I don't know when the first time it was that I went down this street, but I never even go down to the school or anything.

B: No, you probably have no occasion to, really.

H: No, then we were uptown there and we lived down that way or up that way most of the time.

B: Where did you buy groceries?

H: Mr. Owens, Ike Owens, he had a store right next to the show there, right next to the theater.

B: That was handy.

H: A grocery store and meat market and stuff like that. We traded with him. That was our first grocery store; we traded with Longo's.

B: So there would have been Longo's and the A & P and Ike Owens.

H: Yes, and then Mr. Young had a grocery store there, didn't he? Right across where that archery school is now?

AH: Yes, Tom Young had it.

H: Tom Young had a grocery store there. Schonberg shoe store was next door.

B: You wonder how a shoe store could have made out.

H: Well, I guess he made it all right. Yes, he did, sure.

AH: Danny Schonberg used to have the shoe store.

H: Well, his father had the store and then he had it next and then George's Bootery or something like that, a guy from Girard had it.

B: I guess the grocery prices must have been pretty different back then?

H: Yes, We should have kept some of those papers from way back there. Butter was 12¢ a pound. You used to get it in tubs, tub butter. It didn't come in packages. I guess you could get it packaged.

AH: When I was young, butter was only 8¢ a pound.

H: Well, that's going back too far. (Laughter)

AH: And sugar 5¢.

H: And bread was 10¢ a loaf or 8¢.

B: Do you recall what gasoline, how much it was when it was first. .

H: I was just talking to somebody the other day about that and I think it was 16¢ a gallon. That's what Bower's was there.

B: And you probably thought it was a terrible price to pay at the time.

H: When it went up to 22¢, Holy Jesus!

B: We'll have to give up driving.

H: I don't know whether I would like to go back and do it all over again or not. It seems like people had more fun in those days than they do now.

B: I think there was less worrying. At least we thought it was better back then.

H: It seems like it was.

AH: Well, it was lots of work in those days, it seemed like anyways. There wasn't anybody out of work that wanted work.

H: Well, in 1933, yes. In that Depression there were plenty of people out of work. In the time we got down here in 1934 everything started picking up. The theater always did pretty good business. We had them standing in line there outside. Of course, the theater was smaller than it is now. But we had them standing in the back lobby there. Still there would be lines going around the corner waiting to get into the second show. Even when Wellman took it over we did pretty well then. Of course, he had the bank night. We did pretty well.

B: I think really until television got so popular, why. . .

H: Yes. First it was the drive-ins. The drive-ins were just starting then too. There used to be a drive-in out on . . . going to Youngstown on this side of the road just about where one of those junkyards is now, just an old screen sticking up there by the road and you would drive in. I never was out there.

B: That was one of the first?

H: That was one of the first drive-ins, just a couple sticks sticking up with a screen. Then later, Hathoway, he built that drive-in over on 422, the Sky High. He was the one who ran this theater for a while, Hathoway.

B: Oh, the same man?

H: Yes. We worked for a bunch of different people. First my uncle and then Mr. Hathoway and I think after he took it my uncle took it back again; then he finally sold it to Mr. Wellman; Wellman had it for about five years or

more and he sold it to this fellow from Warren, Vernoskey. Then I don't remember exactly how long he had it, probably maybe three years. When he finally let it go it went back to Joe and then he had to rent it out to different people.. So that place had quite a history. They used to run silent movies there.

B: Oh did they?

H: Oh yes. They had a nickelodeon there. That's what they tell me though. I didn't see it. They tell me that it was a nickelodeon there. When we came there, up in the booth, there was still a turntable up there where they used to play records. The talking was on record, see, and it had to be synchronized with film. I didn't ever see it work because when I came here sound was already on the film.

B: I wonder when that first opened as a theater. Do you have any idea?

H: Not really.

B: I bet it wasn't too long before you came here, maybe ten years.

H: I really should have probably asked Joe about that but I don't think we ever talked about that, when it opened. Somebody told me that once there was a poolroom in there before it was a theater. There were places on the side of the building where you could see; there were windows on the side at one time.

B: It could have been I suppose.

H: That may be just somebody talking. I don't know how true that was. Joe never told me that. A guy that lived down on Water Street across from us down there, he used to be an old-time teamster with horses and stuff like that. He had a team. He said he dug the basement for that.

B: He would probably remember I suppose.

Now start about where the monument was.

H: At the site of the monument, where it is now, there used to be a gas station in there and people from the theater and around town used to use their toilet facilities. That's how come the theater never had any until 1938. I almost forgot that that gas station was there.

B: Well I never dreamt there was one there.

- H: Then down on North Main Street, the corner of Mackey Street and North Main, there was another little gas station, the same type, just a tin shed like. Tommy Mageros had that for a while and I don't know who used to have it before that, but those were the two other gas stations though that I can remember.
- B: Oh my, I'm glad you thought of that.
- AH: Do you remember when Mike and George had the store on the corner there, George Mavranicholas? Yes, when we first came here they had the store right on the corner there.
- B: About the only thing I remember is they sold top hats and chocolate covered ice cream.
- H: He used to make his own ice cream. They used to bring the stuff over, the stuff in the cans and then he would put it in his machine and mix it up, put it in the freezer part. He had a whole chest of freezers.
- AH: I think they were about the first people we met when we came to Hubbard, right next to the show. We always used to go over there. Well, when we were running too, we used to go down for lunch on Sundays to Freddie Miller's restaurant on the corner.
- H: There's a driveway right next to Devine's right now. Right next to that used to be an old bank building. It was the first bank. There was sort of like a Five and Dime store in there too. Yes, I remember that now. I can't remember the lady's name though. She had another one in Andover. It's the same party that had that.
- B: Do you remember who the doctors were, or did we have doctors in Hubbard?
- H: Oh yes, Dr. Irvine, Dr. Snyder. Dr. Snyder used to have an office right up where the archery thing is now. That used to be a doctor's office up there, Dr. Snyder.
- AH: Bowers had that garage right next to the theater. Eddie Harter used to work there.
- We spent a long time in that show.
- B: That's for sure.
- AH: We came down here for a year. (Laughter)
- B: You were just going to stay for one year?

AH: We're still here.

B: That's a long year.

H: Property was so reasonable in those days like the place where we lived up on South Main Street. We could have bought that for about \$3,500. Today you probably couldn't buy it for \$25,000.

AH: We came very near to buying it. I wish we had now.

H: Do you know where Doc Hayman used to live in that brick house on the corner of Viola? That could have gone for \$5,000. That's what the prices were in those days. The houses right up on Stewart, those were around \$4,000 or \$5,000.

B: Yes, you're right, you should have bought one back then.

AH: I wish we would have bought that big one right up on South Main.

H: Yes, that would have been a nice house.

B: Was it the last one before you go. . .

H: Just before you go down the hill.

B: On the left?

AH: Yes, the last house there, that great, big one.

B: Harding's live there now.

AH: I don't know who does live there.

H: Johnny Miles used to live right next door there. He used to work for Stewart Hardware. If we would have only bought property there--where your dad lives now--we could have if we had done it a little sooner. The guy that lived there, he went to Ashtabula. He has got our house up there. We could have traded. We could have traded him that house for your house, see.

B: I'm glad you didn't.

H: No, but that just goes to show you.

B: Yes, well, you don't think at the time though.

H: Well, nobody had any money at that time that you could put down on property. Of course, I don't think you had to put

very much down.

B: Probably not.

H: Maybe a couple hundred dollars probably. I don't remember exactly, but if we would have only traded that house for any kind of a house down here. . . It was a nice house up there.

END OF INTERVIEW