

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Law Enforcement Officers

Ray T. Davis Personal Experiences

Q. H. 249

RAY T. DAVIS

Interviewed

by

John M. Bukovinsky

on

March 4, 1981

## Ray T. Davis

Ray T. Davis, the son of Harry and Anna Davis, was born February 24, 1918, in Youngstown, Ohio. He went to elementary school in Youngstown and graduated from Chaney High School. After graduation he worked at numerous jobs in the area before he served in the Army during World War II. Upon coming home, Davis decided to attend Youngstown College where he graduated in 1948 with a B.S. in B.A. degree.

Davis then decided to enter politics. First, he chose an inauspicious start as secretary to then Mayor of Youngstown, Charles Henderson. When Henderson was defeated in 1943, Davis again bounced around from different jobs waiting for the right political office to run for. He became a city councilman in the late 1950's and in 1960 he decided to run for and won the right to be sheriff of Mahoning County.

During his sixteen years as sheriff Davis had instituted many things that are still in use today: The establishment of a reserve unit, taking part in drug seminars, speaking to and helping youth groups, and putting his personnel into uniforms, to name a few.

Since his defeat in the June 1976 primary to Paul Grimmes, Davis has not attempted to run for public office, but still remains active in the Republican party and lives in the Youngstown area.

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INTERVIEWEE: RAY T. DAVIS

INTERVIEWER: John M. Bukovinsky

SUBJECT: His 16 years as sheriff of Mahoning County,  
Political campaigns, Mayor Henderson Adminis-  
tration, His view of other fellow politicians

DATE: March 4, 1981

B: This is an interview with former Mahoning County Sheriff Ray T. Davis for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program on Law Enforcement Officers. This interview is conducted by John Bukovinsky at the interviewee's home on March 4, 1981, at 10:00 a.m.

Mr. Davis what do you remember about your parents and family?

D: Surprisingly, not a whole lot. I do remember I was born and raised on the West Side. I attended Washington School and Chaney High School. Then I didn't go directly to college, I went to Youngstown University after I served my time in the service. I went on the GI Bill of Rights. My earlier life was enjoyable. We went through the Depression, but dad always managed to provide for us. He was a good provider.

The times weren't like they are today. You knew everybody then. You spent more time together. I guess that's because of television. Television has hurt us as far as being a good neighbor, if you're friends with the neighborhood.

B: What was it like in Youngstown in the 1930's?

D: In the 1930's I was in high school and sort of an innocent type of person. I didn't know what the cruel world was all about. I graduated from Chaney in 1936. The

main thing our parents taught about was mostly security. As a matter of fact, as I can recall, my mother said, "Get a job as a mill man. You'll be sure and have security all your life." That's about as far ahead as they thought.

B: When you said you were in the service, what branch?

D: I was an infantry paratrooper. I volunteered. I was an air cadet for thirty days. I was married. I was married a few years and had a daughter a year old. I joined the Air Cadets, but I had a defective finger on my left hand, my index finger, I had cut it as a kid. I was rejected, then I came out and shortly after that I was drafted.

I went into the infantry. I was going to go into the paratroopers when I was instructing in training camp and that's when I lost my hand.

B: When you came back, how did you link up with Mayor Henderson?

D: When I came back I didn't go into shock from my problem of losing my hand until I got out of the service. It was rough. You don't know which way to go.

Just by chance my wife, child, and I lived with a fellow by the name of Earl Hoffman. Earl was a city detective. He's a very good friend of Charlie Watson, who was a trustee of Youngstown State University. On Saturdays we used to go out to their farm and I got to know Charlie quite well. He put me to work at his plant, Youngstown Welding, and he wouldn't let me do anything. All he would let me do is collect my pay. That lasted about a couple weeks and I told him I just couldn't live like that. I had to earn my own way.

He suggested I go to college and that's how I got to the university, through Charles.

Then from there, to answer your question, just the year I graduated I heard about the opening as executive secretary to Mayor Henderson. Clyde Osborne had the job. You know Clyde now is the Common Pleas Judge. Just before he took the job as secretary to the mayor, he was a graduate from college and he was a reporter for the Vindicator. He took a job as secretary to the mayor at the same time he was going to law school.

I was secretary for three and one half years and he was two and one half. After two and one half years he passed the Bar and he went into the practice of law. I took

Clyde's place.

B: What sort of relationship did you have with Mayor Henderson?

