

## **NOTICE**

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**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

Name: Karl Dillhoff

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Tape: 64

Project Number 20012

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**Tape FLHP0146**

05:01:03

Q:

Are you ready?

A:

I'm ready.

Q:

We'll start first of all with a little bit of background. If you can uh just uh first off spell your name, give us your name and spell it so we know we have it right.

A:

Okay, it's Karl Dillhoff. Karl with a K. Dillhoff D-I-L-L-H-O-F-F.

05:01:21

Q:

Great. And um tell us a little bit about the area you live in, where you went to school, where you were born, those types of things.

A:

Okay. Well actually I was born in Cincinnati, moved to Indiana for about five years and then came out here in about 1955 somewhere around in there. And uh Dad was working at the Atomic Energy Plant and that's what brought us out here in Morgan Township.

05:01:51

A:

And uh as a youngster uh I can remember Dad talking about the plant basically as a uh kind of a secret government agency that you know you couldn't really say too much about what went on or what he did. But uh it seemed like the plant was a good employer to the residents I know in Morgan Township. We had quite a few people that worked there.

05:02:22

A:

And I know it raised all of us kids, five kids you know by him working there. Uh and the memories I have basically is with the plant, Fernald is some of the parties that they used to have in the summer time. They used to have picnics, company picnics, and as a kid I remember going there it was a big deal you know. And you got to see some of the people he worked with and kind of hang out with their kids and stuff. And that was kind of neat, neat thing.

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Q:

So who were some of the people you remember from those parties, some of your Dad's coworkers?

A:

Uh just different people uh the Arnolds and Westerfields and you know just people that we got to know their kids you know. So we got close to them but it just seemed like it was good happy times you know. Uh, didn't think there was any problem you know going on in the plant. We thought it was a good business that Dad was in. So, and you talk to them I guess they still say that you know, so.

05:03:35

Q:

When you were a kid what was your impression of the plant, the physical plant?

A:

Uh the physical plant itself I remember going by and I basically looking like a lot of people talk about, the checkerboard tower there. I guess I thought since I lived in the agriculture area that it was probably some kind of a feed meal area. Even though I knew better because you know we knew it was some kind of secret deal. But I mean it did kind of give you that impression that they manufactured some kind of agriculture product.

05:04:14

Q:

Did you ever ask your Dad what he did at work?

A:

Yeah, he would always say it's a secret and uh I know he worked in the transportation department, transportation department. And I knew he did take trips sometimes. Uh, but he really never talked that much about it, to us kids anyway.

05:04:38

Q:

Did you know why at the time?

A:

No. Um he's, I know he was affiliated with the union down there. The union steward and sometimes he would bring badges and stuff home and we used to play with those you know (tape cuts out). Thinking about it now I don't know how safe that was but uh, but no he never really discussed very much about what his job was you know. Although the only thing I knew is he worked in the Transportation Department.

05:05:14

Q:

So what do you know about it now, looking back?

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A:

Well, looking back uh again in talking with Dad, it was a good employer. Uh, I think the plant itself obviously uh environmentally wasn't playing it smart. And they weren't thinking of the long-term consequences it was going to cost. And so of course they're at fault there on that. I was kind of shocked when I, when things started coming out in the '80's about what was going on.

05:05:53

A:

Uh, geesh, I mean 'cause we were already, I was in, I got in office in '85 so we were already working on an environmental cleanup in the Shandon area. And uh and now we got this and uh with Fernald you know I said well this isn't good for the community. You know to have this eyesore. And of course the publicity was really starting to leak out.

05:06:19

A:

And uh whenever you have something like that it, I was worried about property values and things like this. How it could affect the area. So uh I got involved and started going to the meetings. Started checking things out and uh my stance on the whole thing when I found out that I wanted it cleaned up and I wanted it back to its natural state so.

05:06:49

Q:

During those years uh when there was so much national media attention about the dust collector leaks out of Plant 9, um your Dad was still working there?

