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FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Name: Peggy Doherty

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Tape: 54

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Tape FLHP0122

06:01:03

Q:

We always ask the hardest question first. If you can just give us your name and spell it so we have it right.

A:

Um, Peggy Doherty. Peggy is P-E-G-G-Y and Doherty is D-O-H-E-R-T-Y.

06:01:15

Q:

Great, and you can just talk to me like we're having a conversation and try to ignore the big black thing over there. Terrific, first of all if you could give us a little background uh where you were born, a little bit about your family.

06:01:27

A:

I was born in Cincinnati 1956. I've got a brother and a sister, I'm the youngest of the three. Uh, my mom still lives in Sharonville. Grew up mainly in that area and went to school, Princeton. Went to UC got an associates degree. Um, my first job was with a law firm. I worked downtown Cincinnati for about 7 years and then I came to Fernald and I've been there every since, working there.

06:01:56

Q:

Great tell us about how you got your job at Fernald.

A:

Well I actually came out with a couple of neighbors who were looking for a job and Nadine Smith was one of them at that time and she's still working there too. And uh, I really wasn't serious about getting another job but they said ah, come on out with us. So I went out and we all filled out applications and out of the three of us, Nadine and I were both hired.

06:02:22

A:

And uh when they made me the offer at that time in my life it was good change to make and it was certainly a lot closer to where I was living at the time to come to Fernald. 'Cause driving downtown Cincinnati and back home it was a good hour's drive each way. So that's kind of how I got hooked.

06:02:44

Q:

Tell us about your very first impression of the site.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

When I first started working there it reminded me of an Army barracks. Just the color of the walls and the tile on the floors and the real long hallways in the buildings. And just the way the buildings were set up on the site at that time. You could really see the military influence to the site. So.

06:03:12

Q:

I always remember my first impression, I was like what is this place (laughter). Tell us a little bit about your, your interview, what was that like, that very first interview?

A:

Um it was with Homer Bruce and we went over into the building that I occupy right now which was used for employment at that time. And they did testing, I had to take a typing test and a shorthand test because I was being hired for a steno secretary position. And uh, they were really friendly you know.

06:03:43

A:

They didn't tell you too much about the site or anything. Uh, but they were very friendly and they did tell me that I had to go through a um security clearance, a background check. So I had a lot of paperwork to fill out. And they wanted to know everything from your birth date to, to your present status so they were pretty thorough.

06:04:08

Q:

Wow. And what kind of training did you receive before you started your job?

A:

Um, by the company itself? Um, basically just Cathy Hubner who was the lady I reported to, she taught me just about everything she knew 'cause she was kind of prepping me to kind of take over what she was doing. So between her and a couple other ladies that were in the department at that time, I just kind of learned through them.

06:04:40

Q:

So what was a typical day like during the early years of your employment there?

A:

Very busy, it was always busy. We were doing a lot of hiring at that time and one of the functions that I helped with was the employment; setting up the interviews and things like that; bringing people in. And setting up the testings for them and get the paperwork typed up for their security clearances and stuff so we were quite busy. A lot of recordkeeping 'cause back then we didn't have any computers to put stuff on and everything was all paper so lots of filing.

06:05:21

Q:

And what types of people were they hiring at that point in time?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

Um, just a mix really of wage people and salary both. They were really hiring quite a few people then and we were still in the production times 'cause I started there in '84. So they were still doing production so they were still hiring wage people for out there. And uh, you still had to have security clearances so it took a while sometimes before we could them on board.

06:05:57

Q:

Tell us about the bullpen.

A:

The bullpen was an area in our building. It was really just an open area with tables and chairs where people, sometimes they would bring them on and hire them, but it was prior to their security clearances coming through. And they weren't allowed to go out on the process side or work really until those clearances came through. So they would keep them in the bullpen, is what they called them.

06:06:22

A:

And you know basically they wouldn't be performing any work so they would be uh able to sit there and either read a book or read the newspaper just to pass the time. And we had one person who had to wait for almost two years before security clearance came through. So.

06:06:40

Q:

Now why did that take so long for him?

