

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY
ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Germany during World War II

Personal Experience

O. H. 1054

HELMUT MAJONEK

Interviewed

by

Elizabeth Clark

on

October 16, 1986

HELMUT HERBERT MAJONEK

Helmut Majonek was born in Waldau, Germany, June 30, 1929. His parents were Richard and Pauline Majonek. This part of Germany was called Lithuania, and the people living there were from pre-World War I Germany. His family were farmers and as he described his life on the farm, he was unaware of the politics of the rise of Hitler.

His formal schooling ended after the eighth grade. He spent the next four years in a trade school. Today Mr. Majonek works for Warren Engineering as foreman of construction.

Mr. Majonek is a member of the Christ Lutheran Church in Hermitage. His hobby is raising homing pigeons. He is well known throughout the United States as an outstanding breeder of Homing Pigeons.

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INTERVIEWEE: HELMUT MAJONEK
INTERVIEWER: Elizabeth Clark
SUBJECT: home life, farm, government, World War II,
 early youth, Nazi influence, school
DATE: October 16, 1986

C: This is an interview with Helmut Majonek for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on Germany during World War II, by Elizabeth Cole Clark, at 3030 Armstrong Way, Hermitage Pennsylvania, on October 16, 1986.

Tell me about your growing up.

M: My growing up. . . I grew up in the east part of Germany. It is not a factory, it is a farm country. My life really down on the farm was not like people growing up in the city. In 1939 after the war started to May 1945 after the Russians came in, we moved out to run away from the Russians. In June we went back home to the homestead, but Russia, USA, and England divided Germany and this part of Germany was given to the Polish people. So the Polish people moved us out to East Germany. There I was homeless. At this time I was starting out to be a cabinet maker, furniture man, or the German name Tissler.

But in 1949 I didn't like the Russian system. I ran away to West Berlin in West Germany. There I was working for three years up to 1952. I don't like to be crowded so I moved out to Canada in 1952, where I stayed until 1955. Through luck I had my mother's sister in California. She sent me over to California. It just so happened I was stopping here in Sharon and there I stayed. Then I continued the cabinet work and

carpenter work and name it. Whatever came up, I did it. This is really the true history, but about politics in the farm village, there is not too much.

C: Take me back. When were you born?

M: On June 30, 1929. So that meant in 1939 I was ten years old. I remember the war very well.

C: Well, before you get to the war tell me about going to school, and what your family life was like, and who was in your family.

M: The school was not like it is here. I had to walk to the school four miles a day, back and forth. There were no buses like you have in this country. If you were lucky you had a bicycle. My parents were not rich, they were well off, but they could not afford to buy a bicycle for each boy. There were three boys and I was the youngest one in this family. And if you came home. . . Say we had school from 8:00 to 12:00, we didn't go to school the whole day, if I came home that meant you worked out in the field. You had four or five cows, you had to watch the cows out in the field. You had your books with you. You did your homework. Once, if I have to tell you plainly, I was watching the cows and I left my books and the cow stepped right on top of it and made down there the foot marks. So I had to do it over. When the neighbor kids came we started playing, probably the cows were someplace else. Then you got a beating before you came home.

C: What did your family do on holidays and Christmas, or what was your family life like at this time?

M: My family life was very, very simple. We got up in the morning, the kids went to school, the dad worked on the farm, the mother too. There were a lot of times that she had no time for cooking so you just had a cold supper. We didn't have the high machinery like you have here, everything was hand work. You had a pair of horses and that's it. Same as the Pennsylvania Dutch. If you had potatoes to bring in in the fall, you had to pick them by hand. They were stored in the basement. You had the cold basement like they have in Europe.

C: As you are growing older in the school do you get involved with the government at all? Did you have any effect with it, or did they affect you?

M: It was a law practically. When you were ten years old, you started in this youth movement. The same like you have here, the Brownies or the 4-H Club or whatever it is. What they were doing was giving you discipline, yes. You don't steal, you don't lie, you don't smoke,

and stuff like this. But that it was really involved in the Nazis, that's not the truth. I don't go for this. One thing, they give you discipline what this country doesn't have in their kids in their schools. We had discipline, I must say this.

C: Okay you're getting to 1938 and 1939. Is your part of East Germany being affected as Hitler is moving his troops into Austria?

M: Yes.

C: Okay, what happens then?

M: The war started September 1, 1939. My part extent was Schlesien and 100 miles farther is Poland. I saw the troops moving when we were right on this main highway. The troops were moving towards Poland day and night, with horses and buggies. Not with tanks. Tanks we didn't see, and there was only the main highway, in August of 1939.

My dad was one of the first people who was in the war in 1939 in Poland, since he spoke perfect Polish. My parents were born in Poznan and they emigrated in 1921 to Germany. Since after the First World War in 1918 they were German, so they had to move out and find a new home in Germany. So my mother and dad speak perfect Polish. He was the first one in 1939 and he was forty-five years old. He was the first one out of the village from 4,000 people drafted to the war in 1939. There were younger ones, but since he spoke Polish. . . I don't know the reason. Maybe they wanted to have him for an interpreter or something, but he was one of the first. Then he came home in 1941 since he was forty-seven years old, but he was redrafted in 1943 since the war was getting down. So they needed everybody they could have. So he went down to Bordeaux, France in a submarine. He was never in a submarine at forty-seven years old.

C: All right, when he was in the Army going across Poland, what were you doing at that time, or how did you feel about it, or what did you know about it?

M: In 1939-1940 I was now twelve years old. I was helping my mother continue the farm. I had two brothers who were gone. So me and my mother worked the farm plus school at this time. We managed and we made it. Then we had outside help from neighbors who were helping us.

C: Did you produce a lot of food for and give it to the Army to support them?

M: Yes, you did have to. You had a quota to fulfill. If

you had thirty acres, that meant you had to provide so many eggs, so many pounds of wheat, so many pounds of potatoes. I don't know how many pounds it was. Milk was picked up and went down in the dairy. Then you had 250 grams which equals about nine ounces, per person, butter back a week. Not a day, a week. You got so much butter back for per person, so much. If you had four cows you were supposed to produce so many kilograms of milk. If you didn't produce it, they didn't do anything to you either. This was just about set, the amount you could produce from this farm per acre.

C: Well now, your brothers, were they in the Eastern Front?

M: Yes, both brothers were in Russia. Both of them. One of them was a prisoner for two and a half days in the Russian Army, but it just happened that the German troops broke through again and they took my brother out. He was barefoot standing in the snow because they took his boots off since the Russians were very, very poor in equipment. He was lucky enough that they brought him out after two and a half days. He was never wounded. Even this other brother and my dad, they were never harmed. We were fortunate enough. All two brothers and dad, there were none of them hurt.

After the war in 1945, since the American troops invaded France, my dad was a prisoner captured by the American people, and then sent two years to England in prison. So he came home in 1947, which is not right either. They didn't let him out. The reason was we are from East Germany and this was occupied by the Russians, or a territory, so the British people didn't want to let him go home. My dad had a stepbrother in West Germany, he was giving this address, and they let him out to West Germany. My mother, and I, and my brother were in East Germany. So he came over the border and came home anyway. That was the situation.

In the meantime, since Russia took over East Germany they divided the huge farms and gave every person who was there maybe thirty acres, and twenty acres, and thirty acres. So my mother, and my dad, and my brother, and he even stayed there until 1957. After this he had a beautiful farm. After this went bad he ran away to West Berlin and went over to Cologne. Then he couldn't stand the pressure any more. . . They call it the A-E-G-Oper Consum, this is the common system from East Germany. I don't know the name anymore, but he is now in Cologne, West Germany. I still have a brother over in East Germany. I haven't seen him for forty years, more than forty years.

C: How did the Russians treat you when they came in and

took over? How were the people treated?

M: Treated?

C: Badly.

M: This is something. . . I cannot say it. I was a kid of fifteen years old. We were gone from our homestead about 200 miles to the west. We were staying there. The Russians came. They didn't bother me as a boy, but I knew women were molested. Then on the way home there were a lot of women molested. They took them right out of the wagon. We had two horses and a wagon. There were the Polish people. Whatever they wanted to take, they took and you couldn't do anything. Personally, Russian soldiers molesting me, no. I even got from them bread, sugar, and tobacco. Kids were really not molested, especially boys. Girls maybe at sixteen, eighteen years old, yes. I didn't see it, but yes it did happen. Boys, no.

C: When the war was over did you receive any help from Russia? Did they come in with equipment and things to help rebuild what had been destroyed?

M: No, they didn't rebuild anything. I must say that I was in East Germany which is now Poland. My dad came from our village which was strong, more than 4,000 people. In our little part there were nineteen farmers. There were only three farms left. Everything was torn down. From my homestead there was nothing standing there. Not a tree, not a house. It was all torn down and everything was falling apart. This was in the Polish section.

In East Germany now, people are living very, very poor. The wages are cheap, the living is cheap. You don't pay \$300 or \$400, or marks, rent. Maybe you pay 30 marks rent, but maybe you only make \$1.75. We don't have the wages. The wages is part of your living. The wages are low, the living is low. That is true. You cannot go and buy an orange, bananas, coffee, or cocoa. For this they need dollars. So they don't spend money for this. There are a lot of kids in East Germany now who don't know what a banana is, or an orange. They can't buy it, and it doesn't come in. It is not brought in from the western parts. Then we would have to pay with different currency.

C: Tell me what it was like when you were growing up around Christmas time. Did you go through the Christmases like we have here, or did you have. . . What was your Christmas like? Did you decorate, did you give gifts?

M: I think our Christmas time, first of all we have a live tree. A live tree with live candles on it. That is the European style. We don't have artificial trees like they have got here. There was never a fire in the house either. You got a present, part of it, yes. Mother made some pretzels and stuff like this, but it isn't outgoing like it is in this country. You got the most necessary things you needed. You might get a little train. As a young boy of maybe eight, nine years old, you got a train, yes, but that was just about all. Then Christmas Eve you went down to the church. See our Christmas is on the 24th, not on the 25th. The 25th and the 26th is the first and second holiday, but our real Christmas is on the 24th in the evening. You went down to the church, then you came home, mother had the supper ready, and everybody had a little present, and that was it. The next morning you went out down on the farm and you had to take care of your livestock. That is common sense. That's not like my wife, a city girl, that was different.

C: Do you remember any one in particular, any Christmas that was real special in your life, or any holiday that was really outstanding in your growing up? Did you remember the period of time after the . . . Well, the Depression. Did your parents talk about it? How did the Depression hit them?

M: Down on the farm, the Depression really hit them in 1922, 1923. My dad sold the property in 1921 in Poland and then he came to Germany. This was really the Depression time. If he could not buy something fast, he would have nothing left. But from 1922 to 1935 I could not tell you much. I was born in 1929. My parents always had food since he was a farmer, but he was not rich either. He was borrowing money from, probably, Jewish people to buy fertilizer for they coming year, but after the harvest time he was paying them off.

About concentration camps, we didn't know anything. We didn't know anything about what was going on. Maybe people in the city like where my wife came from, she knew through some friends. Out in the farm belt you didn't know that they had concentration camps or other stuff like this, but if you were talking against the Nazi party, they would pick you up and then you would just disappear. We knew there were people that disagreed with the Nazis and Hitler, but you had to keep your mouth shut and nobody bothered you. But if you talked against them, they would pick you up. They do it still, right now, in East Germany and Russia. If you don't follow the party, and you are against those people, they will pick you up. It is common sense. That's what they do. So to have peace, keep your mouth

shut.

C: That's it. What else. . . Your training, give me some idea. Did you go into the youth camps, did you get involved in that, or because you lived on a farm. . . Was that mostly for the city kids?

M: Your training, you had meetings once a week. Say Wednesday night, the boys, between ten and fourteen meet in the schoolyard. So they tell you discipline. You were probably singing songs, but that was just about it.

C: Did any of your acquaintances, were they sort of forced to go into youth groups or anything, or did they not bother you because of the fact that you were working on the farms?

M: No, you should go. I mean this was something like it was mandatory. The same like you have to go to school. There was one day during the week that you should go there. If you don't go for three, four weeks, then they would give you a little note, a citation, and they asked you why. If I could say, "I have two brothers in the war, plus my dad. I have to work on the farm," they would not bother me. It was something that you should go there once in a while. They say after 7:00 in the evening you should spare a couple hours time.

C: Was your dad in World War I?

M: Yes, he was. My dad was from 1914 to 1918 down in France, in Metz, in this area and he was fighting there for four years. He never got touched either. Then he was twenty years old in 1914.

C: How much training did your brothers have before they went into the service?

M: Training? Nothing.

C: Military training?

M: Nothing. They just take you in and they give you six weeks training, or eight weeks basic training and then you go out. Military training before, nothing.

C: Well the fact that you were in the area of Poland and they do so much talking about the Blitzkrieg, are you familiar with that and the devastation of Poland.

M: The krieg only took nineteen days if I remember right.

C: Twenty-nine.

M: Twenty-nine days. Hitler put all this force in it, yes. He did. There were so many German people still living in Poland. My mother had two sisters who didn't come out in 1921 and were still in Poland. So we spoke Polish and German. The kids at school, Polish and German. Sure, Hitler was powerful at this time and when he went into Poland it was like an elephant stepping on a little pony. There was no. . .

C: No contest there.

M: No contest or match between them. Later on it spread out. Germany went to Holland, Belgium, France, and they helped Italy in Africa, and then we went to Russia. Then it was spread out too much.

C: How did you feel about the people under Hitler? Did you not know much about them? Did you know anything about them when you were there?

M: I think the people were happy. First of all we had, in 1934 or 1935, just about 6,000,000 people laid off without a job. Sure Hitler started a program of bringing the country up. Everybody worked, and who didn't want to work would not eat either, then there were jobs there. That is true. When he became more and more powerful, the people liked it. You could go outside at midnight and nobody would touch you. If you go outside now in Germany at midnight with \$20 in your pocket, in West Germany--I am not talking about East, in West Germany--they would knock you down for \$20. In Hitler's time you didn't have this. You had discipline. You didn't have to lock a door. We never locked the door on the farm. Whether to the chickens, or the cows, or the horses, you knew nobody would touch it. That is what this country is missing; discipline between mine and somebody else's.

C: Well, I think that's the time because I grew up on the farm and we never locked it once. Bob was a farmer, never locked it. Wide open and nobody ever touched anything. Unfortunately, not so today.

What else can you tell me about your growing up, and your feelings about the war, and your coming over here? There are a lot of stories you're not telling me because. . . Bob told me you were going to say all sorts of things.

M: My feelings?

C: Yes.

M: Between this country and Germany? I do have feelings, yes. I don't believe that the American people always

are right and the German people are wrong. You should follow back in history why the American people bombed women and kids. Why did they do this? Just to put down the morale on the German people? As I said, in 1944 a lot of people from the east since the Russians came in, ran away. I want to mention one town, it's not too far from me, Dresten. That's in Saxon. There were 250 people killed in three hours. They laid the city flat. A city with history only! No military effort and no military in it. Only women and kids and people who ran away with horses and buggies from the east going farther west. Why the American people bombed this town twice. . . Not even a mouse was alive. Why did they do it? This is the question I would ask the history people, why they did it. If they deny it, I have a lexicon at home. My wife maybe showed you the pictures, maybe she didn't. How many people were killed. People were burning. They let down the vapor bombs or whatever they call them.

C: Incendiary.

M: They jumped down in the river, and if they came out of the river they were burning again. They you could never kill this flame. This is the question; why they did it. They would be talking about Russia, they were insulting women, yes. They raped women, yes, we knew this. What the American people did to kill women and kids, I'm sorry. I disagree 100 percent. Men should fight against men, but not men should fight women and kids, unarmed. She might have told you her dad was killed in the basement, and there was nothing found to today and this is forty-five years later. So this is something I disagree with. If you want to fight and you want to be honest, then fight men against men, but don't fight poor women and kids. Any dummy can do this. I don't care who it is. You can fly 5,000 feet high and drop those bombs down, but what will those poor people do down on the bottom. If it is industry, airport, railroad, yes, this is different. But if it is only a city history from the kings, from years back of kaisers we had with a gallery of pictures and all this stuff, this is not called for.

C: I shouldn't do this but I will bring in something, Hitler's V-2 rockets went any place in England and I was in Swansea, Wales. There is nothing in Swansea, Wales, and that entire town was leveled except for a church. There was no industry, there was nothing, but they were out of control. They were uncontrollable.

M: Yes, he was shooting the rockets, that is true, but they didn't have the precision at that time like we have it now. They were shooting it over. They might hit London, they might hit a farm village, they might

hit an empty field. Their precision in 1944 was not this correct that it could pinpoint it.

C: But what I'm saying is don't you think Hitler was trying to demoralize the British so that they would give up? Just like the Americans were trying to demoralize the Germans so they would give up.

M: It was probably cheaper sending the rocket over than sending an airplane over. If you remember Gerring, who was the general of the Air Force, he would say that no other airplane was going to come over European territory. We were flying to London at nights. Yes, we did. That's true. In 1942 I would think, or 1943. They were killing women and kids, yes, we knew this too. I think this is such a highly educated country. I must say the United States likes to be highly educated, and they should know you don't fight women and kids. Besides, there is one thing, people go to church here every Sunday and are very, very religious. Where is God? Where is their trust? They should be ashamed, I'm sorry.

C: I remember my dad saying that they were trying to avoid the cathedrals and the great works areas. That's why I was amazed.

M: They did not.

C: I know they did Dresten.

M: Okay, the Cathedral of Cologne. . .

C: Cologne, my father was there.

M: The nicest one, it was bombed. The middle ship, what they were calling the middle ship. . . This is a building started in 1400 and they are still building on, it's never done, they even bombed this. Don't tell me that the pilots say that it's a failure, that's not true. They know they had their orders where they should go and they got their things pinpointed. They are not dumb in this part. There were churches. . . Berlin. I was there in 1952 to 1955. They call it the little zoo. Next to this zoo, I should show you the picture, the beautiful church was bombed out. What did Germany do? They put a new church next to it and left the old one to stay to show the symbol of the American bombing. This is the truth.

C: Coventry, England. My daughter was there for a summer. There was a beautiful cathedral at Coventry, bombed out the cross of nails, and next to it is built a church. As you look out, you see the same identical thing.

M: It is the same thing they did in Berlin. They call it the Gedeatnis-Kirche. On the zoo that is one of the nicest, next to the Kurfirsten-dam. It's not too far off. The old church is standing, the new one is built as a monument, as a shame they call it, to the American Air Force. That is still there. It will be there in 500 years.

C: It is exactly side by side.

M: Side by side.

C: And that's what England has, exactly side by side.

M: Side by side, yes. They did it for some reason. Why, I don't know.

C: Well, this one in Coventry, England, all the people in the world sent money to rebuild it up. Because they destroyed Coventry, the entire town.

M: Germany is rebuilt. They might have done Germany a favor. They bombed the towns, and then they have now a beautiful industry. They have got some of the finest technology. The United States must take it now between Japan and Germany what they are bringing in. You cannot keep up anymore. They might have done a favor, I don't know. The towns are rebuilt, except they killed a lot of innocent people; kids, and women, and men too.

C: War is terrible.

M: How do we know, they might have done us a favor.

C: That's a hard favor.

M: I don't know. I didn't lose anybody. So I was not hurting in the war. I got my brothers home, I got my dad living yet at ninety-two, so it didn't hurt us. My dad is very alert. He sent me a tape. He would tell us stories about when we were kids. I am surprised what he is telling. I was six, seven years old and he is now ninety-two. He has a very good memory.

C: He tells you all the things you did.

M: Between the boys and the neighbors kids and stuff like this, it's coming back when he is saying them. I still have the tapes here telling a lot of stuff.

C: You enjoy them.

M: Oh, yes. I just keep them.

C: Sure, they are treasures.

M: Yes, they are.

C: Well, I can't think of anything else. If you can think of some other things that you would like to say. Because the fact that you were on the Eastern Front, which we don't get too many people who lived in that area. . .

M: I must say this, right after the war--after May 5th, then there was June, July, and August--I saw a lot of people die of starvation. I saw babies in the baby carriages who had no milk for maybe three months. You saw the living dead. You didn't see this in Hitler's time. Yes, there was not too much food in the cities, I knew that. In the farm village we had chickens and stuff like this, it was different. But if you could see in a baby carriage and see a baby three months old looking to you with no milk for three months, you see the living dead. Even as a kid at fifteen years old, that is bad. That not only happened to little babies, to other people too. Right after the war from May of 1945 to say up to 1946, 1947, this was the roughest time. It was not the war time. There was always food there. There was not plenty, but you had food. But there was no food. That was bad.

C: How did you get your seed for the farm?

M: Well, you always keep your. . .

C: Yes, you keep your seed from year to the next.

M: You keep your own seeds.

C: Did you have a problem on the farm when so many people were starving that people came and wanted to steal the food?

M: Yes. No, they didn't steal it. They were coming begging for one potato, or else one slice of bread. They would give you the ring off their finger for one slice of bread, or a bed sheet. Name it, they would give it to you. But if you would give every person one potato a day, you had a thousand people coming, in two months you would not have the seed for next year to produce or to feed the pigs.

C: Did you have to turn people away?

M: Yes.

C: That must have been very difficult.

M: It is difficult, but if you don't have it. You have so much on hand, yes. You had to have maybe six pigs. We don't feed them like they do here with corn, we feed them with potatoes. That is why the meat tastes better. That is true.

C: I know.

M: So you had to turn the people away. On fruit, on apples, and pears, whatever was on the tree, go ahead and pick them. Whoever was lucky and climbed the tree got some. I mean fruit down on those trees, we didn't worry too much. If you could go and pick them, they did.

C: When the war was over and the Russians came in and took over your farm, were you still working on the farm?

M: No, we were running away already.

C: Away?

M: We were running away.

C: So you were leaving your farm?

M: We were leaving the farm. We left everything except two horses, one wagon with bed sheets, personal things. We were running away. When we came back in June, the farm was still standing but it had no doors and no windows. We tried to put in the harvest for the same year, like potatoes. The corn was planted in 1944 in the fall, the wheat and corn. We didn't have summer corn, we had what stays over the wintertime. We had to plant potatoes for the year 1945. The seed was still there, half of them I would say. The cows were all gone. There was nothing left. Chicken, cows, or whatever. There were a couple birds, some homing pigeons, and then I had homing pigeons. They were still there, they were buzzing around.

Everything else was gone. Furniture and everything. We were sleeping down in the barn the first couple of days. I was sleeping in front of the horses so they weren't stolen. Then the Polish people moved through, going back home since Hitler had so many immigrants in Germany working. They went home to Poland. Whatever they could steal, they would take. So I was sleeping at night in front of my horses, and they took one of them. Since my mother spoke Polish, she went out on the street and took it back. They thought she was a Pollock, she was not, but she spoke perfect Polish. So she took it off of this guy and brought it back in.

I was starting to put in the harvest for the fall. In

the meantime in August or July, they chased all the German people out with a twenty pound. . . You could take twenty pounds of luggage. They chased you over the border. I was near the border, only fifteen miles. What is now East Germany and Poland, they chased us over the borderline and that was it. Everything stayed there, even the two horses and whatever was left there.

Now the Polish people are so poor, since my dad goes over once in a while, they are even tearing the buildings down. They don't have anything. If they need bricks, or there is an empty building there, they tear it down and butcher something up here to help rebuild. They don't live high, the Polish people. They are very poor. They can't even buy a tire for their bicycle because they are so poor. Why, I don't know. It seems like the Russian people control the Polish people. They don't even want to be there. Then Russia took a part of Poland, where those people came from, and chased the Polish people out and told them, "This is a part of Germany you can't have."

This is a thank you to Stalin, Roosevelt, and Churchill. They divided Germany, now they have to suffer. And they will suffer, they will suffer. I think Germany was a backbone for the United States and the communists. Now they don't have it anymore. Then even the young generations growing up now don't know what a communist is. The meaning of it. I got cousins in East Germany who are now thirty years old, my brothers' kids. They don't know anything else but the Russian system. If I would tell them something, I am wrong. They don't know the other system. They would fight probably their own uncle, they would. They are raised and born there, that's the system. The school is free, the hospitalization is free, the education is free. If you belong to the party you get everything you want, you need only the knowledge. That's the same thing in Russia and that was the same thing in Hitler's time.

If you were a bright child, you didn't pay for education. The education was paid by the government. That is today in Russia and in Canada. It is still there. I was over in Canada in 1979 and I have friends there. Their kids are educated by the government. If they want to be a doctor and they are bright enough, they are going to be a doctor and it won't cost them anything. Except after they become a doctor they have to work five years in their state, like Saskatchewan or where they were educated. After these five years they can choose wherever they want to go. I think that's not bad. If you have a bright child, like my daughter. . . I don't have any money. I can't send her to college. How should she do it? Peddle dope? Be a prostitute? That's not right. If your kid is not

bright, well then there will be enough other jobs. There should be enough other jobs. If your kid is bright and has no money to go to college, that is bad.

C: That's true. That's very true. I teach school and I work for kids all the time trying to get them into college.

M: So if you have a bright child how can they go if they don't have the backing. Student loans, how can they pay it back? They will be fifty years and still paying back their student loan.

C: My son-in-law still is.

M: Your son-in-law is still paying back?

C: He is thirty-eight.

M: He is thirty-eight. I think I met him.

C: Tom. Well, we can stop this.

END OF INTERVIEW