A:

You know I'm not sure when he um, seems to me like he left in '78 I believe. You're talking '80?

Q:

It was '84 I believe.

A:

'84, I don't believe he was there then.

05:07:12

Q:

What were your reactions mainly as a family knowing that he had worked there and, and you know your reactions to that media attention at the time?

A:

Well we as a family, we were all concerned for his health you know when everything started coming out about uh what might affect him and his health. You know I don't think we really concerned ourselves that much about ours as much as his.

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A:

Uh, 'cause he worked there 27 years. So yeah, we were concerned. Very concerned about it and as things started coming out said well what are the effects going to be for the kids you know and things like that. We started worrying about that part of it.

05:07:58

Q:

How did he react?

A:

His reaction, he, I believe that he still felt that everything was safe and there wasn't any problem you know. I don't think he felt there was, that it was that big of a thing you know. But as things started evolving and, and uh you know in the scientific world they started checking things out and then he started thinking about it, well maybe some of these things that happened could affect me.

05:08:35

A:

You know, so I think he was getting a little bit worried I think then. When things started coming out in, about the medical end of things so, the rest of the kids as anybody else was in the community.

05:08:49

Q:

Tell us how you got involved in being a trustee and what your responsibilities are.

A:

Um, I got involved in being a town trustee because as you come out here today you can see uh I'm, I love this environment. I mean Morgan Township is a beautiful township to live in. And hopefully by getting involved you're going to make it a safe environmentally and try to direct a growth into this township into a right way of living you know.

05:09:27

A:

And just a good place for a family to be raised. So that's why I got involved with it 'cause I was hoping to keep it uh a good clean township.

05:09:39

Q:

Are you mostly anxious about over-development in this area?

A:

Yes, I'm very concerned about over-development. I see what goes on in Colerain Township, Union Township and also Liberty Township and I know somewhere someday eventually the flow of people are going to be coming into our township so by having good zoning practices and everything. Hopefully we can uh keep things on the right track and we won't have the problems like they do in Colerain Township.

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A:

As far as traffic and everything else and hopefully we keep it sort of agricultural out here. Uh, we uh our board of township trustees uh weren't interested in sewers 'cause you know as soon as you put sewers in you have big development and we weren't interested in that. And we know the people here weren't neither. So we hope to keep it agricultural looking you know, in that direction anyway.

05:10:44

Q:

So you came here in the mid '50's early '60's that kind of time period (Comment – mid '50's yeah) Fernald was built in about '51 and was up and running by '52, how do you think Fernald changed the surrounding communities?

05:11:02

A:

Well, you know I look back uh right now as far as real estate values and things and um I think with the uh intense cleanup that's going on, I think people are confident that it is going to be cleaned up. And that it's going to be put back to its natural state hopefully. And I think that people are getting confidence that government is going to work for them and get this straightened out.

05:11:32

A:

So the effects in the area, hopefully it won't harm it. Luckily we border the plant. Uh, mass, the mass part of the plant is in Crosby Township and the other part in Ross Township. So us bordering we do not have that look that hey this is in our township basically we border that side of it so. Uh, hopefully if Fernald does their job and DOE and uh FERMCO and cleans it up, hopefully it won't have that much of an effect.

05:12:14

A:

Uh, one part of it I will say though that I was, wasn't happy with as I mentioned before, when I wanted it, my whole stance was to get it all cleaned up and there wouldn't be anything dumped on there at all. It would all be shipped out. When they came back and started talking about digging a pit and putting it in there, I wasn't happy with it at all.

05:12:37

A:

Though I know cost-wise uh you know you had to think about the taxpayers part in this. Uh it was going to be probably the best thing for the uh taxpayers is if we could safely store some of the low, very low level of this stuff in this pit. Well I kind of resigned to the fact that okay I'll go along with it although I still wasn't happy with that set up.

05:13:09

Q:

And how is the relationship between the powers that be at Fernald and the Township Trustees? How has that changed over the years?

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05:13:20

A:

It seems like it's really good now; we have a representative from FERMCO that attend our township meetings. We meet twice a month and uh, we keep us up to power of what's going on. What meetings are happening and there's a lot of meetings and a lot of meetings that I can't make because of commitments. Um, but it seems like we're well advised of what's going on and that we are updated on what's happening and maybe important meetings that need to be going to.

05:13:56

A:

So, we're well represented in Morgan Township.

05:14:02

Q:

And what do you see as your responsibility as a Trustee regarding Fernald?

05:14:07

A:

My responsibility as Township trustee, um is basically I feel to keep an eye on what's going on over there. In Morgan Township in particular, the shipments are going through the center of our township. So the railroad is bringing it through. We're keeping an eye on the railroad with CSX and making sure that the shipments going through our township are safe and when it's going through, we're going to be doing this for another seven years.

05:14:42

A:

But we want to make sure safety is kept up and there's no problem in the shipments.

05:14:52

Q:

And what did that entail when they first started talking about sending shipments out by rail, I guess they repaired the rail lines those kinds of things. Can you tell us about that whole process?

05:15:00

A:

Um, yeah, um, geesh, this is back maybe ten years ago or so when we first heard about that. Well we had some residents that were concerned about the tracks, so I went out and looked and sure enough there were rails that were pins that were up and um the rails didn't look safe to me. So we got on CSX and had them out here and we had some publicity from the station and that kind of sparked things and moved it along and they did come out and realign the track.

05:15:40

A:

And leveled the tracks and reopened some of the area. So they done a lot of work in the beginning stages there to get it ready to where they could move it. Also, there's a trestle down there in Okeana that had to be redone. So, there was a lot of money put into that project, I know. So a lot of money and time was put into getting the tracks ready for these shipments.

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05:16:12

A:

We still have some work yet, um; we're waiting for the advance warning signal up here on 129. Some of the crossings, I would have liked to have seen lights puts on all the crossings. We weren't successful there but hopefully the vegetation around these crossings will be cleaned up and be safe for residents.

05:16:37

Q:

With this whole shipping process what are some of the things that could go wrong?

05:16:41

A:

What are some of the things that could wrong with the shipping? (Comment - Yes). Well do you remember the Miamisburg incident? Do you know that every time I think about that it scares me? Because that was a big fiasco up there in the Dayton area. And when I think about what happens if we do have an overturned car. You know, what's anybody going to do, you know, especially if it's near one of our villages like Shandon or Okeana.

05:17:11

A:

You know, are we going to, are we ready to tackle that, you know. So yes I worry about that. Hopefully we'll never have that, but we have meetings that the fire chief and things have attended and hopefully he's updated on what to do, you know, and I think he is. So there's people that are hopefully in line in case we do have a disaster like they had up in Miamisburg.

05:17:46

Q:

You mentioned that you weren't thrilled about the OSDF, the On-Site Disposal Facility. How would you rather see that handled?

05:17:57

A:

Oh, I'd rather have seen everything shipped out and the whole plant put back to its natural state, no pits at all. I dis- I don't like, I do not like that, I don't think it should have been there because, you know, this wasn't something that the residents of the township did, it was something the government did. So I think the government should clean it up 100 percent and put it back to its natural state.

05:18:29

Q:

While all the discussion about the On-Site Disposal Facility was going on did you feel like you had adequate representation in telling them and making those decisions?

05:18:38

A:

We made decisions, we talked about things, but I think in the back of the their mind they knew exactly what they were going to do. Yeah, they'll listen, but I think they had their minds set on what was



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going to happen, what timeframe and everything else and that's what they were going to do, so I don't know how far they listened to anything I said. Um, but you know, the other fear too was when this pit went in, I said, oh man, we just opened things up for other people to go ahead and dump their stuff in here too. So that was the other thing that crossed my mind.

