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FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Name: Gene Branham
Date Interviewed: 7/8/99 Date Transcribed: 10/1/99 Tape: 50 Project Number 20012

Tape FLHP 0201

18:01:01
(Cameraman) The tape – she goes round and round.

18:01:05
Q:
Great! Well, we always, the first questions is always the hardest Gene. We just need you to give your name and spell it. (A: laughter) Just so we have it right for posterity.

A:
Gene Branham. Capital B-r-a-n-h-a-m.

Q:
Great! You can just talk right to me and ignore the camera altogether.

18:01:22
A:
It's hard to ignore the camera. I'm unaccustomed to this.

Q:
(Laughter) I know. Ah, first of all if you could just give us some background. Tell us a little bit about you're uh, where you were born, your family, your early life before you came to Fernald.

18:01:37
A:
I was born in the eastern part of Kentucky in the mountains, in the coal mine section. Uh, went to school there, the coal mining industry ran into some problems and had to quit school and light out for work. After a few jobs I ended up at Fernald where my father worked and friends that we had known back home. Pretty basic.

Q:
Tell us about working in the coalmines. What was that like?

18:02:09
A:
Well I was too young to work inside, so I got a job on the outside. What they call fill-in dummies. It was uh, dynamite sticks half full. Coal miners take'em in to blast. And then we would trim timbers and load'em up for the shift to take in, the hoot-owl shift. Third shift.

18:02:26
A:
Uh, so they'd be ready for the day shift. We used to do gen work on the outside as young boys because we weren't old enough to go inside at that time. Years before you could go inside at an early age, but in my time uh, they wouldn't let you.

Q:
So, your family, your-- do you have brothers, sisters?

18:02:48
A:
Have a brother, Pete. He works at the plant also. No sisters. My father worked at the plant. Started in '52. Had an uncle that worked at the plant and he passed away with cancer in '74, I think it was. I have a son that works out there now.

Q:
So, sort of a family thing?

18:03:14
A:
Uh, yeah, there's been five or six of us that have worked there over the years.

Q:
Tell us about how you got your job at Fernald. What was the interview process like? How did you find out about it?

18:03:27
A:
Uh, my dad and uh, at that time a man named Johnny Walsh, that had been a supervisor in the coal mines. He was over the grounds and the labor pool. And uh, he said you guys uh, should check into this. So we did. We got hired. Uh, started to work there.

Q:
Did you have to get Q clearance to work there?

18:03:53
A:
Well, in those days they had what they called a P clearance, police clearance. And they would bring you in and work you in the general labor pool until you acquired your Q clearance. And it took uh, several months in those days because they were very thorough. They would go back to your school, and uh, church and neighbors.

18:04:14
A:
Uh, confirm what you had put on your application. It wasn't uh, wasn't the easiest thing ever was to get Q cleared. And then you were allowed to go into portions of the plant. You'd get an assignment.

18:04:30
A:
Q clearance were uh, they were valued. Not everyone had'em in those days.

Q:
And, uh, tell us a little bit about, uh, your responsibilities. Different responsibilities that you had through the years.

18:04:50
A:
Well, I started out as a laborer. Uh, then I went to stamper. Now stamper was (laughter), you had a little hammer and a mallet and you stamped numbers on the end of the final product. Which was slugs in those days. And uh, it was sort of like uh, a fast typewriting secretary.

18:05:15
A:
Pow, pow, pow – you moved. And those numbers had to be right. Uh, early on I was working with uh, uh two people, Mr. Weiner and Mr. Stevens, and they were taken from Plant 6 up to Plant 9 and within about a month, both were killed in an explosion up there. And that probably was my first real shock at Fernald.

18:05:44
A:
I realized uh, coalmines was dangerous, but this place can get you too. And those two gentlemen died a terrible death. I then bidded into transportation, was a fork operator, truck driver and been a heavy equipment operator the last 25 years or so. But uh, I'd been a union official during that time, full time, so I haven't operated equipment the last few years.

18:06:12
Q:
Tell us a little bit more about the accident in plant 9. A lot of people have mentioned it, but not a whole lot of people know very many details.

18:06:20
A:
Well, you'll probably interview Vinnie, and he can uh, he's probably your best source. Uh, it was a thorium plant in those days. Uh, might point out that during the litigation of the 80's National Lead and DOE denied that we processed thorium at the site.

18:06:41
A:
And we produced a 11 x 14 picture with Mr. Joe Carvette standing South 9, right above it a big 14-foot sign that said Thorium Plant. (Laughter) So, uh, the explosion was, uh, was a terrible thing. It just uh, burnt'em up. And uh, they lived a couple of days, but uh, it was bad.

18:07:05
Q:
What caused the explosion?

A:
I'm not real sure, uh, again, Vinnie could probably tell you more details. But when they dealt with thorium, mag fluoride in a flash can get ya on that. So, he probably can really tell you exactly what happened.

18:07:26
Q:
When you were hired at Fernald, how much did you know about the process?

A:
Nothing, nothing at all. Uh, hired in as a laborer. Uh, 18 years old. Uh, just a job and I needed one.

Q:
What kind of training did they provide?

18:07:52
A:
You didn't have any training programs in those days, it was OJT. Like if you laborer, and you were gonna be a fork operator, you got on the fork and you started operatin' it and uh, some of the older guys that had been operating awhile would uh, kinda uh, point you in the right direction and tell you the do's and don'ts and help you out a little. But formal training, they had none.

18:08:16
Q:
How long was it before you learned how the process worked and what was going on at Fernald?

A:
Well it took awhile because, as you know, there were nine production plants. And when the raw material came in at plant 1, it was Belgian Congo ore, South African ore, and it just looked like rock in a drum.

18:08:38
A:
By the time you sampled it, and characterized it, processed it, two and three, until you got assigned to different plants throughout the site over the years. It didn't come together that we started with raw ore here and end up at final inspection in plant 6, with the final product.

18:09:00
A:
And uh, just all at once it hit me, this is an amazing thing, the transition from ore to final uranium product was something to behold. It was true technology.

Q:
Can you explain the process a little bit, just sort of plant by plant. (A: laughter) Briefly?

18:09:21
A:
(Laughter) Probably not as well as many, I'll try it in general. The ore was processed down to West 2 and 3 and then went through uh, nitric acids and uh, it came out uh, mostly in the form of orange oxide, at extraction.

18:09:39
A:
It went over to 4 and it was processed through the reactors and became Green Salt, HF4, uh, that went to plant 5, now that was a division line from what was called Chemical and Metal. Uh, in plant 5 there was a conversion process where they mixed the mag chloride and green salt and it was heated and uh, capped, tapped and put in uh Rockwell furnaces.

18:10:09
A:
It came out a raw looking metal in the form of what you would probably say, uh, a derby, uh, a torpedo, which was a need. Those went over to plant 6, they were processed in a rolling mill in the form of long rods. Then they went to plant 6 machine where they were cut, processed and back to plant 6 final inspections where they were inspected.

18:10:35
A:
Now, they went through other processes in the meantime to withdraw impurities. But the final product, uh, was unmatched over that period of time in quality, and it was ahead of schedule, it was under cost. What those people did for that four decades was uh, was super.

18:10:57
A:
Looking back on it now, having the advantage of hindsight, those people and National Lead and AEC at that time did a wonderful job. And uh, I might point out that was during the Cold War when communism with a true global threat, not like now when we truly don't have any opposition that is threatening.

18:11:22
Q:
You mentioned the cold war, what, what as the typical American mind-set during the cold war?

A:
I don't know about the typical American. But, looking back, what I have concluded was Fernald started up shortly after the end of the Second World War, five and a half years I think when they broke ground.

18:11:45
A:
So, the people that were hired were WWII veterans, mostly, those guys were 24, 25, 28 years old, they'd done been to hell and back. So there wasn't nobody give'em no crap. Uh, they were self-motivated, they were well disciplined, they had a military background, didn't have to blow a whistle.

18:12:06
A:
They knew it was time to go to work. They knew what the job was. I was just young, so I had a real advantage, although I wasn't aware of it, but I learned from guys who truly knew. And uh, they were patriotic, uh, they fought in Europe, Sicily, Italy, France, in the South Pacific.

18:12:27
A:
A generation, uh, not trying to be critical of today's generation, because they haven't faced the same challenges. So, I don't know they're made of. I know what them guys was made out of and it was the true stuff, the right stuff.

18:12:44
Q:
And how did Fernald help uh, America meet its goals in the Cold War?

A:
Well, the product that we produced supplied the fuel for sites, uh, mainly S. Carolina, Hanford plants, some others, it was absolutely essential to their having warheads, being able to dominate uh, the other countries.

18:13:22
A:
Those a threatenin' us. I'm told without that product they couldn't a done it. Of course there were other plants that contributed other products. One of the things that I remember outstanding, I didn't meant to interrupt you, but, uh, 30/45 experimental machine shop, it's another plant now but you know what I'm talking about.

18:13:43
A:
Uh, you may want to ask some of the other guys your gonna interview, but, uh, that was a restricted area for a period of time, to where uh, it took select machinist in there, security guards to guard all the time, and they produced the fuel rods for the Nautilus submarine.

18:14:02
A:
And I think it was '54, and that was the first atomic submarine, if you remember, that went under the North Pole. Quite an accomplishment in those days. And uh, of course at the site nothing could be said about it or no one told because secrecy, secrecy really prevailed in those days.

Q:
So what did you tell your family when they asked you what you did?

18:14:27
A:
Well, my father worked there and uh, I worked there and uh, you didn't say much about it. But uh, mom never really didn't ask much. It was just a different atmosphere that prevailed in those days. And uh, you weren't suppose to talk about it to your families anyway. When you go in you go through this security clearance and then every few years there's a re-evaluation for continuing your clearance. And it's explained at the time that what you do here, what you see here stays here. And we believed it. And uh, I believe it now – at that time it was important.

18:15:11
Q:
What were some of the secrets on site, what were some of the things that you weren't suppose to talk about.

A:
(Laughter) Secrets! I don't really know, I would imagine that if you were a spy that what you would have wanted would have been documentation. And that probably would have outlined the process. So far were a foreign agent, that's where I would have directed my efforts.

18:15:38
A:
I don't think you could learn much out in the plant, because different plants did different functions. And then it came together in plant 5 and plant 6 and that was the final area. So I don't think you could have eyeballed it and learned that much.

Q:
And uh, when you were working for transportation where did you fit into all this? What were you actually doing day to day? What was a typical day like?

18:16:04
A:
Well, I, looking back I was probably was pretty fortunate because when I was a fork operator you get assigned to different plants. And it was over a period of time, having been assigned to all these plants, that you put it together in your mind, what we're doing here is rather unique and damned important. As though you just gradually become aware of where you fit in. Had a big advantage because I was assigned to all the plants over the years, and then later on as a MVO, and eventually as an HEO, I got to all the areas, the outer perimeters and everywhere. So I've had a big advantage over the years, in learning the operation.

18:16:50
Q:
And just so people will know MVO means-----?

A:
I was a Motor Vehicle Operator and a HEO is a Heavy Equipment Operator. An HEO gives you the opportunity to go to the outer perimeters to view the plant from another perspective altogether.

Q:
Tell us about that. Tell us about being a Heavy Equipment Operator.

18:17:10
A:
Busy! Busy in those days and there was never enough of us. We had to uh, I'll use the crane for an example, which is a rather extensive responsibility because there's people, usually below ya, and there's danger. The company would never give us enough people. A ground man, which is by OSHA, is essential now, you can't do anything about it. We had to do our own work. We could never get the fourth operator so we could operate two cranes at the same time.

18:17:48
A:
They'd want us to hang one and run from one to the other. It's dangerous. Uh, those things have changed now. We fought for a year and a half to get the fourth operator to run the other crane. Right now we have 34 heavy equipment operators on site. Big change. Whole nother world.

Q:
Tell us a little bit about safety in those days.

18:18:13
A:
(Laughter) Just about non-existent. But you didn't have a safety, uh money factored into it. And if it did it was it was so small it was insignificant. Safety was of little or no importance to the uh, National Lead the operator. And I say that because litigation is behind us and those facts have been testified to from Congress to Federal court and found to be genuine. And that position prevailed.

18:18:48
A:
An awful lot of the people that I was, uh worked with and raised around are no longer alive and I feel in my heart had they been, uh, had National lead and AEC at the time, Atomic Energy Commission, had they shared with us the potential hazardous, we could have protected ourselves better. We could have taken the, maybe even the maximum protection against a potential hazard.

18:18:20
A:
Good guys, in my opinion, lost their lives unnecessarily. And they knew, I don't want to really preach about this, but we have documentation now that supports the fact as early as the 40s they knew the potential hazards and the liabilities and they choose to not share that information with the nuclear worker. And that was the decades where many people were harmed.

18:19:48
Q:
Tell us about some of the hazardous on site then. What were some of the big ones?

A:
Probably air borne contaminants. Uh, different areas had different hazards. For example, you would have though radiation was the biggest hazard. Uh, we've since had, uh, uh, an assistant professional radiology to MIT do a thorough evaluation and he determined that chemical hazardous probably were a greater hazard in those days.

18:20:20
A:
Now, having had him explain it to me and walk through it, he has convinced me that that's probably true. But we gave that little or no thought. Radiation was what we were concerned with. You can't see, smell, feel or hear so you don't really give it the uh, presence you should, that's where they should have made us aware and provide us with PPE, respirators, whatever protection was necessary. Educate us. They didn't but they did take the grant money that was funded to do the workers studies and did not share those results with the workers. And for that I begrudge 'em big time.

18:21:07
Q:
What were some of the most dangerous chemicals on site?

A:
I would say HF and ammonia probably. And again some of the chemical operators can probably go deeper than that. But HF for example, they didn't want the public to know of the HF releases, so they would release it at night, after dark. And if you saw the tops of the some of the plants, like 2 and 3, where it ate'em up.

18:21:42
A:
It goes so high and then it settles, for an example, directly north of 2 and 3 at extraction, or metal dissolver rather, was a truck dock. You leave a vehicle out up there at night, the next morning it comes back and it just looks like uh, it's been shot with a shotgun, ya know. It's pitted all over. So that was a big no-no. That's how potent that acid was. And ammonia, you know what it can do to ya, just a sniff of it. They had associaters, but ammonia was a bad one too.

18:22:17
Q:
You mentioned some people who were injured and who eventually died. Can you talk a little bit about some of those folks?

A:
Well, I didn't know 'em that well. I just worked with 'em for a very short time. And I just started there, I think it was '54 when they uh, uh. And I really didn't know'em well. It was just such a shock to me when it happened and it could have easily been someone else that they assigned from 6 to 9. It was probably a shock to a lot of workers.

18:2253
Q:
Did you know Joe Carvette?

A:
Knew him well.

Can you tell us a little about Joe. He's come up in a lot of articles.

A:
Joe was a real character. He was a marine pilot in the second world war. Joe's a pretty sharp guy. Large man, Italian. I can't remember the exact years but there was gonna be a lot of layoffs and what Joe did was form a group which we called the project labor pool, which was non-existent. But we mutually agreed we will lay those people instead of laying them off we will move'em here to the project labor pool, that's what we called it.

18:23:34
A:
They'll work under Joe, and we'll retain them because we anticipate calling them back. So rather than going through that expense and clearing 'em again what I think no one really realized was that Joe had the technology and the ability to put that group together and structure'em so they could reclaim metal that otherwise would have been maybe dumped in the pits or lost. And it ended up over a couple or three-year period he had the most profitable operation on site. And that was during the lean years. And then, Joe probably was exposed to raw thorium.

18:24:16
A:
And when Joe died, his son having a legal background, had the foresight that none of us had, to have an autopsy performed and preserve the vital organs. And when litigation came up, as you probably know, Joe's case prevailed because he had that evidence. Uh, the autopsy was a nuclear autopsy, as opposed to a normal autopsy. Because you can't perform a nuclear autopsy on a living person because it calls for core samples of the bone. So just things of that nature.

18:25:02
A:
So he's a pretty impressive young man. And from that we learn a lot. (Laughter) We get into this too much, but the government has what they call a federal registry. It's a mortuary. And it's located in Hanford, and at the time, Dr. Sternberg was over it, now Ronnie Catherine is over it. It's associated with Washington State University now, that helps 'em get grants, and it gives them more camouflage. Well we called it, was body snatching, they'd steal your bodies.

18:25:38
A:
Nuclear workers. And not only the workers, but the administrative people, and people who owned farms in a general area, or a residence of Ross or what have you. Because to do an epidemology you have to have a comparison factor, so you want someone who is actively in the plant working, versus

someone that isn't in the plant. Now they would take these bodies without the nearest relatives knowledge or consent and that is not a uh, a violation of law because it's protected by national defense.

18:26:17
A:
So it's the 1954 Atomic Workers National defense, and uh I've not got the right name, but it's reviewed every twenty years in 84 and 94. It still exists today and they still do it today. The important part of this is, it's their way of avoiding liability. If, for an example, you were to die, they had a working arrangement with five surrounding counties, the coroners.

18:26:50
A:
And I want to be very specific about Dr. Frank Cleveland, 26 years Hamilton Co., and if he feels that I am liable, I invite him to sue me. Because he was probably the worst one. By structuring a procedure which incorporated pathologist at other hospitals, or emergency room attendants, someone get killed in a car wreck, or everhow, they provided the government, National Lead with vital organs.

18:27:34
A:
We suspect those organs were contaminated because we never saw them again. Therefore, without the organ you had no evidence to prove the origin of sickness or the illness, or the death came from the workplace. That's how they avoided liability, government body snatching. Some of the bodies they put back in the graves weren't even the same body.

18:27:58
I'll use one for an example, and if you interview others they can tell you about him. Mr. Eberts, you probably have heard other remark. His body was placed the wrong direction. Ray was about 6'2", 6'2-1/2", about 210, 220, ex-marine. The body put back in there was 5'6" thereabouts, 120 lbs. Had missing fingers. Terrible things happened. Now, when we, when I first went on live television with Stan Chesley and uh, I can't uh, a professor at Harvard and made this allegation I did it with documentation in hand identifying those people.

18:28:58
A:
They were assigned a number, they were described physically. They were, there classification where they worked, when they died, what the circumstances were. So, we did not make an allegation without having documentation in hand to support it. And when we testified in Congress, we were able to uh, finally they admitted it.

Q:
We're gonna take a break real quick. We're gonna change tape.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Tape FLHP 0202

19:01:01
(Off camera: Okay!)

19:01:02
A:
Well we should touch on a couple of things. For an example, when they got the body, they didn't take the body as a whole. They took the vital organs, what's called soft tissue and usually it starts at the top of the head and works its way down. From hair follicles to toenails. They get the eyeballs and esophagus, tongue and portions of the lungs, especially if it's a diseased vital organ like kidneys or livers or something like that.

19:01:36
A:
And uh, heavy metal goes to the kidneys because of _____ syndrome, so that was one of the more important things. People never know it, they'd just never know it. If it wasn't reflected in the documents, in the studies they did we'd never know it. This all started back in 1956 in San Diego by Boback, Weatherington, and Quigley. Quigley has since passed away. Very, very knowledgeable medical background. Weatherington and Boback wouldn't know a medical textbook from any thing else.

19:02:20
A:
Now what the company did was, they had a good medical department, Betty Smith, JoAnn Kelly, people you probably are familiar with, those were good people, Evelyn Green. Good doctors. But the medical director had no medical background at all, he was put there to preserve sensitive records. And Boback particularly, Boback particular, to laundry, modify or alter pertinent documents.

19:02:52
A:
These things, again, have been testified to, confirmed and upheld in litigation. So, they're not allegations, they're fact. Fact that has a monetary value to the workers that uh, received some compensation. Another thing we probably should touch on was, again in '63 in California this group met and they determined that they couldn't get enough bodies and they couldn't get'em fast enough.

19:03:24
A:
So in order to have a workers study that they could continue to get funding for, grants, they had to get more bodies. So that's when they upgraded their effort. And, then they decided let's approach the workers and buy their bodies. So, they met with us and told everybody what a contribution they'd be making. And they offered us all $500 dollars for our bodies. Now, the key was, that was when and if you died they could claim the body before entombment, preferable before emballment. Because it had lesser value once it was embalmed.

19:04:12
A:
Because that had uh, it affected the organs. And once it's entombed then you may commit a federal violation by grave robbing. But there were five states at that time, and Ohio being one, that national security prevailed over grave robbing. So it got to be pretty technical, although we weren't this versed on it in those days, it was only years later.

19:04:39
A:
Let's go back to where they offered us all $500 dollars for our body. Now, that was if and when I died and they got my body in a timely manner, and then after gutting me if they determined that your body had been of value, of maximum value you would get the $500 dollars. You ain't here, it's to whoever you designated as you know, the recipient, the beneficiary.

19:05:09
A:
They may determine that your body was of little or no value so you may get $21.40, it was up to them. Now that was their big offer to us. And we're rolling the cameras so I can't very well tell you our response. But, you can use your imagination, for those years from now watching this, believe me, organized labor responded in a professional, and loud distinctive manner. There was no doubt as to what we thought of their body-snatching program.

19:05:39
Q:
Tell us how you got involved with the union.

A:
Uh, well, I've always been union. Raised around the coalmines you know, you're just automatically pick and shovel. And I've just always been involved in the union, when I started there uh, in the 50's, the AFL-CIO in '55 had split and then the uh, Teamsters, I think in '57-58 they disassociated.

19:06:11
A:
Well Hoffa came along and over in Northern Kentucky at old boarding house they had a meeting and I was impressed with Hoffa and uh, I was a teamster. I just actively got involved and been involved ever since. I believe in fighting for minority rights. Take women for example, you weren't allowed in the production area. Now, they really didn't allow any women over there other than a few in a designated safe area as they called it, well the offices, during a united Way drive.

19:06:51
A:
And that was to solicit funds from the men. And then in '76 Henrietta and Nancy Grubbs were hired and eventually bidded into jobs out in the sight. And from that I think there's about 21%, 22% of the work force consists of women now in the production area. So I've always fought for minority rights, uh, don't matter hardly what it is. I wasn't a great one for marching or yelling but I believe in equal rights.

(Off camera: Can we stop for just a second?)

19:07:27
A:
Sure.

Q:
We're talking about the union a little bit. What are your responsibilities with the Union now?

19:07:39
A;
Well, currently I'm the vice-president of the Fernald Council. Have been for a lot of years, was president previous to that, held most of the offices over the years, one way or the other. We had 23 internationals, that's down to 14 now.

19:07:57
A:
We represent all the in-house work force. Contractual matters, anything that may come up, anything from a Chaplin to a psychiatrist. Which I'm neither (Laughter).

Q:
As far as the Union goes with the FAT&LC, when exactly was that formed during the early years of Fernald, or how did that come about?

19:08:25
A:
Well, the NLRB charter was signed on July 10, 1952, we came into being. In March of '53 was when you really had the formal structuring procedure. And, officers were identified and elections were held and things were truly outlined consistent with the two documents that mandated, and went from there.

19:08:58
A:
In the early years there were three unions that were larger in number and more active, that was the IEM the machinist, the ICW was the chemical, and then the Teamsters. And those three unions were basically the backbone for the first 10 years. And then after that we became more diversified, other people got more active.

19:09:24
A:
And then in '85 when I was the president of the union it all really, really came together. Those were the cut and shoot days, and up until then negotiations consisted of just union representatives on site versus company. But what I did was notify the company, by letter, that I would be bringing in experts with medical backgrounds, as health physicist, health hygienist, what have you, from all the internationals.

19:09:55
A:
And recommended that they have a counterpart on their side of the table so these matters could be discussed in depth. Uh, apparently they didn't take it serious and they, we had our representatives at the table, they did not have theirs. Federal mediator called a three-day recess, told them that they wanted those people lined up, accounted for and in place when we reconvened.

19:10:16
A:
So National Lead hustled to try to get a health hygienists and what have you. And then negotiations were up and running. They had not anticipated us having that kind of resources and that kind of expert people within organized labor. It was a weakness of National Lead. And that was probably the turning point of workers protection of safety and health.

19:10:49
Q:
Tell us a little bit about the negotiations you had to have with National Lead during those years. What kind of things were discussed?

A:
They weren't much negotiations. They had all the upper hand, we had no cards. They played a game. No negotiations would go on, you'd set a all day in a conference room, they'd never come in.

19:11:11
A:
The last three days they would come in, uh, they'd come in like three days before a contract was suppose to expire. Proposal would be re-read, a few comments would be made. Then the last day you'd go 24 hours a around the clock and they would admit to us that uh, we have to do this uh, so everybody'll think we working, if we don't do this they'll not take it serous.

19:11:36
A:
So it was just a show. And in the backroom they had AEC people, which were not suppose to be involved, but they were the ones who truly approved or disapproved, (undistinguishable). But we had no leverage, we had to take pretty much what was shoved down our throats.

Q:
Has that changed?

19:12:04
A:
Drastically, drastically. And for several reasons, first they, we brought our game up to a higher level. And currently John Bradburne, the CEO, President of Fluor Daniels, truly understands labor relations, public relations and the IR department, Peggy Dougherty for an example, has gone through this, the last 20 years with us, she understands.

19:12:37
A:
So when they put their staff together they choose them and they have certain expertise they bring to the table. And if you have a balanced table you can negotiate because it's a process of compromise. You can reach conclusions. It's only when I'm strong and your weak that I'll pick on you. And vice versa. So you must have balance, and if you do it collectively you can accomplish one hell of a lot.

19:13:04
A:
It's amazing how the win, win process works. It doesn't always work to everyone's satisfaction, but it does works, and it don't leave bodies laying in the corner, people that are victims of negotiations.

Q:
What are some of the issues that you discuss in those type of collective bargins agreements now?

19:13:23
A:
Well, after the first few days when we exchange proposals, we usually select people that are more appropriate to deal with, say the health and safety matters, for an example, our health and safety director is Steve Collins. He will have a committee that deals with the company's representatives in that particular area.

19:13:45
A:
And then we have benefits, pensions, 401K and all the other things that go toward the monetary portions, classifications. If you break out in integrated committees with those people that have the same knowledge, the same background, leave'em alone unless they holler at you for some documentation or a consultant, and if you exclude lawyers, don't let no damn lawyers in the room to start with.

19:14:13
A:
And so you have a agreement out front – no lawyers, and engineers if you can get away from 'em. You can get a lot done. It takes a while and you get a little frustrated but the end product justifies all the effort. Because both parties come away to some degree satisfied. Unlike the old days, in cut and shoot when it took two days for the gunsmoke to clear and then all you have is fatalities laying around. Big difference. Whole nother world.

19:14:45
Q:
And how uh, have uh, the process years and the cleanup years – how do they differ?

A:
Just as much as negotiations. Totally different world. In July of 89 when production was halted. No one took the precaution of draining the systems of the materials that was enroute. They just turned the key off. It set there several years, until Congress acted in '91 and officially said production ends and remediation starts.

19:15:20
A:
So it left us with a lot of hold up materials, they complicated things unnecessarily. Cost a lot of money and a lot of effort. Nobody had the foresight to do it right. To take a workforce that had been in production for 37 years and to transition them into remediation is not an easy thing.

19:15:47
A:
Fortunately we had a couple of years, so we emphasized training in preparation. And we tried to visualize the projects and what technology they would need. And we did a fairly good job. I think right now you probably would agree the ongoing remediation is on schedule, if not ahead. Cost has been level, employment has been level, making a lot of progress.

19:16:28
A:
Now that couldn't have happened without a few people on management side coming to grips with the fact that it's absolutely essential to have a workforce that motivated, not demoralized, that, a workforce that has a background that allows them, or should allow them, the opportunity for input.

19:16:55
A:
They can tell you where the body is and who put it there and how deep its buried. Not some yaa-hoo that come in here and didn't know where Fernald was six months ago, and tries to tell you, those were the things we encountered early with Fernald.

19:17:13
A:
With FERMCO at Fernald, it was only after FERMCO's failure and they were terminated that Fluor Daniels, John Bradburne again, volunteered to come here and clean up tombstone and he's done one hell of a job. If he leaves, they may try to go back to the old ways, if they do they will fail. And the same thing on the labor side, Bob Swab is the president of the labor union, and if either of them were to duck out we'd probably run into problems.

19:17:47
Q:
Tell us about the usefulness of using people who were there during the process years in remediation?

A:
Well, they're invaluable. 'Cause no one that came in with FERMCO or Fluor Daniel were there. And they couldn't find uh, FERMCO for the first couple of years they were there, they couldn't find the crapper in building 12.

19:18:15
A:
If you didn't have the workers to tell them this, see they didn't want to hear the workers. That was the last thing they wanted to hear. See when we prepared in '89, '90 '91 for a '92 contractor coming in,

what we anticipated, they will be so happy to see they have inherit a work force that has trained, is motivated, is here to be their productive employee.

19:18:47
A:
Boy was we ever shocked, DOE sent FERMCO in with the message or the directive that these workers are out, they're gone, they're expendable, throw-aways, no longer needed. We're gonna sub-contract all this. So you can image the shock. Now, without getting too deep in it there was a provision in the RFP, that's Request For Proposal, that stated this. Well, unbeknownst to FERMCO we were able through namely Senator Glenn, Senator Metzenbaum, two senior senators from the state of Ohio.

19:19:32
A:
Uh, some others, Ted Kennedy, Markey, Hatch, people that we had worked with over the years. Leo Dovey which was the assistant secretary of energy at the time and Admiral Watkins, to look at that and modify that clause to make it read: current employees will be offered continued employment. They failed to tell FERMCO this, so FERMCO comes marching through the doors like SS troopers and says your out of here, we'll only need 50 of you come June.

19:20:07
A:
And that was in January, and we'll need those to cleanup the restrooms and police the area and the rest of ya's gone. They hadn't even read their own contract. Big shock, big shock. So, they didn't have the flexibility or the reasoning ability to figure things out how best to work things out to work with organized labor.

19:20:34
A:
So they continued on with their same mission, in order to demonstrate it, they told me we're gonna lay off 72 people, we're gonna lay them off to show you we're the boss, and they did. Now, it took me another 6 or 7 months until December to have a congressional investigation, at which time FERMCO, the results was the president was fired and members of his staff, you probably remember those yaa-hoos. Because they uh, they just couldn't deal with this world.

19:21:10
A:
You have to have leadership that understands that people are human beings, treat 'em right and 9 out of 10 times they'll be fair with ya and do ya a hell of a job. Screw with 'em and you'll pay the price. These guys paid the price. Now, it was at that time that I met with John Bradburne up in Virginia and discussed with him the possibility of him coming here and taking this over.

19:21:36
A:
Because he was familiar with the site and he had the background and the proven ability having spent all those years with the NLRC, or the NRC rather, and with Fluor Daniel and DOE in Washington. And

to truly be a CEO/President of a site like this that's owned by a third party, the government, and you have to solicit continued funding on projects in the out years, you have to have someone who knows how to open doors with Capitol Hill.

19:22:04
A:
Well, John Bradburne, was the only person I knew with all those abilities. Unfortunately, at the time Mr. Bradburne could not arrange it. It was only a year, year and a half later that he called me and said I'm coming down. He did. The world has changed since then and you and I have been witness to it.

19:22:27
Q:
Great. Where are we on time? (off camera- fine.) Uh, you mentioned a little bit about, we're gonna go back, uh backtrack just a little bit, the hot shutdown I guess is what they called it.

A:
The what?

Q:
The hot shutdown – when they just kinda threw the switch.

A:
Oh yeah.

Q:
Uh, tell us a little bit about the events that lead up to the closure of the Fernald, as far as processing.

19:23:00
A:
Well, Bruce Boswell, was the president of Westinghouse, and they were the contractor at the time. Bruce's staff, nor myself, no the workers, could quite grasp that concept that we were no longer gonna be producing because it was metric tons of uranium in those days.

19:23:18
A:
And you look at the chart, and how the demand for our product had decreased, it pretty well told the story, but it was hard because we had always been in production. He was right it – it proved to be a reality. It didn't affect the workers much at first except the uncertainty of not knowing what I'm going to do, how am I going to do it.

19:23:47
A:
What I used to doing I'm not doing anymore. What do I do now? And it was that time gap that we collectively decided to take advantage of, with John Vopey, if you remember was his director, we sent people to local colleges. The consortium to find different colleges to educate them on the hazards, potential hazards, the remediation process, and all the compliance's.

19:24:11
A:
And then we anticipated agency oversight to double, which it's probably tripled, you must work within the framework or you can't work. So you spend a great deal of your time ah, trying to comply with the regulations and policies, the procedures. In the production days it was production. Big difference.

Q:
So what, there was quite a lot of media attention, I guess it was you know in the mid '80s, when there was ah, a dust collector releases in plant 9, what was your reaction to that at the time?

19:24:52
A:
That's a good question. Now what was it, there was five human beings in this world that saw that, ten eyeballs. And I was operating a crane so I was right there. Ah, to show you the kind of atmosphere that prevailed, I shut the crane down, went and got a phone and called the plant manager. Which was Spencley, his secretary said he won't take your call, won't talk to you.

19:25:19
A:
I said well, this is rather important. Ah, she came back and said he still won't talk to you. You know I fought for labor and he begrudge me. So Weldon Adams, which was the assistant plant manager got on the phone. I told Weldon what had happened, and he came straight out. Well they mismanaged it from that point on. Ah, they made the Keystone Cops look like, ah, look smart. They did about everything wrong in the book.

19:25:51
A:
Ah, as a result there were public meetings, and I'm skipping a little time, and DOE (undistinguishable) has been able to send Dr. Bill Bibbs in to meet with community groups, organized labor, sort of a DOE troubleshooter. Ah, very ah, an ambassador. Ah, very ah, an ambassador, very diplomatic. And he can satisfy everyone and matter would go away.

19:26:24
A:
Again, they have a tendency, because they're so strictly structured, and have no flexibility and cannot adjust to criticisms, or media attention, or organized labor having the capabilities, ah, they ah, underestimated everyone. And they said and did things that ended up fresh, as a result of Dr. Bill Bibb making a statement that was rather silly.

19:26:52
A:
Ah, we had set people in the front row that were international health hygienist and what-have-ya, that asked questions that totally stunned them. So, it became obvious to the media, the community, ah, to politicians, something's happening here and ah, these guys ain't on top of it. So it just boomeranged after that. And then they made the mistake, what it proved later to be a mistake, of redlining or circling a couple of us to come after. Instead of trying to deal with ah, the matter.

19:27:31
Q:
So there was quite a lot of press and a lot of media coverage of everything that happened, and you were kinda right in the middle of the fray. (A: Laughter: Well, I was the president of the Union.) What was that like?

A:
Ah, having the advantage now of looking back on it ah, did a lot of things right, an awful lot. Some of them guess work. Ah, realize that I'd better surround myself with good people, who could advise me well.

19:28:02
A:
I didn't quite understand how devious DOE was, ah, the things that they can do to a person, personally. Ah, your career, your home life, your finances – they can do 'em and damn did they try. Ah, probably a little too much to go into in the time we have, but they tried to put me into the penitentiary ah, frame me. Terminated me. Tried to indict me.

19:28:38
A:
And after 37 weeks of being off and after a 5-1/2 day arbitrationally trial with a tri-parte judge, and I was found innocent, but just prior to being found innocent they wanted to change the charge to ah, being a threat to national defense, treason, but the judge wouldn't allow that, ah, things hadn't been ----

19:29:02
A:
Bad people, people don't want to acknowledge that we have agencies within the government that are devious and cruel unless it affects them personally. Well the nuclear worker is such a small percentage of the national work force that ----

(tape went blank at 19:21:22 and immediately jumped to 20:00:53. Remained blank until 20:01:00)

21:01:01
Q:
It's Cecil B. DeMille. You know he smoked cigars?

A:
Most ah, I hope we're not rolling right now.

(off camera: Yeah, we are.) Q: Laughter.

21:01:10
(Off camera: Now we're rolling.)

21:01:12
Q:
You mentioned a gentleman to me that you kinda wanted to discuss.

A:
Well, we were talking about when I was terminated in '85, when things were ah, actually it was a little bit before it was '83, Friday, January 13th, to be exact, I think. (Laughter) Ah, it was when ah, let's go back a little bit, in '79 at Piketon, Ohio, another nuclear site, there was a strike. And it was the first nuclear strike for safety and health.

20:01:48
A:
So, I went down and I helped out and did what I could. But I was really the beneficiary in this manner. I got educated as to the potential hazards. That where I met Jeff See, ah, a student at Harvard at the time. He was doing his thesis on nuclear workers and he had been working up at MIT. And he lent me books, I would read and I'd go to the library and I learned things.

20:02:17
A:
But when I came back and looked at Fernald, we were faced with the identical problems. But no one was calling their attention to it, no one questioning. So for the next few years, and I was the ah, Safety director for organized labor then, I got into it.

20:02:35
A:
So I made enemies of DOE and the company, ah and as a result I was terminated. Now, fortunately, I survived. Others, that preceded me, didn't. Because they have a way of assassinating you, ah, in many manners. But, during the trial for me, Mr. Nurenswick, which was, I'm not sure of his title – head of payroll.

20:03:10
A:
At the time had charged me with fraud, and ah, something. Ah, he spent five days on the stand testifying how bad I was in things that I did that had nothing to do with the charges. It was mostly my pursuit of worker safety.

20:03:39
A:
What was interesting was when the judge asked my attorney, normally a trial of that nature takes one day, day and a half at the most, so after five days the prosecution rests. He asked my attorney, ah, Mark Greenburger by the way, Cincinnati, how long it was gonna take him and he said two hours. So they couldn't hardly believe it.

20:04:07
A:
So he said in that case we'll go on Saturdays. Again, a long story short. Mr. Nurenswick was called to the stand, and after a very ah, short period of time, fifteen or twenty minutes, he sorta sunk down in

his chair and was talking low. The judge stopped him and said you sit up there for five days, you sit up straight and you've talked very loud and distinctive.

20:04:32
A:
Now you sit up there and ah, look me in the eye and talk straight. It was at that point ah, after they started questioning him again. He just broke down and started sobbing and wanted to call a recess. It's no. So he asked to come forward, which he did and he gave the judge a piece of paper.

20:04:52
A:
Now, what the piece of paper said was, ah, I found out later was he's a Christian, and he has ten kids and been married so many years, lives in the community and he can't eat or sleep and he has informed the plant manager, which was Mr. Spencley at the time, and others, that he could no longer, would no longer take a part in framing Mr. Branaham. So that pretty well said things.

20:05:23
A:
And it was at the point when they called for a recess and wanted to charge me with treason and all. But ah, I just wanted to get that in the record. What a rotten bunch of son-of-a-bitches that we dealt with in those days. Little or no respect for people, or peoples rights. All they cared for was production or money. And they were good at that I might add. So, you have to give 'em credit there.

20:05:52
Q:
Let's discuss ah---

Q:
Ah, I'd like to go a little bit into ah, the class action suit, and those years of litigation and those types of things that were happening. Mainly, with ah, the worker class action suit.

20:06:12
A:
Well, when we first discussed a lawsuit we were still under Q clearance. Q clearance prevented you from litigation or accusation or even making public comments. They could merely withdraw your clearance and blackball ya, termin-, termination was automatic. So we weren't allowed to take really any action, and that's why the community lawsuit was prior to ours.

20:06:42
A:
Until the plant was declassified and Q-clearance was no longer necessary for continued employment. Stan Chesley had represented the community and we ah, had worked with some of his lawyers, Paul DeMarco, Louise, so we asked him to represent us, which he did.

20:07:05
A:
And as you know probably, after four plus years of the government spending an enormous amount of money on what is called the Chicago Five, attorneys from Chicago, and ah, National Lead representatives been kept on the payroll, actually they wee kept on there to prevent them from testifying. It's sort of like a witness, paid witness protection program. Ah, they had a trailer at the plant, if you remember, supposedly to do research.

20:07:37
A:
They all testified. Ah, the judge and the jury both recommended that we settle before going through ah, liberation's. And ah, so there was a pre-bargaining arrangements reached. In which the workers were, ah, have a lifetime medical monitoring program. Which is administrated at the Drake hospital, which Bob Schwabb and myself and Steve Collins are members of the advisory board.

20:08:13
A:
Ah, now unlike the community, ours is a lifetime as long as one nuclear worker is still living from Fernald. Retirees and all. The community is based on funding. Now I might point out one other difference. When organized labor initiated this class action suit we included everyone including all salaried personnel that ever worked there or retired from there.

20:08:44
A:
Ah, even those people, like Weldon Adams that were testifying against, and the other 16 that was on his staff, that were testifying against us, received compensation, they're in our medical monitoring program. They received monetary award for each year of working at the plant, but yet they opposed us.

20:09:12
A:
You'd have thought they'd been embarrassed, but they petitioned to be awarded, to be included in the lawsuit. That tells you what kinda people they're made out of. The Boback and the Weldon Adams and that bunch. Ah, that probably the biggest different, I might point out one thing.

20:09:35
A:
Of little significance to most, but significant to me personally, we paid for all the lawsuit, it was over $300,000 dollars. Salaried people that benefited equally ah, did not pay, did not participate, ah, contributed nothing and often times were critical. But they were in line when they passed out the cookies. Point of interest. Not all of 'em were like that but 90 percent probably.

20:10:09
Q:
So you had to testify personally?

A:
No, before I testified, before we put our portion on ah, (cough) it was recommended that we ah, settle it. So they recessed I think it was for a week or a week and a half, and ah, the department of energy and National lead yielded.
Q:
What would have happened if the case went to trial?

20:10:44
A:
Well, I think since Weldon Adams testified for about six days, the jury got a belly full of 'em. They was able to tell the different between crap and ice cream after a while. Looking at their face, I think they realized that he was full of bologna. And he was their main witness.

20:11:08
A:
Had we had an opportunity to put our side on in depth, I think we would have prevailed easily, easily. Ah, my only real concern was that jurors, jury, they aren't knowledgeable of the nuclear industry and often times the technical terminology.

20:11:30
A:
So you could, ah, they probably was a little confused because of Weldon's vocabulary, and you know he's a rather smooth person, and ah, his testimony was convincing at the outset. It was after a while that you were able to peel it. And I sense they did just that.

20:11:57
Q:
You've got a long career working at Fernald.

A:
Yes.

Q:
Generally, How do you feel about having worked there?

20:12:08
A:
I feel very proud of the work I did, ah, in the production years. Ah, I feel like I contributed to some degree to in ah, our countries dominance.

20:12:30
A:
I think everybody felt pretty much that way. I feel sad that workers had the pay the price with their lives, the sickness they're incurring now, just because the rotten son-of-a-bitches wouldn't tell us about the hazards that were out there so we could have helped ourselves a little bit. I feel bad about that. Also, it's provided me and, memories of my family with a place to work.

20:13:03
A:
Ah, raised a family, so you've got to be a little bit appreciative of that opportunity too. I've been there a long time and I think the national average is about 6 years working for one employer. That says something.

Q:
How many years has it been?

20:13:24
A:
Almost 47.

Q:
What do you see in the future for Fernald?

20:13:36
A:
Well, it's owned by a third party, government. Which other than a few people, like Jack and Glenn, there's a few of em at the top, have little knowledge of Fernalds existence or its operation. Because, keep in mind from '72 to '85, there's a thirteen years period, there were no DOE people on site.

20:14:02
A:
Once Clarence Carl retired in '72 and it was just Clarence before that, so DOE has never had a presence there. Ah, if were able to lobby successful for continued funding, and that has to come from a collective effort from Bradburne and myself ah, being able to justify our request, not only with the appropriations committee, but the budgetary people, and ah, if the department of defense is ah, successful, and gets a sizeable budget and we're able to get our percentage of that budget in the DOE and then again our percentage at Fernald.

20:14:56
A:
So, it's a domino affect, there's three phases to it. And if we're able to keep the funding going, we keep the manpower level uh say at the current rate. Within maybe another decade the plant will pretty much be cleaned up. Of course there's some projects going to be ongoing for many, many years. But the majority of the workload be at none and Fernald will merely be a page in history.

20:15:28
A:
And what you're doing for an example may preserve some of it. And the 100 or so people you are going to interview may contribute to the next generation or the next century. And then some people may look at us and uh say uh whatever.

20:15:52
Q:
How do you think Fernald has affected the surrounding communities?

A:
I think it's made them much more aware because we're highly visible. Fernald probably was the first nuclear site they had organized labor breakout challenging. So we were, became sort of a catchword, Fernald. The media picked up, the community was very active, community FRESH has good leadership, they're active.

20:16:32
A:
I don't think they'll ever be able to get by with it again in this part of the country like they did in those days. Too many people now have knowledge of their existence and the potential harm or hazards that they bring to the community. And they contribute nothing to the tax base. So, not a good neighbor. We're fortunate in this respect. If you stop and put it in perspective uh let's take Savannah River, 594 square miles.

20:17:08
A:
Hanford is 566 square miles. Oak Ridge is over 600 square miles. Now we're 1,050 acres. On your lunch period you can ride a bicycle to the outer perimeters. So we're so small in comparison to those large sites that the possibility of remediation be successful here is highly likable. Unlike those other site which in my opinion will be cleaning up for the next century.

20:17:42
A:
So if the government is going to be successful it will be at Fernald. If they fail at Fernald it'll be like uh a disaster.

20:17:57
Q:
Great. Uh, let's see. Let me just check my little sheet here. Oh, I know what I wanted to ask you about. Ladybird's beautification program.

A:
That's a good question, you've done your homework. Ladybird decided to, during her husband's administration, probably the criticisms and the uprising of the Viet Nam War, motivated her to some degree, that uh federal sites and government properties would be beautified. At our site the uh challenge we had was planting trees.

20:18:48
A:
And if you'll notice at the north end of the site, those acres of trees, that was a ballpark. First it was an airport and then a ballpark. That's where we started planting the trees and we started in the wintertime with a homemade planter. And I guess at the time because she was the president's wife that National Lead felt that you know she says that we gotta do it.

20:19:17
A:
Well people got frostbite out there planting them damn trees. We planted so many of them, planted them so close together that now they're a hazard to the environment. We have to weed them out. No one can get between them to cut or what have you. Deer smothered back in there. It just shows you how, well not simpleminded but how limited foresight people had in those when it came to common sense. A real fiasco.

20:19:49
Q:
And why are they pine trees?

A:
I don't know unless they got a good buy at a local nursery or something, I really don't know.

Q:
I always wondered about that.

A:
I know I enjoyed the ballpark one hell of a lot more than I enjoy those trees.

20:20:06
Q:
And uh, another note I have here is uh if you could tell us the story about the mother and daughter who ran out of gas.

A:
Uh, of course you're familiar with the geographics but a highway that runs mile or so from the plant, mother and daughter ran out of gas and they see this big tower over here which is one of our water towers and it's painted in the checkerboard fashion of Purina dogfood. And I guess they assumed that that's the nearest place to get gas.

20:20:44
A:
So they just started climbing over fences and walking through the fields and climbing over the fences. And when they got reported security went out there and there's a mother and daughter looking for gas. In those days security was so tight that it must have scared those ladies to death because they closed in on them like a S.W.A.T. team.

20:21:04
A:
Because you know our security guard was totally armed in those days and they had firing ranges where they had to qualify firing the weapons and everything. I just remember that those poor ladies looked like they were going to die you know. It was like the airplane you know we discussed a few moments ago, '59 or '60 in that area

20:21:29
A:
Just west of 30/45 which was the experimental machine shop was a big field like an airstrip. And there was, come to work one morning there was an airplane that landed and crashed. Uh, it was a single engine you know, four-passenger plane I think it was. Uh, just happened that we weren't being attacked but you would have thought we were; all the lights and the sirens and everything.

20:22:04
A:
Beverly Hills was a rather glamorous nightclub in Northern Kentucky which is about 25 miles south of here. And uh, bartender said he got out of there about 4:00 in the morning and couple a young ladies he took a ride in his airplane, got lost and he saw all the lights at the plant and ran out of gas. He saw all those lights and attempted to land.

20:22:24
A:
Little did he know he was landing on a nuclear site. So that caused a big rail. If you go back, we're going back 40 years ago, you can imagine in those days, and the newspaper picked it up big time. And it was quite an event.

20:22:45
Q:
Man. Um, once they have everything torn down and Fernald is no more for the most part, what would you like to see done with the land there?

A:
Well, the product that you're contributing to right now, the preservation of some of the history. Uh, Mr. Bradburne has put together a group also that's preserving samples of the final product. Great many films and documentation, archive material to have some sort of a museum. Now in other parts of the country, nuclear sites have done this and Mr. Bradburne has been involved with particularly the one in Oak Ridge, the reactors on display.

20:23:39
A:
I think that'll have some value, especially to the local people, school kids that are coming up, what have you. Uh, I guess I'' like to see it just turn back into nature. Sort of like it was before we invaded it. Now I realize there are others that are working on committees for reuse and maybe from the industrial purposes and that has some merits too. But there's enough acreage there they can do both.

20:24:18
Q:
Great. Well is there anything that you want to add? Anything that we didn't cover that you wanted to cover?

A:
Can't think of a lot. Uh, I guess there'd be no way of ever recognizing those who contributed early that will never really be acknowledged or get the credit due because uh the nuclear industry was so

new. It was just in its infancy that people early on, there was no president, no guidelines, they had to feel their way through it. They did wonderful work. Uh, both on management and labor side.

20:25:03
A:
And I'm sure that it'll go mostly unnoticed and forgotten but uh hopefully this will preserve some of it. But a lot of good people did a lot of good things and uh hopefully they have good feelings about it like I have. And I really can't think of anything else.

20:25:27
Q:
Great. Well thanks so much for taking your time to talk to us.

A:
Enjoyed it. Where else can you sit, smoke a good cigar, relive your young years?

20:25:41
Q:
That's right. Now you talked to Dave yesterday about this other thing we need to do real quick.

(Tape ends)