

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Athletics - Football

Personal Experience

O.H. 1448

BOB DOVE

Interviewed

by

Dan O'Brien

on

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Bob Dove

One of the most animate figures in the history of Youngstown sports is Bob Dove. His character bespeaks a wonderful aura of minor legend. Born and raised in the South side of Youngstown, Bob became interested in sports the way most boys during the Depression era did, at the neighborhood sandlot. While attending South High School, Bob's talent on the gridiron developed, so that the University of Notre Dame recruited his services in 1939.

In 1938, Bob entered Notre Dame under the tutelage of former Four Horseman, Elmer Layden. During his sophomore year at Notre Dame, Bob elevated to the first squad becoming the first sophomore in Notre Dame history to do so. As both an offensive and defensive player, Bob Dove was one of the last dying breed of the dual position football player. In 1942, Bob became nationally recognized for his efforts in the sport by being named Lineman of the Year, as well as received the Knute Rockne Memorial Trophy. The most productive collegiate years for Bob came between 1940 and 1942, while playing under the great Frank Leah team.

After his tenure at Notre Dame, the Marines recruited Bob, and he resumed his football career playing with the El Toro Bulls while in the Corps.

After the Marines, Bob went to the Chicago Rockets, a team that had just been started in the old All-American League, the same league that gave birth to the Cleveland Browns. During his professional tenure in football, Bob saw action in the All-American League until 1950 when he joined the Detroit Lions and the established National Football League. In 1954, Bob Dove retired from professional football. However, upon his retirement, he was instrumental in founding the Buffalo franchise of the NFL, the Bills. For two years, Bob assisted in a coaching capacity and then, returned to the Youngstown area and coached at Hiram and Youngstown State. His wife had recently passed away at the time this interview was conducted. Bob still

resides in Youngstown, and he is instrumental in Youngstown State University Athletics as an Assistant to the Director of Athletics, Joe Malimesur. He has three children and eight grandchildren.

O: This is an interview with Bob Dove for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Athletics--Football, by Dan O'Brien, on November 20, 1991.

We could just start out with any background information, maybe a quick biographical sketch

D: Way back?

O As far back as you want to go.

D· I was born here in Youngstown at South Side Hospital They do not give birth to people there anymore, I guess. I went to Garfield School, Cleveland School, Princeton, South High, and I started my high school career at South High. I made all-city at Youngstown, and, as a result of that, I had offers to go to different colleges and universities. I visited Ohio State, Pitt, Newberry, South Carolina, and I ended up going to Notre Dame

As a sophomore at the University of Notre Dame, I made the first team. I was the first sophomore in eleven years to start. I made All-American there my junior and senior years. I played in the East/West game. I was voted Lineman of the year for the Washington D.C. Touchdown Club for the whole United States. I got the Knute Rockne Memorial Award for that.

On getting out of Notre Dame, I went into the Marine Corps On the West Coast, I played with the El Toro Marines, and they had a couple famous players come out of that. I played with El Toro. In fact, on Sunday, under an assumed name, I played down in San Diego with the San Diego Bombers.

I came out of the Marine Corps in 1946, and George Preston Marshall offered me \$1,800 00 a year to play with the Washington Redskins. I was about the third draft choice. I jumped into the other All-American League That is when the Browns, the 49ers, Baltimore, and the Chicago Rockets started. I played two years with the Chicago Rockets and then, jumped over to the National Football League and played five years with the Cardinals I left the Cardinals and played two years with the Detroit Lions I retired after the 1954 season for pro-ball

I worked at the University of Detroit for three years and worked on the side with the Detroit Lions. They put me on from 1958 to 1959 I was back on the Detroit Lions coaching staff. One for our coaches, Buster Ramsey, got the position of head coach for the Buffalo Bills. He took me with him, so we started the Buffalo Bills. We did not have an equipment man, any cleats, or any shoes. We started the Buffalo Bills, and I coached there for two years. Then, Buster lost his job, not because of his coaching, just because he is kind of a rough person. Ralph Wilson sent him a real nice letter after saying it was the biggest mistake ever made by letting Buster Ramsey go.

Then, I went to Hiram College. I had an offer to go to Oakland, but that was a one year shot. I had four kids. I went to Hiram College, and I was head coach there for seven years. Then, Youngstown State and I talked to coach Beatty, and I came down here. I have been here twenty-some years, now. At present, I am assistant to, not an

assistant, to the Director of Athletics, Joe Malimsur. My main job is scheduling football I think that brought me up to different awards and stuff I am in the Helms Foundation Hall of Fame out in California. Now, it has a different name

O Let us get back to growing up in Youngstown in general What do you remember about the South side?

D Well, on South side, I was down on Myrtle Avenue two blocks from Pyatt Street and Market Street, and I was really young I remember the Uptown Theater up there on Market Street You are too young to remember it. Then, my family moved out to Fosterville It was really nice. I lived out there by Idora Park I used to run down to Idora Park all the time.

During the Depression, we used to have all those picnics there. We would run down. They had this big policeman. I think his name was Nolan. The shriners would be there We would light up. We would go see one of the shriners, and they would give us a stamp on our hand We would go run races. One week, it was the potters of East Liverpool, and there we were again The old sergeant would say, "Is your mother connected to the potters?" We would say, "Yes." He would say, "Okay "

O The potters were what?

D The potters all down in East Liverpool. They used to have a big picnic down at Idora Park. I went through Cleveland school right there in Fosterville. Then, I went up to Princeton Junior High, and then, I came down to South High.

Then, I started football. We did not have all the midget teams. I started my ball career with the Duffy Midgets out on Parkview Avenue. Joe Duffy had the Duffy Midgets. We had better equipment than the high school team. In relation to now, everybody had these little league teams, pee wee teams That is all we had, the Duffy

O: Was this like a neighborhood group?

D Well, Joe Duffy wore green and white, and a lot of the players who came up through South High School played with the Duffy Midgets. Then, from the Duffy Midgets, I went to South High. I played for Busy Ashbault, Dave Williams, and Lamar Armstrong

O: So you really did not know the training?

D No, we played in blue jeans and a shirt. We had no formal training at all as far as the kids have today. The kids belong to St. Christine's Little Pee Wee League, or Boardman's Pee Wee League. They keep coming up from their ages and what not. By the time they get to high school, they are tired of football. They do not want to go out anymore.