D: Everyone has a good relationship with the mayor, the judge. He's just one beautiful person. He's probably the most honest person I've ever met in my life. He ran the city of Youngstown like it was his own business right down to the pennies. He was great. I think he was the best mayor that I've ever known.

B: As secretary to him what were your duties?

D: They were pretty much the same. We would do the hiring, firing, and interviewing. Just everything that he couldn't do. Politically, when he wasn't available, it was the secretary's job to go out and take his place and give speeches and represent him at whatever the problem was or whatever the principle was.

B: What did his administration and his police department under Chief Allen accomplish in the way of reforms?

D: As you know and as everyone knows we've had the same police department for the last forty years. Our police department has had national publicity. It's been the best and it hasn't been so good, but it's always the same men. You had to give that credit to the mayor who hires the chief that does the job. He appointed Allen. Allen was sergeant in the police department in Erie, FBI trained.

He came down and Henderson gave him a free hand. I guess that's the important thing, to get an honest man and give him a free hand. That's what Henderson did. They just turned that department completely around.

B: In what way?

D: The police department was loose, they would overlook a lot of things. Under that administration, they wouldn't stand for anything that was wrong. They just went out and cleaned up. They went out and "bust racket rulers" was the slogan and that's exactly what they did.

B: Why do you think he was defeated in 1955?

D: That's very simple, the apathy of the people. He lost by three votes a precinct. Just as a spot check, we checked a few dozen precincts and we talked to about ten, twelve, fifty, or twenty people that said, "Oh, he has a shoe in. We won't bother to go and vote." They didn't vote and like I say, he lost by three, three votes a precinct.

B: After he was defeated, what effect did this have on you and your political career?

D: I, of course, had to go and get a job elsewhere, which wasn't too much of a problem. There were a lot of opportunities. Chuck had interceded for me on several occasions. I had no problems at all.

I liked politics. I wasn't thinking about it as really a career, although I was there for three and one half years. I always liked to help people, serve people. It gets in your blood. It got in my blood.

I think I got out of there in 1953 and then I was a committeeman and was on the executive committee. I wanted to start back again, I guess I did like that order, so I ran for councilman. I was elected to council in 1957. I served two terms, a term and one half. Then I ran for mayor. They were constantly after me to run for office. Not being a two party system in Mahoning County, we had two parties, but it was so unbalanced that we really didn't have to call it a two party system. Whenever an election would come up they would want me to run for an office. I couldn't see the point in running and not winning so I just waited my opportunity to what I thought was a job to be taken. That was as sheriff. I ran for sheriff in 1960.

B: That's your reason then for running for sheriff? I mean what were your particular reasons?

D: My reasons were that it was a job that you could take and it was a job that you could improve on. I thought that the incumbent sheriff and the past sheriffs weren't doing the job. There was a lot to be desired. Like I say, I liked our community. I like to help people and do things for the area. I thought that was a fun place where I could really go in and do a good job.

B: What was the transition like between Sheriff Langley's administration and yours?

D: It was horrible. We took office and we wanted to go in there six weeks before we took office, but they wouldn't permit us to go into the department. We didn't get in there until December 31, midnight. When we walked in there was one man there and all the keys were on the desk. He got up and walked out and left us with a bunch of keys, which we didn't know what they were, what door they fit or anything else. We had a hard time. We had our men that we were going to run the job with us, plus about fifty friends that came in to help us take care of things until we got it organized.

B: What kind of change did you make?

D: Oh, we made all kinds of changes. We renovated the jail. We changed the whole system. We put the sheriffs in uniform. They had no uniforms before that. They would have a traffic hat, traffic shirt, and maybe a pair of pants, no standard uniform. Very few departments wore any uniforms. They wore plain clothes. That's when we, at the same time, adopted the standard uniform law for sheriffs. We put everybody in uniform.

B: How did you go about collecting the personnel?

D: We did that the month before we took office. After we were elected we started looking around for people. Of course, there you look for qualified people, people that are interested in the job. Of course, there are a lot of people you have to consider because they helped you get elected. We had meeting after meeting. We met every day and every night for a long, long time picking our people and making sure we didn't promise too many jobs.

Then we, for the complete month of December, conducted a training program. We had city policemen. Tony Ross, who was a city policeman at the time, conducted our traffic. We had our own seminars and our own training programs. In office we had pretty good training, and we continued our training after that from the FBI seminars, the state highway patrol seminars, and whatever schools we could send our people to to educate themselves.

B: When you took over in the early 1960's, Youngstown was in midst of a wholesale bombing. As sheriff what do you remember about this?

