

YOUNGSTOWN STATE UNIVERSITY

ORAL HISTORY PROGRAM

Canfield Fair Project

Canfield Fair Concessions

O. H. 224

G. THOMAS JORDAN

Interviewed

by

Carrie Stanton

on

November 8, 1983

G. THOMAS JORDAN

G. Thomas Jordan joined his father in business in 1945 at Jordan Sales and Hardware on the corner of Route 46 and Mahoning Avenue in Austintown. In 1960, he went to Georgia University and became an appraiser of real estate. Mr. Jordan is currently in charge of concessions at the Canfield Fair.

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INTERVIEWEE: G. THOMAS JORDAN

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SUBJECT: Canfield Fair Concessions, Fair Board,
Elections, State Fair Board

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S: This is an interview with G. Thomas Jordan for the Youngstown State University Canfield Fair Project by Carrie Stanton at his home on Mahoning Avenue on November 8, 1983 at approximately 10:00 a.m.

We usually start with your own background--your family, your education, that type of thing.

J: I had two wonderful parents. My father was in the service station and automobile dealership on the corner of Mahoning and Route 46. It was actually where Godfrey's restaurant was. He built there in 1928. As I said, they were awfully good to me. I was an only child and I suppose a spoiled brat.

My father retired in 1941 while I was in the service. I married my wife, Norma, in 1939. We had two daughters, Joyce and Georgia. When I came out of the service--I had worked for Standard Oil before the service--my father had to go back and run the service station with that automobile sales room. I leased the service station in 1945. Then in the room where there was auto sales I started a hardware store. So we had Jordan Sales and Jordan Hardware.

S: On the same corner?

J: On the same corner, in the same building. It was a big building at that time. It was a grocery store,

and a drug store, and so forth.

S: This was right on Mahoning?

J: It was "L" shaped. It was along Route 46 and also Mahoning. It faced on Mahoning. In those days they built them along the road. Today they build them back with the parking in front.

When they widened Mahoning my service station went and I ended up in hardware. I sold it in 1960.

I liked the real estate business. I've invested in some. I like the appraisal end of it better. I went to Georgia University and took a course in appraising for a couple months.

S: Is that how you get into appraising?

J: Yes, it's the proper way. Anybody that sells real estate can become an appraiser, but they don't know the basics. This is good for commercial or industrial.

S: Appraisers are licensed?

J: No, they never have licensed them. They have designations. In other words, there is an S. R. A.--the Society of Residential Appraisers. There is a M. A. I. that's connected with the realtors. Then there's the . . .

S: What does that stand for?

J: The Institute of Appraisers. I never could figure out what the "M" stands for. Then there's the American Society of Appraisers for which I have a senior appraiser's designation.

Starting with 1961, I had my own office. My father and I were chums. He was busy working when I was a kid, and in later years, I was busy working when he retired. I would hang around when he was in business and he hung around when I was in business. After I sold the hardware, we had three years together. It was wonderful. We liked to play on the farm and so forth.

I had the real estate office, and then here comes Homer Shaeffer, the president of the fair board. I didn't even know they had a fair board. I never gave it a thought to how the fair ran. We had ponies and my wife

and two girls showed the ponies at the fair and all over. Homer asked if I would consider being on the fair board, and I said that I would have to talk to my family.

S: How did you know Homer?

J: By showing ponies at the fair. I believe he was acquainted with my folks and different relatives of mine.

I asked Dad what the fair board was, and he said that they ran the fair, and that the members are people that he has always admired and looked up to. He felt awfully honored that they had even considered asking me.

S: Who was on the fair board then?

J: Homer was the president. There was: Howard Kohler, George Bishop was still living--he was pretty elderly at the time, but he was still interested--and Mr. Bowman, Roy Bowman's father. I was put on the fair board to help Fay Heinzlman with concessions. The others were: Homer Shaeffer, Bob Rose, and Chuck Blunt.

S: Mr. Kilcawley had passed away?

J: No, he was still living. He has been on the board.

S: Bob Hammett?

J: Bob was not on at that time. Well, he could have been. He and I came on pretty close together. And Elbert Agnew, and . . . I wish I had a list that I could show you.

S: Elden Groves?

J: Elden Groves was on, yes. There were seventeen of us. Also Herman Groves, no relation to Elden, from North Jackson, was on.

S: I've never heard anyone speak of him.

J: They had a big dairy farm just the other side of the turnpike on Mahoning Avenue. He was in charge of the cattle. He had what Bob Wiley has now. That was in 1963.

They put me on the night before the fair and I didn't know much about what was going on. They put me with Fay to help with concessions. Of course, we worked good together. I had fairly new ideas that helped us keep track of where people were and where there was empty space.

I will go back to my father. He really enjoyed riding around with me over the fairgrounds in the golf cart and overseeing what we were setting up. He passed away in November, 1963.

I was on with concessions until then and still am. Fay was elderly and they put him in charge of the buildings in concessions. They brought John Holowach out from Youngstown township. It is really Youngstown City, but it's not thought of as a township. Anyway, John is our representative from that area. I went on and was president. Chuck Blunt was president at the time. He was another one that was on the board when I was. Chuck asked me to be his vice-president. I did that for a two-year term.

S: How long does it take you, after you start, to be president?

J: It varies considerably.

S: Oh, there's nothing set? They just say, you're going to be president now? Or people would say, I would like to be president.

J: The president will ask a fellow to be his vice-president. Just like Gib James asked Kenny McMillan to be his vice-president two years ago. This time Kenny--and there has never been an exception to the rule--became the president. Then he asked Dave Myers to be his vice-president.

S: Is he new?

J: Relatively new, I suppose. Everybody that has been put on since I joined is new, (Laughter) although that was twenty years ago.

S: He is a new guy--he has only been on twenty years! (Laughter)

J: Bob Hammett was my vice-president. Then Bob, in turn, selected somebody.

The fair has been very good. Grace Williams has been a big help, and we all realize that. The fair would never be where it is without Grace. I would have never accomplished what I accomplished without Grace.

I got into the state end of it--the Ohio Fair Managers, they call it. Hank Thompson, from Delaware, Ohio, was the president of the Ohio Fair Managers at the time. That is made up of all fair managers, directors all over the state, including the manager of the state fair. Hank Thompson, from Delaware, asked me to be a director-at-large. I served in that capacity for several years, and then they selected me as vice-president. I served for a couple years on that and went on to be president of the Ohio Fair Managers.

S: What did you do?

J: It was a lot of running around the state. By the way, Bob Rose is the treasurer of the Ohio Fair Managers. Of course, I'm done--I'm a past president of the Ohio Fair Managers. We try to work in the legislative end of things--things that are good for the fairs and protect our interests in the fairs. We have a convention every year in Columbus. At the yearly convention we go to pass ideas around among the different fairs. There again, the director of agriculture is there, and we usually have a breakfast in his honor. It's called the Director's Breakfast.

It's very rewarding--the people you meet, and the legislators you meet. You get to know people all over the state. You're asked to talk at different fairs and different meetings. It's very rewarding. I really enjoyed it.

S: Do they send representatives to the international fairs?

J: Yes, we do send a representative--our delegate from the state.

S: Where does Grace go?

J: Grace should have been president of the Ohio Fair Managers, since she was asked different times, and she didn't want to. Not only that, but on into the international, she has held offices and headed committees in the international. Grace is well known all over the world as far as that is concerned. She is an international figure, and should be.

- S: Yes, she should be. She is a marvelous person.
- J: After all of your duties, you come back to your fair and you carry them on at your own fair while this other stuff is going on anyway. It's no let-down because you feel a big part of the Canfield fair and you have your stuff to do.
- S: I don't know how you manage to have time to do all of this!
- J: Well, this is where Grace is a big help.
- S: I understand the wives are involved, too.
- J: Some of them. My wife was when I was active. She retired from her end of it. Some of them still keep on and like it. She is pretty much of a house-cleaner.
- S: When you start as the vice-president, what do you do? Do you kind of follow along and see what the president does? Is it kind of a training period?
- J: Not really. Being the president of the fair board is a lot of recognition. You still have your job to do running the fair, plus you are called upon to represent the fair at Grange meetings and different meetings where people look up to you as a fair president. You don't have that feeling while you are doing it. You are proud to be the president.
- S: Are there a lot more headaches when you're president?
- J: Not really. This is where Grace, and now we have Ed Baer who helps, and of course Eileen Groves when she was on there, and June Burgoyne, really help.
- S: Everybody kind of mixes together?
- J: That's right. When you ride around the fairgrounds you can see the work being done. We rode around last Tuesday while the election was going on. We had the, they call it the Kilcawley wagon, and they hook it on the back of the truck and ride around the fairgrounds. We were back in the new parking lot where it had been cleared and they're putting roads in.
- S: There is a new one?
- J: It's back further.

S: By Route 11?

J: Yes. There were no roads down over the hill.

There was all this being done with gas wells and bulldozers, and this other fellow was making the roads in there for parking. We saw all this, and we went to the horse barns where the fellow was training horses. Somebody else out there was working on the sewer. I said, "My golly, how do we keep this together because there are so many things going on?" I can tell it would not be going on if it weren't for these people that we have working there. I'll tell you, it's a lot of dedication.

S: Why don't you tell me about your own special job there on concessions. You know, when you started, what did it entail?

J: Well, I started with Mr. Heinzlman when we used to have a tape measure, two fellows helping us, a bunch of tin can lids, spikes, and a crayon. We marked off if a fellow wanted three feet or eighteen feet or thirty feet. We would mark it off and put a tin can lid at one end and a tin can lid in the other and drive a spike into the ground, then go on to the next. We would fill the whole grounds up like that. We started two and a half or three weeks before the fair, laying what few we had. In those days, we used to wait until the people got there to find out where they wanted to be. Well, something had to be done because the fair was getting bigger. Anyway, we made ten foot lots.

If you go around the grounds, you'll see these marks on the drives. They are numbered. The odds are on one side and the evens are on the other. Like the east and west, it starts on the east and goes west on the numbers, and on the north and south it starts on the north and goes south. Every street has an address now. It makes it much easier for the electrician. We can sit there at the office and say that you are on 2022 Austintown or 1719 Beaver and they know right where that is.

S: Do a lot of people usually come back and take the same spot?

J: Yes. We had to open up a new drive because we had a lot more concessions and we were running out of space. We had to open Shaeffer Drive where the pumpkin show is.

There was this one couple who had this oriental food stand there. God, they didn't like all. They wanted something besides that because it was a one-sided street. We moved them to another spot and they wanted back where they were. That was maybe ten years ago. They are still coming back to that same spot.

S: Do people just know where it is and they come back there?

J: Right. A new concessioner doesn't realize that a good concession like a business might not do good when you first start out in any location. You might be on the corner of the best and busiest street, but if you don't have the right thing or the right merchandise, or do it right or present it right, you are not going to make out. If you have a good thing to give the people and present it well, you might not do so good the first year. Word gets around that there are some good cookies up there, or some good donuts, or some good this or that. You have got to tell people this because you have them jumping all around trying to better themselves. Sometimes they don't know where they are at. They will do well if they have a good product. It's like a business anyplace--you have to have the right thing.

It has worked out well. I've gotten acquainted with lots and lots of nice people.

When I first got on, I heard of joints and carnies and all this stuff.

S: What was that first word?

J: Joints.

S: What does that mean?

J: It's a concession stand. Before I got into this, a joint was someplace you didn't mention you were going to go. It's a very proud term in concessioners' language. These people do well. A lot of them go to Florida.

S: Where do these people come from?

J: All over. We have had some from Florida, California, and New York.

S: California is the furthest place?

J: That's about the furthest they can come! (Laughter)

S: Yes, and Alaska.

J: The funny part--we don't have any from Alaska that I can think of. The biggest part of them are "regular". They work a certain area. They'll overlap with people from the South or the West. A person from California might have a chain of stands or a location that he will pull out and move on to.

S: You wouldn't normally have people from California?

J: No. It's surprising the number of people we have pull up at the gate with a Florida license or Wisconsin or somewhere and ask if this is the Canfield Fair? They would say they heard so much about it that they finally decided to come and see what it's all about.

That makes you proud, too. People come quite a distance. Maybe not just to come to the fair, but while they're here they don't want to miss it. My daughter from Georgia comes every year. It is a must. This is the first year she missed because her school started too early and she couldn't make it.

You've heard people say they haven't missed the fair for fifty years. It all goes back to, I think, everybody on the board is so proud to be part of it that they work so diligently.

S: Do you think that is what makes this a special fair--all of the people on the committee?

J: It's a working board. Everybody has their job. I find that the ones that aren't--that are just figure-heads--are not near as successful. They are floundering.

There will be a little disagreement in a meeting or something, but I've never seen it when it wasn't ironed out before the meeting was over. It has a lot of rewards.

S: So you have seen the concessions grow quite a bit?

J: Oh yes.

S: Do you have a number, approximately, on that?

J: I would say back in 1963 we had, maybe, 250 concessions. It is probably double that now. The only thing is, we have put a few extra streets in. We don't want to have more area for the concessions, so we try to weed them out and keep the good ones. If the concession is a bummer, they might not even get an application.

It is such a difference now in the types of concessions and their quality. Of course, with the ten feet spots, everybody can't have less than ten feet, or any ten feet increments.

S: Can people get more than ten feet?

J: Yes, they can have up to sixty feet. One concessionaire might have fifteen stands at different places. There is a local fellow that has a least fifteen different stands at different locations. He has been here years and years and years.

S: Do you have any problems with any of the people who run the games?

J: No. We had, they call them gypsies . . . We didn't have any trouble with them. The other concessioners did as far as it actually got down to that. They are pretty much their own police. They are our friends. When we had trouble with outside groups wanting to come in and infiltrate, our first line of communication was the concessionaires. They let us know what was going on and worked with us and it was just like a beehive. They really went to work for us. It is surprising. Of course, if they were outside of Mahoning County, they couldn't help, but the ones that were from Mahoning County could.

S: Why was that?

J: In the state of Ohio, the Ohio State Agricultural Department regulates fairs, like they do racetracks and what have you. This is why you will find the fairs in the state of Ohio are probably much, much greater on a par and in better taste the whole way through. The fair is chartered, or under the Agricultural Society. It is set up that each county has its own Agricultural Society and you sell memberships to that. Then the members in the Agricultural Society are the only ones that can vote for your directors and so forth. There are different ways agricultural societies throughout the

state are set up as far as the membership. Some of them will charge quite a bit more for their memberships into the society because the membership entitles them to admittance to the fair.

S: How many people belong to the society?

J: Any amount that wants to.

S: You mean I could join?

J: Oh yes. Any time during the fair you can join it.

S: Do these people have the right to vote?

J: Yes. This is like that one group I was telling you about earlier; they brought people by the bus loads out. They paid for their memberships, which is only fifty cents. They brought the bus loads out.

S: Fifty cents?

J: Yes, fifty cents a person. There are so many people that don't know about it. It's no secret. It is just that people aren't interested. Of course, all of our statements and everything are publicized.

S: What else do they do besides vote?

J: That is it. Yes, that and the membership and fifty cents entitles you to a cup of coffee. Including us! (Laughter)

S: I didn't realize that.

J: It's made up of people that are interested.

S: You say most of your concessioners belong?

J: No. Just the ones in Mahoning County, not all of them them. Not all of them care either. I think we might have, normally, one hundred concessioners are members of the Agricultural Society.

S: Of that many, how many really end up voting?

J: This time, I think there were 84 or 86 voting. Something like that.

S: That would include the directors?

J: Yes. We vote from twelve to four o'clock. We had to sit there all day and wait till the last minute, till the time is up, to give everybody a chance to vote. There were times when, I think, there were 1800 voting. We had over two thousand members.

S: So you don't vote just on measures; you vote on issues too?

J: No. The only way an issue is brought up is that there will be a group. In other words, they have a particular person they want to put in and they will get this group together and sell memberships. It's so very seldom, as long as everybody is happy and satisfied.

S: Not too much hassle?

J: No, none at all. Usually, if there is somebody, he usually knows everybody on the board and he just says that maybe he would like to go on and he will get on. Some of them do get on. It's wide open.

S: It's not just a matter of "I'll pick my friend and you pick your friend"?

J: No. We're the center of the political subdivision. Our meetings are open. We've had our neighbors in. When we bought that back acreage we cut down a lot of trees in order to make more parking. These people were wondering what our plans were and they came to the meetings to find out what we were doing.

Somebody might not be satisfied, but the majority of them are. You can't satisfy everybody, but we try to.

S: What do you do if you get someone on there that doesn't want to do his job?

J: We've been very, very fortunate. We did have one fellow in the time that I have been on. He went after it pretty strong. He was a good, ambitious member, but he ended up embezzling money from the company that he was working for in Salem. Of course, that was the end of him as far as the board was concerned.

S: You have rules about these things?

J: We have ethics. There is probably no rule, that I know of, other than what harm will you do the whole county by these kinds of shenanigans?

That's why we try to carefully screen who we get on. There are a lot of board members that have worked with the board in the different capacities.

Kenny McMillan helped me on concessions.

S: How many people do you have under you?

J: There's just John and I. John Holowach and I work concessions.

S: You don't do it all yourselves?

J: No, Ed Baer has been a big help to us. Other than that, we don't have any help.

S: No volunteers?

J: We don't really need anybody. We have it so that they know where the place is. If they don't, if it's a new person, we can go very easily with them in the golf cart or walk down and show them where they are at and what is to be expected of them. There is very little. See, we have that completely lined up before the fair. Like I said, we used to work better than two weeks before the fair, putting in tin can lids and marking them. Now everyone has an address like a house. Everyone knows exactly where it is. There again, they police each other. If a new one comes in the guy next door will tell him if he is doing something wrong. Of course, if they don't adhere to this we have policing as far as that goes.

Sometimes kids will come up if they didn't get a teddy bear. A lot of times we don't know what happened, but you can usually tell a good kid. When I go back to the stand with the kid, I tell him not to feel smart or be overbearing about this. I will talk to this guy and just see what went on. I've never had a case yet where they won't go away with a teddy bear or something.

Sometimes it isn't the owners. A lot of times it is the individual operators that maybe aren't making enough, or they're giving out too much, or they want to cut down, or maybe they get a percentage of the take. As a rule, let's say the most I've ever done that at any one fair was maybe two times. It's usually an individual that got a job working for one of the owners and who was on a percentage or something.

Here again, with the state rules and regulations, these

games are so regulated that they have to be approved by the state before they can be put on at the fair.

The state has inspected the rides that we have had. In fact, the people who have the rides started the same year I did. They are wonderful people. They are down-to-earth.

There again, we had an understanding when they came to Canfield that everything would be painted up and they would have uniforms. I'll grant you, working around those rides and so forth, it can be pretty hard keeping them cleaned up or rid up.

We kind of instituted the plan for inspecting the rides and making sure that there is no structural weakness. Of course, you can't tell for sure, and fortunately we have never had any trouble. The state got into it and they inspect them now. It has taken a load off of our shoulders. We always felt that we might be on the block if something did happen because we required them to be inspected. Now, since the state has done it, they do it good.

Now they're stepping up even further. Before it was the Food and Drug Administration, but they check the games to make sure they're honest, and the right kind of games that they have had approval from the state. They will, apparently, continue with that part of it. The rides will be inspected by an engineering department of the state now. They supposedly have engineers and so forth that can tell what is what. Of course, all these operators have to have insurance enough to cover.

S: Has anything ever happened on the rides such as in Texas--that big thing in Texas where people were killed. Can they come back on the fair and sue? Or would they sue the ride people?

J: When something like that happens, they sue everybody. They'll sue somebody that was riding on the same seat with them, or somebody that was walking up the walk in front of them. They'll grasp at anything.

Out of everything bad, there is something good that comes of it. We have had two instances or three that were very serious. In fact, Elbert Agnew has his police watching for things.

We have, of course, the ambulances and the Red Cross, and we have tried to work out a plan so that if

something did happen we were ready. No matter what, it still is a catastrophe and you hope and wish you could have done something.

In every case that we have had, they usually come to me. The police are there at first, they call the ambulance if needed, and then they call me. Then I'll call Lee Stacy, the photographer. Of course, the Red Cross is there. Lee takes the necessary pictures.

We've had pictures taken on one particular ride. I remember one guy that worked for General Motors. There was no known relative in his work records or anything. He was pretty intoxicated and he slipped by one of the ride operators. He shouldn't have been allowed on in the first place. About four years later there was a relative that popped up. I guess they dug around and found somebody that was related to him. We had these pictures that helped us three or four years later. They were very informative.

S: Then the fair board has to carry pretty heavy insurance?

J: Yes.

S: Do they just carry it for the five days?

J: As far as the state structure, we are a corporation. We can't be individuals, but there's been cases brought up where you never are sure. We have it, the red book that the state puts out, and they so designated us as a political subdivision.

Of course, if someone would get hold of us--some attorney--they would come after everybody. I would say every one of the directors are like myself--they carry liability insurance.

Then the fair carries it. The ride people are required by the state before they come in and set up in the state of Ohio to carry it. Of course, like I said, you can be "touched" liability-wise. Also, if the name would get around that you are lax, you would be lumped in with the people who are just out there to make money. It's laughable--I know we're accused of making money. Everybody asks what we do with all the money? (Laughter) The funny part is, if you want to make money out at the Canfield Fair, you don't make it by being on the board! (Laughter) They pay our expenses to the conventions; we pay our wives' way.

S: Did you go to the convention when Grace went to the California Fair? It was in Los Angeles, I think.

J: Yes. Grace, Bob and Ruth Rose, John Booth and his wife, Bob Hammett and his wife, and Bob Riley all went. As I said, we pay our wives' flight and the whole thing. We went to the Pomona Fair and we did bring back some good information.

We have this convention in Columbus every year. It's right after the first of the year. It's always the first week after New Year's. It's Wednesday, Thursday, and Friday. The whole board, as a rule, seldom goes.

When I first got on in 1963, we went to Chicago to this national convention. It was there for a couple of years and then they moved it to Vegas. We went to Las Vegas the past few years to the convention. You can get a lot of good stuff sometimes. It's a lot more appetizing to some people. Most of us aren't into gambling much. The wives have more fun with the slot machines. We started talking among ourselves and decided that we could get more good out of going to other fairs rather than the International Convention. Several couples still go to Vegas. They don't go to any other fair. Some of them have been to the Dallas Fair. Some of them have been to Wisconsin or Oklahoma.

S: Is that a big fair?

J: Yes. Oklahoma is a big one. It's surprising how well you are welcomed at these fairs. Oklahoma wasn't very hospitable though from what we gathered from the couples that went there.

S: What's the biggest fair? Iowa?

J: Dallas.

S: Oh, I don't know what made me think it was Iowa. It's almost as big as Dallas though, isn't it?

J: I don't know. Wisconsin is a big one. Oklahoma is a big one, too. The Pomona Fair, which is the Los Angeles County Fair, is one of the big ones. We're the biggest five-day fair.

S: How long is the Pomona Fair?

J: A couple weeks. Seventeen days, I think.

S: Like a state fair?

J: Yes, they are actually more a state fair than a county fair.

S: Do they have a state fair there too?

J: Yes.

S: Where is it?

J: I don't know. It's not near the Pomona Fair.

Goodness, it was really something. They had grange exhibits. All the granges from all over the state were there. It was kind of a county grange exhibit. Here we will have more of the different granges in our county, but there it was the county grange set up. This was interesting. They had a lot of buildings and stuff that make you sick that you can't accomplish what they have.

Of course, they go at it more commercially. They are losing the agricultural aspect. You've got to always remember when you are running a county fair that you are still agricultural-oriented. We have even got to where we want to diversify and cover everything.

We did have an industrial display, but it didn't progress like we would have liked it to; so we still favor the agricultural aspect.

S: Who is doing industrial? I must be thinking of that one that GM has. Did you ever have a . . .

J: It hasn't been there for a few years. It ended up it was strictly a GM exhibit, but they haven't had it for a few years. There isn't anything really geared to industry. I would like to have something in the future. We would like to have a lot more commercial displays inside. We only have the two buildings now. Grace has been after this for years. I'm almost certain if it ever comes into being, it will be named the Grace Williams building.

S: Elbert Agnew said that he was pushing for that too-- a bigger commercial building.

J: Yes. We have only the grandstand, and we have the commercial building and then the exhibitors' building.

It's a shame we don't have one.

S: Do you think you pull in enough people?

J: We have people outside now that want inside, and we have people that just won't come unless they can get inside. We have a lot now. We have to turn them away because there isn't enough space. They have a waiting list. We have a lot of people we turned down. We have been overflowing for a long time. We could fill up maybe the whole parking lot with concessions, but we don't want that. We want to upgrade what we have.

S: Do you give preference to certain people?

J: Well, if they have been here.

S: What do you mail out? Applications?

J: We mail out the applications right around January and the first part of February.

S: Is it first come, first served?

J: The ones that have been here, we always tell them to get their applications back. Now, if somebody has been here and they don't get their application back, which sometimes happens with these concessionaires who are in Florida, or there was a cross up, we'll give them the benefit of the doubt. We will try to contact them and see if they are coming. If they have been on a corner for years and years we give it to them. If there is an exceptionally good one that wants the particular spot that they had last year, we will never knock somebody off that spot to put him in there. We try to give the ones locally the preference rather than somebody out of town. It is easier for someone here locally to fill in if we do have a cancellation. Last year we called some people that wished they had known before, but they were glad to get the spot.

S: I had an interview with Art Frank. That's pretty unusual for somebody to have a building that just stays there all the time--a commercial building.

J: We had one other one that was down by the pumpkin building. This was before I got on. This was a problem with Art Frank. That was originally Isaly's.

Art worked for Isaly's. Of course, Art has carried it on on his own and Isaly's isn't even around anymore. There has been no issue or anything on it. If Art, himself, would ever have to give it up it would be because the building is right out there like a sore eye and it is not in the best place.

S: What does he do--pay like a dollar rent or is that his?

J: That is his building.

S: How does that work?

J: It's up for grabs. Which is the same as a tent someplace. We don't furnish tents; we just furnish space on the grounds, and then they put their own tent or whatever.

S: He has to take care of it?

J: Oh yes. We keep after him to keep it up. There are some weak points in it right now. Greenford Ruritan used to take that thing of theirs home every year. They apparently asked somebody and got permission to leave it there, and we were questioning it. I tried to get hold of them and tell them that I'm sorry. As long as they keep it painted up, there is no problem. Of course, now we have weed killers so we don't have to bother with that too much.

S: What about that Colonial Inn? Whose is that?

J: That is the fair's. We rent that to the Austintown Community Church.

S: Always the same?

J: Well, you see, Austintown is probably the oldest exhibitor on the grounds. They used to be down--you remember where Mr. B's used to be--in the tent.

S: Yes.

J: They were along that corner of Canfield, Austintown, and Boardman Drives. When I was a kid, which was probably fifty-some years ago, I remember my mother used to go out and work at the church tent. I got older and worked at it. It's been a long time. In fact, someone told me at one time it was the pony building, and they had chickens in it and I don't know what, and then they made it into an inn. It was right

there handy, and right close, and they needed a year-round building for meetings and so forth. They made it into that and it gives the church a chance to rent it. They were the oldest and they, of course, took advantage of it.

Then we had that building--I forget what we used to have in it--where Mr. B's is now on Boardman Drive. I'm ashamed that I don't know what was in there. It could have been chickens or something. Anyway, they made it into a dining hall, because the churches like to have large local dining groups because they serve good meals for a good cause. Poland Methodist had that. The trouble is so few people worked there after a few years, and they had to pay the mortgage off, probably, or pay it way down. Then they gave it up. We had I don't know how many churches in that building where Mr. B's is, and finally they were turning over so much that they would be in there only one year, and they couldn't get the help. We asked "Mr. B", and he said he would be glad to take it over. He went in and really spent a lot of money and fixed it up beautifully. He has a lot of equipment in there. He is tickled with it.

S: Is that where . . .

J: John rents it. He is in the building where John used to have his original grocery store, and John rents to him.

S: Is there anything you would like to add?

J: No, I don't know of anything.

S: All right, if you don't have anything to add, thank you.

J: You're welcome.

END OF INTERVIEW