

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

History of Niles Project

Life Experiences

O. H. 756

ALBERT L. VERHOSEK

Interviewed

by

Stephen Papalas

on

February 20, 1986

ALBERT L. VERHOSEK

Mr. Albert L. Verhosek was born at Crabtree, Pennsylvania on September 8, 1918. After moving to Niles, Ohio he married the former Rosella Riley and they made their home at 334 Smith Street, in that city.

Verhosek, the son of Anthony and Genevieve Blatnik Verhosek, worked in various Niles mills before joining the U. S. Army on October 15, 1940. While at Camp Shelby, during his first year in the service, Verhosek completed his high school education. He was honorably discharged from the Army for medical reasons on October 30, 1944.

In 1945, he got a job working for U. S. Steel in McDonald where he was employed until his retirement in 1977. Upon his return in 1944, Verhosek became a political activist for the local Democratic party. Serving as a precinct committeeman, he also organized various political rallies for democratic candidates.

After the war, the Niles Veterans Organization was formed. This group was composed of war veterans whose goals ranged from obtaining adequate housing and jobs to returning and properly burying their dead comrades. Verhosek was one of the organizers of this organization.

Verhosek's memory was quite clear in recalling the Great Depression, as well as various political campaigns and candidates, in Niles. He vividly described the difficulties brought on by the Depression, including lost jobs and food lines. He also described his experiences with Law Director Mitchell Shaker, now a Common Pleas judge, former mayors, and city councilmen.

Verhosek, a member of St. Stephen's Church, is a member of VFW Post 2074, the Moose, Amvets Post #106, and the 37th Division of World War II. He resides with his wife at the address mentioned above and enjoys bowling, golf, hiking, and reading. He also counsels youth against the use of drugs, alcoholic beverages, and tobaccos.

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INTERVIEWEE: ALBERT L. VERHOSEK

INTERVIEWER: Stephen Papalas

SUBJECT: school, food lines, politics, Great Depression,
World War II, various mayors, activist, veteran

DATE: February 20, 1986

P: This is an interview with Albert L. Verhosek for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program conducted at the Niles McKinley Memorial Library, on February 20, 1986. The interviewer is Stephen Papalas. The topic is the history of Niles.

Al, can you tell me first of all about your family's background? Where did your ancestors come from?

V: My mother and father and all of my ancestors came from what is known after World War I as Yugoslavia. I was of Slovenian descent. They migrated to New York and, of course, settled in Pennsylvania because mother had an uncle, William Rock, located in Latrobe, Pennsylvania. They got out of Europe in order to enjoy the freedom of the country and to have a new start in life. I was one of nine children. My father was a coal miner and mother was always a hardworking person, good mother, good provider. It was tough living in adverse conditions, nothing modern. It was a typical coal miner's village. Then we moved to Niles, Ohio because there was greater opportunity here in Ohio. I was at about the age of grade school. I went to the first grade at Jefferson School. I attended public schools and we settled on the east side of Niles.

P: What street?

V: Our first street was Baldwin Avenue. We didn't have the money to buy a home so we rented. So we lived on various streets like Pratt, Grant, and Wood Street, Mahoning Street. My brother, Ed, got hired by the Warner Theater and I went to work there at a young age--twelve, thirteen years old--as an usher. Brother Ed learned how to paint under a very fine artist. That is where he got his start as a professional painter.

P: What is the name of his business today?

V: Murphy's Signs.

P: How many brothers and sisters do you have?

V: Today I just have Ed and my two sisters left. The rest of them are deceased.

P: How many were in your family?

V: There were nine of us. We survived. We ate simple food because everybody had a garden in those days. We got along pretty good. Mother and father brought us up alright, clothed us, took advantage of the educational facilities in Niles. There weren't buses in those days; we walked to school, two, three, four miles a day one way.

P: What are your earliest recollections about the Depression? Do you remember much about it? How did it affect you?

V: In my teenage years . . . I have to go back to the Hoover days when Herbert Hoover was president. In the election of 1932 Franklin Delano Roosevelt, then the governor of New York, ran for president and he won; he won big. Those are my fondest recollections of the Depression of Franklin Delano Roosevelt and what he did to save our free enterprise system. Talking about 1932 I remember that well. Then 1936 . . . There wasn't a heck of a lot of employment in private industry, but I did find a job down at the Niles Steel Products.

