

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

American Bicentennial

Personal Experience

O.H. 1345

CLINGAN JACKSON

Interviewed

by

Joseph P. Alessi

on

October 8, 1990

CLINGAN JACKSON

Clingan Jackson was born on March 28, 1907 in Coitsville, Ohio, the son of John and Evalena. At a young age, Mr. Jackson moved to Carbon, Pennsylvania. He attended elementary school there, but graduated from Lowellville High School, Lowellville, Ohio, in 1925. After graduating, Mr. Jackson entered the University of Colorado. He graduated from Colorado in 1929 with an A.B. in English and History.

After completing college, Mr. Jackson returned to Youngstown. In 1929, Mr. Jackson found employment with the Youngstown Vindicator. Mr. Jackson served the Vindicator for fifty-four years, retiring in June of 1983. While with the Vindicator, Mr. Jackson held the position of political editor. Although Mr Jackson worked for the Vindicator for fifty-four years, he actively participated in politics. During his political career, he was a state representative (1935-1936), a State Senator (1944-1950), President of the Ohio Program Committee, a member of the Ohio Pardon and Parole Commission, and a member of the Ohio Civil Rights Commission. In addition to his politically affiliated organizations, Mr. Jackson is also a member of several local organizations, including the Youngstown Kiwanis and the Youngstown Torch Club. Mr Jackson is also a member and Elder of the Coitsville Presbyterian Church.

Currently, Mr. Jackson resides at his home in Youngstown with his wife Loretta Fitch Jackson. Mr Jackson has two daughters, Mary Ann (age forty-three) and Susan Jane (age fifty-two). Mr. Jackson is still active, and enjoys writing for the Business Journal.

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INTERVIEWEE: CLINGAN JACKSON

INTERVIEWER: Joseph P. Alessi

Subject: Carbon, County Commissioners, Bicentennial

DATE: October 8, 1990

A: This is an interview with Clingan Jackson for the Youngstown State University Oral History Department, on the American Bicentennial, by Joseph Alessi, at 350 Jacobs Road, on October 8, 1990, at 9:05 a.m.

Mr. Jackson, I am glad to have this honor to interview you. First of all, you have been very instrumental in our community and what I would like to do first before I interview you on the Bicentennial committee itself is that I would like to ask some background questions about you if you don't mind. First of all, where and when were you born and where did you grow up?

J: I was born right here on Jacobs Road next door to where I now live in 1907. That is where I grew up until I was of high school age and then I located at Carbon, near Hillsville, Pennsylvania and went to Lowellville High School.

A: Why did you move from Jacobs Road to Carbon?

J: My father went to the Carbon-Limestone Company to help in providing timber during the first world war and our family moved down there to join him.

A: How long were you in Carbon?

- J: We were in Carbon...I was in Carbon from 1919 really until I was married in 1932.
- A: Then you returned back here to Jacobs Road?
- J: No, when I married I located in Lowellville.
- A: Okay.
- J: I lived there until 1940. Then building a home of my own I went to land that I inherited on Jacobs Road, Youngstown.
- A: What were some of your interests while you were growing up? Sports, reading, anything like that?
- J: Well, I did a lot of work on a farm. I had sheep for example, that had been given to me. Then when I went to Carbon I worked for the Carbon-Limestone Company. I painted and I surveyed and finally I worked on the railroad in Lowellville and then for the Ohio Edison and Chemical Company at Lowellville, then at New Castle I worked in the line gang for the Pennsylvania Power Company.
- A: When you were growing up what did you do for recreation?
- J: I played a great deal of pool and I played tennis. My first job was at a pool room basically cleaning the cuspidor and that sort of thing. I became a very good pool shooter and I became a good tennis player. Otherwise I didn't have good athletic ability.
- A: When you were playing pool did you tend to play for money a lot or did you hustle people?
- J: No, I went to work for the pool room and when someone came in and wanted to play we had a system where they beat me and they didn't have to pay. So, I had to beat them to collect for the pool. I could do it. I became very good. So good, when in college at the University of Colorado, I was the exhibition player when the national pool champion came to Boulder, a big pool room there. He let me win at least one game. I think that he let me win, anyway I won it. He beat me. He was just a great champion. He had just...beat Willy Hope, this fellow was a champion but he had become champion that year. He came to boulder and that is what happened. They wanted somebody to play him.
- A: When you were growing up...Can you describe your education?
- J: Yes, I went to Science Hill School until seventh grade

and then we moved to a little town called Carbon, and I went to Hillsville for a short time and then there was no high school in Mahoning Township, Pennsylvania but they paid my tuition to go to Lowellville High School. So, I went to Lowellville High School and I graduated from there in 1925.