I went to South High, and I was All-City end The other end was Jack Annanuchi of Superior Beverage. In fact, his son along with Micky Monus just bought the Denver

Team. Jack was All-City end on one side, and I was All-City end on the other side. We played at South High. We had the big games with Chaney, Franky Sincowitz, Trolecky, and all of that bunch

After getting out of South High, Frank Sincowitz, who was the Heisman Trophy Winner, and I went down to Ohio State together We went to Washington D.C Touchdown Banquet Club together Then, the Marine Corps happened He was getting surveyed out

O: What year did you come out of high school?

D: We got out of high school in the Spring of 1939 and entered college in the Fall of 1939 Franky ended up at Georgia, and I ended up at Notre Dame

O: How did that go about? Today, we see all this drafting of players just out of high school. Back in the late 1930's, they would simply have scouts come out, or did you attract Notre Dame because of your All-City?

D: Let me put it this way Up here in Ohio, we had guys that graduated from Ohio State that were coaching high school football up here They would try to get you to go back to Ohio State or Pitt. Dr. James, a dentist out in Fosterville, was senior manager at the University of Pittsburgh. In those days, the senior manager arranged almost everything on the trips and everything else. Well, Dr James was the one that had me go down to Pitt

I happened to go to Notre Dame because a famous coach in Youngstown was Dick Barrod. In those days, you had McFee over at Chaney, Dusty Ashbault at South, and Dick Barrod at East. His brother Benny Barrod coached at Struthers. Now, Benny Barrod went to Duquesne, and his coach at Duquesne was on of the Four Horseman at Notre Dame. His name was Albert Lee Albert now gets to coach at Notre Dame, so Benny picked me up instead of taking me to the college. He took me with this coach to Notre Dame.

O: So, is it more like this labrid network scheme?

D: Yes, of course, Pat McCarty from Notre Dame was coaching Ursuline at the time. Doc Ward was the head of the Vindicator Sports Department. One little article in there said that I was going to go to Notre Dame, but nobody ever contacted me. I was walking down the street one day, and someone came up to me and said, "When do you leave for Notre Dame?" My Uncle Leo Kennedy looked at me, then, looked at him.

Dick Barrod had 25 years at East. He was the guy that took me to Notre Dame. That is the way they did it. I was in South High School, and they called me down from my classroom. I happened to be President of my graduating class. I think the football team rigged the election, but that was beside the point. I am just kidding about that They called me down and said, "These gentlemen would like to see you." They took me

right out on Market Street, and a big black limousine was there. They looked at me and asked me some questions. You had a big hog up on an auction block, and they said, "Pull up your pants. Let me look at your leg." This is right on Market Street out in front of South High School.

They got through talking to me and said, "How would you like to go to the University of Georgia?" Wally Buttes was the coach at Georgia, but these were the scouts that came up. They used to bring a car up and go through the industrial area through Pennsylvania, Ohio, and over to Indiana. That is where they got a lot of players from.

O: Were you sort of trapped?

D: "How would you like to go to Georgia?" Well, in the Depression years, I had heard from Newbury, so I said, "Fine." They said, "Good, okay. Can you be ready in about two hours?" I said, "Wait a minute. I am president of my graduating class. I have some obligations." I said, "Besides that, I have got nineteen more days of school here." Their answer was something like this: "We have already checked your transcript. You are not going to know anymore in nineteen days than you do now." They were not even going to wait for me to get my diploma.

O: You had nineteen days of school left, and they would not wait?

D: They said, "Well, you are young. You are not going to know anymore in nineteen days." I will be graduating in nineteen days. So I said, "No, I cannot go now." They said, "Bla, bla, bla." They talked, and they said, "We have a bus coming up." They used to bring a bus up through West Virginia, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and pick the kids up. They thought that they would pick up 30 football players and take them down to Georgia. They said, "Can you get over to Pittsburgh on such and such a date?" I said, "Yes, I can."

Notre Dame contacted me, so I went to Notre Dame. That is how they did it, and usually, some alumni would be interested and write a letter. They would come in and get you. On my full scholarship with Notre Dame, they took me up to Notre Dame and put me in a new hall called Green Philips Hall. However, it was over in the corner and all this. I said, "Is this a freshman hall?" The guy that took me there said, "Yes, this is a freshman hall." When I went back a little later, they put me in the gold dome with the sheets. They did not say that I was going to stay in Green Philips Hall. They just said it was a freshman hall.

D: What happened once they got you?

O: Well, I got there and was doing dishes. This was part of the scholarship. You either had to wait on tables three times a day, seven days a week, or wash dishes on the big tables once a day, seven days a week. That was the only way that you could get away. You had to have somebody else do work for you, like stack the dishes. There were two wings in

the dining hall, and you could fit 1500 people in each wing. We would do those dishes and have them set up and ready for the next meal in about an hour and a half. So, I washed dishes my first year

O Was that just for the freshmen?

D: The Freshmen that were coming in It was part of your scholarship for your meals, I guess. They ate well, of course. My sophomore year I got promoted Then, I made varsity. They took me out.

I used to go over to the field house. They had a guy named Pat over there In the old days in the old field house, we used to take the bleachers out for track and bring them in for basketball and stuff like that. I made the first string when I was a sophomore, and they took me out of working in the field house.

O Was Notre Dame during the 1940's all alone like a slice of collegiate history?

D. Well, like we figured 1931, Knewt Rockne was in Rockdale, and, of course, he got killed. The famous Gust Aray was the Newt Rockne tradition. Football was so brutal that President Roosevelt was going to have it outlawed unless they got through. They used to have what they called the flying wedge Teddy Roosevelt was going to have it outlawed.

Then, later on, the rules and regulations were put in the idea of forward pass by Gust Aray and Newt Rockne. Nobody used too much for three or four years, and all of a sudden, Gust Aray and Newt Rockne practiced on some beach somewhere. They were going up against Army. Army was supposed to crush them, but by using the forward pass, Gust Aray and New Rockne beat Army by a score of about 36 - 14. This proved then, at that point, that a weaker team could beat a big, strong team that was just a running team.

D Just on the forward pass?

O It was Dust Aray and Newt Rockne who proved the forward pass. Well, then, at Notre Dame, they had Hunk Anderson. Newt Rockne was killed in 1931 Then, they had five years, and they had one of the four horsemen They had some good seasons and some bad ones. Then, Frank Lee came in.

I played under Al Morley my first two years. He put me on the first team, and then, Frank Lee came in the spring of my sophomore year I played end. I made the All-American team. That is what they called it by consensus. You had to make five to be a consensus All-American. Then, they were going to switch me to guard because I could do it. They lost some two year linemen at graduation. It ended up that I had to go back and play guard at Notre Dame, and I made All-American again.