President Roosevelt got reelected in 1936. In 1939 I got a job-- my brother Rudy and I--at the Ravenna Arsenal. At that time it was just a vast wilderness of nothing. It was just a green field, swamps, and everything. The Ravenna Arsenal, while I worked there, later became the ammunition storage area under Army supervision, of course. That is the last I remember of the Ravenna Arsenal until I came back from overseas from World War II. Then I saw what a vast complex community it became. That leads us right up to my entry in the service.

During the Depression . . . it had an impact on my thinking. I really don't know how to answer that question except that it was tough. It was tough and people were much more friendlier then. Of course, they were more helpful in those days. Nobody had anything, but at least they shared with others. Of course, we were active in our church too, the St. Stephen's Church.

P: What role did the church play?

V: In commenting on the activities by the priest at that time, Father John Roach and Father Taylor, they took a great interest in our activities, molding our spiritual life.

P: What kind of activities did they have?

V: They had recreational activities for one, like roller skating, ice skating, hiking, and little bazaars held on the church grounds or the school gym. Mother always saw to it that we attended all of these other catechism sessions in the church.

P: What were holidays like during the Depression, Christmas, Easter?

V: They were great days to look forward to, great, festive days, all of those you just mentioned. Naturally being young and youthful then at that time, why, it was a great event; it was really exciting. There weren't any great exchanges of gifts in those days because you just didn't have it; that's all.

P: Do you remember bread lines, soup lines, anything like that?

V: Yes. I remember them down here on State Street. They had soup lines.

P: If I were on State Street today, where would have that been at?

V: You know where the city parking lot is and where the Warner Theater used to be and where the old liquor store used to be . . .

P: Across the street from the fire department?

V: Right, right in there.

P: How busy were these lines? What was it like? What do you remember? If you were walking past, what would you see there?

V: On the outside clear out on the sidewalk I would probably see about sixty, seventy, eighty people.

P: All of them out of work?

V: Yes. I suppose there were a lot of transients too who obviously were hungry.

P: Would they receive the food right there as they stood in line or did they give them certificates? How did they work that out?

V: They gave them parcels of food, mostly bread, flour, mounds of food stuff.

P: Where did the food come from?

V: They had some hot soup lines too, yes.

P: Who ran these soup lines?

- V: It must have been some relief association organization but I can't recall. It might have been some government organization in cooperation with some civic organization.
- P: Did you remember a lady named Mrs. Olla Gambridge?
- V: Yes. Mrs. Gambridge was with the American Red Cross.
- P: What role did she play in some of this?
- V: She had a lot to say about it. She determined who was in need.
- P: Was she always fair?
- V: I would have to say so.
- P: Who were some of the mayors at that time, do you remember?
- V: I remember E. C. Ferguson, William Carney. William Carney is the uncle to Fred Carney from Niles Daily Times. Of course, later on there was Elmer Fisher, Edward Lenney, Ray Hubbard.
- P: What did Ferguson and Carney do during the Depression? Did they help alleviate things?
- V: Yes. I would say that of them all Bill Carney was probably the most outstanding. He was a real go-getter. He not only participated in city council meetings, but he was a very active mayor. He worked on the hand mills at the old Mahoning Valley Steel Company. Yes, he was a goer.
- P: What kind of guy was he?
- V: He was a tough Irishman.
- P: Was he a big man?
- V: Tall, slender, and ready for a fight any time. He was a very interesting person to know.
- P: In reading some of the old newspapers it seems that he had a problem with a couple of the councilmen. Was there some sort of an organized effort to stymie Carney's progress as mayor on the part of some council members?
- V: There was probably one that I know of.
- P: Who was that, Holmes? Was it Holmes? I have read about it. It is public record. What was the problem? Why did they argue so much?
- V: I was never able to ascertain that, really. I would have to go along with it as well as I used to know Bill and not the

other guy.

P: Mr. Holmes.

V: I would have to go with Bill Carney because I knew him better. To me he was a good, communitywide Christian. They are both deceased now. God rest their souls. I wouldn't take anything away from Mr. Holmes either because he was a very aggressive councilman. He ran for mayor I think one time.

P: Would you say they just had a different philosophy on running things?

V: I would say yes.

P: They both meant well.

V: Good answer.

P: Can you remember any of Carney's activities during the Depression?

V: I know this; he was on top of everything. He even went with the firemen to help them fight fires. There was that old grist mill fire down over the hill on the banks of Mosquito Creek there. To pinpoint anything at that time, I can't.