A:

He was in the military and did a lot of travelling over Europe and with each country and his involvements there they had to go back and research and do a lot of investigation. So it took some time to get through his whole life basically.

06:07:00

Q:

Tell us a little bit about that process of getting a Q clearance, did you know what the process was or who did it or anything like that?

A:

Um, our security department there on site conducted the investigation. They also used a subcontractor service, Equifax Service back then. And they did everything from police checks to your education, they talked to your neighbors and friends, your teachers. You know your grade school teachers, uh back then, just to get a total perspective of what your life was about.

06:07:40

A:

Uh, the kinds of people you hung out with, your lifestyles, everything. So they were pretty thorough in knowing everything about you before you came to work for them.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:07:51

Q:

Wow. (Cameraman – let's pause here for a second)

06:07:55

Q:

They're gone. (Cameraman – all right we have speed) How much did you know about the process when you started at Fernald?

A:

Not much at all. Um, if you didn't work back there you pretty much didn't know what was going on back there. And working in personnel you mainly just dealt with personnel type issues. But as my opportunities for me to move up in jobs occurred, I would gain more and more knowledge.

06:08:27

A:

And you know now that I'm a Team Leader in Industrial Relations I know quite a bit that's going on back there. But initially not much at all. Very secretive, they kept it to you know if your job required you to know you would know kind of thing.

06:08:48

Q:

Tell us a little bit about handling um documents and the types of security you have to face when you handle documents.

A:

Um, we had to be very sensitive to what we were responsible for paper wise. You know if we, if stuff was sensitive or confidential they had to be stamped or marked that way or in sealed envelopes. Some things had to be hand carried around from place to place instead of just through the normal mail system.

06:09:16

A:

Um, some areas were locked up you know. You couldn't even get in to the areas unless you had a higher security clearance. And lots of times those would be areas where documents were being stored or in the process area where certain operations were occurring. So just depended on how much level of security clearance that you had would allow you to get into certain areas.

06:09:44

Q:

Now you later had an L clearance?

A:

I had an L clearance when I first started there. Um, the Q clearance is what pretty much gave you the, the open door to just about any area there on site but I just had an L clearance.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:10:00

Q:

And what did that enable you to do or what did that not enable you to do?

A:

It did prohibit me from going into certain areas and handling certain types of documents. Like I couldn't, there were some restrictions on what I could do. But the type of work that I was doing, the L clearance was sufficient. And I never got any higher clearance than that because later after production stopped and all the classified material was removed from the site, the security clearances went away entirely, so.

06:10:35

Q:

Um, what was it like working for National Lead?

A:

Um, I thought they were very far behind the times as far as you know coming from a lawyer's office where I had computers and coming into an environment where they didn't, I thought they were very much behind the times. They were still using carbon paper back then and still using the I think they called it mimeograph paper where you would roll it on the rollers to make copies.

06:11:06

A:

I mean they still had stuff like that and I couldn't, I couldn't believe it that they were not, I think the most advanced technology that they had as far as in an office environment was the memory typewriters and that was it. And that was in '84 you know. Um, but uh NLO was very strict, they were very strict. Their dealings with the union back then was back in the times when you know labor and management were not walking hand in hand as it is now.

06:11:43

A:

You know where we are working a lot more cooperatively and you know making the company successful together. So it was very different. I think I've come from one end of the pendulum to the other in working with union and labor management type issues.

06:12:05

Q:

And we will get into that a little later too, I'd like to discuss a lot of that. Um, what was it like when computers were brought on to site for the general work force?

A:

Um, scary I think for a lot of people who had not yet been exposed to any of that. And you know for some people who have worked in environments where they already has exposure to it they thought they were great. 'Cause you know this was certainly going to make their life a lot easier.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:12:35

A:

Like the lady I was training under, Cathy Hubner, you know her things was everything was just all done manually and nothing on the computer. So it was quite a challenge for her to learn it. But once she did she caught right on and she found it to be more of a friend in her job than an enemy so to speak, but it was a big change for people.

06:13:02

Q:

Um, in those, in those days did anything sort of unusual happen to you while you were working at Fernald?

A:

Oh, yeah. Um, I hadn't been there but maybe a few months and one of our wage employees, maintenance craft employee, turned up missing. He worked the midnight shift and the following morning when I came into work they were announcing over the loudspeaker system for everybody to search their work areas.

06:13:33

A:

Uh, look in closets, everywhere to see if they could either locate the employee or if anything looked unusual or out of the ordinary. And uh, at that time that they were asking us to do that we didn't know what had happened. But later on we found out that there was some reason to believe that perhaps he had fallen into one of the vats out there which is really a gigantic melting pot I guess you could say that was several thousands degrees in temperature.

06:14:10

A:

And they, I don't, there was some speculation that he just ran off. But he carpooled with people and his street clothes were still in his locker and his car where he left it parked that night before was still there. And um, you know it was really kind of weird, made you kind of wonder you know what kind of place were you coming to work for. You know if you had employees turning up missing and their bodies may be in you know burned up kind of thing but it was kind of unusual.

06:14:43

Q:

Tell us about the ensuing investigation for all of that too, were you a part of that at all?

A:

No, I wasn't. And there was quite a bit, an extensive investigation and it lasted several years. And they had to drain the vat and they did find pieces of things there, uh that people, some people believe connected it to the employee. They found buttons off of a shirt, parts of a radio, parts of steel-toed shoes, um things like that.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:15:22

A:

Obviously with the temperature of the water there was obviously no you know body remains but if he ended up there. I guess they never really did come to any kind of conclusion on it but uh I think there was a special on it on *60 Minutes* at one time, on TV but I wasn't privy to a lot of the details of the investigation so. It was kind of unusual, very unusual.

06:15:55

Q:

Not something that usually happens at a work place. (Laughter – comment – no) Um, tell us a little more about your interaction with the union.

A:

Well, like I said my first job was basically a steno sec and the boss that I reported to was the employee relations supervisor and he dealt with the union. So I kind of learned from him and I got involved with taking minutes at the grievance meetings and then eventually minutes of the negotiation meetings.

06:16:34

A:

So that's where I got a lot of my education. And back then there wasn't a lot of one-on-ones meetings and interactions with the unions. But as I learned they gave me more responsibilities to do. Working at Fernald was certainly a great way for myself personally to grow as an individual and get a lot of education in working with the unions.

06:17:05

A:

And uh now I'm to the point where I've done, I've done negotiations myself and ratified five different labor contracts. It was certainly a growing experience for me. And uh, the players haven't changed a lot over the years. The union leadership has pretty much remained the same so you know you've developed friendships too through the years. At times you feel like killing them but you still develop some friendships and good working relationships. So that's been a benefit too.

06:17:46

Q:

Tell us about negotiating a union contract, what is, what does that entail, I mean what do you have to do to make that happen?

A:

Well basically you take your existing contract and you, you highlight the areas that you want to change and hopefully make better and the union will do the same. And it's just a series of meetings through over a period of time where you hopefully come to some agreements to some of the changes to the contract.

06:18:16

A:

Um, and there have been several through the years and they can be long days. Sometimes you have sessions that can go all day all night and into the next day. And you can get very tiring you know but

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

that's all part of the strategies of wearing each other down. Um but uh you know hopefully you do come out with a good contract that you both can live with and this last one is a five-year contract which was the first one to last that long. Typically it's been two or three year contracts. And it was a very good contract we think.

06:18:50

Q:

Do you mainly work with just the FAT&LC or do you work with all the unions on site?

A:

In the past I have worked with the IGUA which is the guards union. Right now I mainly just deal with the FAT&LC but the guards contract does still come under my responsibility but I have other people now that report to me that deal on a day to day basis with that contract.

06:19:16

Q:

What types of disputes have you seen come up over the years?

A:

Um, in the earlier days working conditions and safety were the biggest issues. Um, there were some strikes that came out of that. Um, crossing a picket line was a different experience for me too. Lately the issues mainly have been job security, jurisdictional issues. We have the Construction Building Trades Union employees on site now and you know there's a lot of conflict as to what work belongs to which union.

06:19:57

A:

But it's mainly job security. You know people understanding that this place is closing down some day and that they're going to have to be out looking for a new job if they're not old enough to retire. And you know it's kind of scary. And so that tends to be the majority of the issues now.

06:20:17

Q:

When we hire new people at Fernald, is that something that is common knowledge for them, that they'll be working themselves out of a job?

A:

Yes, we make it very well known up front that you know there's no guarantee as far as length of employment. That we are a clean-up site, a remediation site and um that the work is there until all the clean up is done. So yeah we make it very clear up front so they know it's not a long term, 20-year job kind of thing.

06:20:49

Q:

And what kind of retraining opportunities are available to people at Fernald now that they know they're working their way out of a job?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

Oh, quite a bit. Um I think Fernald is, is a big leader in bringing in educational opportunities and training opportunities for people to participate in to find other jobs once they do leave from here. We have a great tuition reimbursement program. We have a career development center that has newspapers from all over the United States with want ads in them.

06:21:20

A:

They have computer hook-ups where they can send their resumes out on the internet. Um, we have in-house training that we also have, the apprenticeship program that takes people that come in to like labor positions and trains them over the next four years to be like an electrician.

06:21:40

A:

Uh, we have a good rapport with a lot of the local universities and colleges. So it's great, I think if you're working here you certainly can't say you don't have an opportunity to be able to prepare yourself for a new position when you leave from here so I think it's great.

Q:

Do you have any success stories of people who have been re-trained and got new jobs?

06:22:04

A:

Um, yeah, we've had quite a few. I think one of the bigger areas is the railroad. CSX was hiring, they were hiring about 500 people and we were able to take some of our hourly people who were interested and go through the CSX training and actually transition them over to work for CSX. And there's a lot of them left that are still working for them.

06:22:31

A:

So that worked out real well. And we do have an apprenticeship program right now, where we have 13 wage employees in it and they're into their second year of that, and that's going real well. It's a mixture of men and women, going into the craft area, which is really good.

06:22:49

Q:

Terrific. Um, let's see. Tell us about the transition between the, well, first of all let's talk about what was going on pretty much from the time you got there until the time that they shut the plant down in '89. And that was that there was a dust collector release in 1984, and there was some material released into the atmosphere and how did that affect your job?

06:23:25

A:

Um, we were aware of them. It really didn't affect my job, in particular, at the time. Uh, we were office workers, so it really didn't impact us. But we were aware of them at that time.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Q:

And how did you react to all of the media coverage at this place that you just got a job at, and uh, all this media coverage happening?

06:23:49

A:

Well, um, in some respects I kinda felt sorry for the company. Uh, because, you know, the newspapers do want to sell, and so they tend to take a story and uh, exaggerate, and uh they would concentrate more on the negative than the positive efforts that were going on there.

06:24:10

A:

Um, but uh, I worked at Fernald, you know, I liked working there and I felt confident that the people that were working there were intelligent, they were a well-educated group of people and they still are now. Uh, I think we've got some of the best workers there in the country. And uh, I knew that they would get it under control.

06:24:33

A:

Ya know, and sometimes things just happen, and uh, I don't think anything there, or at least while I was there, happened on purpose. So, it's just a part of the business, I think.

Q:

(To cameraman) Do we need to pause for a second, are we okay? (off camera: Sure!)

Q:

(Off camera: And speak.) Tell us about transitioning between NLO and Westinghouse. What was that whole period of time like?

06:25:03

A:

Um, it was kinda confusing, somewhat. Because you really weren't sure how the new contractor coming in, how that was gonna affect your job. And you know, what kind of philosophies, or the ways they would see to run the business would be and what changes would occur.

06:25:22

A:

But I thought they did a good job in transitioning between those two contractors. There was a good overlap before people were leaving and new people coming in. So I think it went rather smoothly.

Q:

And how did that affect Union negotiations with management?

06:25:42

A:

Well, Westinghouse coming in, NLO did not want to negotiate a contract that they would be obligated under. So they did not negotiate a new contract at that time. The one that was in place stayed in place.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

So once Westinghouse came on board and they got familiar with the operations and they kinda figured out what they wanted to do – then they could make changes to the contract.

06:26:12

A:

Uh, with Westinghouse coming in it was definitely a new culture. Uh, they were more open door, uh, you know, they invited the union people in to talk. And that's when a lot of the full-time union positions began, where they would get union reps involved in safety and training and that kinda of stuff. So, Westinghouse was certainly a new wave towards labor management relationships.

06:26:42

Q:

And how about the transition between Westinghouse and Fluor Daniel then?

A:

I think that was a little more bumpier than the NLO to Westinghouse transition. But again, with a new contractor coming in, a lot of fears and changes and unknowns were there. The same types of feelings, but going through it once before in the past, it didn't quite bother, I think a lot of people who had been there for a while, as much as the first transition did.

06:27:13

A:

Fluor Daniel coming in, again a new culture, so uh, they wanted to bring in their ideas and their philosophies, and they did make a lot of changes up front. And uh, in some cases they fell back to what Westinghouse had in place. So, it takes them time to get used to the environment and the workers, and uh, but I think eventually it all worked itself out.

06:27:41

Q:

And what about 1989 when they closed down the plant? How did most union personnel feel about that whole thing?

A:

Um, I think there were a lot of people who had been working there for many years, that wasn't sure what was gonna happen now. When they shut it down, they literally, just shut it down. And, everything that was in the lines, stayed in the lines.

06:28:06

A:

And, uh, so it's like just going into a room and switching off the light switch. You know you didn't clean up anything in the room and take it with you before you shut it down. So they really weren't sure, I don't think they were quite convinced that it was gonna stay shutdown forever. I think they did think that it was gonna start back up again, eventually.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:28:28

A:

So that took some time to convince people that that was a stage of that company's life that was going to be in the past. And that we were gonna turn into a clean-up site. It was quite an effort in the beginning. Especially with the older work force.

Q:

Great. We're gonna take a little break and change tapes. You're doing great.

06:28:52

A:

Okay.

Tape FLHP0122

07:01:00

Q:

(Off camera: "And, we are rolling.") Tell us a little bit about the strike that happened.

A:

Well, it was 1985 and it was quite a significant strike. It was over safety and it lasted about 9 months. And uh, at that time the workers were becoming more and more aware of their working environments. And the safety language that was developed in that contract after the strike was over with have stayed with that contract, there have been some minor things added to it over the years, but it's been a major part of the labor contract, quite extensive.

07:01:42

A:

And it's allowed the workers to raise questions about health hazards and allowed them to stop work if they felt things were unsafe. It really got the worker involved in their own safety. So, it was a significant event for the labor force there at Fernald.

Q:

How did it affect the salaried people who were still doing their jobs?

07:02:10

A:

While on strike, there were no wage people on the site at all. So, the salaried people would still come to work everyday.. Sometimes it was a challenge to cross the picket line, because they certainly didn't make it easy for the people who were coming to work. We had to empty our own trash, and clean our own restroom 'cause there were no porter service.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

07:02:33

A:

The cafeteria was shut down because there were no workers there to cook and serve the food. And salaried supervisors out on the process side would run the absolute necessities of operations to keep some things going during the strike. But, ya know, it added more duties on the salaried people to have to perform until we could get the strike settled.

07:03:03

Q:

So that really didn't shut the process down, the plant continued to process uranium?

A:

Some things were shut down. Things that weren't necessary, but there were certain operations that still had to be on going, they just pulled in the salaried supervisors to do.

07:03:22

Q:

Now, when you say that they made it hard for you to cross the picket lines – how did they do that?

A:

Well, when they would picket, they would picket obviously at the access points. And uh, you know, when they would walk across they would stay very close together. And uh, you know, trying to get a car through without hitting somebody was kinda interesting.

07:03:43

A:

But, uh they eventually got injunctions filed through the court systems that said they could picket but they could not obstruct traffic coming in and out. But until the injunctions were in place they were literally body against body all across that entranceway there. So it was hard to enter into the site.

Q:

Wow, and when you say that their problems stemmed mainly from safety concerns, what exactly, what kind of things were they worried about?

07:04:21

A:

Exposures. They didn't feel they had no monitoring program in place. Or physicals that could educate them as to what kinds of exposure they had through their years. Um, knowing the hazards of their work, the type of stuff that they worked with you know if it was chemicals or even the residues or the byproducts from their uranium processing.

07:04:50

A:

Um, and um I guess also some of the other concerns were the fact that they didn't feel that they could raise issues of safety without maybe perhaps jeopardizing their jobs there. Um, so that all became a

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

part of the new, the new language on health and safety on the labor contracts. We also have a Health and Safety Bill of Rights now that kind of highlights the main points or benefits in the health and safety language.

07:05:27

Q:

What are some of those main points?

A:

The fact that you can stop work um if you feel it's unsafe without fear of reprisal or losing your jobs. Uh, that um you are responsible for your own safety. Um, that you um should report things that you feel are unsafe. Um, tripping hazards, it can be as simple as tripping hazards or exposure to chemicals.

07:05:55

A:

Uh, it also makes known that you have um, uh safety data sheets on chemicals that are available for you to read and understand and that the company will provide training so you understand what the hazards are in your job to keep yourself safe. And education on the proper clothing that you need to wear, that kinds of stuff.

07:06:20

Q:

Now this all may have sort of reached a head when there was a class action suit filed (comment: uh-huh) um, on behalf of the workers, can you tell us a little bit about those years, what that was like?

A:

Um, it was, it was during the NLO times and you know fell over into the Westinghouse transition too. So uh, you know the NLO management people stuck around a lot longer. They even set up their own offices on site once Westinghouse had already taken over the site.

07:06:59

A:

Just for the efforts of putting together their case and fighting the lawsuit. Um, I think it certainly was a big win for the union. Uh, for their membership and winning the lawsuit not only issued pay out to a lot of the workers that worked back then but it also established a medical monitoring program which was for their lifetime.

07:07:26

A:

Which is set up now through Drake Hospital here in Cincinnati, but I think it was a long hard fight. And it was a big win for the labor force that was in place.

07:07:43

Q:

Um, as far as the class action suit goes, how did it affect your job personally?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

At that time not much because again I had not gotten up to the levels that I'm at right now. Um, personally being a worker that worked back there during those times, um I was also included because of the lawsuit was such or the award rather was such that it not only affected the wage but also the salary work force that worked there during those production years.

07:08:17

A:

So if you worked there at any of that time you were um able to um get an award amount of money and also participate in the lifetime medical monitoring program. So personally you know it did give me some benefits that I didn't have before.

07:08:38

Q:

Have you ever worried about hazards at Fernald?

A:

No, uh, no. Under NLO you know we didn't really know a lot of what was going on the process side but as Westinghouse came in things were started to open up. And then they opened up even more so with Fluor Daniel and I think they have one of the best safety programs around. I think they go to all lengths to educate the work force that, that are there. As well as educating the community, I think they do an outstanding job.

07:09:14

Q:

I've asked this question of a couple people who have worked especially out back. It's kind of an interesting one. Um, a lot of folks that work, that worked out back during the process years didn't wear hardly any PPE and then when they transitioned into clean-up they were asked to put on full-face respirators and gloves and anti-C's just to go in the same work places that they were in earlier. Um, in your experience with your job have you ever talked to workers who felt strange about that?

07:09:45

A:

Um, no not really. Um, I think I've had a few occasions where a few of the older workers have felt that in some respects it's too much maybe so. But I think for the most part they accepted it and you know it was for their own personal safety. And in some respects they probably felt you know why didn't they have it back then you know, maybe we should have.

07:10:20

Q:

Now also uh, this is you probably started your job at kind of the height of the Cold War and um what was the typical American's mindset at that time during the Cold War?

A:

About the site or in general about the?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Q:

Well yeah, start with the site first.

A:

Well I think um the general population outside of the site didn't know much about Fernald. I mean a lot of people thought it was a dog food plant because of the water towers being red and white checkered. So nothing was ever in the papers you know you never heard anything about it.