O: Did you play two positions, or did you play both ways?

D: No, I played both ways. That is the way you got your letter. You had to play one hour at a time. You played this game for ten minutes, and you had fifteen minutes to play. Well, I averaged 55 minutes as most players did. We averaged about 55 minutes a team. There was none of this stuff of "specialty teams." You were the specialty team.

I was on the kick off team, kick off return team, extra point, field goal, offense, and defense. We would kick the ball, and you would run down and try to tackle the man. Then, when you got the ball, you were on defense. You lined up on defense. They would come down there, and you would hold them. Then, they would kick them down here, and the quarterback would come out.

O: So, this is pretty much the dying days of this breed of a football player. It is pretty close to what they did. After the 1950's, they kind of cut off on the duel roll of a player.

D: They would play one way. You played offense, or you played defense. Then, as time went on, it became the specialty team. Like now in the National Football League, you carry forty-some players, but in the specialty teams, you do not see your top receivers running on the specialty teams. A guy can play in the National Football League for years with just being a specialty team player.

I played with the old Chicago Rockets, and I played both ways for a little bit there, not too much. When I was with the Detroit Lions, I was a defensive end, but you were only allowed to have thirty-three players. Now, you can imagine that the breakdown was two centers, three guards, and four tackles. One of the thirty-three was your offensive line.

You can imagine if a coach has three guards and one gets hurt. Now, he is in the game with two guards. If anything happens to another guard, what the heck is he going to do? They take a defensive player for one day a week for about a half hour to an hour. I would work at offensive guard. That is how they did it. They took another player, and we were there enough that we could get in the game and be 80% efficient on the assignments and stuff like that.

D: In your years at Notre Dame, was there any particular influence that you think propelled you the most to go into a professional career afterwards?

D: No, I have been asked that before. Actually, all my friends went to South High School. For no reason, I started playing football. Then, I went to Detroit South High School. I had Miss Baird as an advisor, and I was President. I had to write a thing for the history on what I would like to do. I wrote that I would like to go into college ball and into the pro's, just because I had to write something. My intentions were not there. I went to Notre Dame, and it was almost like a routine. Then, I made All-American, and they came to me. I was in the service, and I came out. They came to me about playing professional ball. I had not planned it that way.

O: was it just the atmosphere of Notre Dame?

D Well, when I got to Notre Dame, of course, it was crowded. By that I mean they had six varsity teams and three B-teams. These were upperclassmen. Then, they had eleven freshmen teams. I started on the ninth freshmen team. All-city of Youngstown was not a big boost for you. These kids became All-East, All-State. I was All-City from Youngstown. They did not know where Youngstown was.

So, I started on the ninth freshmen team with a kid we called the blade, George Murphy. He was killed at Iwo Jima, Bloody Nose Ridge. We both were the ends, and we worked our way up. By the end of the time, we were both first string freshmen team ends. We went on to play together for the three years after that at Notre Dame.

O Were those the same years as Angelo Pertelli?

D: Yes, we had Angelo Pertelli, and we had the Fighting Irish. On our line was Wally Zamba, Lou Repkas, and Hercules Barriola. We called Angelo "Bert Kelly." I know Angelo very well. He has a state liquor store over in New Jersey or Pennsylvania. I saw him at Notre Dame last year.

Angelo Bertally was our quarterback. Johnny Lugack was just coming in. We had great players, Diffy Evans. Well, we played the Notre Dame box, and we were the last team. I was on the last team that played the famous Notre Dame box. We went undefeated in 1942. We tied on game. We ended up third in the nation. We did not end up number one. The next year I was on the first team to play the T-formation. Frank Lee put in the T-formation in 1942. We had some trouble because he did not know that much about it. We did not know that much about it. I played on the last team that played the Notre Dame box, and the first team to play the T-formation.

O. That was in 1942?

D The box ended in 1941, and the T-formation came in 1942.

O. So, in your college career, that is your standing out season?

D: In college, we were undefeated in 1941, and I was out top season. Angelo was a great player, and Olan Evans I think played for the Browns.

O. If you could think of the one moment out of Notre Dame that you would like to tell everybody about, what would it be?

D Well, like I said, going up there, they did not know where Youngstown was. I always tell this story a little long but not too long. The second team was kind of the bumper squad. We would go in against a team and not to say that we would not gauge their eyes out, spit Copenhagen in their eyes, or step on them. You always tell stories.

In those days, Notre Dame was about 90% Catholic, and we were not allowed to eat meat on Friday. We would never practice on Friday. If you were caught underneath

the pile with the wrong colored socks on, you would bite it because that might be a running back. On Friday, we could not bite. So, we did not play on Friday.

I told you how I made the first string. I was the first sophomore in eleven years. We were playing Georgia Tech, and they had a little running back. He was receiving the ball, and I came running down. I was on the bumper squad, the number two squad. I came down the field, and there he was. I broke down just like they taught me, and I let go and hit him. I do not know where he got to because I missed him. He went straight up in the air or someplace. I was lying on my belly, and I knew that the camera was on. I jumped up, and he ran over here. I took a short cut more or less, and at the five yard line, a kid named Steve Bagarus tried to tackle him and went in front of me. I hurdled over him, caught my feet, took two steps, and guess what happened on the five yard line? I missed him in the middle. I missed him, again. You know everybody says that you caught him. I said, "No, I did not catch him." I missed him, again. I did not know why I did not catch him. I missed him, again.

We get into Washington Hall the next day, and we were watching the movie Almer Lee was given the upper-classmen devil about their attitude, and he said, "I want you to look at this next shot." I said, "Oh, no." I knew what was coming up. They showed me coming down, and Joe Bending said, "Run that back and put it on slow motion. All of you upper-classmen, I want you to notice this. Who is the first man down the field who missed Johnny O'Brien? The only sophomore on the team was the first man down the field, and he missed him." Then, it shows him running and running. He gets over here and stopped the thing. He says, "Who was the last man to miss O'Brien? The only sophomore on the team." So, I tell the story for missing the guy twice on the same play, and he said to me, "When we get out on the field, Bob, you start at left end." I played there first string for the rest of my career.

O: So, here you thought that you were going to get bawled out?

D: I was scooting down in the chair. I was trying to hide. I had missed twice on the same play. I give this example when I talk to high school teams. It is effort, you know. Football is a team sport and an individual sport. If I am blocking you, we are the team here, and I go to block you but do not get you. If the other team gets a perfect block but I do not get you, you make the tackle, and we lost two yards. It is regardless of together ten. So, as an individual, I have an individual responsibility. One is to know your assignment under almost any situation, and two is to execute your assignment. If you are in doubt, somebody might say that here is a guy in the slot. Get somebody in front of you, and knock him down. You might be right.

O: Plenty of time was obviously spent in football. How did you balance your football and your academic career?

D: We found out that if you have class three times a week, you were allowed to miss it three times in the whole quarter, or semester. If you miss it the fourth time, you flunk, unless

you were sick or something in the infirmary They were very tough on academics, getting in and going through We found out that we had to zero in on what time we had free Now, I go to class at eight o'clock in the morning. I was free all day, and they might have a meeting at lunch over at the law building It would just be a half an hour meeting

We would go out on the field but not at 2:30 p.m. We went out like at 3:30 p.m. and practiced from 3:30 p.m. to 5:30 p.m.. It was two hours. Very seldom did we ever have a night meeting. You could go to the library The coaches would have a night meeting. You would see them down at Green Phelps Hall. Frank Lee and all of them would go in there. So, there were those times that you go in, and it might be a meeting for an hour. I have to get this done, this done, and this done. I think you could use your time better.

As soon as the season was over, I would get some sleep in the afternoons I wasted the darn time. In football, I think that my grades were good. We still find that you do better during your on season than during your off season Now, it is a little different. We did not have these weight programs in the winter We would come back in the spring and practice. They expected us to do things in the summer. More time is spent by all teams now that it takes more time.

Just like here at Youngstown We have the academic advisor. The rooms with padded cells where they have to come in, and they are on you and help you. If you have an hour off, you are not going to go over to the student union unless they say that you have to report over there. They press you on that.

The football and basketball players have to go to the study tables and all of that. Football players coming in have to be a little better. By that I mean, in order to play, I do not care if you have to pay, but you have to take the eleven core subjects I think it is four years of English, three years of math, three years of science, and two years of electives. Then, you have to have a two point in order to be eligible to play. If you are not eligible to play, they are not going to give you the scholarship, more than likely Another kid could have a 1.8 in high school, and he can get in. They got a low start, and then they have the study table and all of that. We still lose on now and then, but the percentage of keeping you here is way up. Even today, Notre Dame is 90% graduating with football

O: Notre Dame is one, and Penn State is another one.

D Penn State and Ohio State were always pretty good. Even with recruiting, there was a little gray area. Penn State, Ohio State, Notre Dame, Stanford, North Western, Tulane, and Vanderbilt say that now the degree is that you have to be progressing towards a degree. You could not take basket weaving, cherry picking, or things like that. That helps.

O: After college you went into the Marines, and that was for a period of how long?

- D. Three years.
- O: Three years in the Marines?
- D: Yes I missed three football seasons. I played service ball. I played San Diego I played on Saturday with El Toro, with "Elroy Crazy Leagues" Paul Manginelli and I would go down on Sunday, and we usually played under an assumed name. They had the program made up, and the top part of the program was guys who came back from the service because of a punctured ear drum, or for some other reason. Then, down below, there were phony names, like number eighty-two or something. They looked on the program at the jersey, so we all took alike out there in Belgium Stadium. I was Bruce Thyburg from Yale. I played under that name for about four or five weeks down there. There was \$125.00, which was more than I was getting as a Second Lieutenant in the Marine Corps.
- O: They were paying you to play?
- D: Oh, the San Diego Bombers
- O: What were they?
- D: You know who owned the team? Babe Dickerson Zahara. She and her husband, the professional wrestler, George, owned the team. They had a coach named Ed Storm. We went down to San Diego and played under the San Diego Bombers. They had the Hollywood Rangers and the San Francisco Clippers.
- O: Was this professional?
- D: Pacific Coast Leagues is what they called it. We played two games on the weekends. We were supposed to because the Marine Corps figured that they spent so many thousand dollars, and they made me a Second Lieutenant. They did not care if I got hurt playing for El Toro, where I got killed, but they did not want me to go down to San Diego and get hurt, on an outside team. We played for the San Diego Bombers, Babe Dickerson Zahara, and her husband, the wrestler, George, who owned the team. Ed Strom was the coach, and we played
- O: Then, after?
- D: I got out, and then, the new league started.
- O: The All-American League?
- D: Yes, the All-American League started. You see, it goes something like this. We were playing with the El Toro Marines. Dick Hanley who used to coach North Western for

nine years was our commanding officer, and he was an advisor to the commandant on all physical training matters for the whole Marine Corps. Now, Jack Keashon owns the Portland Forks, and he had Keashon Truck Lines. He was going to own the team in Chicago, and he hired Dick Hanley to be their coach.

We were still in the service. Elroy Hersch, Wee Willy Wilkins, Norm Barry, Ralph Haywood, and I were still in the service. These are all guys that played professional ball. Here is what Dick said. He called me in and said, "Bob, I am going to be coaching this new league, and I would like you to come play for me." I said, "Well, Colonel, I belong to the Washington Stablished, the established league, and the Washington Redskins, and I kind of would like to play for them." He looked behind his desk at the big map on the wall and said, "Bob, do you know what this is and this is?" I said, "Yes. That is the truck and the Saltan Islands. I know that is where the marines are fighting and all of that." He said, "Do you know what these things are up here?" "Well, they do not have any names. They have numbers." He said, "That is right. The most populated ones have names, and the rest have numbers. Do you know what these are up here? I will tell you. They do not have a name or number, and if you do not come and sign with me, you are going to be on one of those."

Paul Brown, with the Browns, did his a little different. This is how the Browns got to be the famous team. Paul Brown was coaching at the Great Lakes. He had a great team there at the Great Lakes. The guys came through there, and one of them just mentioned it the other day when I was up here. Here is the way they work. Micky McBride, who owns the Cleveland Browns, came in. Paul Brown came up to Mary Madly, or whoever was at the University of Nevada. Anyhow, they said that we would like you to come play with us at this new league. Then, they said, "Wait a minute, son. We are going to start giving you \$250.00 a month now." Depending on your position, they might give you more or less.

O: This was 1946?

D: Yes, before they came out of the service from 1945-1946. Now, they are just talking to them. They established this league while the war was still going on. They said, "We are going to pay you \$250.00 a month, \$300.00 a month, or this much." They said, "Hey, son, this was might last another ten years, and we are going to start paying you now until you are 30 years old." Then, he walked and turned around a little bit and said, "Besides, you might get killed. But we are going to pay you now." Have you ever heard the expression, "Taxi Squad?"

O: Were the extra players called the taxi squad?

D: Yes, well, this is how that happened. In those days, you were only allowed to have thirty-two players. You see, Paul Brown had about ten or twelve, maybe fifteen, good ones that he did not want other teams to know he had. If you had some, you had to put out a report on them and put them in the basket, so that the other teams had a chance.

Paul Brown took them and put them in industry all around All around Cleveland, they had a job. It was hard to get a car. Now, here we are practicing down at the old stadium Here is a regular team of thirty-three players You have to visualize this: we are practicing. All of a sudden at about 2 30 p m., all of these taxi cabs are coming Micky McBride owned all the cabs in Cleveland-Northeast Ohio So, he sent the cabs out to pick these guys up, and they came in all these streets The guys on the field said, "We can get going, now Here comes the "taxi squad". It is like a lot of people do not know why "Night Train Lane" was called "Night Train Lane."

O: Because of the train? I am not sure what it is.

D No, we were riding on an airplane. He had to take the last train, or the third one, to L A on Friday night. He had to get on a train, or the ride to L.A. He would not get on a plane, so they called him "Night Train Lane." If it was just Detroit going to Pittsburgh, or something like that, he would just go the night before. So, they called him "Night Train Lane " Now, who was the famous radio announcer, or the ex-coach at Ogden? He will not get on a plane He will ride a big Greyhound bus right to the day he broadcasts.

O So, then, you went to the Chicago Rockets, an All-American team. It always interested me in starting the All-American Conference and having a franchise in Chicago against the NFL Chicago Bears The Chicago Bears play in the same city. It had to effect the conference

D There was another thing that people did not realize much more. I played for Chicago for the next five years with the Cardinals The Cardinals were the first team in Chicago, not the Bears You had a rule that if you were within 100 or 150 miles, you had to pay the existing team so much For example, the Washington Redskins are here, and they started the Baltimore Colts. Do you know what Baltimore had to pay George Preston Marshall? I think it was \$150,000 00 a year because you can see how the overlap.

Now, you are putting a team in here, you are going to take so much. In order to have a franchise, you had to pay. Charlie Bidwell, who owned the Chicago Cardinals, used to deal with a sporting goods company called Hallison May George Hallis sponsored a team up in Rockford, Illinois, but Bidwell was the first one in Chicago He let George Hallis have the franchise on the North Side. Up here is Rigley Field, and down here is Kavinsky park. They just tore it down and put up a new park. Then, over here was Soldiers Field. We had three teams in Chicago. They established the oldest team as the Cardinals and then, the Bears and the Rockets.

O: So, you played in Soldier Field?

D: We played in Soldier Field.

O: You were with the Rockets?

- D: Yes, the Rockets played in Soldier Field.
- O: Wow, I never knew that.
- D: Well, the Bears play there now. It used to be at one end zone, and there used to be another hundred yards of bleachers. The field opened at the other end. We played in Soldier Field as the old Chicago Rockets. We played the Browns there.
- O: Were those the days of Auto Graham and Marion Motley?
- D: Marion Motley was a full-back. Auto Graham and Yulinsky were there, and Gatsky was center. Bob Gaines and them came around a little later. That was the Browns that they got from the Great Lakes Naval Training School. Well, most of them were
- O: Try to take it back to your first day in professional football. Can you even imagine what that was like? One day you are playing, and the next day you show up in the big leagues
- D: My experience will be a little different because we were all together with the El Toro Marines, like the ones I named. We all came in. We were playing here, and we just moved into Chicago, which is a little different than coming in. I know what you are saying. When I came in with the Detroit Lions, I had already played for seven years. When the rookies come in, they will not even talk to you, even in the dormitory where we stayed. The hall goes one way, then, the other way. All the rookies were down at the one end. The varsity would hardly talk to you until out on the field where you kind of proved yourself.
- Pretty soon, they are going down after practice to the lemonade stand, and they would say, "Hey, do you want to go down?" Right away, you were taken in. Of course, if you were with the Detroit Lions and Buddy Parker was the coach, the way you found out if you were going to make it or not was with the Jewish tailor named Larry Gersch. He was a good friend of ours, and he was a good friend of Buddy's.
- Buddy was superstitious. One time, he had Gersch on the bench or something, and he looked up. There was Gersch, and he waved at him. Right after that, the whole thing changed over, and they won. Buddy insisted that Gersch came to all of the games. Larry Gersch is a tailor, and Gersch would go to Buddy and say, "I measured up so, and so, he wants to order two suits." Buddy would say, "No, he better wait a while." So, when Gersch would not measure you, you knew that things were not good. If Gersch came and said, "Hey, let me measure you. Look at this material," it was good. I remember I bought that one, the blue one.
- O: Did you know that you were in when you made the cut?
- D: You knew you were in, and you made the cut. Larry Gersch, the tailor, would come to measure you, and you knew you were in. Coming in a cab was strange. I left during the

night. You came in with eighty-five to ninety players, and the next day you would have eighty-two or eighty left. During the night, a guy would say, "The heck with this." and jump in his car. We called those guys the night flyers.

Then, there was another thing. You were out of college, now, and you were talking about going into pre-med or something. They came and offered you a contract. This is a little later, not exactly in 1946. Right now, they sign you for \$100,000.00, just to sign the contract. You would sign your contract and get a \$100,000.00 bonus to sign. All of a sudden you would come into training camp, and the guy would not show up. They said, "Where is so and so?" They would get on the phone, and he would say, "I am not going to play pro-ball." They would say, "Well, you took that bonus for signing." "That is right," he said. "I signed it, but I do not intend to play. I am going to medical school."

They would keep the money, and then, if you reported to camp, they used to say that you had an extra bonus of so much. Now, you had to sign and get so much, and you had to report to camp. A couple of guys would get to camp. You would run down the field, and the ball would hit them on the head. They would miss it, and they would say, "Get him out of here." They did that. Now, it says you have to report to camp and stay so long before you can collect your bonus.

- O: This was also in the American League?
- D: Yes.
- O: How much did you sign for in the American League?
- D: George Preson Marshall offered me \$1,800.00. I went over to the other team, and they offered \$4,500.00. I lied and went back and forth. I finally went to Dick Hanley, and he said, "Dave, no more bull. We are going to give you \$5,250.00 for your first year, three year non-release contract, and we are going to give you a job on the side in Chicago." He also said that I would make at least \$1,500.00 more a year. I worked for Fruhoff Trailor Company as a salesman at 2550 Archer Avenue. My first contract was a three year non-release \$5,250, \$5,750, and a \$500 raise each year. That is what I got paid for my first three years.
- O: Generous, very generous.
- D: It was better than the \$1,800.00 that George Preson Marshall wanted to give me.
- O: My god, today, you just cannot fathom that. It is amazing.
- D: Do you want to know another thing? Then, never go to this pay from the cable stations. In other words, they are going to charge you \$10.00 to see the game. If they ever do that, the prices are going to spiral even more.

O: So, you sign this. What was probably a sizeable contract?

D: It was five thousand, two hundred and fifty dollars and a three year non-release contract. You are also guaranteed a job on the side. That is why I started.

O: So, you were selling trailers, too?

D: As soon as the season was over. Now, the people stay around. You can go up around Cleveland. A lot of them go back home. As soon as the season was over, they did not want to see me. In fact, in the early days, only the head coach stayed on all year and maybe one assistant, like Blatnon Callier. All the rest of the coaches went on.

In Detroit, especially, they were manufacture representatives. They all got to work with Ford Motor Company. Now, I laugh at this, too. The Browns bought out a club. At Baldwin Wallace, they have their camp. They bought this, and fifty-two of them are coming to work out three days a week. They come in and work out two hours a day. They are getting \$250.00 to work out.

Then, they go romping. They did not have to get another job. They were making enough money playing. What I am getting at? Now, they work out, and hopefully, they play more games, more exhibition games. We did not pay for exhibition games. The exhibition games that I played were world champions. I have my world championship ring from the Detroit Lions. That money was used.

We ate good. We had steak, lobster, and all of that. That money that we made in exhibition games paid for our training camp. Now, the rookies get so much. The old timers get \$500.00 a game, maybe \$1000.00. I do not know what the figures are now. It is just like I played for nine years. I missed three because I was in the service. If I had ten years in, now, when I went out, they would give me maybe \$100,000 in severance pay. They would give me \$25,000 to get my head straight because these guys make all this money.

All of a sudden, they are making \$800,000 or a million dollars, and they did not invest it well. All these guys did not invest. They invested and lost a lot of it. Once you get out, you have a big house, and you are building in L.A. You have a condo in Hawaii, and you have this and that. All at once, you either got hurt, or you got cut. All of a sudden, you go home to all of these payments, and you start calling G and Up Shaw. That is our rep. You say, "Gene, my wife is leaving me. I am losing my \$250,000 car that is in the driveway."

O: You have to wonder what that kind of money does to people.

D: A lot of people are smart now. They have a money manager. All of the players have an agent, and they can get so much. Then, they sign you to a guy who is going to invest your money, a realtor.

O: Would your agent ever stand by \$5,250?

- D: If he is getting 8%, he would sign ten of us. What would he care? You just go in and talk to him. He charges \$6,000
- O Taking you back to your first years in Detroit after the All-American Conference, how did they pick you up from the All-American into the N.F.L.?
- D I jumped out of the American League and went with the Cardinals right here in Chicago I just went from the Rockets on breach of contract. They got a new coach and everything, and I was kind of a player/coach. A kid named Ed Mathews, Willoughby Wilkins, and I were all player/coaches coming from the El Toro Marines to help establish them
I got paid right away every month All at once, they had a change They fired Dick Hanley who had been my Marine Colonel Three or four months went by, and they did not pay me. I had a breach of contract By the time they had settled down, I jumped over to the Cardinals. I played for the Cardinals for the next five years. You have Charlie Trippy, Al Morangman, Pat Carter, and Paul Chrisman, our quarterback. It was called the "green backfield "
- O This was in the Cardinals?
- D: That was with the old Chicago Cardinals How did I get to Detroit? Who was the coach? When I first got in, the coach of the Cardinals was Jimmy Cozleman, the famous coach called the "Great White Father". Then, Buddy Parker was the coach. Buddy Parker got mad in Detroit and quit. He came down to a banquet and said, "I quit " He went to Detroit.
Now, I was almost 25 when I started playing pro-ball because I had been in the service for three years I am getting up there now, and they are going to rebuild the Cardinals A new coach came in, and Joe Stydahar was his name. They put six of us on wavers. One was my ex-coach, Buddy Parker, and Buster Ramsey, who was my old roommate, was the other one. We played together Buster lost a knee cap and went to coaching.
As soon as they saw the waver list, they called me to Detroit. We were in the championship for the next two years. We won it in 1953 and lost in 1954. We beat the Browns in 1953, and they beat us in 1954. We beat them twice in 1954 because we hosted Tulsa in the Chicago All-Star game. We went to the Chicago All-Star game. We were the team. The Browns lost their first and second games, and I do not know how many in that season. We played them in an exhibition game in Texas and beat them fifty-nine to twenty-two.
- O: That was the score?
- D: It was not the score of the championship game This was an exhibition game Then, it looked like the Cleveland Indians were going to be in the World Series. They took our game against Cleveland We probably would have chopped them up at this time, and

they moved the games to the end of the season. We already beat them in exhibition.

Starting with the first game of the season, the Browns won the next eight games. The Browns and the Lions are going to play for the world champions. We were going to play to the last game of the year because that is where they put it. We played them, again, and we beat them, again Groser kicked the field goal, and Auto threw one touchdown We beat them like seventeen to ten They said, "Go home " The next week, we come in to play the World Championship. They beat us fifty-two to ten

- O The Browns did? Was that in 1953?
- D No, 1954. We won it in 1953
- O: That is right I knew it was a big margin.
- D: That was death They went home and made some changes. Bobby Lane had one of those bad days. We had seven turnovers and four interceptions.
- O: What was Bobby Lane like? Playing with Bobby Lane. He was one of the more colorful characters.
- D: Yes, he was He was a competitor and a drinker. He liked those scotches and sodas. After the game on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, he would drink, and he quit Thursday. He would not drink Friday or Saturday
- O. Were you pretty good friends with him?
- D: Yes. I played with him for two years, and then, I coached for two years. He and Donald Roper were both quarterbacks. I quit playing in 1954. Then, I went on to the University of Detroit and worked on the scouting crew for the Detroit Lions. Then, I went back from 1958 to 1959. I was on the coaching staff, and Bobby was still quarterback I played with him two years, and then, I coached on the coaching staff for two years
- O What was a typical day in the N F L with the Detroit Lions? A typical practice day and a typical game day? What would go on? How do you think it is different in organization as you see it at least until the 1980's?
- D I do not know. They are more independent now. I was in Hiram all of those years that the Browns had their training camp I think that the players now are more independent than they were then You could miss practice. I would see guys come out and say, "Oh, I do not feel good " They would go back in and would not go to practice or anything
- Not in the old days. They were the bosses. We would come down to practice Once the season started, we would never put a pad on. We would practice in sweat suits unless we were going over something special, like a rush or something , and they did not

want us to get hurt. Ends and defensive ends put their pads on. Then, you go through the whole routine and throw them over in the corner or something.

You had a regular routine. You went out and did your exercise. You run the steps just like they do now. You went through the routine, and then, you would end up getting into team play at the end of team practice. Before a game, just like Youngstown does a lot of times, we would go down to the Cadillac Hotel. You would go down to an apartment if you were married and had at least one kid, maybe two.

You would go down to the Cadillac Hotel, and we would have a meal. They had a place there with the new movies coming in that were going to be at the big theaters, and we would preview them there. It was a kind of studio. They would take us down to that studio, and we would sit there and watch a movie that was going to be up the next week at the big theaters. We would see it before it got up. Then, they would take us back over to the Cadillac Hotel, which was actually a block away.

O: What kind of hotel was the Cadillac Hotel?

D: A big, nice one. They had the Oliver and the Cadillac. Anyhow, they would take us back over, and we had to stay over that night and get up the next morning. They had the steak breakfast, about ten or fifteen feet for each steak. They ate poached eggs, toast, and things like that. You would break, and you had to be at the stadium dressed and ready to go at two. This pre-game meal was at eight, nine, or ten. You would go out, get into your car, and maybe, go on home.

I had an apartment up on the north side, and I would go home for an hour or two. Then, my wife would come to the game after. We would go down to the stadium and get dressed, and then, we would play. You would get through playing, go out, and get into your car. The Cardinals had a big party. I had the most fun with the Cardinals, but the high class team was the Detroit Lions in those days.

O: What kind of parties?

D: They had a place to go. This one place we would go is where everybody drank Mosko Mules. Everybody had a copper cup and would "chug-a-lug" after the game. You asked me about Bobby Lane. After the game, there was a little tavern right by Briggs Stadium where we played. You did not have practice on Monday. That was the day you were off. Everybody would report down there, and he would have a buffet set up.

O: Did you ever get together with the opposing team?

D: Sometimes, when they would come in. I know Neil Nomally from the 49ers. We would get together for a little bit. He would call the hotel and then, come over, not too much. I got to know a lot of them playing at Notre Dame and in the service. In the service, guys from different teams were in the Marine Corps, so you got to know them there. When I played in the East/West game, I was in college, and you got to know a bunch of the kids.

there.

Then, I got into pro-ball and played with the Rockets, the Cardinals, and then, Detroit. Then, I coached Buffalo and Detroit, and then, I played in the first pro-bowl game I played in the first pro-bowl game in January of 1951. Paul Brown was the coach, along with Blanton Callier, Loggans Brown, and all of the Eastern players. You live with them for ten days, and you get to know them all.

I go once a month over to the Hall of Fame over in Canton. I run a tour for J-Brokers. It is a brokerage firm, and he takes these managerial trainees that come in for Phar-Mor. We take them over to the Genghis Khan Restaurant and take them through the Hall of Fame. I have been the tour guide once a month for the past two years. I get to know them all.

- O: Because of your days with the Lions, when you look at professional football, say in the 1950's, do you think it was much more physical?
- D: With the Detroit Lions, Pat Summerall played defensive end and kicker, and he broke his arm in three places. That is when I was up on waver, and they brought me right over to Detroit. The next week, I was playing with Detroit. I played there for the next two years, or two championship years. It was a big break for Summerall. It was all over your radio and television. Gussie and Green Bay are not going to get the opportunity and neither is Minnesota. Where are your headquarters? New York and L A for all of your commercials and programs.
- O: This is just the dawn of the media borage that is going to hit the National Football League.
- D: All those guys got all of the gravy.
- O: This is the infancy, so these guys are the first that media starts to promote professional football.
- D: It was a lot of fun. I was lucky. I had a hemorrhage in my arm, and I almost lost it, I guess.
- O: That was because of your injuries in football?
- D: Yes. I tackled Tony Canodale on Thanksgiving Day. As I came in, his knee came up and caught me right here. I went over to the sidelines, and my arm was numb. Doctor Thompson told me to put ice on it, and he never told me not to go back in. Soon after, the ball changed hands, and in the process, if you got a sore spot, you get hit there again. I got hit there again.

Anyhow, Green Bay did not have their new stadium yet. They had the old wooden stadium. We stayed at the Warwick Hotel. It was in downtown Green Bay. We

dressed down there, and I could not get my arm up to get my pads off. One of the coaches saw me trying to get my pads off. We got my pads off, packed it in ice, and went back to Detroit.

Three of us went into the hospital. Jimmy Davis had to go in for something and one other person. They got me back, and my arm was up in a sling. The next day, the doctor came in and said, "Well, Bob, you have a big knot in there. Today is Thursday. You are not going to play Sunday." Since we played on Thanksgiving, the next game would not be for ten days.

He went out and came back in with a needle, and he shot the needle in here. He broke up the clot, I guess. When he did, there was a medicine that they use when the blood would not clot or something like that. He told me to get dressed. I was in the hospital.

They sent me in a cab down to the park, and they told the trainer to get me a light e-treatment. They gave me one, and my arm hurt. I went in to take a shower after I had been in the whirl pool, and all at once, blood started out of my arm. It came down, and my palm turned black under my armpit all the way down. They rushed me back to the hospital. Whoever gave me that shot broke up the clot, which caused the hemorrhaging. You can hear them. He might lose his arm. That was the worst I ever got.

O. In football, what was the worst injury that you ever saw, not to yourself but to other players around you?

D: It was Stan Mollan during the year we were in the championship. We played in the All-Star game, and we opened up with Philadelphia in Covinsky Park. Stan Mollan was one of the best tacklers you ever saw. We came off of the field, and I was in the shower room. Sam is in there talking to big Joe Coovers. He said, "Joe, the hardest I got hit all day, you jumped over and hit me in the head." They were kidding back and forth. Mollan came out of the locker room and was talking to Phil Handler, one of the assistant coaches. Stan Mollan's locker was here, and mine was over here.

He was almost in between, and, all at once, he said, "Who has a cigarette?" Sam reached up to give him a cigarette, and he was talking to the coach. He said, "I am getting one," and the coach grabbed him. He had an aneurism, a blow out of an artery, and he went down onto the table. The doctor ran over. I do not know how the specialist got there. They counted the rhythm and put a shot into him. Stan Mollan died in the locker room.

A kid named McCarthy was out in California with the Rockets. He broke his leg, and you heard it pop all over the stadium. They took him to San Francisco. They could not get any circulation in his foot. They took him 55 miles in to San Francisco and operated on him. They finally had to cut his leg off, and gangrene set in.

He had a motorcycle. Pat Lee from John Carroll College up here sold him a motorcycle. He lost his leg in an exhibition game out there in California. That was a bad one. I saw a lot of knee injuries and shoulder separations. Not too much for the number games you played. I just told you the worst ones.

O: I mean for every tragedy like that, there are people that come out, like yourself. So after Detroit, you retired from professional football, and you went into coaching. What was the transition like from player to coach?

D: It was not too bad. I was 34 years old. I had a chance to go to Missouri with Don Forde. I was still affiliated with the scouting and what not. You felt bad about not being able to play, or you were just getting tired and did not care. I forget.

I coached at the University of Detroit for three years, and then, the Lions put me back on their staff. Now, you are going into the routine of being a coach, the meeting, scouting, and then, back to the meeting. I coached at Detroit. Then, I went to Buffalo. I had a chance to go to Oakland, but I took the job at Hiram College.

I took it for one year. I thought I could get hooked up coaching a team closer by in Pittsburgh, Cleveland, Cincinnati, or somewhere like that. I stayed there seven years. I had more fun at Hiram than I ever did in my life. We did not have a spring practice coaching other sports.

For about twenty years, I traveled with the baseball team on their southern trips with Billy Proverbs from Youngstown here. Youngstown became the state, and Frank Bees followed me to a banquet one night. He told me that he wanted to see me. About 1968 or 1969, I started here, and I have been here ever since.

O: Taking back to Buffalo, you said you helped start the Buffalo Bills. What was your participation in that? How did you go about starting up an NFL franchise? This does not seem like an every day occurrence.

D: The new league started. Ralph Wilson, who owns the team today, is from Detroit. The guardian building and the top two floors is all Menhaden Insurance. One of his big accounts was ginger ale. When the franchise came up, Ralph Wilson bought the franchise. I paid him by the month. He came to Buster Ramsey about coaching it, and on a handshake, Buster Ramsey took the job.

In the meantime, Eddie Anderson, the General Manager, who was also the president of Golden Brewery, was going to retire. The routine, or the regression, that George Wilson was going to move up to General Manager, and Buster Ramsey was going to move up to head coach. The Lions called Buster in, and Buster said, "No, I gave the man my word." They said, "Did you sign a contract?" He said, "No, I shook hands, which is better than a contract." I went down to the Guardian Building with my wife in my Dodge station wagon. I pulled up to the back, and in the freight elevator, they brought down used typewriters, huge rubber bands, paper clips, thumb tacks, and all of that stuff. I filled my station wagon up and took it across the Windsor.

Jay and I went down to where Erie crosses and went to the Sheraton. I got there and pulled up in front, and where our offices are supposed to be, there had been a shoe store. Now, it was an election headquarters. The manager said, "Oh, my god, I was not expecting you for three days, yet. Have you eaten?" I said, "No." He said, "On me, go on in and eat."

He had some guys come in and clean up the place. It was an empty room. They helped me carry the stuff in and set it down in a corner. They looked at me, and the man said, "Coach Dove, we have some old desks up on the top floor. Would you like to have them?" I said, "Heck, it is better than using the orange crates." I said, "Yes, bring them down."

Then, it was only Buster Ramsey and me. We hired Reggie Bree from Green Bay at the convention in Chicago. We hired Dick Gallagher as General Manager. He was with the Browns, then, my coach for one year. I hired Dick Gallagher as General Manager. I still do not have a team. I think the way we drafted was put all the names in a hat.

I had a guy jump from the National League over to this new league and brought all of the players from Chicago. We did not have an equipment man. We did not have a trainer. I signed Albert Develion, who was a great one, who had been with the Browns. He got hurt, and they let him go or something. I signed Develion.

There was a kid named Shadlock who played with the Canton Bulldogs. We used to go to a place called the Ace of Steak Pit for lunch. Tony Margetti was the bartender in there, and he kept telling Buster, "Can you not get me a job with this new team?" Buster would say, "What the heck do you know about football?" Finally, Buster must have been in a good mood. He said, "Bob, do you think we could make Margetti equipment manager?" I said, "It would be easy. We do not have any equipment. If we brought it in little by little, he would know what it is."

Dave Ramosky is our trainer still today. We stole him. When you are in pro-time, college trainers come down and help out. When you first come to camp, you have about 100 players. Eddie knew Ramosky who was the trainer at Detroit, so we stole him. We signed him, and he is with them still today. Now, we have a trainer.

We have an equipment manager. Now, we have Dick Gallagher as General Manager. Then, we hired Reggie Bree and then, Harvey Johnson. Harvey and Buster both went to Windemere together. That is how we got started. We had to pick up different players and start after the first draft. Buddy Parker was at Pittsburgh. He said, "We did better than anybody else." We had Bob Shaul make all-pro five of six years.

O: How long were you with Buffalo?

D: Two years, the first two years. We got them all established, and then, they brought Lou Saben in. He takes over.

O: Then, Hiram?

D: It went from Buffalo to Hiram in seven to twenty some years now.

O: How do you like it here?

D: Well, I came back home because my mother and dad were here. Jane's mom and dad had

helped us all the way through, and now, they are getting older. It was good to get back home I was at Hiram, which is only 30 miles up the road, but I came to Youngstown. Coming back even then, I did not realize that they did not have one field, court, or swimming pool on campus

Every sport was off campus The swim team practiced at the Y M C A. and had their meets down there We contracted through Mill Creek Park for the volleyball courts, the tennis courts, and everything down there. Dom was up at Evans Field for the baseball There was not one thing on campus.

Being from Youngstown, I did not realize this We put teams out, and we did not have scholarships as such The kids had a meal ticket if they wanted it. They went through the line and had a buck and a half. They spent two dollars and had to put the other 50 cents in to pay the difference. If you lived any place around here, there was not dormitories for you to live in You lived at home and commuted. It was an experience but a good one The best thing I did was to come back to Youngstown with the state teachers and the pension plan, their hospital plan, and the pharmaceutical plan.

- O· This is one of your major accomplishments is your input with the university?
- D· Well, they made me Man of the Year, and they gave me several awards. They gave me an award for participating. Coming back to Youngstown where all your old friends are and that, even like today I came here in 1969, and I have been here ever since.
- O: How many children do you have?
- D· I have three children and eight grandchildren
- O Well, thank you for your time
- D: You are welcome.

End of Interview