YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Remembrances of Lisbon Project

Personal Experience

O.H. 1166

ADAM P. RUDIBAUGH

Interviewed

by

Gene Krotky

on

June 14, 1988

ADAM RUDIBAUGH

Adam is the eldest of ten children reared on a farm east of Lisbon. He was taught the value of ambition and hard work at an early age, by his father, but it was his mother who sparked his interest in pharmacy.

By seventeen, Adam had decided to become a pharmacist and had begun working under Mr. Hamilton at his drugstore. After graduating from David Anderson High School, Adam attended Case Western Reserve to study for a pharmacy degree. Many druggists in the 1920's served an apprenticeship of two years rather than obtaining formal college related training. He paid for his school with part-time work and loans. Returning to Lisbon, he bought Mr. Hamilton's drugstore.

Adam has been an active community leader during his lifetime. He was active in the Chamber of Commerce including serving as President. He also has been involved in the Methodist Church, the Kiwanis Club, the Masonic Order, and the Shriners. He is still an avid golfer.

-Gene Krotky

O.H. #1166

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ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

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INTERVIEWED: ADAM P. RUDIBAUGH

INTERVIEWER: Gene Krotky

SUBJECT: Family, education, pharmacy, Klu Klux Klan, Depression

DATE: June 14, 1988

K: This is an interview with Adam Rudibaugh, for the Youngstown State University Oral History Program, on the Remembrances of Lisbon project, by Gene Krotky, on June 14, 1988, at Lisbon, Ohio, at 8:15 p.m.

How long have you lived here?

R: Since 1905, I've lived here.

K: Is that right?

R: Yes.

K: What are your earliest memories of Lisbon?

R: When I first came to Lisbon, we used to come to Lisbon in a wagon. My dad would bring us kids along. Of course we were a big family in those days. There were ten of us. I was the oldest one. Of course I got to go before all the rest of them. Then, after I got old enough to go to school, I walked to the country school. They had an epidemic in the school, so they sent me to the town school. I rode the streetcar. I went to the McKinley School. I went to school until they got a smallpox outbreak in the third grade, and then I went back to the country school. I walked back and forth every morning and evening.

When I got to the seventh grade, I became the janitor of the school. As the janitor, I washed the black porch, dusted all of the seats, fired two coal stoves and carried the ashes out everyday.

I went from the third grade through the seventh grade, there. Then, I came back to Lisbon and went to eighth grade down here at the school on the hill, Lincoln School. I graduated from that school in eighth grade, and of course, I started high school.

In my freshman year, I was walking to Hamilton's drug-store to get a pack of gum one morning. The boy that was working there told Mr. Hamilton that he was going to take another job at the Round Corner. He told another boy that he had a chance for him to get a job there. The other boy said, "Well, I'll see about it later." When I heard about that, Mr. Hamilton came in, and I followed him. I said, "Mr. Hamilton, I have always wanted to be a druggist, and I would like to have this job." You had to mop the floor, and you had to open up at seven every morning.

I had to come from the country, so I had to come back and forth from the streetcar. I got on at ten minutes to seven, and at seven o'clock, I was in Lisbon. I would walk up to the drugstore, open it up, mop the store, and go to school at eight thirty; then I would come back at noon and work. After school, I'd work until eight o'clock, grab the streetcar and go home, then study after I got home. I did that for four years.

After that, I went to the Western Reserve School of Pharmacy in 1924. At that time, I carried thirty-two hours in pharmacy school. I went to school at eight in the morning until five every day of the week. If you got behind in your lab work, you made it up on Saturday. I had gone to school from September to early in November, that first year.

The phone rang in the fraternity house one night. It was a former fraternity brother, who owned a drugstore in Linhurst. He wanted somebody that had drugstore experience to come and work in his drugstore. He was sick. He had a temperature of 105 degrees. I was the only one there that had any drugstore experience. I was the only one in the house. The rest of them were out. It was about a quarter to six in the evening. He needed somebody right away. I told him that I had worked in a drugstore for four years. I could do anything in a drugstore, even fire the furnace. He said, "You're the guy I need." He said, "Can you get out here?" I found out how to get there. So, I got on the streetcar. I had a nickel in my pocket. That's

all it cost at that time. So, I rode out there and had to transfer. Of course, you got transferred when you got on.