A: You mention that you went to Colorado State University?

J: Yes, in 1925 I entered the University of Colorado and I went through in four years and graduated there.

A: What did you graduate with? What degree?

J: A Liberal Arts degree, AB.

A: What was your major field of study?

J: History.

A: History?

J: History and English.

A: When you were in high school what was your favorite subject?

J: Well, I wasn't studious enough to love any subject, but I was best, I think, in mathematics and that sort of thing.

A: If growing up you were really proficient in mathematics, when you went to Colorado what drew your interest into history and English?

J: Well, I always had an ambition to I think somewhat to be a writer and the whole process of my life was somewhat rebellious. I had a serious impediment in my speech. I couldn't say my name until at the University of Colorado for example. All during my life I had nicknames associated with the way that I tried to say words and that sort of thing. It kind of made me a rebel and I was going to be a speaker. I was going to be a writer. Actually, when I went into the University of Colorado they advised me to stick to scientific mathematics and to refrain from seeking a career that involved speaking with other people and I had a good mathematical mind they said but that I couldn't...So, my answer to it was to take a speaking course. I took a speaking course and the professor directed me to some doctors in Boulder that worked with my tongue and mouth to help get me so that I could talk plainer.

One period, for about six weeks of work, I couldn't say a word with the operation that was going on in my mouth

and that occurred while I was at the University.

A: So, I understand why you went into English to become a good writer, but why history?

J: Well, I always had a love of history. My father was some what of a student of history. He had Russian and French and American histories of that kind. He gave a lot of his time to me as a child. He would read. I knew about "Ivan The Terrible" before I was able to go to school, really from sitting and listening to him read. At the University there was a compulsory American History course for the first year. I passed it with very high grades and never read a thing because I had listened to my father. I was fortunate to attend Lowellville High School when they had a great faculty at the time I attended.

A: Tell me a little bit more about your father. How influential was he in, I guess, "making" Clingan Jackson? What was the influence he had on you?

J: I think a whole lot because I went with him as a child working. For example, he would work at the Jackson cemetery at all of the graves. My father and I were together planting those trees originally. I was with him a lot and he remembers a lot. He knew a lot about the history of the area. He had been active in the Bryan Campaign. Listening to him, I knew all about the Bryan Campaign in this locality. So much so that as a reporter the Vindicator used to ask me, "How about Groover Cleveland Campaign, how are they doing?"

A: What about your mother? What influence did she have on you?

J: Well, she gave me my name Clingan. She was a Clingan. She was one that believed that boys should be able to stand on their own. I remember coming up the Himrod Avenue Hill when it was icy and the horse, we were riding in the buggy, the horse was slipping with his hoofs, she said, "Get out of there and lead that horse and don't let him fall." I got out and lead the horse to keep him from slipping on the ice. She never hesitated to have you go into some difficulty and tell you how to do it and so forth. So, I think that she gave me a good training that way.

I remember in the first grade of school wanting to go over to a basketball game at night. My brother skipped off without me and I was a little afraid of the dark. My mother said, "Don't be afraid of the dark, take the barn lantern." So, off I went the lantern a couple miles to the gymnasium and I left the lantern outside and ran into the basketball game and afterward I got

the lantern and came home with it, but she was that way. She taught you to stand on your own two feet.

A: After your childhood or even during your childhood you mentioned that you had various types of employment, can you tell me what those were again and then what your jobs were more or less?

J: Well, I came as a boy off of a farm to Carbon. At that time it was a town of company stores, there were two stores that handled everything. It was almost all Croations and bording houses of many of them because just the men were coming, not the women at that time. There was a store there that had everything for sale. The two men that operated it were very limited in the English language, you couldn't read their account slips at all. They did it, I was about eleven years old and I got down there and I started to work. They never paid me or anything but I worked and helped them and sometimes they would give me some meat to take home and that sort of thing.

Then right next to that was a pool room and a bowling alley. So, really my first day job was to get a job that I got \$1.00 on Saturdays working at the pool room. The first job in the morning was to scrub out the cuspidors. We always did that. It was kind of a unique thing because all of these young fellows, many of whom lived at these boarding houses, were unmarried, they came to the pool room and combination bowling alley, and incidentally a barber shop on the same premise. The barber was the fellow that owned it.

A: After college, I believe that you were employed with the Vindicator? Can you tell me some of the things that you did with the Vindicator?

J: Well, after college I went to Ohio Edison Company, well the predecessor of that, the utility company, and worked in the accounting department for the summer. I applied for a job, this was in 1929, I applied for a job at both the Vindicator and the Telegram and late in August Mr. Maag, the owner of the Vindicator, called me and asked me if I still wanted that job, and so I went from the utility company to the Vindicator. Naturally they paid me the same magnificent wage, which was \$25.00 a week. After a couple years of employment at the Vindicator with the Depression, there was a little cut in that wage to \$22.50. But we got through the Depression and I continued with the Vindicator for fifty-four years.

A: Now you were with the Vindicator through the Depression, in World War II, and through the Korean War and Vietnam and the whole 1960's and 1970's; do you feel

that you are a deep part of history? I mean you have seen a lot and you have covered a lot through the Vindicator.

J: Oh, yes from my view point I am the main part of history. I can remember when my mother and father were talking about the death of Mark Twain. He died in 1910 I think. I don't know whether it was 1910 or maybe a year or two later, but as a youngster I heard them talking about it. I also remember when the Titanic went down. I remember when Woodrow Wilson was elected in 1912 and my father, who was a Democrat, came through on a snowy night and opened the door on an old barn house and said, "Wilson was elected." He was a very firm Democrat and of course I could go on and remember when the war came. I remember the discussions that the men would go into and about the war. I remember being at a neighbors home, this was before American had gotten into the war and part of the gathering was German background and the lady at the piano sang the "Watch on the Rhine." All of them there were not of German background, but the very people that were singing the "Watch on the Rhine" at the beginning of war, later had their own sons battling for America against Germans. That historic fact that people don't realize sometimes.

A: Now you have seen so much history from your earlier years, your fathers influence with your historical background. Is this what motivated you into getting involved with the Bicentennial committee? Or what motivated you?

J: Well, basically what motivated me to do it was that I was rather curious. The county commissioners asked me to do it.

A: Who were the county commissioners?

J: Oh, Tom Barret, and Palermo, and Bindas at that time. They asked me to and almost simultaneously the city council asked me to do it for Youngstown.

A: Can you recall who was on the city council?

J: Oh, a fellow who died was I think president of the council at that time, Holt. I think Holt was the one who suggested me or something. Anyway, what I did was talk to my publisher and I said, "I think that this ought to be a Mahoning Youngstown Bicentennial, united all." Then that is what we decided. We had a publically announced gathering at the city council chambers in Youngstown and we invited anyone in the county who was interested to be there. That was the beginning of it. I went down and presided and I told them that I thought

that we should have a joint organization and I thought that they should elect officers and go on. So, somebody nominated me for president. Anyway, I think I did what you do when you wise up. When we called a meeting we elected temporary officers and then we held a meeting and elected permanent ones. So, that the whole organization was born that way. We never limited anyone who came. We became executive committee men. Do you know what I mean? Anybody could join and we invited every group to join. Gradually, you developed a group that did participate and we went on and carried it through.

A: This first meeting, can you recall a date?

J: Well, it would be I think 1974.

A: Can you recall some of the faces that were at that first meeting who were later...

J: Well, your mother was there, a fellow who died but was an architect, there were quite a few that were there and continued on in the organization; quite a few of these people here. I think that Tom Barret was there. However, the setup of the organization was not just the ones attending the first meeting. For example, I wanted somebody that was a recognized banker to be the finance chairman, because we wanted to raise money and I needed that sort of assurance and I persuaded Fred Green, of the Home Savings & Loan to be the finance chairman. Then I wanted somebody who knew about parades and knew about that sort of thing and I persuaded Chester Amedia to come. I spoke to Ed Hulme who was employed and paid. Then all other members paid there own way. We met regularly.

A: How many members would you say were on the committee?

J: Everyone who participated and it settled down to twenty-five who actively worked.

A: There seems to be about twenty-five of you.

J: Yes, that is right.

A: Did the number fluctuate or was it...

J: Yes, it fluctuated all the way through. It fluctuated but you had a core of about fifteen or twenty that were always there.