D: I do remember it was pretty well controlled by rackets. The first thing we did was to eliminate all the slot machines. We went to every place in the city and the county and we confiscated several hundred expensive slot machines. As a matter of fact, we had a truck full. We took them down to the city water department and smashed them and burned them. That was the beginning.

Then we conducted many, many raids on the gambling and vice. We established a hot line with the city of Youngstown Police Department. By telling them what the problem was and asking them to go with us, we would never go into another department's jurisdiction without telling them we were coming or asking them for their assistance. We did that and we arrested and closed up many gambling places.

- B: Do you remember anything about the bombings? Did you work on any of the cases or anything?
- D: Yes, most of them, or I would say all of them that were in Youngstown. We worked with them. We let them conduct the investigation. We just worked with them until it was going on and offered our assistance or help in any way we could.
- B: When somebody was arrested in the 1960's, what kind of procedures did your deputies have to go through? What was the process like?
- D: The process is the same everywhere. If you arrest someone, you get a warrant to go to the place to search whatever you're looking for. If you find evidence, you just arrest them, take them down, and charge them. Then after they're in jail, they're arranged.
- B: Did it change much after the Miranda in 1966?
- D: Oh, sure. That was one problem police departments had. It got down to the point that the policeman was almost afraid to make an arrest or make a search and seizure because they would turn right around and file a law suit against him.
- B: Would you say your job was like a 24 hour a day job? Were you always on call?
- D: I made it a 24 hour job, seven days a week. We worked around the clock on the job, plus it's a political job. You have to be elected before you can do a job. Of course, you have to devote time to the general public. I would work twelve hours a day and go out and campaign another eight hours and attend different affairs. In between that, I have a radio in my car. If there were any problems I would go right from where I was to wherever the problem was. The first couple years I was up day and night. I was even working traffic accidents just to make sure that it was done right and help them with any problems.
- B: What were they?
- D: When I get a call on the radio, say a traffic accident, I would go directly there and supervise. The same thing with criminal work. I would hear it on the radio and I would go there just to make sure it was handled properly.
- B: What did you expect of the people in the way of work?
- D: You know one bad problem we had is I got too close to my



people. They were all trained and taught to do the job and they did it well, but I didn't have the fear of God in them. As far as I was concerned, I was more of a brother or a very good friend. At times, they would let you down and you would have to straighten them out.

B: Were there many jail breaks?

D: Well, there weren't, not for the condition of the jail there weren't. There were a lot of jail breaks and they still have jail breaks. First of all, it's not an escape-proof jail.

If you recall when we ran the office, the only time that we were in trouble was our problem in the jail simply because we were undermanned. We ran the jail with a dispatcher, a jailer, a sergeant to assist the jail, and three people. There are three floors. They have three at the desk and one on each floor. Our problem was we had one jailer to make the rounds. He had to make the rounds on three floors. In between that time, they would escape or attempt to escape. It wasn't because we weren't doing the job, it was because we were undermanned. Even after that, when the others came, the courts insisted that we have more people, the same thing happened. There are no bars on the windows. I've never seen a jail in my life that didn't have any bars on it, all it had was screens. They weren't reinforced concrete walls. They were just cement block walls with mortar that was half sand that they could dig through with a pencil. They could pick the locks. You wouldn't believe how easily they could pick those locks.

B: What type of relationship did you have with the news?

D: I think I had a better relationship with the media than any other officeholder simply because I didn't try to hide anything from them. I stayed with them. Whenever I thought I had something, I let them know. They wouldn't have to dig for it. If we did something that didn't come out exactly right, I still would tell them so they would know and could decide if it was news or not. We didn't try to hide anything. As a result, they appreciated that. We had good rapport with the news.

B: How about with other police departments?

D: I think that's one thing I would say that stood out in our department. When we took office there was no good relationship with any police department in Mahoning Valley. We established that. We used to have monthly meetings with them and just sit down and go over our problems and establish jurisdiction and how we were going to work together. They appreciated that.

B: Was it hard to cover the entire Mahoning county?

D: It was very hard. That was one of the reasons, maybe it was a selfish reason why we did it. As you know, the sheriff's department is the chief law enforcement office in the state of Ohio. We're over everyone. We knew, at least I knew and the other sheriff did too, there was a lot of jealousy. A lot of people didn't work together. I knew the state highway had an excellent, very highly trained traffic department. The first thing that I did was sit down with them and make ground rules. The way we worked it was that whoever got to the accident first would handle the accident or problem, whatever it happened to be. The second department, be it us or them, would handle the congestion that was caused by the problem. That way, rather than go there and say get out of here, we are going to handle this, we just didn't do that.