You see these lights here. They can be credited to Mayor Ed Lenney. This will stand out more in my mind than going back when I was fifteen, eighteen years old.

P: How would you compare Carney with Lenney?

V: Let me put it this way; Bill Carney was the right man for mayor at the right time, the era. In that particular era Carney was the right man for the right time whereas Lenney was the right man to come along. Niles was beginning to open up quite a bit. There was more opportunity, more employment. Lenney was a good man to get along with.

P: Mitchell Shaker says the same thing about him.

Al, is there anything else you can tell me about the Depression before we move onto the Second World War?

V: A good thought would be that I think we became better citizens. We appreciated the little things in life. I know that the younger generation takes the position of not knowing anything about it and caring less. I think that sometimes we fail to appreciate any of the God-given rights that we have been given. By golly, I think I am a better man today as a result of that. I have never forgotten the struggles and the sacrifices of my parents that they gave. It meant so much to me later on in life, just as I owe it to my teachers, Miss Duer, A. I. Smith,

Sam Bonam; they were great people. Those teachers were firm but they were fair. They made sure that you learned the lessons.

P: When you were at school, who were some of your best friends there?

V: People like Johnny Belcastro. Johnny has been gone from Niles for a long, long time now, ever since he came out of school. Today he is the regional manager or quite an executive at IBM in Boulder, Colorado. Rocky Sandy was an outstanding football player; we palled around together. There was Johnny Traxler and others who I can't think of right now.

P: On the eve of the war why did you volunteer for the Army?

V: President Roosevelt organized a selective service. There was a group of us from Niles who were the first to join. Of course, when we signed up, we also volunteered at the same time. We were among the first batch to leave Niles, so to speak, under the selective service law of October 15, 1940. It just so happened that the camps down south were not ready. One night after we passed our physical exams here, preliminary under Dr. Bloom I think it was, we were put on a bus one night right in front of the McKinley Memorial. We wound up at the Cleveland Armory in Cleveland, Ohio. There we went through physical examinations. Some were rejected and others were successful. We became 1A. The same night, January 30, 1941, we were put on a troop train and we wound up three days later in Camp Shelby, Mississippi.

I saw the danger of Nazism then because I read up quite a bit. I saw the threat of Hitler. There was Mussolini, Hirohito, and the rise of the Japanese.

P: You read all of this in the papers?

V: Oh, yes, and listening to radio broadcasts.

P: Right at your home, you just had a paper delivered right at your house?

V: Yes. Most of it I used to read right here in the McKinley Memorial Library.

P: Why was that? Why didn't you just read it at home?

V: I don't know. It was a good place not to idle your time but to read, read other books in addition to the current news, newspapers laying on the tables in the library. It was a good place to come to, not to kill time, but to learn something. I did a lot of studying about this, about this threat on the horizon and I wanted to do my part; that is why I volunteered.

- P: You felt that war was coming then?
- V: Of course, none of us knew really up until the time.
- P: Al, what time after the war in 1945 did you become involved in politics? I have read in old newspapers, for example, that the Niles Council of Veterans organization was established somewhere around 1946 when I began to read about it. Was it at that point that you got involved?
- V: Yes. I would say yes. The veterans coming back also became involved. There was a shortage of housing in this town and throughout the valley. There were other problems facing the veterans, readjustment. One of the primary names that I have to come up with is a fellow by the name of Edward Scarnechia. He and myself and a few others got together and we met in the old labor hall down on State Street. We decided to form some kind of a veterans organization in behalf of the veterans of World War II. The idea caught on real good. We set up and established a constitution of by-lines, rules, and order, the Ohio Veterans of World War II of Niles. We established a preamble and a constitution. All of that was done right here in one of these rooms in the McKinley Memorial. We were dedicated to the idea that veterans were home now--those who came back home. We were dedicated to the idea of jobs for veterans, housing for veterans, civil service exams. We brought our problems not only to the city council or mayor but also to Governor Frank Lausche at the time, later on Governor Thomas Herbert. I got active in city affairs. I was very much interested in city affairs. I was interested in getting vets to run for city office.
- P: At this point you say that eventually people got interested in politics. I have noticed from reading in the papers that it seems before the war there wasn't so much activity politically on the eve of elections. After the war, many people, particularly yourself included, became very active. There were rallies, the union and labor hall. What brought this on? Why such a difference after the war as opposed to before the war?
- V: I really can't pinpoint it really; I really can't put a finger on it. It just so happened that it seemed to be an era of doing something and getting results. Why it happened at that particular time, why you happened to make a comparison of what it was before, I think we matured and possessed civic pride. Sure, we not only had rallies at McKinley Memorial here but we also had it at labor hall. We also injected patriotism in the Memorial Day parade. We had big parades then. There were 5,000 people one year. I remember a lot of good names. There were Colonel Holloway. I remember Mitchell Shaker being involved, Dr. N. J. Altiero, Bill Hart, Ray Sanfrey, James Parise, George Krok, Jack Hubbard, Ed Liebert, Pete Daley, John Baldwin, Warren White, Cleo Joseph, Dave Krok. Don Wilson was the commander; I was the adjutant and Eddy Sloan was vice-commander.

P: It seems that you had a lot of political rallies at labor hall.

V: Yes.

P: Where was labor hall at?

V: It was upstairs up on the second floor of what used to be the Western Union automotive store.

P: What's there today?

V: Nothing. That is where your roadway travels down Utlak Drive going down to safety complex building.

P: That is Utlak Drive there today?

V: Yes. All of this was right along the banks of Mosquito Creek. The front was on State Street but you looked out the window of the backside and you were looking down on Mosquito Creek. That was some of the more poignant activities.

P: The newspaper on October 6, 1947 announced that you and a man named James McMullen were cochairmen of a committee to play a concert here at the McKinley Memorial and the proceeds of this concert were to go to the disabled veterans fund of the Niles Council of Veterans. How successful was that?

V: It was successful, but not overwhelming. The participation wasn't all that great if I can recall correctly. I do remember Jim McMullen; he was a very outstanding person from the American Legion.

P: In 1948 it seems that you lived at 15 East Second Street and you became the democratic precinct committeeman for Niles 4A.

V: Yes, the south side. At that time I was also elected to Trumbull County Central Executive Committee.

P: What possessed you to get involved?

V: I always was civic-minded all my life, ever since I was a little boy. I never aspired to any political office. It is just that I joined with others or initiated some kind of activity, action towards a cause. It was always in the best interest of the people. I was always for the underdogs, so to speak.

P: What can you tell me about the Young Democrats? You were a member of it.

V: Yes.

P: What was it like? What was their purpose? Who was involved?

V: Out of practically nothing, I got together with a few people and organized the Young Democrats of Niles. We worked with the groups in Trumbull County. The Young Democrats was something to arouse the interest of young people to get involved in their community underlined by democratic ideals. From there you moved. You moved according to the ways you set up the constitution and preamble and so forth. I think I headed it up three, five years and then I stepped down and Bill Hart became chairman.

One of the significant things that a group of us insisted on in there was that no political person or no officer shall be aspiring to any political office. We wanted to have that independence. It wasn't fair to use the organization to become politically aspired to run for office. I see a lot of that going on today and it ruins an organization.

Another significant thing that I insisted upon when I was chairman was that both men and women--both sexes--be equal in membership. I was for mixing, co-mix, male and female. I remember names like Kathryn Lininger; she was a secretary. I remember Lena Gross; I remember Harriet Quinn, Adella Compana, people like that. Yes, they were people in charge, not only committees, but they were treated as equals.

P: Within the Young Democrats?

V: Yes. Forty-some years ago we were pretty young then. We were in our twenties; today we are in our sixties.

P: Today they have both the women's club and the men's democratic club separate. Did that happen after your time?

V: Oh, yes. A certain man came by and he split it.

P: Why was it split?

V: I'm not sure.

P: 1948, that was the year Violet Compana was reelected to take the place of her husband Peter, and Dr. Michael Christo was nominated for county coroner.

V: Right.

P: Some of the old veterans in politics said that that was the toughest, hardest fought election of any kind in the history of Trumbull County. Why?

V: 1948, it was a very considered effort by the Republican party. They put up some staunch candidates for the election. I don't remember who they were. I helped to bring Democrat Frank Lausche into Niles. Along with the county chairman we traveled from

Warren into Niles. I remember heading up a program at the old Bagnoli Hall on Mason Street at which time I told Violet Compagna . . . She wanted to run for Trumbull County Clerk of Courts after her husband Pete had expired in Columbus. I do remember Joe Baldine running for sheriff and Mike Baldine who later became state representative and PUCO chairman . . . As chairman of the Young Democrats, I found a lot of people knocking on my door. I told Violet that she was going to win big. She has been reelected many times since then.

