

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Hubbard History Project

Hubbard Bicentennial History

O. H. 618

JOHN RUTTER

Interviewed

by

William Glaser

on

February 22, 1976

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

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INTERVIEWEE: JOHN RUTTER

INTERVIEWER: William Glaser

SUBJECT: Schooling, sports, wages, Kiwanis

DATE: February 22, 1976

G: This is an interview with Mr. John Rutter for the Youngstown State University Program, on the Hubbard Bicentennial History, by Mrs. William Glaser, recorded at the home of Mrs. Donald Schaffer, his daughter, on Grandview Avenue, in Hubbard. The date is February 22, 1976, and the time is approximately 4:30 p.m.

Mr. Rutter, it is really a pleasure to interview you as I have known you for at least fifty years having gone through school with your daughter Evelyn, my very good friend. Now, one of the first questions that I would like to ask you is what do you remember about your parents and your family?

R: I was born in a company house from the Andrews and Hitchcock. The house was situated closer to the furnace than other houses. There was a creek that ran alongside of the house. They were very careful to watch that I didn't get down into the creek. We had a barn on the property. We had a couple of cows and a horse. Of course, we had a big garden. We raised practically all of our vegetables. I guess that is about it.

G: You mentioned that you had a barn.

R: Oh, I said that we had the barn? I said that we had a horse and two cows. That is about the extent of that, I guess.

G: And then you said that you moved?

R: We moved from the company house to Erie Street. My youngest sister was born in the house on Erie Street. We went to the Hubbard school. I didn't mention before about going to the other school.

G: Okay.

- R: While I lived at the company house, I went to Mason City School. My teacher was Mrs. Salem. I went there for about one year; then we moved to Hubbard. I went to Hubbard School, and Myrtle Bailey was my teacher there.
- G: Where was the location of the Hubbard School?
- R: Hubbard School was on School Street in Orchard Avenue in between two places. And I might say another thing about the school is that we just had one pump. When we would have recess and would go out to get a drink, you would always have to wait for the tin for somebody, say, next on the tin. There may have been fifteen or twenty there waiting to get a drink at this pump. At this schoolhouse, there were six rooms in it. Of course, the high school was in connection with that. There were five rooms for grade school and high school.
- G: You mentioned that Miss Myrtle Bailey was one of your teachers and was your teacher in grade school.
- R: She was the lady that I did mention, I guess.
- G: Yes. She also taught Evelyn, your daughter, and me in grade school. You also mentioned about a Mason City School. Now where was that located, the first one that you ever attended?
- R: That was located on Route 7 near . . .
- G: Jan Jan Inn?
- R: Jan Jan Inn.
- G: Well, then when you finished high school, what did you decide that you would like to do?
- R: The first thing was just to get a job. I was lucky enough to get a job in the laboratory down at the Anderson Hitchcock, and I worked in the laboratory for about three years. Then I moved out to foreman around the furnace.
- G: Would you like to tell me anything about your paycheck, for instance?
- R: When I first started to work, I got 15¢ an hour. After I worked in the laboratory for about one year, they raised me to \$70 a month. That was good money then, we thought.
- G: What were the years like in the decade, say, between the 1920's and the 1930's that you can recall in particular? I know those would have been your working years. But how long was your working day, say?
- R: Well, we worked on two different turns. On day turn we worked

ten hours. On night turn we worked fourteen hours, and that was seven days a week. The only time we got off was if we had two weeks vacation.

G: I think that would be very much what your typical day would be like. I am sure at that time you were raising your family too.

R: Oh, yes.

G: And where did you live?

R: I built my house before I was married on Drummond Avenue. We lived there a long time. My children went to school. After they got married and I retired, I sold the place.

G: I remember the house well, having visited there many times. I particularly remember your beautiful garden and your flowers.

R: I used to raise a lot of flowers, and, of course, I had a big vegetable garden. I specialized on dahlias. I had about fourteen or fifteen varieties of dahlias.

G: What events stand out as rather significant during this period between the 1920's and the 1930's? I think that you had told me that you were on council at that time.

R: Yes, I served on council for about four years. Craig was mayor at the time, then Carl Bowers was mayor. There was nothing significant that we got passed. We wanted at that time to have a swimming pool. But it got turned down. Then we were going to have an electric plant. We talked about having an electric plant. It turned out that we were making money by buying power from Ohio Edison, so we decided not to do that. At that time we had about \$29,000 in the electric fund; that was probably making them selling power.

G: You also mentioned that in the days that you were a young man growing up, the swimming pool was probably not as important as it became to our generation, for example.

R: No, because of the creeks that ran through Hubbard. At that time the water was pure. We had several places where we swam. Sometimes we even dammed up the creek a little bit to make it a little deeper. Of course, we had a nice pond up on Park Avenue that we used to swim in and also skate there.

G: Yes, you mentioned Park Avenue having a recreational field there, almost a park.

R: Well, they had a park there. They had a stand there where they had picnics. I think the biggest event they had there was on July 16 when Our Lady of Mount Carmel had fireworks.

They came from all over the county to see those fireworks.

G: Sort of like our Fourth of July celebrations now.

I know that you have always been a sports enthusiast as well as a participant all through the years, really. I wondered if you would like to tell us about your sports experiences both in high school and out of high school?

R: Well, when I was in high school, it was a lot different than it is today. We had to buy our own baseball bats and gloves and balls and the same way with basketball. Now we played baseball west of the Roosevelt School, and basketball we played on the old skating rink which Bill White owned. It was a building that was about 100 feet long and 50 feet wide. They had the stoves on one end of the building, and we played basketball on the other end. It was rather cold there. We had to sell tickets ourselves to get enough money to pay Bill \$3 a night for using the building. Sometimes that was pretty hard to do.

G: And then you mentioned playing football but not as a school sport?

R: We had a football team; we didn't have any football team in high school. But I played with the town team. We went from different towns to play football like Niles, Sharon, and Ellwood City, and several other towns; I don't remember just now. We used to practice on the square in Hubbard at night under the arch lights.

G: Would you say that your team came out with a pretty good record of wins?

R: Well, when we first started, we got beat pretty bad. We went to Niles one time. I remember the first time that we played football. I think some of us had never seen a football game before. We practiced, and we went to Niles. We got beat 60 to 0. We played then later on in the year, and the score was a whole lot lower. I don't remember just what it was, but I know they only beat us by a few touchdowns.

G: Did you have to buy your own uniforms?

R: Oh, yes. We had to buy our own uniforms and our own shoes. As a matter of fact, we used to get an old pair of shoes and make cleats and nail them on ourselves for when we played football because we couldn't afford to buy shoes.

G: I know that you have been a very active Kiwanian throughout the years. Do you recall about the year that you might have joined Kiwanis?

- R: I don't remember the year, but I was in Kiwanis for twenty-six years.
- G: Is that right?
- R: Twenty-six years.
- G: Do you remember the minstrel shows?
- R: Oh, yes. We used to have a lot of fun with the minstrel shows. Then we gave that up and started having horse shows. We had a lot of fun practicing for the minstrel shows.
- G: I want to thank you very much for you interview this afternoon.
- R: Oh, you are welcome.
- G: It has been a real pleasure to visit with you.
- R: Thank you.

END OF INTERVIEW