We worked together. That would double your force by working together, you had twice as many people. The same on criminal or vice. If it was in the city of Youngstown, or Struthers, or Campbell, or wherever, you would have a police department. We would work with them. If we heard something in the city of Youngstown, we would immediately call the chief of police and tell him. We would say, "Now this is a situation. Would you take care of it? We'll be in to help you." If they wouldn't do it, we wouldn't tell them the second time. We would go in and do it ourselves. Of course, it would be embarrassing. We worked very well with all of them. It was something hard to do because every department has selfish motives. They all visualize headlines making a big bust, making headlines in the paper and on television.

We helped organize the police officers training corps, the crime clinic, and the social clubs of the police department. We got together every month. It worked out really well. We established that we all worked together. You just add more people to your organization when you have all of the departments working with you rather than against you.

B: On the way over here I heard that in New York City they have vigilante groups helping the police department. Were any a problems with you?

D: No. What I did, and it's still in existence today, was establish the reserve unit. We had more reserves than we had regular people. I insisted that they have the same training before they could work with us. They would work when somebody would be sick or on vacation or understaffed or undermanned. They averaged 22,000 man hours

a year for us at no cost. It didn't cost us anything. They were successful businessmen. The vice-president of the bank was one of our heads. The owner and president of another business was his assistant. These people just loved this kind of work and this was their hobby. That's what they did for us. We had skid badges, traffic people, and criminal people. Several guys did everything for us. Wherever we needed help they were there. If they had affairs, they cancelled the affair or whatever and came in. That's a lot of help, 22,000 man hours.

B: In the late 1960's, you saw new problems develop. What do you remember about those kinds of problems like, with drugs?

D: I was the first one to realize the drug problem. I used to go make talks at the high schools and grade schools. During my talks I would tell them that there were drugs in their school. They were highly indignant about it. The first thing I did was take one of my captains, I think was a captain at the time, and sent him to Washington, D.C. to the narcotic school. He was the first police officer to attend that school outside of regular narcs. They never took in a police officer before strictly because they were training for their own department. This was federal. He took in very comprehensive schooling. It was a long time, almost thirteen weeks. Whatever it was, it was a pretty long time. He came back with all the knowledge available at that time. We, in addition to other work, took on the drug problems.

B: Did you have any problems with war protesting?

D: The only problem I can remember is that they would show disrespect to the American flag, which would create a problem. We would get a call that they would be up at one of the local resorts, minors up at Arrow Head. One of the fellows was asleep on the American flag. Of course, we had to take care of that. It's still an act of discretion.

B: How about with civil rights like after Martin Luther King's death in 1968?

D: We always had a small problem in the jails especially. The minority people would have organizations that they would try to come in and visit and see that they weren't abused because they were a minority person, which we never did. The biggest problem there was that we didn't have the facilities. The facilities that are there are very bad. There would be times that there would be

segregation, but it wasn't done because they were different races or different colors. No, we really didn't. Towards the end, and a matter of fact right now, I have a law suit from some employee saying that I didn't give her an equal opportunity. She's asking for a difference in pay between what she made and what a deputy made. She said she should have received deputy wages, but she wasn't a deputy, she was a dispatcher. They wore uniforms strictly for prestige, it wasn't because they did the job the deputy did. It was just for the appearance and prestige and for the fact that they wanted to have a badge and they wanted to carry a gun. Being the type of person I am, that's what I did for them. No, they didn't do a deputy's work. The closest they came to a deputy's work was the matrons. Of course, they were paid more money than the other girls.

B: What I was referring to mostly was the rise in the city of Youngstown in 1968. Did your office help the Youngstown Police Department in that?

D: I think the biggest one was the strikes, the stikes with the truckers. We had the problem in the city and we had the problem in the county. In the county there were several truck stops.

In the city they went down and stopped the steel trucks from going and coming out of the steel mills. I think our department and myself actually broke it up after a couple were killed. I think there was a teacher killed and one of the independent haulers were killed or shot. We went down there and broke that up. Like I say, in the city, in the jurisdiction of the Youngstown Police Department, we were next to the police department. They are going to tell you differently. Individually they have outstanding people. The only difference there has ever been in the Youngstown Police Department is the supervision. Like I told you before, we've been the best in the nation and you don't mess with it.

B: In the jail you're running for re-election every two years?

D: Four years.

B: Oh, four years, I'm sorry. What do you remember about the campaign?

D: I enjoyed campaigning. It was a lot of hard work because you already had your regular duties to deal with. You had to do that so you could be elected so you could do your job. That kicked out every night for late hours. You had to go everywhere. Even though it was hard work,

I enjoyed it. It doesn't make sense that you have to campaign to keep a job so you can do the job. Being elected comes first, then after you're elected you can do the job. If you're not elected you can't do the job.

I met a lot of people. I probably know more people in Mahoning County because I worked hard at it. I worked hard to meet people. I didn't even know where Twelfth Street in Campbell was until I went down there the first time. It's a main street in Campbell. Now I can tell you almost everyone down there and where every place and church is at.

B: Did any of them get out of hand during the elections?

D: Our first one I think was the toughest. They were well established. They were the majority party. They had all the clout. They really made it dismal for us. They threatened and harassed our workers to the point that they were going to beat them up. They completely demolished all of our signs. We replaced them three or four times at a big cost. It was just tough. We would go some place and they wanted to know what you were doing there. As a matter of fact, I went to one affair in Youngstown and one of the opponents was there representing the incumbent sheriff. He got a little physical with me. Right then I had to straighten him out and tell him that we wouldn't stand for it any longer. They do their job and we'll do ours, and let the best man win.

B: Why do you think you were defeated by Paul Harms in the primary?

D: That was apathy too on the part of the people and really stupidity on my part. I had already spent my budget. I had all my materials and advertising programs all laid out for the fall. I had no programs at all for the primaries because I didn't think it was going to be that hard of a problem. I knew Paul. In fact, Paul is a very good friend of mine. He wasn't a heavy weight. He was a real nice guy that people liked. He told jokes and that type of thing and was well liked by people. I didn't think he was going to be a threat. We didn't do anything. We sat back and spent absolutely no money, although I had already spent \$10,000, but it was set aside for the fall. We weren't even campaigning. My people weren't out campaigning. I wasn't out campaigning. I was just going to the normal Republican functions. Then the have-nots went out and worked and we sat back. He spent at least \$20,000. He went around and put it to good use. He undermined a lot of people in the party. They just

didn't come out and vote. A light Republican primary was \$20,000. That's a light primary, 12,000 voters. You figure there are have-nots who come out. He doesn't have to vote to make a half because he has 200. We both have 6,000 so far. It was a fluke. It was something that never should have happened. As a result, the primary general election showed that. Four years before that I beat Michael Yarosh by 26,000. Four years later he beat me by 26,000. Do you see the votes that I drew from independents and Republicans that Grahms couldn't touch because he just didn't know them? They didn't know him. He was a bad choice. He's a nice guy, but he just didn't know politics and he didn't have a chance. There is no longer a two party system. It's a Democratic machine in action and they just slaughter.

B: Looking back on your sixteen years as sheriff, what do you think were the things that you accomplished?

D: In the sixteen years we eliminated and cut down on the crime. The gambling was nailed. When we went in there was just gambling boards and slot machines all over the place, all types of gambling. We eliminated that. We definitely gave the Mahoning County a police department. They didn't have a police department. The sheriff's department just didn't function. We put cars out on the roads.

In the same respect, we were different in Youngstown. Youngstown, being a larger department and having more personnel, had men that were specialists. Our men did everything. Our cruiser car was a cruiserman. He was a traffic man, did traffic work, civil work, domestics, and criminal. He was trained to do everything. The people gave him a sense of security that they never had before.

Of course you know, we had our youth program where we worked with youth and built all these ball fields and playgrounds, which I was very proud of. We raised a quarter of a million dollars to spend on kids. We built bleachers for two high schools, two basketball courts, and two complete playgrounds, one in Lowellville and one in Maple Ridge over in Sebring. We did a lot for youth. Our theory always was to keep them tired and keep them occupied and they won't be in trouble. How many kids we kept from getting in trouble that's something we don't know, but I would say an awful lot.

B: Do you think then that you left the office better than when you found it?

D: Oh, there's no question about it. Talk to all of your attorneys today who were practicing then, they'll tell you that the rapport that we established with them on the surface of the court paper was out of this world. They just couldn't believe the change over. Talk to people in the county, they'll tell you about the service we gave them that they didn't get then and I don't know if they are getting now. It's hard, offhand to think of the things you did. We turned the jail over completely. We made a cleaner jail, a better jail. We corrected visitation so more people could visit. What we did and what they didn't do before and they aren't doing now, is we housed 20 to 30 or 35 federal prisoners. We charged them per day. I think the last time was about \$15 per day per person. That was income for the county.