P: Do you think it was at this point in time that the Republican party was attempting to reprove its loss, regain its loss, in 1948?

V: Absolutely. I think they ran Thomas Herbert against Frank Lausche. Lausche came back to beat him the second time for governor. He ran for United States Senate following his term as governor.

P: What was Lenney like? He soon comes into the picture. What can you tell me about him? You mentioned that you might have had some influence on his decision to become a democrat.

V: Yes, Ed Lenney and Pat Sullivan. When I was active in the Young Democrats, I signed them up into the Young Democratic Club.

P: Lenney?

V: Oh, yes. We used to sit down at the old parkway down on East Park Avenue down there next to Paul's men's store. We would have coffee after the meeting and converse.

Hubbard was mayor. Homer Thomas was city auditor. "Pat, you run for city auditor. Homer is a very sick man. Even if you don't win, you are going to get your name up there. People will know you." It was a very close election. There is always one perennial candidate who is always running for something. I didn't think he should have been on our ticket as councilman at large.

P: Who was it?

V: Jimmy Lapolla. Tony Reigle for mayor, Ed Lenney for president of council, Pat Sullivan for city auditor, those were the three, prime candidates. Later on in 1949, entered Mitchell Shaker. We met around January 30, 1949 at Spanelli's Tavern. Tony Reigle and I and Sam Danes asked Mitch Shaker to run for city solicitor against the republican candidate Paul Moritz.

Getting back to the other two, Lenney and Pat Sullivan, two, good public servants. It was then that we really got behind both of them. Pat lost; Lenney won. I think Pat lost by maybe ninety or one hundred twenty votes. It was real close. It wasn't three or four months later, several months later, that

Homer Thomas died. In the meantime Mayor Ray Hubbard died. It was Ed Lenney who succeeded, moved up. When he was in there for mayor, he appointed Pat Sullivan as his successor to fill the unexpired term.

P: Mayor Hubbard died. Lenney took Hubbard's place, right?

V: Yes.

P: Lenney was president of council; he took Hubbard's place. Then Lenney appointed Pat Sullivan to what position?

V: City auditor.

P: City auditor when Homer Thomas died.

V: Right.

P: At what point does Mitchell Shaker enter the picture?

V: Mitch was in there for about sixteen years.

P: Off and on he was in there.

V: Yes.

P: How did he become known enough to run for office?

V: He did appear before various fraternal groups and labor unions. With all of those mills working there were some pretty strong locals, USA-CIO in this town. I remember seeing him many times up at the steelworker's hall there. It was then that his name was projected and he won. He filled in for judge occasionally down here at the municipal court where it was then located.

P: How did he impress you as law director in those early years?

V: Very efficient. I can't take anything away from the guy. He was very good, yes. He was the type of a person who I would rather be on his side of the table than on the other side of the table. When he hammered away, boy, he was out to win. He was a very fluent type of attorney.

P: He could speak well?

V: Yes.

P: Did you know his parents?

V: Yes, I did.

P: Who were they?

- V: Isaac and Sophia Shaker. I remember them since I was a little boy. I remember them down here at the Shaker Brothers store. That was a dry goods place.
- P: Sheets, bedding, men's, boy's, women's apparel.
- V: Right there on the corner . . . You know where the bridge is over there downtown, East Park. His place was right on it facing State Street. In the back was the river, Mosquito Creek.
- P: What sort of folks were they?
- V: They were very congenial, good salespersons, very friendly, and very helpful.
- P: How were they helpful? Could you set an example?
- V: During the Depression, these people would charge for clothing. They didn't have any money. Isaac Shaker would put it on their tab. Hopefully, the man would pay it back some day when he got a job. He clothed many a person in this town. I will say that for him; yes, he did.
- P: In the 1950's we have a continuation, starting from way back, of the rackets and so forth. Was it as strong in town as some people tried to insinuate in the newspapers?
- V: They were pretty active; let's put it that way. They cut a lot of influence too. They exercised a lot of influence of who was going to run for political office and who won, who was going to win and so forth. They were like a giant octopus; they had their fingers on everything.
- P: Do you think that died down a little bit now?
- V: To a certain degree.
- P: At what point did that begin to go away?
- V: When they began . . . When the federal bureau and the T-agents and the IRS started cracking down on some of them, some of the big guys--the Cleveland and Pittsburgh mob. It sort of cut some of the tentacles away in Girard, Warren, Niles, Newton Falls.
- P: What years would that be when that started to happen?
- V: I would say back in the 1970's. Back in the 1950's and 1960's they were still powerful. Numbers were wide open; bookies were wide open. A lot of these merchants, before they had this urban development thing go by, didn't mind it at all when the gamblers-- I don't like to call them racketeers--were active here.

- P: Did you ever hear of the effort to begin a hospital drive in Niles?
- V: Yes.
- P: What happened to it?
- V: I remember two names, Webb and Frank Mears. I thought for sure that it was going to go over. They called me in on this too. It was going to be by Stevens Park, up in that area, a hospital. Somehow it never took hold. It didn't attract the right type of people and the people who they would have liked to attract didn't like the people who I just mentioned.
- P: Why?
- V: I don't know. I don't like to reflect on a person's reputation.
- P: Let me ask you this. I have heard from some people that there seems to have been a continuation of the old days when some ethnic groups felt that those who have already settled in Niles were against them; they called them Kluxers. Did this attitude carry forth into this effort?
- V: Not in this particular one. That is news to me. I have never heard of anything like that. What you say has a lot of weight to it.
- P: The ethnic backing?
- V: Yes.
- P: Is this why a man named Reigle and some other people tried to started their own hospital drive? They were going to call it the McKinley Hospital at the same time.
- V: Yes. I remember this vaguely. You are bringing up something now that I have already forgotten about, but I do remember these guys contacting me about it. It never got off the ground floor because there was rebuttal like, "Why do we need a hospital in Niles? You have one in Warren, four miles away, five miles away." There was talk like that.
- P: Who was bringing up this sort of talk?
- V: People who didn't like Frank Mears or this guy Webb. Those are the only two names that I remember.
- P: Kistler was involved too before that.
- V: Harvey Kistler. That is the third name.
- P: As a matter of fact, Kistler was the chairman of the drive as

far as the chamber was concerned.

V: I remember that vaguely. Subsequently, Frank Mears died. I don't know what happened to the other guy. The idea died too. At the time it sounded pretty good. Salem had a hospital. It might have been a good idea but they were a little too ahead of their time. Today you have HMO, HMP; you have branches of health care springing up all over the country now and in Mahoning County too.

P: From this point looking back who would you say was probably the best mayor the town has had?

V: I may be prejudiced but working with him constantly for four years (1980-1983), I would have to go with Joe Cicero. To me he knew figures. He was a pretty fairly successful businessman. He had an adaptability to the situation and he never forgot where he came from, the other side of the tracks. I may be prejudiced but I knew all of these other gentlemen here too. On an intimate relationship I would have to go with Joe Cicero. I was his campaign manager in 1979. He was very sensitive too, you know, extremely sensitive. Many times he felt that nobody was listening to him. A lot of it had to be true because nobody was paying attention to him. I would have to go along with that.

In the four years I was associated with him, four years in office and two years prior to that time, he had a lot of hard decisions to make, especially faced with a 2.8 million default inherited.

P: Yes, he did.

V: The night before Joe Cicero was sworn in in 1980, I got a telephone call. We sponsored a get-together up at Joe's house, lunch, champagne, to celebrate the swearing in ceremonies. I said, "Joe, I got a call. The state of Ohio is going to move in on January 4, 1980." He became very disturbed; he became very angry. "We don't want the state moving in here! We can solve our own problems." He was determined that he was going to solve the problem without the state moving in on a financial crisis. "They are moving in on January 4th." Sure enough, 9:00 a.m. January 4, 1980, they were here.

P: Is there anything else you would like to add for the record?

V: There is one person I didn't mention yet who you mentioned a while ago.

P: In reference to what?

V: I had a lot to say about the history of this town. There are so many persons who have done so much in this town. They just die out and are forgotten.

P: Kistler?

V: No. Tony Reigle. Tony was an outstanding 3rd Ward Councilman. He was also an outstanding personality. The one pitch that he made for mayor he lost to the Hubbard campaign. It wasn't the time for an ethnic to become mayor of this town at that time. It was a close election; it wasn't all that great of a spread. He died at the age of fifty but he would have been an outstanding mayor in this town, in my opinion.

P: Do you think eventually he could have been elected?

V: Yes.

I want to tell you another thing that I was proud of him. He fought the utilities singlehandedly with Ohio Edison. At that time you had lobbyists with pressure on council members.

P: I appreciate you talking very much. I thank you.

V: Thank you, Steve. It was my pleasure.

END OF INTERVIEW