So, I transferred to the other streetcar running. I got out there and worked for him. He said, "Take your pay out of the drawer and put a slip in." I said, "Well how much do I take?" At that time, he said, "You take a dollar an hour." I closed up at 10:30. So, I got $4.50 the first day. I had been getting $7 a week before. So, this was big stuff.

I worked for him all that year and all the next year. I worked at least one night a week. Then, sometimes he'd call up, and I'd work two or three nights a week. Then, I'd study on the way back and forth. Then I'd come back to the fraternity house.

A few years later, Mr. Hamilton passed away. So, the drugstore was in limbo. Of course, they wanted me to work for them. I had an agreement with Mr. Hamilton to come to work for him. So, when I got home, I worked from June till September. I had a chance to buy the drugstore. Somebody gave me some help. The other Mr. Hamilton, the brother of the other Mr. Hamilton, bought the building, the drugstore and all. Then, I bought the drugstore from him on a land contract. I paid him off as I agreed to. As a matter of fact, I paid it off long before that, because things worked out so very well. I think I had seven years to pay for it. I paid for it in three and a half or four years. Of course, they kept increasing the stock in the store. We got the Rexall Agency, and we got the Western Union. We also sold hunting licenses, and fishing licenses. All these things were to get people in the store.

Then later on, after I got the Rexall agency, we became the number one Rexall Drugstore in the United States.

K: When did you get Rexall?

R: We got Rexall in about 1930. We had the store just a couple years, and when we got the agency, we got the store in 1927. So, I had the drugstore from 1927 to 1968.

K: You had just gotten the store before the Depression started. How did that affect your business?

R: Our business increased every year, from the time we got it until we sold it.

K: How do you account for that?

R: Of course, we had Refund Day. We did not like to en-

courage credit, because we weren't in the position to afford a lot of credit. So, to get around that, I had heard about this Refund Day over in Toronto and that it was very successful. So, I went down there and investigated the thing and found out how you worked it. We came up with a proposition. We were going to use a number. At the end of each month, we were going to put a calendar up and use the dates as a number. You were not allowed to use a number in the paper because it's a lottery. It was illegal to run a lottery. So, we changed that to run a date. So, at the end of each month, we'd take a calendar and cut it out, and have a customer draw a number. That number became the date. It was a calendar date anyway. Everybody that had a ticket out of the cash register for that date got their money back, and they had ten days to get it casted.

K: I remember that.

R: That was a big drawing thing. Of course, you had to pay cash to get the ticket.

K: Now, you did that for a number of years?

R: Yes. From about 1935 until 1968. Thirty-three years.

K: I remember my family saving their tickets.

R: When we first started out, we didn't have a deadline on when you could turn the ticket in. We'd have people six or eight months come in with their ticket, and it would be the right date. Of course, after a couple of years of that, that got to be a chore to keep track of the date. So, we eliminated that and put a deadline on it. The first ten days of each month was always the best ten days of the month, because of the fact that people were bringing in their tickets. We gave them money, but they always spent it.

When we first started that, we started to ask people to take merchandise. Well, we had a foreign fellow by the name of John Patriman. He lived in Jordonville. He came in one day with his ticket. He said, "Give me the money." I said, "No, you have to take merchandise, John." He said, "You give me the money, I'll show you something." So, I gave him the money. He spent that money and a lot of other money. I think he got two dollars and a half or something. He spent about twenty. That was a lot of money in those days. So, I said to myself--we talked it over, mother and I--and I said, "Let's just change it, so we give them the money." It worked better anyway. So, from then on, we gave them the money.

All that time, I was Lieutenant Governor of Kiwanis.

One year I attended 167 Kiwanis meetings and still ran the drugstore. Of course, my wife helped with the drug store. We went to Seattle for an international convention in 1951. This year, it's back there again. I served as president of Lincoln Kiwanis Club in 1948 and again in 1988.

K: And, you're still in the pharmacy business part-time, from what your wife tells me.

R: Oh, yes. I work Thursday, Saturday and Sunday.

K: So, you've been in the pharmacy business itself since 1927?

R: Well, I started working in a drugstore in 1920.