We did that being understaffed, being undermanned, and being criticized for not doing the job. We still took in these federal prisoners and housed them. At that time, there were only two in the state of Ohio of county jails who were doing that. Now I don't know if there are any. They were hard criminals; they were tough guys, but we still did it because we felt as though someone had to do it. The federal government needed help so we helped them by taking in the prisoners.

B: Is there anything that you might have done differently?

D: I don't know. It's hard to say. I was always in trouble because of my jail, because I was understaffed. See, in the state statute it says that all the sheriff has to do is maintain the jail and service the papers to the court. Those are the only two things you have to do, which is your jail security and your civil branch. I always went two steps farther. I had a traffic department and a criminal branch. My problem then was, am I going to have four departments or am I going to have two, which is required by law. I thought I would be doing the county a great injustice if I didn't sufficiently man the jail. The service of the courts, we did that okay. I don't know if we handled it perfectly. We undermanned the jail and that's where my problems were. I don't think I would. I still think I honestly tried to budget time.

Like the problems they're having now, they're getting more money for them. I would show them where I needed more money and where I needed more men to do the job. I was always refused. I still would maintain the four departments and run in with the jail understaffed. I still think I would do it the same way, even though it hurt me and I got a lot of bad press as a result of it. I still felt as though I was doing the right thing. I felt as though it was the responsibility of the commissioners to

give me the money to do what I wanted to do.

Budget time has always been a problem. These departments now are screaming that they are undermanned and they're understaffed. I faced that every year for sixteen years and I always managed.

B: What kind of relationship did you have with the commissioners?

D: Of course, when it comes budget time, they had their job to do and I had my job to do. My job was to try to get as much as I could for my department. Their job was to dole out the money where they thought it was distributed equally or evenly among these departments. I always told them that I felt as though there still was a little politics involved, that being Republican and being the only Republican that I got the short end of the stick.

B: What do you think makes it rough for a law enforcement officer?

D: A lot of things. First, there are some who feel they are underpaid and they should make more money. If they are thinking now that they aren't making what they should make, they should leave and seek employment elsewhere, so they will not be corrupted to try to make money on the side.

In law enforcement there are a lot of temptations. You're in a position where you have a job to do and sometimes it involves letting people loose and not being as strict or doing the job the way it should and then say, okay, I'll help you.

Monetarily, there are so many temptations for a law enforcement officer. You have to be a dedicated person to remain a good policeman because it's hard. Fortunately 99 percent are. They can't be tempted even though they probably were placed under temptation many, many times. There's that one percent or whatever, one half percent, or three percent, or whatever it is that can't resist temptation. They will accept bribes for themselves.

B: In what direction do you see law enforcement now taking?

D: It seems to be going in cycles. In the 1960's there was the Esposito-Moran Act, and civil liberties and civil rights were brought up and all that type of thing. There was a period when an officer was almost afraid to do his job. I think it has a lot to do with the supreme courts, who is appointed to the supreme court, a liberal judge or a more conservative judge. The pendulum seems to sway back and forth. I think that the police department is getting back on top of it.



B: Is enforcement getting easier would you say?

D: I would think so, sure. The only problems I think that the government has today, including all departments from the federal on down to the state and county and local, is the money to operate with. Your men are just as good. I tell you, you get good people. You train them well and they turn out to be excellent police officers. The area we're talking about is when they solve a problem they are facing they get out. I've lost a lot of people. As a matter of fact, I would say that 99 percent of them I helped get jobs elsewhere. The time General Motors was opening up a lot of my men left. I got them jobs out there. Of course, they were young guys starting families and they wanted to make more money and with less grief. They left us.

B: Nowadays do you think that people are showing animosity towards the policeman?

D: I don't think so. Before my time the policeman was the boogie man. When we took office we tried to turn that over. I think the policeman is highly respected and admired. I think the people realize the need for them and what a good job they do and what a dangerous job they have. With the salary they make, anything they can get they deserve.

B: Do you think there is anything else that is important that we might not have covered yet?

D: We talked a little bit about my youth program. That is something I will always cherish. I feel as though we have really done over and above what we should have done. I think it is something that all departments should be doing, not taking but giving. You're giving your services, but you're going over and above that. I think our youth are our most treasured commodity today. I think they are the ones that we should cater to. I know in the program that we had there were thousands and thousands and thousands of kids that we made facilities available to where they could go out and enjoy themselves and keep themselves out of trouble. Like I say, we built tennis courts and basketball courts, fifteen baseball fields and bleachers.

We would sponsor talented youths. I would sponsor bowlers. I would sponsor complete baseball teams and little league teams. I sponsored this skater who went to national tournaments. He ended up winning national singles and things like that. That's why I always worked so hard at getting elected, because if you aren't in, you can't do anything. You can't be on the outside looking in. You have to be inside looking out before you can do these things. I just

loved working for people and doing things for people. That's any position where you can do that. A lot of times people will ask you to do a lot of things that aren't legal or right and you have to refuse them then. There are a lot of times too when you will have borderline cases that you'll do because you know that you are helping people and you aren't hurting anybody. It's hard to explain. I enjoyed it. I loved politics. Politics is a highly trained profession. People that are in it think they are politicians, but they aren't. They don't know the first thing about politics, about government.

I think that politics here functioned well before I took office because we did have a two party system. We had strictly a Democratic party. It was by far the majority party. We had a Republican party. It's still pretty much that way. It takes an individual to break through to entice the Democrats and independents to vote for them. The first guy to do that was Henderson. It was just an uphill battle. I think there was a 65-35 deal going in. Normally a Republican in the city will lose by 12,000. They city and the county just stopped. It's a science.

When I ran we had to at least lose the city by 5,000 votes in the county to pick up the difference. In my last election I carried every precinct, every ward, every township, every village, and every subdivision in Mahoning County. Plus, I carried every ward in Youngstown. I carried all the wards in Campbell and Struthers and Lowellville, which are predominantly Democratic. People themselves are voting for the person. You just have to get out and let the people meet you. Show them that you are qualified and can do the job. They'll vote for you.

B: Being that former Mayor Hunter was a Republican, what kind of relationship did you have with him?

D: I had a good relationship with Jack. Jack was a very naive person. When he went into office he didn't know anything about politics. He was asked to run because of his reputation as being a good person and an honest person. He had to feel his way. He had to not completely trust anybody including me because he didn't know us. He knew that we were helping him and trying to get him elected. He had to make sure what he was doing because he was a very honest person. I like Chuck. He is a good man.

He picked out who he thought was his best chief. He asked me for a recommendation. I gave him three. The one he claimed was one of them. As a matter of fact, I was raised with Don Baker on the West Side. He picked himself

an excellent man. I gave him three excellent people and he picked Don. He did the same thing. He put his trust in the chief and let him do the job with a free hand. As a result, the job got done. My favorite still is Henderson. I still feel as though that even as judge he's outstanding in his work. He's a terrific person.

B: Do you think that Youngstown might be headed back to the Republican party now?

D: Oh, not right away. It might if someone outstanding comes along. You almost have to do it on your own in the Republican party. You use the Republican party as a base, but the base isn't that large. You have to go out and really extend yourself to pick up the support. The Democratic base is tremendous. You almost get nominated in the Democratic party and you're elected. I can't see anyone that can move in right now and do it. Jack Hunter could because he's well known and he has done a good job, but I think he has had his fill of it. I don't think there is a chance of him coming back. I don't know anyone. The chairman that we have is known by very few people. He's a professor at the university. He teaches political science and is a very outstanding person. If he would run himself, he would get killed because no one knows him either. You have to work at it. You have to really establish yourself.

I went to one political function election year. I was sitting with two ex-FBI agents that were there, Congressman Williams, Chairman of the Republican party, Dr. Benning and the candidate for sheriff, Shidel. I told the chairman "Shidel is the most qualified person I have ever met that is running for public office outside of myself." I couldn't say he was any better than me. They were really appreciative. I said, "He is going to get stomped." They said, "Why, what makes you say that?" "Well," I said, "Here you've got an outstanding person, a good family man, a really good honest person, and highly educated, highly trained practically in several departments. You really have yourself a gem, but you didn't school him, educate him. Here he is running for office and he's going to spend all that time from then until the election introducing himself to people. You people should have had a budget. You should have given him a limited expense account a year ago and let him go out to all of these churches and veteran groups and affairs and let him introduce himself." Then comes election time and he's already introduced. He's going to go right out and say, "I'm the guy that you saw a certain place and I talked with you. I think you like me, now will you support me and vote for me?" He can't do that. He's going to still go down to the wire and introduce himself to people. There's not enough time. He's going to fall short. He's going to have a good election, but he's going to be beat. He's a good

man and has nice kids too.

Not taking anything away from the one that won, he was also well qualified. He won because he introduced himself through his drug program. For many years he was going out giving drug talks and everyone knew him. As long as they knew the name, they knew that he was affiliated with law enforcement, they voted for him.

There was a lot of dissention in the Democratic party at that time. I think that if the Republican candidate would have been introduced like he was, if he would have been right down to the wire, it would have been a close election. They were both new. The Democratic party vote was up for grabs and the Republican didn't grab it.

B: Do you think he has a future as sheriff?

D: Which one?

B: Traficant?

D: If he doesn't get discouraged. There are many problems. Traficant is a self-centered person. In politics you have to take so much and just keep quiet about it. You can't have controversial fights going with everybody. You have to sit back and relax and say, "Okay, I don't like you, but I'm not going to tell you I don't like you. Maybe the next time you'll do something for me." If things don't go right for him, he comes right out and expresses himself, probably, which he shouldn't do. It's a bad mistake he's making. He has had problems.

I don't know what his budget is right now or how many people he has, but it's going to be tough for him. It's going to be tough. If this Republican, Shidel, would start grooming himself and stay active, then the next election I think will be another good one. I think in four years the incumbent isn't going to make too many points. Good publicity isn't there right now. It may change and he might start getting better publicity, but the type of publicity he's getting now is outside of just his name before the public. I don't know if you remember Old's Market or not. The guy at the Old had a market downtown. Every morning he put his produce and stuff out on the sidewalk. He was in violation of the sidewalk ordinance. About once a week he was arrested. He said to him that that was good publicity. Any type of publicity is good as long as they spell your name right.

B: One of the things Traficant ran on was that he was going to get rid of drugs. Do you think that is possible for a person who is running for political office?

D: No, the only thing that you can do is you can give him the same thing that we're talking about. Right now you're dealing with the chairman. You're dealing with the Executive Committee and you're dealing with the Central Committee. You're talking about three hundred people or four hundred people in the Central Committee. You're talking about in the Democratic party. In the Executive Committee you have probably about thirty or forty. The Democrats have three times that many and you're talking about the chairman himself.

Those people are all known people. To keep their organization they have to help people. You aren't going to go out and break your neck for a Republican or Democratic party unless there is going to be a time when you can come around and say, "Look, my son, or my nephew, or my niece, or someone needs a job. Can you help them?" So you start looking where there are jobs available. You say, "Okay, the sheriff's department has a job or two, would you like police work?" They say, "I think I would." You say, "Okay, I'll talk to the sheriff." If he doesn't talk back he's going to be in real trouble because the Democrats in this valley win because they have the largest and best organization. They're really organized. If they don't support you, you get beat in the primary like I did. He's going to have to bend and he's going to have decent relationships with his party. He can't do it alone

B: Did your office have a good relationship with the judges? If you had a case, did you know that they would support you on it?

D: You mean a case against me?

B: No, a case against a criminal.

D: Again, the judges had nothing but good to say about the service that we gave the courts, handling the prisoners, the petition that we would have during courts and the immediate service we would give them. Judges are very impatient. They're very busy people. When they call, they want someone. Before they even call, they want someone waiting at the door as they hang up. We never held them up. We never let them down. They thought that our department was really great. I think you phrased wrong what you were trying to say. They do no one favors. They're honest, good, trying judges. When they try a man's case they don't want to know anything about who they are or what they are. All they want to know is what they hear in court. It doesn't make any difference who would be sheriff or prosecutor. They get the same treatment.

It was the same with the prosecutor's office. They were the opposite party. We were very close, very close. We worked very well together. They bent over backwards for us because it was their job, because the prosecutor is a professional well-trained attorney who is now county prosecutor doing a job. It doesn't make any difference what his politics are. They have a job to do and they're going to do it.

B: Being that your people worked on a case and whatnot, how did you and they feel about plea bargaining?

D: No one likes it, but there are times that you have to do it. You have such a busy court schedule that it would limit the number of people. You can't possibly try every case. They take the ones where they feel as though they won't just take up and release them. They'll sit down and work hard at it. They pick the ones where they feel as though they can win, but they're going to spend a week here. There's a bigger possibility that they're going to lose than they're going to win so they reduce the sentence. That's their reason for it. There are two reasons: One, they don't have the personnel and the time to try it. Second, they think that if they do try it, they're going to lose.

The FBI prides themselves in percentage of convictions. That's based on the fact that if they think they can't win, they don't try them.

B: Okay, thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW