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FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Name: Janet Greenwell

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Tape: #79

Project Number 20012

Tape FLHP00182

20:01:06

Q:

Uh, first of all if you could just give us your name and spell it to make sure we have it right.

A:

Okay, Janet Greenwell. G-R-E-E-N-W-E-L-L.

Q:

Terrific. If you could just give us a little background about your life, where you were born, where were you educated and how did you come to the area.

20:01:23

Q:

Well, I was born here, I've lived here all my life except for a short time, I went out to Indiana University. And I did not graduate though, I got a job and I sort of like making that money. And um I worked at Seagrams for a couple of years before I started at Fernald. And I've always lived around here. Uh, nothing really very exciting.

20:01:52

Q:

So how did you get your job at Fernald, how did you find out about the job?

A:

Well, um I had quit at Seagrams and I was without a job. And a couple of my friends said would you like to go up to that government plant, that bomb plant? Um, in Ross and apply for a job. And I said, yeah. And we went, so we went up there and applied.

20:02:17

A:

I only intended to work uh that was in April, I only attended to work until after Christmas and then I was going to Florida and live. But uh 37 ½ years later I left Fernald. Um, been there ever since.

20:02:37

Q:

Great. And um, tell us about your interview, when you first showed up what were your impressions of the plant?

A:

Oh, well, um, at that time there was no, no paved roads or sidewalks, nothing. You had mud and when it rained and you had dust when it didn't rain. And uh of course no air conditioning and in the

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

summer all the dust blew in the window and settled over you and your papers. Um, I was interviewed by Lee Skillnin at that time.

20:03:16

A:

Um, really I was interviewed and hired and went to work the next day. I came out to work and they gave me a physical and we rode over uh in an old school bus to a building uh I think it was called the Cone House. It was a private home, it was still on site and uh the physical was done there. In the basement I sat on an old, an old wooden kitchen stool and uh took my blood test. And then filled out the security papers and went to work that afternoon.

20:03:55

Q:

Wow that was quick.

A:

Yeah it was quick.

(Tape stopped and started)

20:04:04

Q:

Great. Um, so anyway uh what was site like when you first got there.

A:

Oh, and we didn't have a cafeteria. There was a sandwich wagon that pulled up outside of the ad building every day around noon and they had sandwiches, coffee, and milk. Soft drinks, that sort of thing, no, no cafeteria. And it sat in the mud or the dirt all day long, or not all day but right at noon time.

20:04:32

A:

So it was so different those very first days. And right inside of the foyer in the ad building there were two um, um shelves for boots, galoshes, overshoes. And if it rained, when you came in you left your um overshoes there so you didn't track in a lot of mud. It was so different from today.

20:05:08

Q:

Did you know what they were doing at site when you uh took the job.

A:

Uh, yeah, well I knew they were, we called it the bomb plant, I knew they weren't making bombs but I knew they were making uh components for other AEC plants. Uh, I knew that, yeah.

20:05:31

Q:

And what kind of training did you receive when you first got there?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:
Training, what sort of training? You mean uh security, safety?

Q:
Yeah, I mean uh did you, well I knew you had to get a Q clearance, tell us about the Q clearance process, what was that like?

20:05:48

A:
Well, we filled out the forms and they were sent in, took fingerprints, they were sent in to the government. Uh, then you didn't go anywhere at that time without an escort, you couldn't even go to the restroom until you were Q cleared. Um, just did nothing. Uh, what else did you need to know?

20:06:12

Q:
So uh before you were Q cleared uh what, I mean did they send you into a certain job or?

A:
Oh, yeah. If you could only work in certain areas. Now in my job you didn't have to be cleared. But in some areas, yes you had to be cleared before you could work out there. They would uh either you had to wait until you got your clearance, which might be six weeks or more.

20:06:38

A:
Or uh if they wanted someone really bad, if they had a special, were specialized they would put them to work maybe helping us do PSQ's, it just, it, little make work things before they could go out into their regular job.

20:06:56

Q:
And uh while you were working there did you ever over to the process side and see the process?

A:
Yeah, they took us out occasionally uh-huh.

Q:
What was your impression of the work that was going on?

20:07:10

A:
Oh, I really didn't, I was impressed with a lot of the things they did. Uh, uh the salt bath I think it was that was so extremely hot. Uh, and the, Plant 6 where they rolled, rolled the ingots. Uh, yeah I thought that was interesting. And Plant 5 the process they went through. I thought it was interesting. Of course I was just there, just passing through. It was not part of my everyday job.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

20:07:55

Q:

And you started there, uh what year, 1952?

A:

Uh-huh, April '52.

Q:

Great.

A:

At that time the only, there were no operating buildings. Uh, I think the Pilot Plant was under construction. But our heat in the ad building came from a steam engine. Uh, a train.

20:08:18

Q:

So that was before the built the Boiler Plant?

A:

Uh-huh. Uh-huh, yeah they only, there were no buildings. The ad building uh the uh services building where they had Health and Safety and that was under construction and the Pilot Plant. Those were the only three buildings there.

20:08:36

Q:

And you mentioned that there was some private buildings there from a farm that were still on site. Besides the Cone Building, which was a house, what other, what other buildings were uh on site that stayed there for a while?

20:08:47

A:

Uh, George A. Fuller, the prime construction engineering company, uh they had an ad building over on the north end of the project. There were I think three houses that uh stayed on site for a little while. Uh, I don't remember, I was never in any of them except the one where they had the, the medical facilities. It was.

20:09:18

Q:

_____ some of the archival shots where there is like still some buildings standing on there _____ and everything around it and here's this big barn.

A:

Uh-huh and a little red brick house.

Q:

Was that the Cone Building?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:
Uh-huh.

20:09:31

Q:
That's interesting. Uh, tell us a little bit about your jobs, uh well your first job, let's take that first. What was your responsibility at your first job?

A:
Uh, we filled out uh, we talked to the people and filled out their security questionnaires. Their PSQ forms and got their background information and then um typed up those forms. And we did their uh, uh fingerprints. That uh, really was about all my first job was. I worked in there for a few months. Then I went down to the reception desk and worked there.

20:10:10

Q:
And what was that like?

A:
Oh, it was really interesting. Uh, we had a lot of, well I met all the visiting fireman that came in. And issued badges to those who needed them. And the salesman who came in, I called the um buyers who they wanted to talk to. And the one thing that was really funny at the time, at that time there was a um a wiener or hotdog company who's slogan was "The Wiener the World Awaited."

20:10:51

A:
And uh this one day this man came in and he gave me his card and his name was Mr. Wiener. And he was with a company, I think it was one of the, it was a company around Cincinnati, a tool company I believe. So I called up the buyer, I said "Mr. Wiener from such and such a company is here." And uh there was this big silence at the end of the line and finally he said "is that the wiener the world awaited?"

20:11:21

A:
And I couldn't help it, I just went uh-huh-huh and that poor man was standing there. And when the buyer came out, he didn't even look at me. He just walked by as innocent and he said "Mr. Wiener, how are you?" Oh it was embarrassing at the time, funny now but embarrassing then. But we had a lot of visitors come in. I got to meet a lot of people from NLO, NLI in New York and it was interesting.

20:11:56

Q:
So a lot of high level officials coming through and those kinds of things?

A:
Yeah, we had quite a few, uh-huh.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Q:

What was that like to be the first point of contact for anybody that came onto the site?

20:12:07

A:

Well I hope I left a good impression. Um, well usually if it was anyone really important they would have someone down there waiting for them. If it was maybe the President of NLI they would have someone waiting there for them. All I would do would be hand them a badge. But it was a lot of nice people came through there, very nice. The salesman also.

20:12:39

Q:

Great, so then you moved from that job in the security department to the HR department. Tell us about your responsibilities and.

A:

Uh, when I first went into personnel, I um worked for the, one of the assistant to the director. And uh we, I did reservations, airline reservations and hotel reservations. I liked that. That was a lot of fun. And then he was also supervisor over the cafeteria.

20:13:12

A:

So whenever uh anyone was absent, I had to run the cash register. And MaryAnn Steigerwalt, or MaryAnn Stewart, she, we didn't have uh the uh the latest electronic equipment they have now. We had the old fashioned cash register where you punch each number in. You punch a number in and go like this, we didn't have time to do that so we had to add in our head.

20:13:40

A:

And Mary Ann could uh add just like a shotgun. 45, 55, 65, 75, 80, 90, \$2.00 or \$1.10. So I got fairly good at that too but not as good as Mary Ann. And sometimes there'd be a big line of people and you've added it up and they're looking at their tray thinking how did you come up with that. And they're going (whispering) 45, 55 and this big line of people waiting for you.

20:14:13

A:

So anyway, after I left there I went to work for George Smith the Director. And I worked for him I guess for about 20 years. And um, he was a labor relations attorney. And uh, I sat in on grievance meetings and took minutes, and arbitration meetings, and uh negotiations. And uh sometimes it got very, very boring. And I'd type up the briefs, post-hearing briefs, opening statements.

20:14:51

A:

That sort of thing. And we, at that time we didn't have a public relations department. George was it, so when anything came up we had to handle it. I know when the poor guy disappeared and they thought he went in the salt bath uh that was hard time to handle that. But uh, I've always enjoyed my jobs up there. I think uh I've been around good people.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

20:15:23

Q:

What was it like working in a director's office? Um, was there a lot of pressure or?

A:

At times, yes.

Q:

Tell us a little bit about some of the pressure situations that might happen there.

20:15:39

A:

Well, one was when the guy went into the salt bath. Uh, well it got hectic during negotiations, uh when they were meeting everyday and sometimes quite late at night, 2:00 or 3:00 in the morning if they were down to the nitty-gritty. Um, there was a lot of pressure then. Uh, and there was a lot of pressure when we had a negotia- a arbitration meeting and trying to get the last-minute things, briefs ready.

20:16:14

A:

There was a lot of pressure on that. And uh, we had people come in for one-on-ones with George when they had a problem that couldn't be handled out in the area. It was, it was interesting. Uh, uh I don't know what, I can't think of any specific incidents off-hand. I know there were many but uh.

20:16:48

Q:

What was it like being uh, being a woman and working at Fernald? I mean, from what I understand it was predominantly male. What was that like?

A:

Yeah, in fact the first secretary to the director, uh got her degree by going to night school. And after she received it there was nowhere she could go at that time. That was in the, I guess maybe uh early, late '50's maybe early 60's.

20:17:18

A:

And there was no place she could go 'cause at that time they didn't promote uh women to, they had a few women supervisors. I think Inez O'Brien was head of the library. But very few, so she quit and went on, went to New York. Uh, at that time, well I think that was generally uh all over. Women just were not, in the late '50's they were not, didn't have positions of authority, really.

20:18:00

A:

I never felt I was discriminated against because I was a woman. I felt I was um given every opportunity. And I felt if I didn't get on ahead it was my fault because I didn't go ahead and get my

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

degree. But uh, I guess it was no diff-, it was fun because there weren't that many women out at Fernald at that time. We had, we used to have, and it went on I guess until we retired, what they called the girls Christmas party.

20:18:36

A:

Uh, the men had, the supervisors and management, they had a management Christmas party. And we thought, huh? What's wrong with us. So we decided we would have a girls Christmas party and we started and we asked all the girls who worked there. We had it at one of the uh, well it ended up most of the time at Dante's. And uh we conned the plant manager into giving us a donation.

20:19:03

A:

And he did. They always did. Uh, and all the girls went there and we had dinner and a party. Of course where there's girls there's boys. And uh at Dante's, uh after the party we'd all go upstairs to the bar and then somehow a lot of the men from Fernald came and we danced and had another party. It was a good time.

20:19:28

Q:

A lot of people that I've talked to have uh, um described Fernald as kind of a family-like atmosphere. Can you tell us uh some of the friends you made there and I know you had a really good experience, you met a lot of life-long friends. Can you tell us a little bit about those people?

20:19:43

A:

Uh-huh. Oh gosh yes. Jean Hurd, when I first started, she worked in security and right away she said do you want to have lunch together. And we ate lunch together for almost 38 years. And then Betty Scudder uh a girl who lives in Cleves, uh I started in April, she started in August. And uh, we rode together, that's the longest car pool in history, 38 years. And I still see George Smith.

20:20:15

A:

We have, in fact we're going out to lunch next week. I still see some of the personnel people, still get together. We have a card club from our Fernald girls, ladies. Um, oh yeah, and the, it always it was like family to me because I think I knew everyone from working in security when I first started to the reception desk to personnel where I met a lot of the union guys at grievance meetings and that sort of thing. I knew a lot of them. So it was, it was just like a big family.

20:20:58

Q:

What were some of the activities that uh the Fernald family kind of did together?

A:

Well we had dances, I think four times a year we had dances. They had a pistol club. Of course bowling, they had bowling leagues and bowling banquets. And golf leagues, I don't think they had golf

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

banquets though. The bowling banquet kind of did it all. Uh, they had an archery. Faye Kinnett was in archery, I was in archery too for a while.

20:21:29

A:

Uh, let's see what else. I said pistol club. Uh, they had a lot of activities. Fishing, always had a fishing derby and you said that they're still doing that today. What do they call it?

Q:

The Bass Club.

A:

The Bass Club, yes. There was a lot of activities that went on. Fun.

20:21:54

Q:

Great. And um, since you were Q cleared for your job and security was utmost on everybody's mind at the time, uh when friends and family would ask you about your job, what would you say?

A:

Uh, well I told them they rolled ingots. And most of the time they let it go at that and sometimes they would say what is an ingot. And sometimes they would say, what do they do with those ingots. And I would say well they shipped them to other AEC plants to be used in, to tell you the truth I really didn't know, I didn't know a lot of what they did.

20:22:46

A:

I knew they had the Plant 1, they did something and they moved to Plant 2/3 to Plant 4 to Plant 5 and 6 they did the rolling of the ingots, well they did have 7, 8 and 9. I didn't really, as I said I would tell people they rolled ingots. And that satisfied most people, they didn't go much further.

20:23:16

Q:

Now I know when you first started working there too, they made security be on the utmost and how did that training go? I mean, what did they say to you?

A:

Well, let's see. We were not, well we were not to discuss anything. They used to have a poster, um, what were those guys names? They had two little funny-looking guys on the posters and something like loose lips sink ships in World War II.

20:23:53

A:

Um, I forget what these two little guys names were. But yeah, they had those posted all over to be aware of security. Don't discuss what we do. It was very low-keyed. I think they tried, we tried to keep a very low-keyed position out there. And I guess they succeeded for a while.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

20:24:28

Q:

Did you have a lot of contact with people in the surrounding community at all?

A:

No. Only if I knew them personally. I don't think I knew anyone personally. At one time we uh I can't remember why we did this. We went, but it was maybe in the '70's, George and I went to all the houses in the surroun- in the perimeter and took information around. And if they were home, we knocked on the door and if they were home we'd get talked to them and gave them information.

20:25:11

A:

I can't think why we did that. I can't think, remember what that was, but at that time we talked to all these people. It was probably in the '70's, could have been in the early '80's. But no, personally I didn't have that much dealing with the neighbors.

20:25:34

Q:

And how did the relationship between Fernald and the community kind of change as, as time went on? 'Cause at first like in the of course in the '50's and 60's it was just like very hush-hush and then of course you were there until 1990. How did that change?

20:25:52

A:

Well I think in 1984 when uh in late 1984 when they had that release and it was made public, that's when everything changed. That's when we uh were made out to be the bad guys and people um, I think a lot of people had an axe to grind. I think they, I think a lot of people had dollar signs in their eyes. Um, I know some people who have filed complaints.

20:26:44

A:

I know I have bowled with them and I've seen them smoke one cigarette right after another but then they filed suits that they, their lungs were damaged. Maybe Fernald added to it but the cigarettes didn't, they didn't do them any good. And I smoked for a long time. Uh, I think that's when things changed. And then everyone, I think it's kind of natural to kick a dead horse.

20:27:18

A:

And we became visible then. And uh that's when people started finding fault and well that's when they did all the studies and it was one of the sad times at Fernald.

20:27:49

Q:

I would imagine that that 5 years or 6 years that all that was going on would have been very difficult (Comment - very difficult), can you describe in your job how that changed your job or the types of things that you reacted to during those years?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

20:28:04

A:

Uh, well everything was made public at that time. We did a lot, worked a lot of overtime. Um, when NLI, when NLI went out, when NLO went out and Westinghouse came in uh it was entirely different. A different, at that time everything was made public. We didn't do anything that wasn't broadcast. And that was, it was hard too.

20:28:45

A:

Uh, well, it was just a hard time to live through. When NLO was there. After Westinghouse came in, it settled down. And uh I don't know what to say. It uh, it was different. The, we just did different things. Everything was made public then. There were no secrets at all.

20:29:26

Q:

We're going to take a break right there and change tapes. You're doing great.

A:

Is it over with?

FLHP0183

21:01:06

Q:

So in those years, um, difficult years between about '84 and when you retired, tell us a little bit about the public relations nightmare that you had to _____ on with the press and all those kinds of things.

A:

It really was a nightmare because we had no public relations office at that time. And uh we in personnel had to do it. And they just came out in mass. We knew all of them, we called them by their first name.

21:01:35

A:

We knew all of them. Uh, and they would ask in depth questions. Many of the questions it was hard to answer. Uh, some of them we couldn't answer. It was a nightmare. Uh, and they came out for oh they were out there almost all the time at that time, late 1984. It settled down some in, in early, the middle of '85 it settled down some.

21:02:15

A:

And by that time we had hired uh Pete Kelly, did you know Pete Kelly? Yeah, we had hired Pete as our public relations man. Nice guy.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:02:29

Q:

We'll be interviewing him in a couple of weeks.

A:

Oh really, going down there?

Q:

He's coming here.

A:

Oh, tell him I said hi.

Q:

I sure will. How about the national press? I know that there was like a lot of national press up here too, Harry Reasoner and *60 Minutes* and *20/20*, tell us a little bit about that.

21:02:47

A:

I really wasn't involved in that. And that was handled more from the manager's office. When the national people came out I really didn't get involved in that.

21:03:04

Q:

I interviewed somebody who said that they were on their way in a car pool and they were coming down the north access road and there's Harry Reasoner standing there you know doing a report. It was just very strange. Um, in a 1989, they decided to go ahead and close the plant for good. Can you tell us what that was like when you found out they were going to do that?

21:03:33

A:

Well uh, it wasn't too much of a shock. Uh because we had been going down. We really were not, had not been in a production mode for several years. So it really wasn't much of a shock when they told us they were closing down and Westinghouse was coming in. No, Westinghouse was in at that time, it wasn't, I didn't, it was no shock.

21:04:05

Q:

You sort of expected it was going to happen?

A:

Yes, yes.

Q:

Of course there was a shut-down really in '86. When they really stopped production of the plant.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

Uh-huh and from that time on as I said we were not in a production mode and you could see the writing on the wall.

21:04:20

Q:

What was it like to come in, in those years and not hear all the noise and the clatter of the plant going back there?

A:

Well um, I didn't really notice it that much because in the ad building you were uh divorced from the plant area. So we, oh yeah you did hear, but I think it became so you were so used to the plant noise that you really didn't notice it even during production time.

21:05:00

Q:

Now the whole time that you worked there really from '52 into the '80's that was considered Cold War years and how did Fernald contribute to America's mission in the Cold War?

A:

Well I think that was part of, that was the role of ingots that we sent out. Uh, uh we were just part of a you know we had DOE or AEC plants at Hanford and Savannah River, Oakridge, Paducah, uh Portsmouth. We were just part of, one part of the whole um of whatever they did. I don't think, we never made bombs.

21:06:07

Q:

Now as far as the Cold War goes, what was uh what was kind of the typical American's mindset towards the Cold War threat? What was going on in history at that time? I mean from your point of view really and from your friends and neighbors points of view. Did you ever discuss the Cold War and the Russian threat and those types of things?

21:06:28

A:

Oh yeah and I think we felt there was a very real threat at that time. And I think we recognized that at that time the need for secrecy at the plant. So I think we tried to adhere to their security rules.

21:06:57

Q:

And some of those security rules, I know you handled a lot of um documents. What was document handling like?

A:

Well, we had three-way safes and you certainly got written up if you forgot to lock the safe when you went home at night. Um, everything was marked, not everything, but if they felt the need it was marked official use only. That was the most common configuration we used. There was uh I think secret, that was very top secret.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:07:38

A:

Uh, and things were not to be left out on your desk. When you were away from your desk nothing marked OUO could be left on your desk it had to be put away. I think at that time it didn't have to be locked up if you were coming right back. But at night you had to, everything had to be locked up in the, I forgot all about that, had to be locked in the three-way safe.

21:08:02

A:

And uh then you had to get the combination and open the safe up the next morning. And some of them were really doo-lollies to open up. It was, I had forgotten about that.

21:08:21

Q:

You mentioned through OUO?

A:

Official Use Only.

Q:

Oh, okay.

A:

See how easily that came back to me. OUO.

21:08:30

Q:

That's great. Um, also sort of some of the things that were happening in those later years that you worked there, uh there were a couple of lawsuits that were filed, uh how did you feel about those lawsuits that were filed against the government at the time?

A:

Which ones in particular?

Q:

There was one for the community members and then one for the, the workers.

21:08:56

A:

Well, I thought they were all overreacting. Um, I think um I think they thought they might have had a valid suit. But I think also they had an axe to grind. Uh, I can't believe that many of these people who uh lived in that area did not know what we were doing out there. When I came out and applied for a job in April of 1952, I knew that it was a government plant and they were doing some kind of secret work.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:09:43

A:

Uh, it was never that uh, it was never that secret that they didn't know that something was going on out there. Um, so I think I think the people, some of the people had an axe to grind. I think they felt they could get money, uh, get things they wanted that way. I don't want to say, I don't want to name names or, I think they had things, priorities they were trying to push through. And I think that was one of the ways they figured they could get it.

21:10:47

Q:

Now I was told that I need to ask you about Clyde Bingham.

A:

(Laughter) Mr. Bingham. He was, yeah, he was the director of security when I started. In fact he hired me. He hired me but he didn't interview me and for the first week I wondered who that old man was who was going around every morning asking me how I was.

21:11:13

A:

And Mr. Bingham, if he were there today he would have had one lawsuit filed after another. Because he would, want me to say about the night before? He would say to the girls, "Did you do anything last night that you had a little cry about this morning?" And he was, but he was very, he was very nice. I know one year at Christmas he took the single girls all over to Beverly Hills.

21:11:43

A:

And he was very careful because he would not pick any of us up by ourself. We had to all meet at a certain area and then he took us over to Beverly Hills and bought our dinner, ordered for us. Took us into the gambling room, he was really a nice person but he was a character. Really, uh lot of tales about him. And he'd get mad at, his name was Walter Radelhoff, he was security man in DOE.

21:12:18

A:

And Mr. Bingham would get mad and he'd say "Goddammit Walter!!!" And they'd go at each other tooth and nail. He was a nice person though. And one time he, we all went out to see a friend of ours who had had surgery and Mr. Bingham had an apartment in Harrison and he asked us to come up to his apartment. We all went up to his apartment and he opened up his drawers and he showed us everything.

21:12:50

A:

His socks were laying just, he was an old bachelor, his socks were laying just so. His undershirts were folded, it was so funny. He was a nice, nice guy.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:13:04

Q:

That's great. Oh my gosh. Uh, how do you feel about work that's going on at Fernald now with the cleanup?

A:

I think apparently they're doing a very good job. They have, how many plants are left? Not many.

Q:

Gosh, Plant 1 is gone. Plant 4 is gone.

A:

And (Plant) 7 is gone.

Q:

(Plant) 7 is gone.

A:

Were you there, were you there when, did you see the T-shirt that says "I survived"?

Q:

And so did Plant 7.

21:13:37

A:

I have that T-shirt.

Q:

Yeah, I was up on the water tower when they brought that down, or didn't bring that plant down.

A:

No I think they're, from all that I've read and the information they sent down, I think they're doing a superb job. And I think they're keeping the neighbors happy. That's a plus in itself.

21:14:05

Q:

Now since they are tearing plants down kind of fast and plants will be gone soon, I think most of the buildings will be gone, what would you like to see done with that land when it's all cleared off?

A:

Well it'd be nice, a big memorial. I think a park, park area. It's a good area for that. Um, I think that would be appropriate.

21:14:37

Q:

You mentioned memorial, what kind of memorial would you build there if you could build a memorial there?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

(Laughter) Fernald was here. Oh, I don't know. Um, I just said that jokingly, I guess just a plaque. I don't know, what would you say on that? Um, here lies the remains of Fernald. No, I think, I think a park area would be an appropriate thing to have. I don't think they'd want to build homes there. I think you might be asking for trouble down the road.

21:15:21

A:

Uh, you know I think they've come much farther, or much further since Love Canal but you're always finding people who are ready to uh file suits. And I think many of the suits that have been filed too, uh we live in a production area, this whole Cincinnati area. You know the Gulf Refining Company over here, the smoke stacks that they put out and the stuff they put into the river, I hate to think about it. And uh CG&E down here, I've seen smoke roll out of there. So this is just a high production area.

21:16:03

Q:

Now a term that they've been using at work a little bit to describe folks like you who have been at the plant, who were at the plant for 30 some years, sometimes 40 years. We have a couple of people who have been there 45 years (Comment – yes), they're calling them the Cold War Warriors.

A:

Oh, really?

Q:

How do you feel about that term?

21:16:19

A:

Cold War Warriors? I guess it could be appropriate. We were at that time. I don't think it denotes any, anything derogatory does it?

21:16:48

Q:

Great. Um, is there anything you want to, oh I do want to ask you about the, you mentioned the medical plan the medical monitoring. Are you on the medical monitoring plan? (Comment – uh-huh) Can you tell us a little bit about that?

A:

You mean is that where we go every year, out to Drake Hospital? Yes, oh I think it's very good. I'm, I understand many people have discovered problems out there. I think it's yeah I think it's good.

21:17:18

Q:

And how did you get involved in that? Was that people work here or how did that work?

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

I think we had to fill out forms if we were interested in doing that. Gosh, when I found out I had high blood pressure, that was 25 years ago, they found out at Fernald. And they said to me “your blood pressure is up.” Betty Smith was the nurse. Did you talk to Betty Smith?

21:17:46

Q:

I think she turned us down.

A:

Oh, she’s a nice person. And she called me up about a week or so later and said “did you do anything about your blood pressure?” And I said “no”. And she said, “Well, you should.” So I finally went to the doctor and I did have blood pressure and I was over in medical. She said “you come back and tell us.” And I went back and told them and then I was walking out the building crying.

21:18:13

A:

I said “I’m going to be crippled the rest of my life.” And she said, “No you’re not. Thousands of people have high blood pressure.” And I said, “What do you know?” We had a good medical bunch out there and I’m really pleased with the people at Drake Hospital. They are all very nice.

21:18:36

Q:

Good. Uh, is there anything else you wanted to add? Something we didn’t.

A:

I think I’ve talked enough. After you leave I’ll think of lots of things that I could have said but.

21:18:48

Q:

Well thanks a bunch. We’re going to do uh nat sound now, natural sound. Where we just need to have quiet on the set for about 30 seconds. Uh, this is nat sound.