05:19:19

A:

I said, are we opening up a can of worms by allowing this to be dumped in here. You know, so I had that fear in the back of my mind that we were going to be a pit for other agencies and the government to go ahead and dump. Although we were assured hopefully that that wasn't going to happen, but you think about that in the back of your mind.

05:19:48

Q:

Now since your Dad worked at Fernald for so many years. How has his knowledge come in handy when you're helping to make decisions about the cleanup?

05:19:58

A:

Uh, we've been on a couple of different tours through there and I had Dad as kind of a consultant. So he kind of went around with me especially in the beginning so he can kind of educate me of what was going on with some of these different plants. What they had there and uh, this um one silo, the controversial silo, you know. So he was very helpful as a consultant.

05:20:32

Q:

What are some of the information that he shared with you that helped you to make some of those decisions?

05:20:36

A:

Well, as I mentioned before the one silo that was dangerous and he basically in his opinion there was no liners in there and what was dumped in there, obviously, was serious stuff. So he kind of opened my eyes, hey with no liners then you got whatever it is that's dumped in there, um, if they don't know, you don't know until they really get in there and start testing this stuff, it's kind of serious, because what are you doing to that groundwater.

05:21:10

A:

And I'm glad I don't live down stream from it, I'm glad I live up this way, because I would really be scared if I lived down the other end, especially with groundwater.

05:21:27

Q:

Tell us a little bit about what you know about the aquifer issue, about the water issue?

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05:21:28

A:

Well I just know what they kind of told me that there is obviously an aquifer system underneath the plant and they're cleaning it up and I guess the filtering system that they have down there working isn't working to clean a 100 percent of it up, it's just a percentage of that.

05:21:54

A:

So, it's kind of scary, you know, but as far as residents in Morgan Township, I don't see anyway where it's affecting them. Where I would be concerned if I lived in Crosby Township and in that end of it where the aquifer goes down. That would worry me.

05:22:13

Q:

Why?

A:

Well, because you don't know what you're drinking. And obviously when they're going out and putting in all this money for water system, they're kind of saying well they're a little worried too, then aren't they. So, but yeah, that would worry me.

05:22:33

Q:

Now your Dad kind of worked there mainly and you lived here in this area at the height of the Cold War, um what was the typical American's mindset at the Cold, during the Cold War?

A:

I don't know. I mean, of course the media always played on that you know. Being in, working in television now uh I think back on that and I don't know uh, I guess it was serious you know. You just didn't know what was going to happen with these foreign countries.

05:23:10

A:

You know, they were scaring you to death as far as the underground bunkers and stuff that you hear about people were building. You know, 'cause they were scared of what Russia was going to do. The other thing is I heard that Fernald was supposedly a site that uh, if we went to war that that would be a bombing site of theirs.

05:23:35

A:

You know, so you say woah you know we're not in a very safe place here if we ever went to war with Russia because we got a hot spot for them to bomb. So yeah, you thought about that.

05:23:50

Q:

What kind of anxiety did that cause you growing up?

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A:

I don't think it, personally it didn't cause me any anxiety. I just don't see where it did at all.

05:24:07

Q:

Did your, did your father ever share sort of work stories with you like later on when you were kind of old enough to talk about those types of things? Did he ever tell you about what went on at the plant or?

A:

He just, he talked about some of the union issues and things like that that he went through you know different things. And I guess some of his, they liked to horse around a little bit you know, some of these kinds of things you know. But uh, any of the serious stuff, I know he took some trips out to uh I guess it was in Oregon, the Hartford area maybe.

05:24:47

A:

Where he had to bring some things out there for the company. So, uh overall no he never really discussed a lot of stuff that happened out there. Just some of the horsing around, some of the union activities that he was involved in.

05:25:05

Q:

What were some of the union issues that arose that you know about at the plant?

A:

Well I think some of them basically were normal union activities such as better wages and hospitalization. Uh, probably uh better safety conditions maybe for the employees. You know, probably normal stuff that any union person would you know want for his members.

05:25:40

Q:

And uh, growing up in the area, what kind of myths or legends or that kind of stuff did you hear about the plant?

A:

Um, you really never heard that much until all this happened with the, the media. I mean when the media got a hold of it that's when everything started blowing up. And then you didn't know what to think until everything was kind of you know siphoned out and kind of laid to rest.

05:26:11

A:

Some things were laid to rest and some things were investigated. And I think you're still going to have things investigated for a long time you know. Uh, some people say it's, there wasn't no problems, it wasn't that big of a safety hazard, some say it was very serious so time will tell. Uh, the medical monitoring I think is a good thing for the people 'cause that way you know you're kind of keeping an eye on what's going on with the human body.

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05:26:42

A:

You know, what effects it is going to take. So I think that was a very important and a very good thing that they started. That way you can kind of catalog what's happened.

05:26:55

Q:

Are you yourself on the medical monitoring program?

A:

Yes I am.

05:26:58

Q:

Can you tell, can you tell us how you got involved in that and what it entails?

A:

Uh, basically my first thing you filled out a form and everything and you went in and they gave a very good uh medical monitoring thing for ya. They checked ya out and I think they did a thorough investigation you know on the medical end.

05:27:24

A:

You know, and I think they do it every two years now. It started out I think it was every three years. But uh, I think it's really good you know.

05:27:35

Q:

And where do you have to go to do that?

A:

We go to uh Fairfield South.

05:27:44

Q:

And uh, how far from the plant are you right here?

A:

Right here? We're probably I'd say at least six, seven miles as the crow flies, probably we're northwest of the plant. So, if FRESH ever decided to go ahead and bomb it anyway hopefully we're in a safe area.

05:28:09

Q:

So you've lived in pretty close proximity to Fernald all your life. (Comment - yeah) Um, how have your impressions of the plant changed down through the years?

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A:

Well, starting as a kid like I said I had good memories because of the picnics and things we used to go to. Uh, so you know I thought it was a very good plant. Then later on to the mid '80's there when the media and things started coming out about what was going on I want to feel that, I want to feel good about it right now because I think they are hopefully cleaning the thing up and getting it back to where it's going to be an asset to the community someday.

05:28:59

A:

Uh, what form we don't know yet because I'm on the CRO committee and there's a lot of activity going on right now with that committee. And uh, we set aside I think it's 23 acres of uh property that could be used for industrial use and the rest of it'll go back basically as an environmental highlight you know trails, or however they're going to do it.

05:29:26

A:

But uh, I like to think positive of what's going to happen in the future with it. We already had enough negativity with it, we don't need that. We need to look forward so hopefully good things will come out.

05:29:45

Q:

Great, we're going to take a break right now and change tapes.

**TAPE FLHP0147**

06:01:07

Q:

You have a unique perspective 'cause you're kind of like two generations of thought, you and your Dad, can you tell us how your opinions of Fernald differ from his opinions of Fernald? Both in the past and now.

A:

Well uh, in the past, of mine or dad's, dad I'm thinking he worked there 27 years uh in his mind everything was safe, they were a good employer. So as far as any medical problem I would think he probably he's thinking there's not going to be any.

06:01:43

A:

Um, my situation, of course I'm learning a lot of it a little later, you know uh and you listen to the medical things they come out and you say well maybe there is a possibility that there could be some effect, that he may have brought something home with him from work that could affect me later on. You know, you don't know.

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06:02:08

A:

And that's again, and with this medical monitoring going on, I think this will hopefully tell a lot of what will happen to people you know in the future. Or if it is work related or environmental or if it's just a hereditary thing that people uh have that they're dying from you know. Time will tell. So.

06:02:05

(Cameraman – Can we get that question again? Just maybe the first ten seconds or so? I was on the wrong mic?)

06:02:41

Q:

I hate when that happens. (Cameraman – yeah) Sure, I'll put that question to ya again. (Cameraman – it's probably just the first ten seconds if that much) okay. Um, two generations of thought, um the difference between the way your dad thinks about Fernald and the way you think about Fernald.

06:02:55

A:

Okay, again uh the way Dad thinks probably about Fernald he worked there 27 years so probably his belief is they were a good company. There's not, there probably isn't any medical problems that he's going to curtail by working there. Uh, because they were probably up front with him and you know and everything's okay.

06:03:23

A:

Now with me, uh 'course I'm getting the facts from the medical records and things like this that's been coming out. Uh, yeah I have some doubts of uh the safety of these workers maybe that uh that they may not have. Until all the medical facts come back from this medical monitoring, I don't think we'll know for a while exactly whether it was work related or some of this is inherited you know through the genes.

06:03:59

Q:

Do you keep up with the health effects of committee reports?

A:

I uh watch them you know and when it comes out in the paper or whatever, yeah I kind of keep an eye on it and see what's going on with it. And uh you know if it's something real bad then, then probably I'll go in and investigate a little bit more.

06:04:22

Q:

And what types of issues that have come up with this health effects subcommittee have you done a little bit of research on in the last couple of years?

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A:

Well the things that's come out is I think a lot of stuff is still up in the air you know. Is it really the environment that caused these things or is it uh some hereditary thing that people have you know. I don't have any opinion on that really yet because I haven't seen real hard core research that's going to convince me one way or the other yet.

06:04:53

A:

I'm just taking what's going on with my Dad and Dad seems like besides the heart ailment that he has, he seems to be pretty healthy to me you know. And a guy that worked there 27 years and was exposed to this, um you know. I can just go by what I see from him. And you know and everything looks okay there. I'm not saying it is you know until I see good hard core research that I'm keep my opinion open.

06:05:31

Q:

Now as a trustee you kind of represent sort of a large constituency of people and from your constituents what are some of their concerns about the plant?

A:

Well, it's kind of fascinating, we do it like I said at our township meeting we have a representative to come there but very few comments at our township meetings concerning Fernald. I think most people feel that it is being cleaned up, it is being taken care of. And any questions they have basically are either read in the newspaper or they see it on TV.

06:06:10

A:

So we don't have a rush of people at our township meetings with concern. Uh the big concerns that we want taken care of is basically the biggest effect is the transportation of materials coming through our township. So in that respect we want to make sure that the safety of the residents are at hand and we have good safe shipments of this material through our township.

06:06:43

Q:

Good. And uh, were you a trustee, what years have you been trustee?

A:

I got elected in 1985.

Q:

So that's like right when all this stuff was coming down?

A:

Right when all this stuff was coming down, right.

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06:06:55

Q:

How have public meetings and uh your, your role as a trustee, well more than anything, how have your constituencies, your constituents, how do they react, how did they react then as opposed to now?

A:

Well when it first came out, that was a hot potato. I mean, I was going to meetings all the time. Uh, this is when Westinghouse was the manager. And uh of course people would ask questions and things like this you know at meetings.

06:07:27

A:

And I said well, we're in the beginning stages of a lot of these meetings, I said a lot of things are being talked about. There was at one time even a talk about uh them looking outside the plant for some storage area and which really got a lot of feathers up in arm. And we said adamantly there would be no way that any dumping of anything would be in Morgan Township.

06:07:52

A:

Our board was very adamant about that. And so most of the time in our early stages of uh meetings and things I was always under the impression that everything was going to be cleaned up and moved out of the Township, out west. And then as meetings gone on and on uh then all the sudden uh a holding dumpsite area was picked for some of the real low contaminated soil to be stored.

06:08:35

A:

So like I said I wasn't happy about that. But uh when you're talking about material that really from my understanding is just next to nothing as far as contamination and it is a big cost savings to the taxpayers, you have to kind of step aside and think about that a little bit. Although like I said, mentioned earlier, uh if it was up to me everything would be cleaned out of that place and it'd be back to it's natural state.

06:09:14

Q:

Tell us a little bit about these off-site uh containers. We've had some questions from other folks that I've interviewed about that and, and it's real cloudy. I've even talked to the public affairs folks and a lot of them were like, yeah I vaguely remember there was discussion about that. Can you tell us what their plans were at that time?

06:09:31

A:

I don't know if it, you know it was kind of interesting when they first came out um, there was a story and I don't know if it was uh with, I can't think of Mr. Morgan's name with DOE. (Comment - Ken?) Ken Morgan, uh something came out where they were looking off-site to dispose of and I take it that was these real low-level materials uh so they could bury it.



**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

06:10:00

A:

Well, Morgan Township was talked about and then also the uh girl's camp place over here in Ross Township was another site that was talked about. As I mentioned earlier our board said right up front, there's no way you're dumping anything in Morgan Township. Now what they did over in Ross is a different story but I can tell you I'm sure the board over in Ross isn't going to like this idea neither.

06:10:34

A:

So we made it up front that you're going to have to find somewhere else. And from that point I had a suspicion that this was just a plot because they knew; this is my opinion; that they knew all along eventually what they were going to do was try to get the townships upset about them even mentioning it and then eventually when they put it on site it wasn't going to be that big of a deal.

06:11:02

A:

That was my feeling the whole time and I still feel that that's was one way for them to go ahead and eventually get that little plot to where they could bury it. Just my opinion but I think they had this planned all along.

06:11:18

Q:

What were their plans for, were they going to build containment buildings or what were they going to do?

A:

It never got far enough to really get any discussion on. It was just rumor mills flying around, somebody leaked that rumor and I think it was probably somebody in DOE, or Westinghouse and it was just a way to do eventually what they were going to do. And that was to bury it right there. So.

06:11:48

Q:

You mentioned the Girl Scout camp. Is that in Morgan Township?

A:

That's in Ross Township.

Q:

In Ross Township. (Comment – yeah) In this area there were a number of camps that kind of went out of business uh what do you attribute that, those problems with the camp.

06:12:01

A:

I don't contribute that to what went on at Fernald. It's just probably a business decision that of some sort that you know uh it wasn't making it. But I don't think Fernald had anything to do with it.

**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

06:12:17

Q:

Okay, good. Uh, let's see. Um tell us about your involvement with the CRO. How did you become involved with CRO and what are your responsibilities there?

A:

Uh, I became involved basically through a member already on CRO committee and uh there was an opening there. And I took a break from being township trustee and my Dad went into office in my place and so in order to keep an eye on what's going on I got involved with the CRO committee.

06:12:53

A:

And uh and one of the big things we're working on right now is this revolving loan thing for industry, for work you know areas that can tap into to help create jobs for former employees when the plant eventually dies out. There's a lot of work to be done you know and hopefully with the CRO committee we can do this, get kind of direct the plant itself into it's environmental state.

06:13:30

A:

To get it to where it can be used as maybe a walking area of some sort or um and then eventually like I said we've got 23 acres set aside for industrial use. Uh, hopefully some day a good industry will want to come there and open up shop and we can employ people. I mean, Fernald is a good employer I mean they employed thousands of people you know.

06:13:58

A:

And we got a lot of working families here and it'd be nice to have a nice company come in and uh and help employ people in our area. You know that's the bad thing about all this; I mean we're losing workers, we're losing paychecks. You know you hate to see that you know. You want to see a good employer so some day I'd like to see that uh good company come in and take shop there and hopefully employ a lot of our residents.

06:14:32

Q:

What kind of steps is the CRO taking to help these folks find employment post-Fernald?

A:

Well we're still in a lot of beginning stages. Uh, so it's really hard to say right now. I mean, like I say we got these different loans that are revolving loan deals that we're working on and uh so it's um, it's just a lot of this is still beginning stages and trying to get things laid out. And uh hopefully in another five years or so things will be down to where it's really going to make a difference for those people leaving and we can get good jobs for these people.

06:15:19

Q:

And uh what kind of retraining efforts are in site right now that you're aware of?

**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

A:

Oh boy. Uh you know I'm not really sure of what kind of things that they're doing there on that end of it. I know that on the CRO committee we do have union members on the committee and they have been going to workshops and things like this to kind of look and see what some of the areas, some of the other plants are doing so they can be equipped to deal with it when it comes down to that time you know. So I know there's workshops and things that these people have been going to.

06:16:06

Q:

Um, what are some of the other plants doing?

A:

Like I said, these, a lot of them are still doing different things you know. I'm not 100 percent sure because I wasn't at the beginning of this CRO, I just came on about a year or so ago so I'm catching up to speed on a lot of this stuff. So what are some of the other one's doing I'm not 100 percent sure. But evidently we must be on track, doing the right things anyway.

06:16:38

A:

But you know getting these loans started and kind of hopefully get some kind of direction for DOE to look at you know as far as what's going to happen with the future of the plant.

06:16:54

Q:

How do the revolving loans work? What's that all about?

A:

Well basically we're going to get so much money in, a company comes in and says they want to open up shop to employ people from the plant. So the committee will look at it and see if uh this is what they're actually going to do and if they will, if they are then the company, and policy is still being made. We just got a committee together so I mean the policies of what, how this is really going to work hasn't been really laid out yet.

06:17:37

A:

So but the way I see it working is uh a loan will be given to whatever company comes in and it could be an interest free loan you know to get them started. And if they show that they have hired a certain amount of people I'm not sure what'll happen with that; if some of them may be forgiven I don't know. You know like I said policy is still being working on now. They just got the committee together so a lot of it hasn't come out yet.

06:18:10

Q:

Kind of cutting edge. (Comment – yeah, yeah, it's cutting edge) That's terrific, wow. Um, how do you feel about preserving the history of Fernald?

**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
**Transcript**

A:

I think preserving the history, I'm a history buff I love history and you learn from history. And I think uh preserving what goes on is a very good teacher. I mean it's a teaching tool and uh I think you can learn quite a bit of what has happened. Uh, hopefully it'll never happen again in another area and if it does, what do you do to fix it. You know, and how to prevent it from happening again. So you know I think it's a very good tool. Something for all of us to learn.

06:19:06

Q:

And sort of a hypothetical situation, if you could go back 30, longer than that, more like 50 years when they were first undertaking the Department of Energy complex; which of course at that time was the AEC, what types of things would you say to the AEC officials 50 years ago?

06:19:30

A:

Well, same thing I preach to my township workers here; safety is the utmost important thing you should look at. When you're dealing with the surrounding area and you're going to be a good employer you want to make sure that your employees are safe in your area. And that the area that you're working in, when you manufacture, whatever you're doing, that everything is put in a safety minded way.

06:20:00

A:

That you're not harming the environment. Uh, working out here and being in agriculture; I lived on a farm all my life; and uh a good farmer always rotates his crops and things and protects the soil. Well what difference is that from a uh a manufacturer or a big company. I mean you should be environmentally uh, he should be an environmentalist too.

06:20:28

A:

He should look at what he's doing to the environment. So you know you got your people safety first then you got your environment also which is right next to it that you should be looking closely at. So.

06:20:48

Q:

Great. Um, is there anything that we didn't cover that you wanted to cover or anything that you wanted to say.

A:

I think you got everything. I can't think of anything else.

06:21:00

Q:

Okay. Well we're going to do nat sound and I don't need to explain that to you. (Comment - no) All right this is nat sound.