A: Now this core was headed by...Well, of course you were the president, but who were or how many officers did you have total?

J: We had a vice-president, the lady who was the head of

- the art museum.
- A: Can you recall her name?
- J: Mrs. Philip Schaff.
- A: Well, when it does just throw it in. What were some of the other officers?
- J: Well, we had a boy named King. He was a student at Youngstown State University who was suppose to act as secretary. Actually, Wally Collins, who had been with the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, worked with me all the way through doing a lot of the financial work and the secretary work for nothing. We appealed for contributions and we raised about \$400,000. The foundations of Youngstown gave rather heavily, so did the banks, some of the industrial enterprises particularly, the Commercial Shearing.
- A: Now this committee you had your officers, but if I recall there were five major projects that you wanted to engage in, a ball, I believe was one, a parade...
- J: Well, basically back in 1953 at the Sesquicentennial of Ohio, the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of Ohio. We had planned to build a monument for the founders of Youngstown, John Young, James Hillman, and Daniel Shehy. We had even located where that monument should be and we had to raise a little bit of money towards it but we never accomplished it with that commission in 1953. So, we decided to not only put that on as a project we were going to do it. We decided we ought to start the celebration at Canfield, because Mahoning County was formed in 1846 and as the fifth youngest county in Ohio, and we would conclude it with a parade to the new Courthouse in Youngstown. So, that was two of the projects and the opening at the Canfield was as I recall the incident of the opening of the Canfield Fair, 1975.
- A: Can you recall who was in charge of this heading or arranging this opening of the parade?
- J: Well, the parade at Canfield of course was very limited. Chester Amedia was in charge of the arrangements for the major parade ending at the end of the celebration. The very first event that the new commission (as we called it) established was to engage a ride by Paul Revere down Federal Street and that was done. That was done in 1975.
- A: Can you recall who organized that?

J: Ed Hulme and the regular setup. We managed to get the headquarters in the building right across from the Strouss-Hirshberg company, right in Center Square. We had events down there.

One of the projects was to publish a history of Youngstown and Mahoning county because there hadn't been one really for about fifty years. So, we employed the best known writer of that kind in our area to do that. Mr. Howard Aley was his name.

A: You also said the "Young Memorial," that was one of your projects. Can you remember who headed that and where the memorial is and how that worked?

J: Well, the memorial is right at East side of Spring Common Bridge still there and it has among other mementoes the Bicentennial of Youngstown and Mahoning County in a capsule to be reopened in one hundred years, reopened in two hundred years and reopened in three hundred years. It is set right in there. So, you can have a long record of what goes on in Youngstown. There are various historic things that have been placed in that capsule.

A: Can you recall some of those things?

J: Well, for example, there are coins in there. There will be a good sampling of money when it was real silver and gold, and some other things about the history of Youngstown.

A: Can you recall who was in charge of that project?

J: The same people. Your mother was very much in charge of the ball and she was also known to have a hand in everything. Ed Hulme was the acting director. He worked everyday and we had an office on Federal Street. We had regular meetings and I had lunch with him regularly. I worked at the Vindicator all of the time, but I would have lunch with him quite often. I think that the events that we put on at Federal Plaza marking the Fourth of July, for example, and New Year's we conducted all of those. Mrs. Patty Alessi was very, very centered for those things, but the whole committee functions and quite a few people helped.

A: Were you pleased with the efforts of the committee or were there ever times when you doubted or had to push or try real hard or was the ambition and the enthusiasm there?

J: Well, we laid out what we were going to do. We appealed for financial support and told them exactly what we

were going to do with the money. We got good financial support. I never had much of a doubt that we would accomplish everyone of the objectives that we set out. I always had considerable help. I remember with the first meeting. Howard C. Aley insisted that we should have two or three years to write that history. I said, "No, we want it this fall. You can't sell this book after the Bicentennial." We wanted it for the Bicentennial. I remember when he said, "How do you do that?" I said, "Persistence and perseverance." I remember the wife of the city superintendent of the schools laughed at what I said to him. Then he wrote the history, I picked it up and took every page of it to Mrs. Shaft at the Arms Museum and we handled the whole history. We got it out in time and put it on sale in time that it became a best seller for that type of production. We sold about five thousand books and we had to print additional copies.

A: Did you just sell the book in this area?

J: Basically, it was just sold in this area although we did have some orders from across the nation and of course copies of it go into the Washington Library.