K: At that time, were you able to dispense drugs without a license? I know in many countries today, you can walk in and a pharmacist doesn't have to have the type of educational background that we do in this country. What was the system in the early years when you started?

R: When I started in the business, there were a lot of pharmacists that didn't have a state board license. Now, of course, you have to have them. There were a lot of pharmacists practicing at that time, but they had to have so many years experience working in a drugstore. That's the way they worked it for a long time. You had to have so many years. When I started, you had to have two years of apprenticeship. Now, you have to have 1500 hours of experience in a drugstore. You can get that either while you are taking a pharmacy course, or you can take it after you get out of school. If you can get it while you are going to school, you are a lot better off, because you don't have this dead time after you get through school. I think it's the smart way to do it, to get your experience either before you go to pharmacy school or during the time you are in pharmacy school, while you are on your summer vacation, or at least over Christmas vacation. You can get credit for all that. Now, you have to have a register, and it has to be according to the state board.

K: You've obviously always been ambitious. I've always heard what a hard worker you are. What in your family background. . . ? What do you remember about your parents that accounts for this?

R: My father was a hard worker and so was my mother. They had to be to raise ten kids.

K: What did he do for a living?

R: He was a farmer. Of course when we were kids growing up, there wasn't any idle time like there is with kids around here now. Everybody in our household had a job. We had a responsibility. My father was in the dairy business, and he was also a Teamster. He had twenty-eight or twenty-nine cows that he had to milk every morning and at night. We shipped milk. We had to have the milk ready to go to the Crockery City. It was a milk depot, actually, in Liverpool. [The milk] had to be on the streetcar at eight o'clock ready to go. That's the way the milk was shipped then. They put it in five-gallon milk cans and shipped it out every day. Of course, it took about one half hour to get from here to Liverpool. Of course, we had to cool it first. You had to have a milk-house to cool it in. Of course, we didn't have air conditioning then. You had to have running water in this milk-house to keep those cans cool. Of course, my dad would have all these horses to care for too. In the winter time, water would freeze up. For years, we'd have to carry the water to the cows. You would have to carry it a hundred yards from the water supply to the barn. Of course you had stables to clean in between and all that. That was all part of it.

Everybody in the family had so many cows to milk. You had to do the job right. My dad was strict and so was my mother. Of course, they had to be with ten kids. You had to do the job right, or you got in trouble with my dad. Then, another thing, my dad was strict about these horses. He was quite a horseman. That's where my brother in Elkton gets his horse-sense from my dad. When we were kids, we had to take good care of the horses. My dad was really particular, especially about horses.

I know one night, my dad came home late. The horses were whimpering. He knew that they hadn't been hayed or fed. So, he came up to me in bed at eleven o'clock at night. I said that it wasn't my job to do the haying. It was my brother's job. He said, "Did you hay those horses?" I said, "I didn't." He asked if my brother had. I said, "I don't know." He said, "Okay, Adam, go down and hay the horses." So, I got out of bed and hayed the horses.

K: Now, why did you have to go when it was your brother's job?

R: I was the oldest, and I was supposed to be responsible. That's the way it was. Of course, that was the only incident like that that happened. One thing about my father, you had to do what he told you to do.

K: Do you remember any fun times with your family, holidays, things like that?

R: Well, there wasn't many fun times in our family. I think that during all the times I can remember, there was only one time that we went on a picnic as a family. We always had too much to do. You either had crops to take care of, or you had animals to take care of. I know one time, I started taking piano lessons. I had taken about four or five. I was getting to where I could play the scale. One Wednesday afternoon, I said to my dad, "It's time for me to take my music lesson." He looked up at the sky. He said, "See that cloud up there? It's going to rain. We got to get that hay in. There won't be any music lesson today. So, that was the end of the music lesson. Work came first.

K: Is that right? Do you feel that was pretty typical though, of most of your friends and the families around you here in the Lisbon area?

R: Well, that's pretty much the way it was. Most of them had good-sized families. They didn't have much time for fun. Picnicking wasn't at all what it is today. Of course, you didn't have the time that you do today. You didn't have forty hours weeks.

K: Especially not on a farm.

R: You worked from daylight until dark and then some. To start at daylight, sometimes you got up before daylight. You always got up at five or six o'clock in the morning.

K: Was education stressed in your family? You seemed to have gone to a lot of trouble to go to school, back and forth to different schools and rode the streetcar and all. Was it important to your whole family or just basically to you?

R: For some reason, I was the only one in our family that went to college. Now, my sister went to business college. I always seemed to be the only one that thought education was the way out. We used to get up in the hay mow in the hot summer days, with ninety-eight or ninety-nine degrees and the humidity high. Here you are against the slate roof, plowing back hay. My brother and I were up in there one day. I said to him--we were about eleven or twelve years old, "Seems to me that there's a better way to make a living than this." He agreed with me. So, I always had a goal after I started working. Of course, my mother had always encouraged me to be a pharmacist.

K: Had she?

R: Yes. My mother encouraged me. Of course I liked it. Things that were tough jobs for a lot of people, I always liked it so well that it never bothered me. Now, for instance, if they have an ointment that they order at the drugstore today, they'll say, "Well Adam will be here such and such a day, he'll make it." I don't mind doing it. A lot of people resent it. I don't. I like to do it. I've always liked it. For instance, I have a lady that called me on the phone. She wants some French Mixture. A lot of people never heard of French Mixture. She called several other pharmacists, and they didn't know what it was. So, she calls me, and I told her that I'd see if I could locate the ingredients and make some. She wanted me to make her three bottles eight ounces each. So, not very long ago, I had somebody that wanted laryngitis medicine. She called several places. Finally, she called me and wanted me to make her up six bottles. So, I got the stuff and made it for her. Anybody else can do it, but they just don't bother.

K: I'll bet you've seen lots of changes in the drug part of the pharmacy business. What are some of the changes you've seen?

R: For years and years and years when the old doctors, like Doctor Caldone and Doctor Nevan and Doctor Harris, they used to prescribe capsules and end-seals and powders. You had to make all of those things. You mixed all of these things up, like PAC, for instance, was a way to make doses. For instance, years ago, you didn't have that in tablet form. You had to make it into a powder. Then, you took several powder papers and folded them up. [You] made them so that the customer could unfold them and get the medicine. Of course, they took raw medicine that didn't have any flavor in it. Of course, end-seals--I think that was two little pieces of stuff made out of fish food--you put the medicine in there, and you got away from this bad taste. Then, you'd wet the edges with water, and you'd seal those together. They'd stay stuck together. Then, of course, the capsules, you took a powder, and you just filled the capsular. A lot of people would not wipe those capsules off. If the medicine tasted bad of course, they'd have a bad taste. We were coached on that at school, to always wipe those capsules off before you dispensed them. We were always careful about that. See, a lot of these young fellows weren't taught that. They don't pay any attention to that.

Now, most everything is prepared. All you have to do in most cases, is pour it into a bottle, or maybe add water to something if it's in a bottle, or count out

pills or capsules. Of course now, because of these cyanide scare that they had in Chicago a few years ago, where somebody took capsules and took the medicine out and put cyanide in them, all the packages are sealed up so that you can tell if they are tampered with. Also, a lot of the capsule ingredients were turned into tablets or caplets, because of this poisoning.

K: So, in other words, the actual preparation is easier, but isn't there a lot more information and so on that you have to know now, than when you started?

R: One of the things now that is different from years ago, you used to have grain doses, x grain, xv grain, v grain. Now, you have milligram doses. The medicine is much more potent today. You also have the danger of medicine not agreeing. If you give two medicines together a lot of times, it will get the patient in trouble. Another thing, some of the medicine has to be taken with food. Some of it has to be taken before food, or after food. A lot of things can't be taken with dairy products. A lot of things can't be taken with milk or any of this white stomach medicine, because the aluminum or calcium salts in there makes the medicine insoluble. It doesn't do the patient any good. So, you have those problems. This all has to be explained to the patient. A lot of the times it isn't, but it should be.

K: Do you see the pharmacists as having more responsibility when you started or more now? It seems now that more people rely on doctors, where I can remember my grandmother relying on the family pharmacist.

R: Well, you have two schools of thought. You have both. A lot of times, now, when you give the information to the patient, a lot of times they have had it from the doctor. A lot of times, they haven't had it from the doctor. A lot of times, it is so routine, that the doctor forgets that the patient doesn't know it. Of course, the pharmacist becomes a check-point, because of the fact that there are a lot of things that the patient should know about medicine that they don't know, especially when you are dealing with tetracycline and cortisone drugs. A lot of people get involved with taking cortisone. It gives them a feeling of euphoria. They feel good. What they don't realize is that they can get in trouble with their kidneys, they may get a moon-face, and a lot of other things. So, we have to watch and guard against those people not taking too much of a drug.

K: What do you think of these new chain drug stores that sell everything under the sun?

R: Of course what they're doing there, they're selling all these things to attract business, to get people in the store. In other words, this is done to get traffic. That's all it's for. A lot of those things, they don't make any money off of it, but they get traffic. They get the traffic. They'll [the customers] see something in there that is bargain, and that's the reason they go. That's the reason it's done. I can remember Dr. Parkes. He was at a seminar at Ohio State thirty-five years ago and predicted that this was going to happen. It's come to pass exactly what he had said. You'll see the day that you can buy anything you want in a drug-store. A lot of places have drugstores in them to attract business. A drugstore is always a big traffic builder. A lot of people go into a drugstore, espe-cially if they have a place to eat, so you can get a sandwich or a Coke or something. I think a lot of them made a mistake when they took out the soda fountain.

K: I was just going to ask you that. That's the one thing that I remember about your store downtown is stopping there after school for a Coke and whatever. What prompted you to give up the soda fountain?

R: We never gave it up. We had it [the fountain] till the day we sold it [the drug store].

K: Did you really?

R: They didn't have it more than six months until they gave it up.

K: Is there a lot of problems with it?

R: No. Well, it depends on how you look at it. Now, if you don't like to work, don't get a soda fountain because it's a lot of work. But, it does bring in a lot of business. Especially in that location [down-town] because there was a courthouse right there, and a high school. It was a great thing for us. We got a lot of people in. It helped business. Of course, another thing about it, you were careful about quality. We always had the best ice cream you could buy. Ricks. We had the best chocolate you could buy, fifty thousand dollar chocolate. It originated in France. They discovered a way to take away the cocoa butter and put it back in. It made a big difference in the flavor of the chocolate. Another thing we did was make sodas. We had a certain way we made sodas. We would take the syrup and put it in and then mix ice cream with it. That made it creamy. Then, we put, that fine stream, we used to call it. We would put that in there. You would put ice cream in afterwards and finish it off with more fine stream. You had to be careful not to put that fine stream on the ice cream, because it would

make ice crystals in the ice cream. That would ruin the soda as far as customers. We had people come from everywhere just to get a soda. You can't get a soda like that today.

K: No.

R: They just don't make them.

K: They don't take the trouble. You mentioned the location of your store being close to the courthouse. That's something else I'd like to explore with you. You were down there. You knew everything that was going on in the town. You knew most everybody in town all those years you were down there. You mentioned that your business really didn't suffer because of the Depression. Do you think that Lisbonites, as a whole, suffered as much as let's say, people in Cleveland or Pittsburgh?

R: No. Because of the courthouse, the county seat. Of course, all these people coming in paying taxes on any kind of business they did, they would come to Lisbon. That was one of the reasons. . . . I don't think Lisbon suffered in the Depression near like the other communities did because this was the county seat.

K: Even other communities in Columbiana County you think suffered more than Lisbon?

R: That's right. Another thing, you had a lot of government agencies here. You still have, of course, all of those people who are getting paid good money.

K: They were still employed?

R: They were still employed. Of course, this was a farming community. That also helped out. Lisbon doesn't have things that shut down. Of course the R. Thomas Company was in business then. They kept working part-time. Of course, the Coppermill was here. It went part-time. So, we really didn't have much hardship. The fact is our business improved right through that.

K: What do you think has been the cause here in Lisbon of any of the plants and the manufacturing type things that we did have leaving? You have been active in civic affairs, I know, for years.

R: Competition. Imports. There are a lot of these plants that improved. There is a plant in New York that used to make insulators, like the Thomas Company. They improved their operation and stole the business away. They produced products cheaper. Of course, there is a saturation point for insulators. After so long a time,

the only thing you're going to have as long as they're building new power lines and so on, you are going to have the need for insulators. The day is going to come to where you are just going to have to replace an insulator. So, the environment of the business is what caused part of the problem and, of course, competition. These foreign companies, too. That's another thing. That's one thing you've got to do if you're going to be in any kind of business. You got to be competitive. You can't let anybody else steal your business.

K: Why do you think our businesses here did not stay competitive? If you read earlier accounts of Lisbon, we were in the forefront of manufacturing and so forth and so on, and then, we just seemed to have dropped further and further behind.

R: Part of the problem was the very thing I just mentioned to you. They didn't keep the plant up to date. You got to keep improving. You can't take all the money out. You got to put some back.

K: You think that's what happened?

R: I think that's what happened to a lot of them.

K: Then, of course, the family just died out. That's another thing that happened. Nobody took it off. Thomas's were all getting old. They gradually just died out, or health was a problem. First thing you know, there was nobody to run the thing.

K: When you first started the businesses downtown, were most of the businesses and manufacturing plants and so on family affairs in this area? Were they family concerns?

R: Well, most of them were. See, J. J. Bennett had a printing place down here. H. F. Wilson had a shoe store down there where Nationwide Insurance is. Of course, Roy White was in that. He worked at Wilson's for years and years. Finally, Mr. Wilson died, and the shoe store business went down. Peterson had a store. Peterson had the same problem. There was a limit on space. He just got to the point where he didn't make enough money, and he didn't need it anymore. And, of course, there was a lot of competition. All these chain stores selling Reeboks. You know why? They feel good on your feet.

K: What do they call those? Earth-shoes?

R: These are Reeboks. This is the therapeutic Reebok. That's the best shoe I own as far as I'm concerned. Because it feels good. Molded shoes that I paid $200

for, they're not near as comfortable as these. I can wear these to play golf or go to work. They're good enough that I can go to church in them.

K: One pair does it all, right?

R: That's right.

K: When you first took over the drugstore, what other businesses were down in the main part of the business district in Lisbon? What else did we have going for us?

R: Well, of course, you had four other drugstores.

K: Is that right? I wasn't aware you had that much competition.

R: You had four drugstores. Of course, you had J. J. Bennett. You had Crooks restaurant, which was down where the parking lot is now, where there isn't anything. Of course, you didn't have any saloons at that time. Jimmy Hanna had a gas station down in there. He started that right across from the diner. Cecil Rauch Insurance was in where Walter Thomas is now. Western Union was in where Doctor Jones was. When that went out, they turned the Western Union operation over to the drugstore. We had it in our drug store. The hardware store where True Value is now, was an antique store. Prior to that, it was a general store. Handelsman had a clothing store. Then, Binsley's had a clothing store and a shoe store where Heiner's are. Of course, Dorances was there. There was a theater in part of that. Rex Theater was in there. Of course then, the Mannace Theater was here. George Rogers had a theater down where Value King is.

K: That was still there when I was growing up very young.

R: There were three theaters. Of course, people would come from everywhere to come to the show here. You could go to the show for ten or fifteen cents.

K: How would they get here? You mentioned a streetcar? Where did the streetcar run exactly?

R: The streetcar came in down at the lower end of town, just below McKinley Avenue. Also, there was a football field there where all those houses are. I remember that Lisbon played Minerva, and they beat them one hundred one to nothing at that football field. That was when Gerald Eells and Reginald Gorsuch, and Paul McGoogan, and Sky Milfort were on the team.

K: What year would that have been?

R: That would probably have been 1920 or 1921. Willie Cornelli played. They would just buzz right through there. Every time they would get the ball, they would score a touchdown. They had to, to score one hundred one to nothing. Let's see, the Lisbon Lumber Company is right where it is now. That was owned by Harry Neigh. A man named Ollie Caldwell owned that. Of course, they did a lot of business. Of course, Jimmy Hanna's gas station was a big deal in those days. There was restaurant in there for years, right above the theater. Later on, that became a barber shop. It was a barber shop for awhile. Claude Albright had the barber shop. That's where Charles Ledeile and Mike Pastora learned the bailer business. There used to be a pool room in there were Mike Pastore is now. Where the antique shop was on the square, that is a grocery store now. Newton Ramsey had a grocery store over on the square, right along where the beauty shop is. Bob Houston had a tailor shop the first building from the alley, coming this way. Do you remember Bob Houston?

K: No.

R: You would go in there, buy a suit of clothes, and he would make it.

K: The Houstons have been tailors for a long time.

R: Oh, yes. His father was a tailor before that.

K: I know I have a Bible that I found in the attic of the Newton Ramsey house when we lived there. It has in the name of either William Houston or John Houston, I can't remember which, but it has the date in it of 1849. I went back to do some research to find out what I could about this fellow. He was a tailor also.

R: That's was Bob's grandfather. I think Bob's father was in there for awhile, but he was up in years and he didn't do much. Bob ran it afterwards. Bob had two boys, and neither one of them followed the business. They went into other things.

K: You said there were no saloons in Lisbon.

R: No. Not then.

K: We certainly have an abundance now, don't we?

R: It was Prohibition time. You could go to Leetonia on the streetcar because Leetonia was what you would call "wet." Now, at that time, this county was dry. Lisbon was dry.

K: Because of Prohibition, you couldn't get any liquor legally?

R: No.

K: Did you know of anybody selling it illegally?

R: Well, there were bootleggers.

K: Bootleggers? Yes. Did we have a lot of them do you think?

R: I only know of a couple. I know one of them got fined every once in a while. Finally, Judge Lones at that time was the common pleas judge. These bootleggers were taken up in probate court at that time. Judge Lones was filling in for the probate judge. The probate judge was on vacation. This man had been picked up several times. Finally they picked him up again. They fined him $100 or $1500 or something like that. He would just reach in his pocket and pay off the fine. The next time this fellow walked in, he was real cocky with the judge. He said, "How much do I owe you, Judge?" The judge said, "That will be twenty-five hundred dollars." He paid that, but that was the end of it. That's all it took. That cleaned him out.

K: Did you ever run for public office, Adam?

R: No.

K: No interest in politics?

R: No.

K: No time, probably.

R: No. No, I wouldn't be interested in any political deal. I've got all the jobs I need.

K: That you can handle, huh?

R: Still, though, being a businessman, and still very much involved with the community, you had to be aware of the politicians and the politics. What do you think about Columbiana politics? Was it fairly honest do you think, and fairly straight?

R: I think for the most part, we've had a few times when we had somebody that went south with some money. We have one in the county now that went south with the money. Now, he's back in a key position again. But, I don't think it's ever going to die out because of the fact of the way he handles things. People, if you keep reminding them, they keep being reminded of some of the

things they did, because he never paid his debt to society. So, that's the only one I know of that's ever involved with any amount of money. Other than that, we've had a lot of federal officers. It's too bad that they're having the problem that they're having now in our courthouse. I think that is just poor politics. They are playing the game. The voters are liable to show them that.

K: You don't think the financial situation is as bad as they are painting it to be?

R: Of course they don't have all the advances that they had. We've had some good people in office in this county. We've had a lot of people that have worked hard and have done a real service. You take the county surveyor who is in there right now. He's been a good surveyor. He's done a good job, and he treats people nicely. He has done an excellent job. The county roads and the winter time service that they give our roads is excellent. I haven't seen a time since he's been in there that the county roads haven't been taken care of early in the game. If there is a bad snow or an icy condition, they get right out there and have it taken care of so that you can pass. Of course, the way the traffic is this day, it demands that kind of service. He has done a good job.

K: So, how do you think we got into this mess we're in now with this county thing?

R: Well, part of it is because of a lot of these grants. The state grants a large sum of money. It's not there anymore. That's part of the problem. There wasn't any way they could provide for this--they didn't have any windfall, in other words. Another thing that I've noticed about all these political people is it doesn't seem to make any different as to how much money they get. They spend it all. Sometimes, it is not justified. If you get a dollar value for a dollar spent, it's alright, but in a lot of cases, they don't. Of course, in any political situation, you have some favoritism. Sometimes, it shouldn't be, but that's the way politics is played.

K: Along with the political idea--you were a young man in this county in the 1920s--were you aware of any Ku Klux Klan activity in this town?

R: When we were younger, they approached my father one time. They wanted him to join. My father was not a joiner. He didn't believe in that. Of course, that put an end to him as far as the Klan was concerned. We used to see them burning crosses in the field with white robes on and all that. It didn't last over six

months or so. It faded away. That was the end of it. I haven't heard anything about it for years.

K: Who was the Klan activity against in this area? We didn't have many Catholics. We don't have many Jews, not many Blacks. What would have been their main crusade?

R: I really don't know. I don't know that there was any reason for them.

K: Just something to do?

R: Well, I think part of it was trying to get members. But, it faded away. It was a thing that happens. When you don't have members, the first thing you know, they will fade away.

K: You have been very active in this Columbiana County area for about sixty years. What are some changes that you've seen that you wished had not occurred? Things that you've seen change that you think we would have been better off the way we were?

R: I don't know of anything that I could put a finger on. I've always looked to things positively. I've always had the feeling that anything that happened has been for the best. I think it has been. I'd hate to go back to horse and buggies, streetcars. Then, I realize that the day may come when I may have to have some form of public transportation, because of the fact that people can't even get a license to drive because they are living so long. You're going to have a lot of people who are eighty-five and ninety years old, or older, that can't get a license anymore because of their age and because of their faculties. They don't see good, and they don't hear. A lot of them can't function.

K: Do you see Lisbon as being more economically depressed now than it used to be? Are people lazier, not willing to take work and take care of themselves?

R: I think people want to be entertained more today than they used to want to be. Of course, they have more ways to be entertained. Of course, television and VCR and all these things. But, I don't see that that's going to change. The only way you are going to change now is when things get tougher, because people have had it too easy. They get anything they want, whenever they want it. Of course, they have scholarships for everything nowadays. A lot of people don't have to go out and scratch. I don't know whether that is good or bad. I think these people would be better off if they earned a little more instead of getting so much free

stuff.

K: I guess that's what I'm talking about. It just seems to me that we have more people on the public relief roles than we had twenty-five years ago, a greater percentage of our population. It seems that there are more people looking for a handout rather than working for a living or what they want.

R: I agree with that. I think that this welfare has gone too far. They make it too easy for people to get it. I think if they had to do some work for this thing, they'd be better off; like you used to do in the CCC Camps. You had to do some work to get something instead of just getting a handout.

K: Did we have CCC Camps around the Lisbon area?

R: We did here at one time.

K: How did they operate? What did they do?

R: Well, what they did was public service. Like, you had a building that maybe you wanted to build, or maybe they had some road work they wanted to do; or if it was public service, they did work for it instead of getting a handout.

K: What were some of the things that were built that way?

R: Well, part of the courthouse was built that way.

K: I've never heard that before.

R: The back part of the courthouse was built on, too. For a long time, that back wing wasn't on there.

K: I didn't know that.

R: That used to be a loafing place in the corner, there used to be a big tree sitting there. The Costello's used to sit there and loaf all day. Do you know the Costellos?

K: No, I don't.

R: The Costellos were the people who had Costello Candy Company in Pittsburgh. There was C.W. Costello, John Costello, and Charles Costello. They used to come down there everyday, chew tobacco and spit on the ground. Of course, when they took that tree down, John always complained about it. Of course, it was shady.

K: Now, was the stadium built as a CCC project here in Lisbon?

R: No. I think it was the swimming pool that Miss Sadie left the money for. She left part of the money. She left $25,000. It cost more than that. It cost about $40,000. We had to raise $15,000 to finish it. It actually cost $39,000 to build it. The other thing about that, she specified that if it wasn't used to build a swimming pool in a certain amount of time, I think it was five years, if it wasn't used for that, the money went back into the estate. So, we had three weeks from the deadline, and we started to raise money for it. That's how close we were.

K: Were you involved in raising money?

R: I was on that committee. Cecil Rauch and I, and three others. There were five of us. We had several meetings at the high school. A lot of people donated money to this. Then, Jay Moore used to be in the insurance business here. He was in the insurance business down where Tru Value Hardware is. He had a little office close by there. Of course, Ohio Edison had an office in there, and Jay Moore had an office in there. J. Moore was on the board at the bank. He left $15,000 to maintain the swimming pool.

K: So, that was really a community project then?

R: Oh, yes.

K: How did you raise the money? Just donation?

R: Donations. I think it was all donations. Just like they did with this trolley business.

K: What?

R: The trolley that the historical society put on.

K: Okay. Yes. Well, thank you very much for the interview, Adam.

R: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW