

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Idora Park

Personal Experience

O. H. 1393

PAUL M. CARNEY

Interviewed

by

Scott Smith

on

November 22, 1990

PAUL CARNEY

Paul Carney was born on August 10, 1939, on Lincoln Avenue in Youngstown Ohio. This is of interest because the birth took place in the Carney household, not at a hospital. Mr. Carney grew up on the Northside of Youngstown. He attended Saint Columba Elementary School and both Ursuline High School and The Rayen High School. Mr. Carney got his first job working at Idora Park, in the parking lot as an attendant. Paul Carney was only thirteen years old when he got the job and he used the money to help support his family during the economic hard times. Mr. Carney had gotten the job through his cousin, a Youngstown police officer who did security work for the park.

Mr. Carney dropped out of High School and joined the Army at the age of seventeen. Paul Carney then joined the United States Army. Paul served his tour of duty in Germany as a border patrol guard. He said the duty was sometimes hectic due to the political tensions felt at the time. Mr. Carney enjoyed his time in Germany, feeling that it was an exceptional experience. He was honorably discharged from the Army in 1958.

Mr. Paul Carney returned to the Youngstown area upon his discharge. Paul worked several jobs but found real estate sales to his liking. From the mid 1960's well into the late 1970's Paul Carney worked for several real estate companies. Among the companies Paul worked for Manchi Realty, Century Twenty-One, and his own firm Carney Realty. In 1980, Mr. Carney became the manager of Baker Plastics in Youngstown, Ohio. After six years at Baker Plastics, Paul decided to open his own firm Carney

Plastics, Inc. Since 1986 Paul Carney had owned and operated his own company.

Mr. Carney is presently married to Norma Jean (Rorick) Carney of Youngstown, Ohio. They live at 17722 Edgewater Drive in Lake Milton, Ohio. The two have six children, two from his first marriage and four from her first marriage. Today Mr. Carney is very active in area politics as well as the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce. Mr. Paul Carney enjoys music, and reading but most of all Paul enjoys a good solid day of work.

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INTERVIEWEE: PAUL M. CARNEY

INTERVIEWER: Scott Smith

SUBJECT: History of Youngstown, Idora Park, economic situation.

DATE: November 22, 1990

S: This is an interview with Paul Carney for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Idora Park, by Scott Smith, at 17722 Edgewater Drive, Lake Milton, Ohio on November 22, 1990, at 2:45 p.m.

Mr. Carney, to start the interview off, I'd like to ask you some questions about yourself. Where did you grow up?

C: I was born on Lincoln Avenue in Youngstown, Ohio; on Lincoln Avenue, I never went to a hospital. I grew up on the Northside of Youngstown. We moved from Lincoln Avenue when I was one year old and we moved to Scott Street, which was about five blocks north of Lincoln Avenue in between Ford and Belmont, 366 W. Scott. I lived there for sixteen years. My Parents then moved to Boardman. I went to St. Columba grade school for eight years, I was an altar boy. Then I went to Ursuline High School.

S: What were you interested in when you were younger? What kinds of things did you do in Youngstown?

C: Getting out of school. We ran around, did all the usual kid things then which were mostly outdoor activities. Playing football, playing baseball, sledding, throwing snowballs, having gigantic snowball fights,

going to Mill Creek Park and running around all day on a Saturday.

S: What was the situation in Youngstown when you were growing up? Economically and socially was it pretty sound?

C: Yes. It was pretty sound but it wasn't what it is today. Right after the war (I was born in 1939) I was six years old, five or six, everybody was poor then, at least in my neighborhood, all the way up as far as I can remember, all the way up to the upper Northside. Everybody was pretty much in the same social strata. Some of the people on our street were a little better off than others. My father was working in the mill. There were four of us, my mother worked at Strouss' part time to help support us. I started working when I was thirteen, outside of our environment. We all worked, we all cleaned and scrubbed floors and took out ashes, which kids today aren't even aware of, of coal furnaces. We had to take the ashes out and scatter them in the backyard. In the wintertime, we would use them on the driveway so the cars could get up the driveway, if you had a car. Not everybody had a car. We had a pickup truck. An old Ford pickup truck. My father used it in business. He had a part-time business repairing appliances. I started working at Idora Park when I was thirteen. I worked in the parking lot. Prior to that, I helped my uncles paint their houses. Back then, kids started working outside the home environment a lot earlier.

S: When you graduated high school, did you go into the service right away?

C: No I didn't graduate from high school. I dropped out and went into the Army. I graduated in the Army. I took some college classes at Kansas State as a young soldier, but it was too difficult for me. I only took two classes and that was the end of it. It was too hard with the hours. I put three years in in the service (21 months) in Germany on border patrol and was honorably discharged in 1958.

S: What was it like doing border patrol? Was it pretty hectic?

C: Yes. It was real interesting. I liked being stationed in Germany. It was a lot better duty than being in the United States except that you were removed from your family. It was a lot more exciting, it was more interesting. Duties were better. We didn't have all the petty duties that they had back in the States, where you had to pull KP and over there we still had to do guard duty around the perimeter of the camp. We didn't

do it very often. It was very challenging. Interesting.

S: Besides winning the spelling bee in Youngstown, what else is your best memory of growing up here?

C: That wasn't my best memory. Winning a spelling bee, I didn't win the city spelling bee. I came close. I had a natural talent for spelling and that was from the second grade all the way through school. I was the best speller in the class. In our class in the seventh grade, I was the school champion and in eight grade I went to the city spelling bee both years. I came in thirteenth in the city in seventh grade and seventeenth in eight grade. It was a decent showing out of seventy-six or eighty-six kids. The most memorable experience--I don't really remember the most memorable experience.

S: What do you remember the most about growing up in Youngstown?

C: I remember buying my first pair of alligator shoes.

S: You said you started working at Idora Park when you were thirteen. Did you ever go to Idora Park before you started working there?

C: Yes. I went there a lot.

S: Did you ride the bus?

C: Sometimes I rode the bus. Later on we rode the bus, but as young kids we would go...It was almost a pilgrimage in the summertime. We would have a family picnic up on top of the hill at the picnic area overlooking the park. It was a real nice area. I don't know if anyone has told you about that. Down at the bottom of the hill on the one side was a swimming pool and the park was open every Sunday.

S: So you remember when the pool was open. Is it true that the pool was closed because somebody drowned there?

C: There were quite a few drownings. That's not why it was closed.

S: Do you think it was racial oriented?

C: In my opinion it was because it was not economically feasible anymore. The upkeep and the maintenance were more than the income produced. I think it was probably just a good business decision and at the time, they decided to close it. If it was open, they had to have

lifeguards, the fee wasn't very much and there weren't that many people. I can remember as a very young boy, I went there with my uncle and my two cousins. It was crowded, just filled with people. Then later, when I was probably about ten or eleven, there were very few people. As I said, it was expensive running that. It was getting run down, as I recall. It has been a long, long time, probably about forty years. It was getting run down and it was just not feasible to keep it open any longer. So they filled it, black-topped it, put Kiddy Land in there and it became a money maker. I don't believe it was racially oriented because the swimming pools in town were having the same problems.

S: That was one of the opinions offered by one of the people I interviewed. They said that they felt because...It was right after the war and the blacks....

C: Of course, I was young, very young, so maybe they were older than me and they had a better grasp.

S: What rides do you remember as a youngster?

C: An outstanding ride, of course, was the Wildcat, the Jack Rabbit. The rollercoasters were always great, and the Rapids. Actually, I kind of liked the Jack Rabbit as much or more than the Wildcat and then the Wildcat would have been second, the Rapids were third. There was the rockets, there was the ferris wheel, there was the merry-go-round. It was kind of a honky-tonk atmosphere, but it was old-time, old-fashioned honky-tonk atmosphere. It was clean, it was family oriented, it was old-time. It was safe, absolutely no question about it. The fun house, you made at least one trip through everything that was there and you would repeat on the Wildcat. I can remember going on Union picnics. My father was a member of the Union. They would have an AFL-CIO day and you would get in free or you would get a ticket. It was a very nominal charge, you'd get a ticket and you could go on all of the rides free. There would be lines swaying and people yelling and shouting, just having a good time. There was never any friction.

S: Did they close the park that day?

C: It was still open but most people wouldn't come because the number of people that were there. Most people would just not go that day. Other rides that were there were the bumper cars. The penny arcade was a big attraction.

S: Did you mostly go there with your family when you were young? Was it mostly a family outing?

C: Yes. It was always a family outing, until I was thirteen and started working the parking lot. We went at least once, probably sometimes twice, because my father liked the park. That was the big thing to go there. We'd plan on it for a couple weeks ahead of time.

S: What type of work did you start doing when you were thirteen?

C: Working the parking lot.

S: What did that entail?

C: Parking lot attendant, the older guys got to work in the booth selling the tickets and we had to work out in the lot directing the cars, making sure that they pulled in properly and if they left their lights on or whatever, we would remind them. You have to remember that most activity in the summertime there was weekend oriented, because everybody was working during the week. Although the park was open all the time, the biggest crowds were on the weekends. There were never any problems with that as far as people bothering the cars, but you still had to patrol the parking lot to make sure it was alright, that no vandalism was occurring. We used to sit up in the big parking lot in the back off of Canfield Road was where we did most of our duty. The older guys got to work the parking lot out on Parkview, I think it was, where the main entrance was and there was a bus turnaround out there, there was a parking lot across the street and the older guys, by virtue of their seniority got to work that lot. Everybody wanted that lot because busses would come down there and all the girls would be coming and we'd get to see the girls and the people. So later on, I got to work that lot. At the beginning, I got to work the lot in the back.

If it rained, we would go under the ballroom. There was a gigantic storage area. In the summertime, we would sit out there in the evening and if the band was playing we would sit out there and listen to the band. People would come out on the balcony overlooking the parking lot and dance or talk or whatever. We were just kind of part of it. If it rained, we would go underneath the ballroom. There was a guy who was head of all the maintenance for the park. He was kind of a rough, shouting guy, a big rangy, raw boned character who just had some skill to be a repair man. He would fix whatever broke and he had a very small crew working for him. He also had drilled a hole into the women's bathroom so he could look in and watch when women were in the bathroom.

S: Did you get a lot more use out of the park then when you were working there? Did you go there more often?

C: I spent a lot of hours out there. In the summertime, we had to work on weekends. I would arrive out there somewhere around noon and I would usually be there if it was busy, until midnight. If there were fireworks (they had fireworks a lot more often than now) you had to stay there until most of the cars were gone. So I'd work about twelve hours a day on weekends. I recall that I'd get one day off a week. We would get \$25 a week and a book of ride tickets. The book of ride tickets we never used. We used to give them away because you got to know everybody at the park and they'd let you ride for free. We used to go on our break and ride and at lunch time, we would have already eaten our lunch while we were walking around the parking lot directing cars and we would just go through the park and get french fries or whatever and ride. We did a lot of fooling around. On the rapids, which had a long dark tunnel, we would get off, they had catwalks to repair it, and we would get off and it was very dirty and dusty in there, you'd get off and stand there and watch the other boats. It was totally pitch black and they couldn't see you until they got right up to you and you'd yell "boo" or something like that. We'd walk through the tunnel or we'd get in the back seat and two people would be in the front seat. We used to go up on the Jack Rabbit and get off.

S: On the Jack Rabbit?

C: On the Jack Rabbit. We'd stand on the side where they had a small walkway for repairs also and we'd get off and stand up there and catch the next car. We'd get in the first car or the last car and the car would come back empty and we'd be in the next one.

S: What happened if the next one was filled up?

C: We'd wait for another one.

S: Do you remember the arcade then?

C: Oh, yes. It was one of my favorite places. It was an old wooden-floored building. It had screens. Long dark old screens on the sides and the windows were opened. Machines were lined up against all the walls down through the center there were several isles and they had just dozens and dozens of machines in there. Old-fashioned machines in there with claws that you'd pick things up and shooting games and all of the old-time marble games. It was a penny arcade. It really was a penny. There were somethings in there that were a nickel. That was a lot. There were probably 1/5 of

the machines in there that cost a nickel, because everybody would put a penny in the machine but they wouldn't throw away a nickel, a nickel was still a lot of money.

S: Did they have the chimpanzee cages at the time?

C: Yes. The monkey cages. They were up towards the main entrance in the large area somewhere around the rockets where the rockets were. I don't remember whether the rockets were always there, but I know that the monkey cages were in that area, which would have been up by the swimming pool. The swimming pool was up by the restrooms. The restrooms were in an old-fashioned building that you actually had to go up about ten steps. They were up towards the front of the park. As you came in the main entrance, there was a children's rollercoaster, where the hot rod cars, or the old fashioned cars were, later. There was a child's rollercoaster in that area and then to the right was the bumper cars, I can remember. Straight ahead you would continue on and on the left would be the building with the restrooms, which was a really old-fashioned building with concrete steps going up both sides. One side for the women and one side for the men--almost like a veranda. The swimming pool would have been to the right of that, as you're looking at it and to the right of that was a wide path paved up to the top of the hill for the picnic area. The picnic area was up on top overlooking the goldfish pond and all the concession stands that were on the east side of the park. The office was catty-corner from that. Across from that was another arcade. I can't remember but I think they had bigger machines. The penny arcade had little tiny machines that would print your fortune and things like that. The big arcade was more expensive. That was a nickel. Then later it was \$.10 and \$.25. They had a shooting gallery and my second cousin, John Carney, he was a Sergeant on the Youngstown Police Force, his nickname was Porkey. Porkey Carney ran the parking lots as a part-time job. That's how I got the job. I was under-age, but because he was related to me he got me the job there. He was a relative and I was willing to work and my family needed the money. I turned the money over to my family. I got very little of it but that's the way everything worked at that time. Anyway, Porkey ran these parking lots mainly because I think he lost his eye at the shooting gallery from a ricochet. He had a glass eye. He was a big, enormous, round human being and he was somewhat of a character. Everybody knew Porkey Carney. He was a big cop and he wore his uniform out there and he would sit on the office porch and he would sit out there with his feet up on the railing in the summertime. He and Max Rindin and old Pat Duffy or Cavalier--one of them were always

sitting out there with him. He would come and join us on the bench in the parking lot at night and sit out there with us and tell stories and just laugh and carry on. Being as large as he was, he was always flatulent. You really didn't want to be around him.

S: Was it a family type atmosphere?

C: I know talking to people that George Nelson worked directly under Pat Duffy when Pat was the President before the park was... The young Pat Duffy. It was the guy I worked for's son.

S: He said that a person really worked hard to have a family atmosphere among the employees. He would hold the park open after it closed sometimes at night just for the employees to work.

C: Being in the parking lot, we weren't as close-knit with those people. People who worked the concessions and the rides were there. They were interacting with each other. We were kind of isolated in the parking lot. But when we would come into the park, we knew everybody and they knew us. It was a kind of "family atmosphere". It was probably more of a carnival atmosphere, where everybody looks out for everybody that works there rather than a family atmosphere. I told you that they would give us books of ride tickets but we would never use them. I'd give mine to some of my friends or my family. I didn't need to use them because people knew me, they knew I worked there.

S: How long did you work at the park?

C: Two summers.

S: As you got older, did you start going to the park more just with your friends than with your family?

C: Yes. Even then, at that age, my buddies and I would go out with a bunch of guys and a bunch of girls. We still would go out especially the second year. We were in high school and we would go out in the early evening and spend a few hours and go on the rides and you would kind of pair up, young girls and boys and do all the things. Have the french fries, you had to have the french fries. They were famous for their french fries and then we would walk or take the bus. Most of the time, we would walk the girls home. Some of them lived on the South side, so we would walk them home then we would go on home.

S: Several hours of walking?

C: It would be, I guess, six miles. Six miles one way.

Everybody walked at that time. A year or two later, there were some of the kids in school that came from fairly well-off families that had cars. That was the exception.

S: So the park grew more into a social meeting place as you got older than as amusement park. Did you go there more to meet your friends and to meet girls?

C: Yes, as you got older, it was more social than it was an amusement because the amusements there...I had amusements at an early age and used them so much and so frequently that they no longer would hold any interest for me. I would go purely for the social aspect.

S: Did you go to dances and things like that?

C: No. During the period I might have gone there were sock hops, Dan Ryan was a disk jockey. He was DJ-ing there and they would have the sock hops there on the weekends. I was working at an age where I might have gone and then as I got older, I wasn't interested in big bands. They had Stan Kenton. He was one of the favorites. He was there all the time. I went to one Stan Kenton concert, when I got out of the Army, and later I went to see Maynard Ferguson and Buddy Rich.

S: When they came to your house.

C: Yes.

S: After you got out of the service you came back to the Youngstown area. Did you ever go to the park afterwards?

C: Yes. That was occasionally, you would take a date out there and walk around in the evening and have the french fries and maybe go on a ride and play a couple games, try to win a stuffed animal. You didn't approach it the same way as when you were young and try to do all the rides and everything because it was like a date type atmosphere. You'd walk around and hold hands on a beautiful summer day and it was nice because it was surrounded by Mill Creek Park. We'd just spend a couple hours and then take off.

S: Did you see a lot of changes in Idora Park, a lot of improvements?

C: No.

S: It basically stayed the same?

C: They would add new rides. There were some major changes back when I was young, but as I got older, I

didn't see any major changes. It basically stayed the same, but they'd pull an old ride out and update it with another ride.

S: Did you ever view any sporting events at the park?

C: We played baseball there a couple times. On picnics we would play baseball and make up a game of football, touch football just almost everybody did at one time or another.

S: Did you see any baseball team games out there?

C: Yes, when I was young, when I was going with the family before the picnics they would have a baseball game, organized games and softball.

S: Did you see any fights out there?

C: No fights. I've never seen fights. No boxing matches.

S: Do you think Idora Park played a major social role for the Youngstown community?

C: Sure. Yes. A lot of people grew up with Idora Park right here. Not every town had an amusement park.

S: How significant do you think the park was in Youngstown as a social spot?

C: I think as a social center it was very significant. We had more than just the movies to go to and entertain our girlfriends and it was a lot more social interaction--the park--you could walk and talk and cheer at the games and the rides and at the movies, you'd just sit all day. You could interact with all your friends, even your buddies, walking through the park. You wouldn't meet out there but if you were doing something and you couldn't get out there the same time as them, you would arrange to meet out there in the summertime. When I was older, out of the Army, very often myself and two or three buddies would just go out to pass the time. We'd go out and see who we'd run into that we knew, because there was always somebody there that you knew. You could always run into someone that you knew. You could always meet somebody and sit and socialize. I think it was significant.

S: How would you compare Idora Park to the more "antiseptic" Cedar Point-type parks?

C: Well, it was old-fashioned. It had the picnic areas, it had the monkeys. Originally it had the swimming pool. It was small, it was not big, it was very small, as far as amusement parks go. It was a hometown amuse-

ment park. I don't know how many people we got from out of the area, probably quite a few from the local area down into New Castle. We used to go to New Castle because there was an amusement park there. But you drew locally, Sharon, New Castle, Hubbard, Canfield. There was a lot of people, but it wasn't overwhelming. It wasn't at all like Cedar Point and there was absolutely no admission fee. You'd just pay for the ride tickets or if you were going to play a game you'd pay for the game. A lot more people would come out to socialize and it drew a lot of people that maybe didn't want to partake of the activities or couldn't afford to in a lot of cases. They would come out and visit. They were thrilled by the people on the rides vicariously. They would watch the people on the Wildcat and I think that might have been the case with some of the older people that would come out just to socialize to see other people. Had there been a charge, they might not have come. It was very, very open and family oriented and close. It was just a good atmosphere. It was safe and secure.

S: Do you think that Idora Park, with that family atmosphere and everything, do you think that is an advantage over the Cedar Point park? Do you think Cedar Point would be wise in trying to instill that kind of atmosphere?

C: I don't know. I'm not expert but I think that would be impossible for Cedar Point to do that. We drew people from little rural areas, they were rural at that time. You wouldn't call them suburban, it was rural. Poland was rural. Boardman was rural. There were farms at work at that time. We drew people from that kind of area. Cedar Point is drawing people from Michigan, Illinois, Indiana. It's drawing them from states. It's just more commercial than it was back then. Back then, it was, of course the people that owned it did it for commercial reasons. They were making a living. It was an investment for them and they got a return on their investment. They weren't looking to get rich, it wasn't a corporation, it wasn't removed. They were there, the owners were on the premises. There was always an owner there. You could always find an owner. As a matter of fact, people got in trouble because the owners were there. I discovered later that older guys liked working the ticket sales up at the entrance to the big parking lot or even the little parking lot because there was an opportunity to knock down. They would take tickets off the cars coming out and resell them to the cars coming in and put the money in their pockets. One guy made the mistake of not paying attention and trying resell one of those tickets to Max Rindin who was head of the parking lot so it was one of his. They divided the duties out there. Max Rinden

was head of the parking lot, Max caught him and of course, fired him on the spot.

S: Do you think that Idora Park, if the Wildcat wouldn't have burned down in 1984, do you think that park could have been successful in the late 1980's into the 1990's?

C: I doubt it. Because values have changed. Nobody is interested in that kind of a park anymore. They have been exposed to Cedar Point and Kings Island, Disney Land. That old-fashioned, small, family type, family oriented, family run (it was family run in all its history that I could remember) that is an anachronism. I don't think it's a viable enterprise, a viable entity. I don't think they could have made it.

S: With the park, do you think the closing of the park was just like a domino effect from the recession that the Youngstown community went into with the steel mills closing. Do you think the downfall of the park was a domino effect of that?

C: Well, there is no doubt that that had some effect on it. In my opinion, it was destined to happen anyway. The park had gotten old. It was an anachronism. It was getting harder and harder to maintain, it was going to take more and more money to update it. The possible benefits, I think, were outweighed by the cost, what it would have taken to have made it a viable entity. That was bound to happen. Whether it happened then, that just accelerated it. That was my estimation. I think that at one point, it was probably a very, very short time line that there was an opportunity, possibly for an enterprising individual or group of individuals to take it over and enhance it and enlarge it because I think the area could have been expanded and updated but it would have taken a lot of money. I don't know.

S: Do you think it was hampered because it really wasn't on a main highway?

C: Yes. It was almost like a playground for the community. It wasn't built as a big business enterprise or to be corporately owned and operated.

S: With the Wildcat, I've talked to some of the people and they said it was like losing a best friend. When the Wildcat burned down and the park eventually closed, did you feel any remorse?

C: Yes. Well, it is a sense of part of your history, part of your life, part of your growing up. You look back on those things like a physical or spiritual being

because you spent so much time there, because it was just a part of your history, you grew up with it. Then it's gone and it gives you a sense of your own fragility.

S: With the park now, just sitting there, some of the concession stands, I guess are still there and the Jack Rabbit, but it's probably so rotted in some areas it would have to be completely rebuilt. Some people have advanced the idea that the park could be reopened though, to be used as a picnic area, to maybe take advantage of some structure in there to almost make a small museum or something dedicated to Idora Park in memory of Idora Park, considering it was in Youngstown since 1897, 1898. Do you think that's a good idea or do you think they should just let it go?

C: I don't think it would work. I don't think it even has a picnic area because there are picnic areas all over Mill Creek Park and they're well maintained and they're secure and they're opened and I don't see the benefit of having that as a picnic area, although, as chairman of the education committee for the Youngstown Chamber of Commerce, one of my programs that I embarked on about a year ago was to try and put a children's hands-on museum in the area in Youngstown in the city. One of the spots that I brought up was the old Idora Park Ballroom, which was about 30,000 square feet. It's got high ceilings and I thought it would be an ideal spot for a children's hands-on museum, but the people who would be instrumental in helping bring this thing to fruition such as Senator Harry Meshel. I talked to Harry about it and he is 100% behind it. He wants to see it happen. John Moliterno the President of the Chamber wants to see it happen. So some influential people want this to come about, but Harry is going to be instrumental in getting some state funding for it eventually when it happens and he wants it to be easily accessible. Idora Park is no longer easily accessible.

S: Would you want a place by the university or something?

C: Yes. We've looked at several sites. The point is that Idora Park, which is what we are talking about...I felt that the facility itself was ideal because you've got the huge parking facility, you've got a huge building that could be updated and has plenty of ceiling room for lots of special exhibits such as the dinosaurs that are computer operated. Those were all built by a fellow from Warren, Ohio. I felt that this would be a perfect facility because of the height of the building inside. However, Harry felt that we should be up by a major road or have at least access from the interstate and the orientation is now towards the steel museum,

downtown, which is fine and I agree with that after all these months of discussion. I feel that Kaleel Brother's building is perfect, right at the base of Fifth Avenue. They are going to build the new prison facility on the other side of Fifth Avenue, which I don't think would affect anything. Now there's the Higbee's building which may become available so now there is a lot of discussion. So Idora Park was ruled out for that also.

S: In closing the interview, are there any more comments you would like to make about Idora Park or any other stories?

C: No. You probably heard about the Merry-go-round and how it was sold off.

S: Tell me about it.

C: It was probably one of the most spectacular that I had ever seen. It was beautiful. They were all the old original figures of horses and wagons, the carts. It was I think, a sad commentary that one of the wealthier families from this area didn't buy it and donate it to Butler Art, for instance, or Youngstown State University. They were all works of art. It had been here forever and now it's gone.

S: It's sitting in storage.

C: It's the most spectacular thing. The Wildcat was duplicated all over the country as far as...It's a ride. It has cars it's on tracks. But these horses and figures and things, they were real works of Americana Art. That was one of the things that I felt most badly about.

S: Do you have any further comments that you would like to make?

C: No.

S: Thank you very much.

END OF INTERVIEW