07:11:00

A:

But when you get there you've got the great big large plant in the middle of a, of a small country town you know so it was very secretive then. Um, when I did start working there the security force that we had there did carry guns. So once you came on to site you were very much aware of the secretiveness of it and the security.

07:11:24

A:

And um, during the days of terrorism and the hostage situation um you know they were doing searches in your car and stuff like that, and bags that you were carrying in and out. And so you really became aware of, of what it was all about once you got to the site but away from the site people really didn't know Fernald's role in the whole thing.

07:11:54

Q:

And how did you personally feel about the threat of Russia and all that stuff that was going on at that time?

A:

Well um, I really didn't think that it was a big threat. I mean then I was in my 30's you know and I just, living through the '50's and the '60's with me being so young I really didn't have I think the same perspective of the Cold War as perhaps my parents or grandparents did. Um, so I really was kind of past that I guess and I really didn't feel that it was a real threat.

07:12:35

Q:

And looking at Fernald's mission now with the Cold War in mind, how do you think Fernald contributed to America's goals?

A:

Oh I think they contributed quite a bit. Um, and I think they did a good job at it you know. NLO was there for a reason and they got their job done and it was necessary I think at that time. They processed the uranium to make parts that went to other site.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

07:13:07

A:

Uh, so I think they were very much needed and uh you know now that we're cleaning up the site you know I think um people need to realize the importance of Fernald and its history. And I think you know these interviews you're doing is great to help publicize that.

07:13:27

Q:

And how, what are your impressions of the clean up that's going on right now?

A:

I think it's great. Um, I think you've got a lot of good talent here. I mean we're drawing from not only within the United States but also um knowledge and education abroad. And I think we're kind of the leader in it. And people are really looking at Fernald to help them out with problems that they're having at other sites.

07:13:52

A:

And I think it's really kind of exciting. And it really kind of makes you proud that you work at a place like that now that has that kind of talent and is as successful as they have been in the cleanup efforts.

07:14:08

Q:

And once the place is all torn down there's been a lot of discussion of uh, um future land use. Since you've worked there for 15 some years, what would you like to see done with the land when it's, when everything's gone.

A:

Well, me being from Indiana I probably wouldn't have as much interest in the land as maybe perhaps the immediate community members would. But I'm sure the community people would like to see um either it to have some businesses there or even a park for kids.

07:14:39

A:

Um, the Ross/Fernald area is not a well-built up area and there's not a lot of businesses there and I think bringing employment for their people that live there is important. So I think having businesses on the land would be good. And I think you know it's still a beautiful area you know. You still see lots of wild deer running and so maybe even a park would be nice.

07:15:06

Q:

And generally taking in all your experience at Fernald how do, how do you feel about having worked there?

A:

I feel it's been a big learning process for me, I've learned a lot working there and I've met a lot of great people. Um, a lot of different personalities and um I think when we do, when I do quit working

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

there when it's all over with, um it's a big part of my life I mean I've already been there for 15 years. And it's the longest time I've worked in any one place. And I really feel great about the time that I've been there.

07:15:45

Q:

Terrific. Um, is there anything that we didn't cover that you wanted to cover? Any questions I didn't ask?

A:

Uh, no you were pretty thorough, pretty thorough, I think you did a good job. Um, I can't think of anything else.

07:16:05

Q:

Okay great, oh, I do want to ask you one thing. Um, there has been some discussions about possibly setting up some type of a museum on the site, how do you feel about that?

A:

I think that's really a neat idea. Um, there's a lot of pictures and a lot of equipment and uh things that are left over that I think people may not ever have an opportunity to see again. And um, I think I had heard once that there's a piece of equipment on site that there was only two ever made in, in, over time. And they can't even find the other one so basically we only have the only one.

07:16:46

A:

And it's kind of nice to be able to preserve those kinds of things so as children and people grow up they can learn and see what it was all about back then.

07:16:57

Q:

Great, well now we're going to do something called natural sound. And that's just about 30 seconds we have quiet on the set. Um, and uh this is nat sound.