A: Were you surprised or did you expect the acceptance of the committee and the Bicentennial itself from the community in your activities?

J: No, I just thought that this is a citizen undertaking voluntary basis. Now I always insisted that there would be no payments to any individual except where there was a specific reason for it, like in the writing of the book, which took a lot of time and the daily direction that had to be given by somebody and we publically hired them and publically announced what we did. We not only told what we would spend the money for that we raised, but if there was any left over what we would do with it. The only time that we ever spent any money on the individual members was long after everything was over when we marked ten years of it in 1986. We still had about \$1100.00 left as I recall. I transferred the money over to my account and so we had kind of a ten year meeting. So, I paid for the lunch and took the remainder of it and on their authority turned it over to the Arms Museum. It might have helped with the work on the courthouse on cleaning the famous mural. Now what they did I don't know. We previously had given some \$10,000 to the Arms Museum. This cleaned it up and I personally arranged the disincorporation at Columbus. The corporation came and gathered money, spent it, and dissolved just as I said.

A: How did you go about gathering money for the various agencies, and corporations? Who did it?

J: We wrote letters out and we told the plans and the people that we wrote the letters out to how much we thought that they ought to give for example, as I recall we told a Commercial Shearing that they ought to give \$2500 and Mr. Cushwa came through with \$3500. The Home Savings & Loan and other banks that came in gave large sums. The Vindicator gave large sums. The various foundations gave thousands of dollars to us. I think my brother did a lot of that. He was the agent for one of the foundations and it gave \$15,000 I think. Of course we sold the books and that brought in...

A: You did this mostly through letters? This is how you did it?

J: Yes, that is what it was, a little appeal. When you write a letter...I had learned from one of Americas foremost letter writers John Taylor of Salem. The one thing that you get in a letter of appeal is a statement of universal truth and our letter on the Bicentennial started out with Civil Rights. Civil Rights people had always taken steps to honor their past history. That was the universal truth. I don't want you to contribute any memory that I have that wouldn't serve to tell what people put into the Bicentennial of Youngstown because there were loyal architects and others who gave honors on there own.

A: The people that participated in the Bicentennial. The people that devoted there time freely?

J: Yes.

A: How much of Clingan Jackson was in Bicentennial? You mentioned that other people had there say so, like my mother, Patricia Alessi, she had her hand in everything, but how much of it was Clingan Jackson? Were you just a manager?

J: I participated. I got in the uniform. I think that I was Benjamin Franklin. That type of thing wasn't particularly easy to do, but I enjoyed it and I stuck my nose out as far as you could and I tried to get as much publicity for the Bicentennial as I could get. I think that that is the only good advantage that I should take. I wanted to do something for my country and I didn't want to be paid for it in any way. There were a great many others who did about the same thing for the Bicentennial. There were a lot of them maybe just for a day or two that they did something that you needed to have done. Everybody seemed to respond to help. There was a little tendency that annoyed me a little bit and that was that it seemed to be some groups that wanted to have there own separate Bicentennial, if you know

what I mean? We refrained from making any contributions that way. We decided that there was just one Bicentennial and that all people ought to be free to come in that. I think that when the parade came they were all there. Even those that wanted to have separate organizations. They managed to be in the parade. So, it worked out pretty good. Our biggest disappointment was that not a single Youngstown school band could be provided for the parade.

A: When you say some other groups that wanted to start their own Bicentennial, what were some of these groups and how why did they want to attempt to start their own Bicentennial?

J: Well, I think that they had a kind of personal pride. For example, I think the Youngstown blacks had a separate organization. I think the Irish had a separate organization, but they assisted in a final way. The Slovak and Italian organizations were all together for our Bicentennial. I don't want to get into a tangle about it, it is water over the dam, but we did have...Some of them thought that we should give separate money to them. I didn't want to separate them.

A: Why did they think that they deserved separate money?

J: Because the money that was raised for the Bicentennial purposes. They were put on the Bicentennial efforts and they thought that the money could be given to them.

A: Why was there reluctance for them to just jump on your band wagon? Why did they feel...

J: I don't know why they didn't do it, but some individuals did.

A: Did you ever have any personal confrontations with these individuals?

J: Confrontation?

A: Yes.

J: Not particularly. We told them what we wouldn't do and that is it.

A: What were some of the things that you would do and what were some of the things that you wouldn't do?

J: Basically what we told them, "You are welcomed with the rest of us, and if you have something that you ought to do as a group we will be glad to consider it and help to do it."

A: So more or less what you were saying is that you were in charge and either you will do what we do or you won't do?

J: No, we invited them to come in and to participate and get into the doing. You are not going to get me in on that one.

A: You can't blame me for not trying. I am going to ask you about some various individuals and I would like you to tell me a little bit about your personal feeling about that person and how you feel that they contributed to the Bicentennial, if they should have contributed more or less. The mayor at the time, Jack C. Hunter, what part did he play and could he have done more?

J: The city helped and provided some funds. Then we thought that they could have done more.

A: How do you feel that they could have done more?

J: They could have provided more money and I think that they provided what was proper for the city to provide.

A: Did you ever confront Mr. Hunter on that matter? Was what they gave you accepted graciously?

J: What we did was ask for all the money we could get from the county commissioners and the city and whatever they gave us we excepted with grace.

A: So, then there was no real confrontation ever?

J: That is right.

A: As far as his cooperation for the parades and the Bicentennial building itself, did they contribute with that, the city?

J: The parade of course involved the city police and fire department and their help. All of that cooperation was given. We hired some things for the parade. We had to hire for example, a band to come in. We paid them \$100 to come up there. The Youngstown high schools couldn't provide a band and we offered to pay them. We did have the Lowellville band. All the way through we had cooperation.

A: As far as the building is concerned...

J: I think basically we got the wind of that building very cheap for nothing. We had the upstairs in that building.

A: Ed Hulme...

J: Ed Hulme could tell you the details on how everything was there.

A: Speaking of Ed Hulme, you mentioned that he was the only paid associate, why was he the only paid associate?

J: Well, because he gave us his full-time to it and was in charge of the office and that sort of thing. Now we did pay for some secretarial work and that sort of thing, but that is all.

A: How do you think Ed Hulme did in his position and what was his position?

J: His position was a director for the Bicentennial. He did an excellent job.

A: Now I recall hearing something of that there may have been a misappropriation of funds that Mr. Hulme was in charge of handing out of funds and so forth. Was that just a fallacy to you or was there any truth to that?

J: Misappropriation I think not. Every cent that was appropriated was handled through Fred Green, and Wally Collins. We have an absolute record of it. The money that was left was turned over basically to the Arms Museum. Every expenditure was authorized by a vote of the group. The chances that there was any corruption in it to me I don't see where there would be any evidence of it. The operation involved spending money for insurance. We had to have insurance on this thing. The operation involved being incorporated for our own protection...Every authorization was in public meetings, and every operation was recorded.

A: Now you said that you were incorporated, how did you go about getting incorporated and who was in charge of that?

J: We became a non-profit corporation. We incorporated and I was one of the incorporators you see. Then when we finished we would be disincorporated and I did that personally. I went to Columbus to be incorporated. You have to show a handling of everything and what happened to it. The money that was left, we left a little money to continue looking after the flag on the monument. We used the money for that purpose for a little while. We had about a \$1,000 left and I got a notice from the bank that this money will be turned over to the state if you don't do something about it if you know what I mean. It was at the Union Bank and there had been no contact for six years. So, I went in and took the money

out and chartered the committee together for one more meeting up at the Youngstown club and we marked the ten years and had a fee and I paid that and took the remainder of it and I had already put it into the Lowelville bank and on their authority I turned it over to the Arms Museum and I added the interest and probably a little more that had earned on while it was in my account. I turned it over to the Arms Museum.

A: As far as Mrs. Alessi is concerned, what was her primary function? What was her role in it? How do you think she performed?

J: Well, your mother was the punch women for the whole Bicentennial. She did an excellent job on the ball. She was a big help all the way through. I never saw her to know her until the meeting in City Hall and at that time she was mad about something, as your mother sometimes gets mad about. She wanted to name the plaza instead of the Federal Plaza, the Bicentennial Plaza and she had asked various people. I said, "Oh, I will go with you." And I went with her to the City Council and told them that they ought to name it the Bicentennial Plaza and they didn't. They had already had things printed, I guess, as the Federal Plaza. But from then on I spoke to your mother because I had done what she wanted. But anyway she was a tremendous help to the organization.

There was another, a man, who was a big help. He was the architect. I think that he is in that picture up there and I can't think of his name. He lived out there by Idora Park you know. Off hand I can't bring his name to my mind. Now that is what happens when you get up in the eighties, things don't come back quick.

A: When you say that he was an architect, did he help to design the monument? How was he instrumental?

J: Well, yes I think that he did help lay it out. Of course it was bought. The monument costed about \$19,000, that is from memory but about right.

A: What about the ball, you mentioned the ball several times. Where was the ball?

J: The ball..Your mother was after that famous orchestra you know the one that plays on New Year's night?

A: Guy Lombardo?

J: Yes, Guy Lombardo. As a matter of fact she went to Pittsburgh and met with them and he said he would like to come but he couldn't. We had Stan Kenton. But she was determined to have Guy Lombardo for that.

A: Was the ball enjoyable? What was the purpose of the ball?

J: Well, it was the Bicentennial ball and one of the things about it was when the last big events was at the Idora Park Pavilion, the dance hall. It was a Friday occasion.

A: What about John Lowed what was his role as far as the monument is concerned? How much of a part did he play? I recall reading somewhere that he had something to do with the monument.

J: Well, he probably worked it out with Ed Hulme. They made the arrangements for that pretty much. The thing that I did was to try get some decendants on Daniel Shehy to participate.

A: Were you able to?

J: Well, yes. We outfitted decendants of Daniel Shehy and she appeared. And members of other decendants joined her, other decendants of Daniel Shehy. The one that we had chosen proved to be a decendant of a brother of Daniel Shehy discover she wasn't a descendant of Daniel but rather his brother until some of the other relatives told her about it. But they all went along with it and we already had advanced to the Shehy decendant and it went out very good. And the Hillman Lodge also came and took part in the dedication of the monument. Hillman of course, as you know, was one of the real settlers of Youngstown.

A: What about Chester Amedia, what was his role?

J: His role was the parade and it was probably the biggest parade Youngstown ever had.

A: Were you pleased with this?

J: I think that it was the same size as the Rose Parade.

A: Were you pleased with his performance?

J: Yes, I was. We started up at Wick Park you know and came down the North side and it ended at the Court-house.

A: That was the parade that marched down Fifth Avenue wasn't it?

J: Yes.

- A: I am going to ask you about some different organizations or things that went on in the Bicentennial and maybe you can help me highlight some of it. Number one, what was the Mahoning Valley Colonial Brigade and what role did it play concerning the Bicentennial?
- J: Well, it gave sort of a continental army atmosphere for various events. It was very helpful to the picture and feeling that came to the opening of events and that sort of thing. Your dad was real helpful. You don' hear to much as like your mother, but he gave us a lot of help.
- A: Now you mentioned Paul Revere's Ride before, could you go into that?
- J: Well, they came down Federal Street and in front of the Union Bank building in mid-day and so forth. It was kind of a reminder to a lot of Americans that don't keep up with there history, that once Paul Revere did ride.
- A: Now we mentioned community support before and you said that it was a community Bicentennial. Were there always large congregations for the events you participated in or did it seem like the comittee and the brigade and a few select...Was the community really behind the Bicentennial? Were they engrossed in the Bicentennial like you and the other people were who participated in it?
- J: Yes, they came out very heavily for the Fourth of July affairs always, for the parade. They came out very heavily for the New Year's thing. The places would be jammed downtown. I think that one of the last times the Fourth of July in Youngstown that we conducted was one of the last times that people came out through the county came to Youngstown to see what was going on, on that date. Since we put on a Fourth of July down there but they are not coming like they did for the Bicentennial Fourth of July.
- A: So, then you were more or less pleased with the community?
- J: Yes, I was pleased with the support that we had and of course, all of our events didn't attract everyone that we wanted to attract. Some short, some of them long and that is the way it went.
- A: Now did you have any type of newsletter with the Bicentennial or any private publications to inform readers or to inform the Vindicator and some of your patrons what was going on?
- J: No, we just kept working on the Vindicator. We had as

much publicity as we could and the television stations were very good.

A: Did you use your personal clack with the Vindicator and the news media to get the Bicentennial as publicized as it was because as I recall it was pretty publicized.

J: Well, the Vindicator was very good and as far as using them personally. The people generally wanted Youngstown to put on a good Bicentennial, and we did it. As Youngstown had always done in most public affairs.

A: Did you find that there were personality conflicts in your comittee? I mean did that hinder you at all?

J: No, not me really.

A: Did it hinder the progress of the comittee?

J: I don't think so. Just genuine human beings getting together and the devil was active among them and they are human, that is all.

A: I know that you are a stout Democrat and my mother is a stout Republican, did you guys, not just you two, but the comittee, did you ever find that there was a political division between you at all?

J: No, I don't think so. Republican and Democrates just think that they are different anyway, they are the same.

A: Was this a political propaganda more or less? Was it a way for the city to look as if it were doing something or was this really somethings from the heart? Was it really for the Bicentennial or was it just propaganda?

J: Well, it was propaganda for the propaganists. It was citizen committment and federation for the country and its welfare by others. There were all sorts of participation in the Bicentennial. There were some people in the Bicentennial to make a buck I suspect and there were others in it that were trying to do something otherwise. There is nothing wrong with making a buck.

A: Why did the Bicentennial occur? What was its importance?

J: Because two hundred years had passed since 1776. You should realize that a whole lot of Americana has developed around the hundreth anniversary in Philidelphia of the spirit of 1776. Even those little figures, the spirit of 1776 have made the mark of American patriotism ever since that was a product of 1876 not 1776. The spirit of '76 was painted by an Ohioan. The original of

it is in the Cleveland City Hall. That was 1876 that it was painted, not 1776. This was another hundred years.

A: Do you feel as if you are a strong patriot because of your activities in the Bicentennial or was this a way to show your patriotism or did you just jump on the band-wagon?

J: Oh, I think that I just jumped on the band-wagon. I am well aware of Johnson's definition of what a patriot is. I think basically I would like to do something like that and basically somebody in the county commissioners, somebody in council thought I might be the guy to do it. Judge Woodside presided at the 1953 state Sesquicentennial and I had been on that commission and as a matter of fact I had been one of the four pioneers that led at that time with a raccoon skin cap and so forth. We walked from South Avenue bridge to Federal Street and up through West Federal High and it was a tremendously hot day, but anyway that parade was a great parade and I suspect the part that I played in the commission when the commissioner and city council were figuring out something to do for the Bicentennial...The whole national publicity that was coming in for it. That is when they turned to me. The other reason possibly is that my family had played a little historical part. As a matter of fact my grandfather was county commissioner when the courthouse was moved to Youngstown and on behalf of the county commissioner he gave \$10, it is recorded, for the new courthouse, which had been built by public subscription, right across from where the First Presbyterian Church is. He gave \$10 for that. He was county commissioner at the time and was in the party that moved the records from Canfield to Youngstown. So much so that he ran for office after that and got a total of "no vote" in Canfield township.

A: Why did you do it?

J: Why did I do it? Oh, I just wanted to do it that is all.

A: Was it anything personal or was it just something that you thought would be interesting? Or did you feel some kind of inner feeling, some kind of connection with that time period? I mean you have a love for history, did that play a role...Your mother's last name was Clingan and based on the Articles of Confederation, did that have something to do with it?

J: Oh, think so, yes. I think I am interested in American history. I don't know of any other reason other than that I have always enjoyed working with people and I was always kind of a peanut politician if you know what I mean.

- A: What is a peanut politician?
- J: Oh, a guy that kind of likes to get out and associate with people, and meet different people.
- A: Do you feel that with what you did for the Bicentennial was significant or was it just a flash in the pan, "It is over and people will forget about it?" Or do you think that it had a lasting effect?
- J: Oh, I think that those events have a lasting effect on society. All you had to do was watch the parade to find a parade of the Bicentennial and see how people came to watch it and see how some people got into it that you never thought would, and to realize how deep in American pyshe, mind is the love of the country. Well, you have all the talk about that there shouldn't be any laws against burning the American flag. The laws against the burning of the American flag are justified by no other reason by just the preserving of the peace. Others in our society do actual performances, knocking off who ever burned them. So, there is a justification for the burning of the flag that goes beyond the any theory of about the freedom of people. To my mind anyway.
- A: If you had to sum up the Bicentennial in a phrase or a paragraph or a few words, what was the Bicentennial and what did it mean to you in the city?
- J: Well, it means that there are times when any civilized person should take stock on why and how is their country, the why and how and stop and consider it instead of plunging ahead day to day with a nonchalant that might be to fast.
- A: Do you have anything else to say about the Bicentennial?
- J: No, I don't.
- A: Well, thank you very much for the interview.

END OF INTERVIEW