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Transcript

Name: Dan Phares

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Project Number 20012

Tape FLHP 0136

20:01:08

Q:

Okay, we always start with the hardest question, if you can give us your name and spell it.

20:01:06

A:

Ah, Dan Phares P-H-A-R-E-S.

20:01:13

Q:

Good. Can you just give us a little background, where you were born, sisters, brothers, those types of things?

20:01:18

A:

Okay, um, I was born in Hamilton, I have one sister who is 28 severely mentally retarded um, and that's it, that's my family. I have a vast extended family um, and grew up knowing that the older generation um, had three of my great, great grandparents alive, last one dying when I was sixteen and spent a lot of my weekends out there on the farm. So um, I am very close to all my family history.

20:01:55

Q:

And where did they live.

20:02:00

A:

They also lived in Hamilton. Just outside, they had a farm out there um; it would have been my great grandfather and grandmother Kunka. Um, the farm was over 100 years old when I was there. It still exists, they sold it. The people that bought it refurbished the house and rebuilt the main barn and still utilize it.

20:02:27

Q:

And where did you go to school and what did you study?

20:02:31

A:

Okay, in Hamilton I went to Steven T. Badin High School and then I went on to Bowling Green State University where I majored in Interpersonal and Public Education with an emphasis on visual

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communications and then it went from there. I spent a year at the Columbus Art and Design and graphic design until my money ran out (laughing).

20:02:58

Q:

That's kind of expensive. (Comment – Yes, arts supplies) right.

A:

The choice of art is not, art supplies is.

Q:

So when you first got out of school, first of all what year was that?

20:03:09

A:

I graduated from Bowling Green in December of 1989 and then returned to school the summer of 1990 and then spent the three semesters in Columbus.

20:03:20

Q:

So throughout your, the sort of last two years of your college career you were camp counselor at Fort Scott.

20:03:27

A:

Actually I started out the first two years of my college career. I was there '86, '87.

20:03:38

Q:

Tell us about your camp experience? What was it like while you were there, what was the physical grounds like, what were the kids like.

20:03:45

A:

Oh, the physical grounds was actually gorgeous, it was beautiful. I, it was on the fence line went on up toward a hill and um, after going past the hills when you get into the girl's camp and farther up was the boy's camp, pretty well organized laid out camp. Um, with also we had the horse, we had our hiking trails, we also had a chapel, since it was run by the archdiocese of Cincinnati.

20:04:15

A:

Um, we do, we did have a play barn that was utilized by the Nature Department; we had the Pecks, which was ah more of a hangout for the counselors where we had our parties. A number of us put murals down there. Um, a lot of history within that and that was under the boy's counselor, Kevin. Um, and the girls had theirs. And then there was Mark Maxwell's house, and then there was the newer, I don't know what to call it um, they usually rented it out for retreats center.

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20:05:07

A:

Um, then you had the two swimming pools, two mess halls um, Doc's place, you know, the first aid station um, it was Doc's place. Um, you had the hill um, just part of the boy's camp, the stage house and then the farm house which utilized everything from storage then to later to actually where they sold candy and tee shirts and stuff like that.

20:05:49

A:

Counselors varied um, some of them traditionally came from being campers um, other ones was brought in usually by those people to fill those gaps. Um, a lot of them were families, traditionally your mother or dad worked there, you mother and dad might have met there and that's the reason why you even exist and then you went to camp as a counselor and your kids too went to camp as a counselor. So you had three or four generations of families who worked there as campers, counselors, consultants and benefactors.

20:06:33

A:

Um, that wasn't my case; I was brought into the family by a friend. Campers again existed out of people who had been at camp, a family that had gone to camp. It was tradition for that family to send their kids to camp and then there was what some of us called the drop offs. Those were the kids that basically got dropped off; they were there for three, four, five sessions in a row.

20:07:01

A:

While their family went to some trip to Europe or went to the Bahamas and all that. They were literally dropped off, we became the babysitters. Those campers had a hard time. You know, they got lonely, they got shuffled from one cabin to another every session. They had a hard time. And then there was the cubbies, which were the inner city kids, they usually came on some kind of tuition and reimbursement or some organization collected the money to send them to camp, so this was their first experience at camp.

20:07:40

A:

Um, or even an outdoor setting like that. They were heartbreakers too, we had this limited amount of time to do anything with them. Sometimes it was the simplest thing as teaching them manners at the table instead of just grabbing at food. Um, some of the stories they'd sometimes tell of situations they'd come from would just tear your heart out.

20:08:08

A:

And one thing we always hated at the end of the week was that, oh my God, we got to send them back to that situation. We gave them this week, two weeks relief from their life and it seemed like a different angle. And then we got to send them back and we don't want to, you know, we have so much more we want to do with them and give them a chance to do things they've never done before.

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20:08:29

A:

To work with them and we don't have that chance, we have to send them back to that same low-income housing or an abusive family or whatever and that was always hard.

20:08:44

Q:

What were some of the activities you did with the campers and those kids?

20:08:46

A:

Um, that varied on what position I had, but in general terms we divided them in three groups, there was the senior campers, junior campers and the midgets. Um, that way they kept in their age category, they didn't feel overwhelmed by, or somebody who was older or felt like they were babysitting somebody younger. Senior campers got to do more, got to experience more, they had the canoe trip, their own camp fire, their own activities that was away from the junior and midget campers.

20:09:28

A:

Midget camper's activities consist of things that would gear them more into being more comfortable in relating to this experience. The junior campers were the middle group, they got to do a little bit more than the midget campers, maybe stayed up a little bit later. Um, but there was definitely that division between them and the senior campers. Everybody wanted to be a senior camper, everybody wanted to come back and be a senior camper and do some of the stuff the senior campers did.

20:10:01

A:

Um, and I was the WSI for a couple of the canoe trips, the Water Safety Instructor and that was always fun. I only had one incident where I actually had to take care of somebody first aid um, make sure they stayed out of the water, I looked at them and said you're going to need stitches, I'm sorry. We can't let you in the water; you're going to have to stay in this canoe. Nobody's going to be able to play with this canoe, you can't tip us over.

20:10:30

A:

We've got to get through this trip, get you back and get you taken care of. For those trips usually were fun, we um, would start out in the morning take a break time, or we had lunch. Right after lunch then the activities got to be wild, the water fights, the tipping of the canoes. There were certain spots in the river that you put your floatation device on and you can lay there and it just pushes you along like a slide. So you'd do that, then you'd have to walk all the way back and get your canoe (laughing).

20:11:10

A:

So I think the counselors had as much fun doing those activities with the senior campers as senior campers had and by the end of the day we were totally exhausted and we still probably had a dance that night to do (laughing).

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20:11:26

Q:

Do you remember any campers specifically, some of your favorites.

20:11:28

A:

Oh, There was one camper, which very specifically was one of the drop-off campers. Um, his was the hardest one, his parents came two hours before the camp was even officially open to take campers and they didn't even want to wait. They drove up only to the boys end of the camp, threw his stuff out, put him out, didn't even wait for registration and left. And we couldn't do anything; he had to sit there two hours on a bench before we could even process him through. We had our jobs, we had to clean things, we had to get things ready.

20:12:13

A:

Um, we just had to organize ourselves before we could process anybody. So he had a long wait by himself and that just kind of foreshadowed his whole experience at camp. He was ushered from one cabin to another. Kept being popped back and forth being a junior camper and senior camper depending on how many campers we had that week, because he was right at that age where he could've been either one.

20:12:43

A:

Um, throughout the summer. I believe he was there for six or seven sessions, almost the whole summer and I got him during the two-week session that we had. And I had senior campers and they placed him at senior campers and he was just a little lost, he didn't know what to do. He had been through most of the programs before so when he went to nature there was nothing new for him. When he went to arts and crafts there was nothing new.

20:13:14

A:

Um, at this point he could saddle his own horse and ride off if he wanted to, he had been over to the horses so many times. And he never could connect with anybody because the second he would connect then they were gone so he actually caused a lot of trouble the first couple of days I had him.

20:13:33

A:

I finally had to sit down with him and have a discussion and that's when all the emotions came out and how he felt and how he missed being with family and just being home and we actually got a hold of his parents and he begged and begged if his uncle could come and pick him up and they said no. He was stuck at camp, there was nothing we could do.

20:14:01

A:

So we had to start making the best of it and then we started incorporating him in helping out CITs, Counselors in Training. Letting him do that, because, what else, had had certain circumstances and we had to accommodate him to make the experience very pleasant. And after I had him that session, I

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checked up with him and made sure how things were going. Talked to his, whoever the counselor was then and find out.

(Tape has been edited at this point with the permission of the interviewee)

20:14:35

A:

Never could predict what kids would do, I mean, we had kids who, I mean, senior campers would try to sneak out and meet their new girlfriend, you know, somewhere on the camp. Some of them had a new girlfriend every night (laughing). So it was a wild experience.

20:14:50

A:

What was it like having that many kids at one place and how many counselors did you usually have?

20:14:58

A:

Oh, every cabin had a counselor and plus then we had counselors that were specifically in charge of their program. I was in charge of drama that last summer I was there and then there was always a handful leftover to help with maintenance, to fill in gaps, et cetera. I think we could have had anywhere from 80 to 90 counselors plus support staff. So, and then the kids varied depending on the session.

20:15:37

A:

The 2-week session, which was our regular session, was the big one where almost all the cabins were full; you couldn't find a bunk bed anywhere. Um, all the counselors some times you had to be pulled to be a counselor for a cabin. Um, then we had like the first two week sessions where just a handful of the counselors were cabin counselors and there was enough that other people could actually be specifically placed in programs and that's all they had to do.

20:16:05

A:

So it varied. So, and you could have had anywhere from eight to ten in a regular cabins, the midgets and juniors. I believe they had 20 to 25 in the senior cabin, because there was two senior cabins for the boys. The older senior cabin and the younger senior cabin. And I think the girls had two as well, again, for the younger and older.

20:16:44

Q:

So tell me about, uh, pranks?

20:16:46

A:

Oh boy (laughing). Counselor pranks or camper pranks. (Comment – Both).

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20:16:53

A:

Oh, there was a newsletter that went out, an underground newsletter. They never gave names they always gave initials of who was doing what with who and who was seen with who and all that and I won't say that 90 percent was made up just for the fun of it. Um, let's see a lot of counselor pranks geared a lot with using the campers, water balloons, mud fights, jeez, there was also playing the same songs over and over and over on the loud speaker for days on end, you know.

20:17:45

A:

And it was ongoing joke. We would almost gear the campers into this frenzy where like this cabin would rebel against this song and try to attack the other cabin or something like that or try to attack and see if they could get a hold of that record. And it was kind of tongue-in-cheek kind of thing, but I think for the campers it was like a real important thing to do because they couldn't stand this song anymore (laughing).

20:18:13

A:

Um, then we had our parties um, jeez, I think we owned Les Flick's by the end of the summer. I think we paid for their being open for the whole summer. And we had to watch that, we had responsibilities um, for the campers. I mean, we couldn't go out and get slushed. That was against the rules and if you did, you know, you could get let go.

20:18:45

A:

It was extremely important that you, you know, take care of these kids. They were your responsibility. We're your family in a sense, whether you hated them or liked them. Um, campers usually geared to trying to do something to top or embarrass their counselor. That was a big thing. Um, anywhere of doing something, lunch or dinner to being in a contest against their counselor, be it tug-of-war or water balloons, or a mud hike.

20:19:26

A:

If you're a counselor and you're on a mud hike, you knew 95 percent of the chance that you were going to go down a hill. The kids are gonna get you and you're going to go sliding down a hill on your back, get mud from head to toe and then they're going to get you eventually there when you get the hose and have to hose everybody off. Because it was the coldest water (laughing).

20:19:46

A:

Um, the whole things with the toilets. The toilets overflowed a number of times and um, we had a little skit to deal with that too; how much toilet paper they can use (laughing) and how many times they had to flush the toilet. Oh, one of the big jokes that we had for some of the campers is when we're in the shower. Um, it's just like one big huge room. At one time we had convinced some of the campers that when you flushed the toilet it didn't go right down to the sewer, it went through the showers first (laughing).

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20:20:25

A:

It was like, theirs is turning yellow, you got to get out of there; yours is turning brown, oh my God, move, move, move (laughing).

20:20:32

A:

That was terrible for us to do that, but it was great (laughing). And there would be like nobody go to toilet while I'm going to the shower, please, please, please (laughing). And I would purposely go and flush the toilet anyway and they would all come scatter to the middle of the shower and going, which one of us is going to get it (laughing).

20:21:02

A:

Oh, but then we had some that almost took it too far and we had trouble with one senior camper. They would bring their chest, coolers and stuff usually with snack food and that. Well one kids brought a whole chest full of explosives; firecrackers and bottle rockets. Actually had knives in there and stuff and it was like, uh, and it took us about three days before we discovered it, but we did discover it and it all had to be confiscated. He was not a happy camper, sorry to say.

20:21:36

A:

But um, you know, for the safety sake we couldn't have things like that. It was too, too dangerous. The only time we did have fireworks was for the Fourth of July. We did bring people in, the kids sat on the hill, and the fireworks were away, down. So extremes.

20:21:56

Q:

What was a typical meal like, with that many kids?

20:22:00

A:

Uh, that was edible, oh, if you got to eat. Sometimes, you know, food got finished before you even got anything. Breakfast was the big thing; all the kids wanted the sugary cereal. And the counselors were in charge of getting the boxes of cereal. So it was a mad rush to get those kids the sugary cereal so you didn't have to hear it the rest of the day.

20:22:30

A:

The *Frosted Flakes* um, *Pop Tarts* was a big one. Everybody wanted their *Pop Tarts*, everybody wanted their specific *Pop Tarts* and again those went quickly. But then you also had pancakes and waffles and eggs and all that, that were kind of left alone. So that was what the counselors got to eat.

20:22:54

A:

Unless you were like one of those counselors that kind of bullied the kids and got the sugary cereal anyway (laughing). Lunch usually consisted of colder foods, sandwiches maybe with a soup, peanut

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butter sandwiches. Anything of that nature, it was way too hot for the cooks to always being cooking meals at that time.

20:23:24

A:

Dinner usually then consisted of more typical food, your hot dogs, your beans, your hamburgers. We had lasagna, we had pizza um, those were days they looked forward to. Um, you know, beverages, your typical bug juice and all that. If you could work things out maybe once during that week, their cabin got to go to the snack bar and get sodas for dinner.

20:23:53

A:

Um, and the snack bar also had soda, candy and potato chips, all the junk foods that the kids loved. Um, usually you would also, would organize one time where they could raid it, quote unquote. They didn't know whether their parents had paid for it already. We all knew that the parents had paid for it already.

20:24:10

A:

They were going to raid it; they think they were going to get something for free and they think you're greatest counselor in the world that was able to organize it and they could sneak in; in the middle of the night.

20:24:20

A:

And they didn't realize it, it was organized that way (laughing).

Q:

We have to change tapes, so hang on.

Tape FLHP0137

20:24:46

Q:

Um, there was a horseback riding center on site. Tell us a little bit about the horses themselves and the campers?

20:24:51

A:

A lot of the horses came from being abused. When we first got them um, a lot of work had to be done to get their temper down to get them to trust humans. A lot of them were found at auctions, so we had to find out what kind of temperament these horses have. What horses would be counselor horses, which ones would be camper horses and which ones were going to be strictly just for those people that run the horse program.

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20:25:24

A:

Um, Heidi, if I remember correctly was very strong in that and took a lot of responsibility for the horses while I was there. Um, some of em were just so scared of humans, I mean, they would just run when you see them, but they were gorgeous horses and if it wasn't for us having those horses and training them a lot of them would have been just killed.

20:25:53

A:

Um, you know, this was their last chance to do anything and usually maybe one or two didn't make it through the summer, we just couldn't handle 'em. But the rest of them were trained, was able to handle the kids, handle different situations, became as much part as the family experience as anything else, and it was very nice at the end of the summer to send them off somewhere nice.

20:26:35

A:

You know, either to another center where kids ride horses on um, to another farmer, or a horse farm or something um, they did a lot of work with those horses.

20:26:38

A:

And then all the counselors then were also trained to deal with the horses. We were very much encouraged two weeks before the camp opened to go see the horses, to go on different rides. We would organize rides for just the counselors to get used to knowing what the horses were which one was which; which had the temperament. Um, so were going to know the kids and we'll know which one may be able to handle a horse better and which one has never been on a horse before.

20:27:08

A:

And who we were going to have to watch. So it was an exciting part of the camp, you know, we're going to ride horses today, we're going to ride horses today. Some of the kids were afraid of the horses, but most of them were extremely excited.

20:27:25

Q:

Tell us a little bit about some of the kids that came to camp um, that um, came from abusive homes?

20:27:32

A:

All right. Well there was one specific camper that I remember and I believe that Dennis had him. And all Dennis did was he turned around and lifted his hand to pick up something off the bunk bed. It was just enough of a reaction that this kid went crying to the corner and cowered in the corner and it took about four or five counselors to talk him out of the corner. He was afraid that Dennis was going to turn around and hit him.

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20:27:57

A:

Um, that was the first indication with that camper that he was abused. But a good indication that we always found was what we called raccoon eyes, which is the dark circles around the eyes that usually formed by being hit so much that the blood clots and all that would usually end up settling around the eyes. We usually had a good indication that they've been abused.

20:28:24

A:

Or if the kid actually start hitting on or abusing other campers, we usually got the hint that they've learned that from someplace. A lot of those kids would also hide in the back of the cabin when it came to changing clothes, or didn't want to go swimming because they didn't want to take off their shirts or reveal anything.

20:28:47

A:

And usually it's about that time that we would notice the marks on the arms or the sides or constantly have Band-Aids with them. Um, we couldn't do much. All we could do was report it to the camp. The camp would have to take care of it from there. Maybe somebody would come out; maybe somebody didn't. We had no control over it and in the end we had to hand them over again.

20:29:20

A:

We couldn't take the responsibility of keeping them and that was as much heartbreaking as anything else. Some of them we just wanted to hide and say, oh well they ran away (laughing). We couldn't encourage them to run away, but we couldn't, it wasn't our place to do it. That was some of the toughest times we had. I think each counselor had their own story on that affected one way or the other.

20:29:53

Q:

And how do you think the camp, how do you think that experience of being at camp helped those kids that were abused.

20:30:01

A:

I think it gave them a chance to see what it's like to not be abused physically. Sometimes the mental abuse couldn't be helped and they would react, their actions would cause them to be in situations that almost encouraged emotional abuse and something else we had to look for. We had to be very careful what we did.

20:30:35

A:

If the kid ran amuck, we couldn't just grab them. Most of the times we were told we could grab them by the shoulders and only the shoulders and if they said let go, you've got to let them go.

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20:30:42

A:

There was that, such a fine line between control and abuse, be it physical, be it mental, be it emotional and we were constantly walking that line. So, we and we were very careful. We tried to help the kids, encourage the kids, expand how they feel about themselves, to be more positive about themselves.

20:31:15

A:

And it was always hard that last day to just turn them over, you're like I don't want them to go, you know, it's not right. They shouldn't have to live that way. And you just kind of hope that okay, maybe we'll see them next year, maybe that one week. But what could one week do compared to a whole year's worth of abuse.

20:31:39

Q:

Kids from the city when they would first come to Fort Scott, how did they react to being there, the grounds and being out in the country?

20:31:48

A:

Um, they would stay in a group. Most of them would stay in a group until whoever drove them out, whoever is in charge of their group would place them in the cabins. Usually they were divided up but usually they were kept in groups of twos and threes in their cabin. Very few times where they completely split apart being alone by themselves. Um, and they always tried to pair them up within their friend's group so they had somebody to communicate and deal with.

20:32:20

A:

Um, and since you sat with your cabin the kids were then forced to communicate and deal with the other kids in the cabin, which we felt was good because we felt if we left them alone and then to do whatever they want, sit wherever they want. They would all just huddle together and instead of having a good experience they would just have that group experience, be it bad or good.

20:32:44

A:

And we wanted to have 'em have an individual experience. I think some of the rough ones were those that came from families where the sister was taken to the girls camp and the brothers were taken to the boys camp and they wouldn't want to see each other. And we would want to make that time where they can see each other and talk and relay experiences together. Um, we always had chapel every night, they could go meet at chapel.

20:33:13

A:

We usually had one time a week where we actually had a mass where they could sit together and talk and then we had activities in the evenings that mixed the junior and midget campers where they could

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got to say oh, guess what I did today, you know. A lot of them were just scared to death of the animals. A squirrel would cause them to be jumpy, an unfamiliar noise would scare them, lights out would scare them.

20:33:50

A:

Um, the oddest thing would scare them um, water for some odd reason would, a creek would. Um, horses was a big one would scare the inner city kids more than anything else. Even archery would scare some of the kids; they weren't exposed to it. Campfire, opening campfire scared a number of them. They would sit there very wide-eyed and just like, what am I doing here, I'm left here to die (laughing). Oh, so.

20:34:36

Q:

How did being a counselor at Fort Scott, how did it change your life.

20:34:41

A:

I came, first of all I became part of that family, I might not have been inner site with them, but you became part of that family and you start to really become concerned and worried about all the other counselors and you had your arguments like any other family but ultimately you worked at this group as a group.

20:35:06

A:

And um, that was a big change I think where a lot of us came in as individuals. Um, even if you've been to the camp before, each year the mix was new, it was different and you're never going to have the same experience the next year. So that was one of the big changes how to deal with that change. Learning what is out there it felt like you had a sheltered life until you got to met these kids.

20:35:38

A:

Then, a whole new world opened up not only to them but to you. I mean, you only heard their life verbally; maybe you're lucky to see their parents. Lucky is a big word, a lot of times the parents did not drop them off. There were grandparents, or a group organizer or something that would change your life, especially, seeing the parents.

20:36:05

A:

There were the parents that just dropped off and wanted to go. There were the parents that kind of hung around and not sure what to do. There were the parents that came and wanted to do everything for the kid and you're like, you can go now, your kid's fine, please go, you're driving me nuts.

20:36:27

A:

And they want to tell you every little thing about their kid and like I was telling you before my favorite thing is when an adult comes up to you and says my son is allergic to grass.

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20:36:32

A:

(Gesturing with his hands out) And your like it's all over what are we supposed to do with him?
(Laughing) There's no place I can put him that he's not going to run into grass or he's allergic to pollen and you sent him to camp? (Laughing). There is no air conditioning here; there's one building with air conditioning and it's for the girls, he can't live there.

20:36:54

A:

Um, what was the other one. Allergic to horses, we did get a few of those, we had to watch those. Allergies to food and you were responsible to know that. You would report that to the kitchen but you were responsible to make sure that camper did not eat that food no matter how bad and much everybody else was eating that food. Uh, usually if you could talk to the cabin, have them understand we could request alternate food for the whole cabin and they would be pretty cool about it.

20:37:28

A:

Every once in a while they weren't and, you know, you had to deal with that situation but you'd get a cabin that was, the kids were understanding and you got to eat something different. And the kids kind of liked that, you know, our table got to eat such and such (laughter).

20:37:47

Q:

Let's talk about the proximity to Fernald. Um, first uh you started at the camp in 1986 (Comment – right) so um, that was shortly after the dust collector releases out at Plant 9 and those types of things. How were campers and their parents and counselors and the administration of the camp, how were they reacting to being at such close proximity to Fernald?

20:38:14

A:

Okay um, at the time, that started really the time of the struggle with Fernald. Um, the Girl Scout camp, I can't remember if it was closed or it was just about to close 'cause of it's proximity to the camp, uh to Fernald.

20:38:35

A:

Um, I mean, the second that hit the paper that was a concern for us, for the parents. Not as much for the campers, the campers were a little bit more oblivious to it. But we definitely weren't. Um, then it started out with having tests. People coming out and taking soil tests, taking water tests um, in different areas of the camp.

20:39:04

A:

Um, we were close enough that most of the time when the kids came into the camp, because they were coming from Ross, they would pass Fernald.

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20:39:11

A:

It was, they couldn't help it. They would see it, we knew where it was, it was just down the road. Um, everybody always wanted to know what it was and for the longest time of course people thought it was Purina or dog food or something. Um, so people had concerns about well, what's the soil like, what's the drinking water like, the shower water. Do we have anything set up in case anything happened?

20:39:40

A:

Will they call, get called if something happened. We had a list of all the emergency phone numbers. Twice a summer we would have a drill. When the alarms went off we would have school buses come, pack everybody in the school buses and drive to a safer area. Um, that was always a massive scare. Um, trying to, is this a drill, is this the real thing?

20:40:07

A:

Usually we knew it was a drill but it was the thought we had to do this, it was very important to get all these kids out. Um, it was a tense time. When those things happened it was a very tense time. I mean, we had, we couldn't say much as counselors we couldn't. We could direct them to the camp office. They would then give them the information they felt was needed and what we got.

20:40:36

A:

We done a lot of phone calls to Fernald going "we want to know about this, we want to know about that" and we didn't always get the, a adequate information. At least what we felt was adequate. Then we're dealing with parents who are scared. What are we supposed to tell them? And some of them were very adamant about it. They want to know. They want to hear about it, they want to know all the details.

20:41:02

A:

They want to know their child is safe. We could only make it as safe as we knew about. So.

20:41:13

Q:

Can we pause for a second? (Very loud truck going by)

20:41:16

Q:

It's no louder than that humming over there.

(Cameraman – speak)

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Q:

Um, tell us again what it was like when um, the camp and all the counselors and the administration and the parents and campers and everybody found out about what was happening at Fernald with the uh, uh dust collector releases and those types of things.

20:41:37

A:

Okay. I mean, it was a major concern. Uh, the parents were concerned about their kids. They wanted to know that when they left their kids they would be safe. And like I said before that the counselors really couldn't say much. We had to direct them to the camp office. And the camp office would call Fernald and try to get information and we never felt like it was totally adequate information.

20:42:00

A:

But we could only give the parents what we received. And when we felt like we gave the campers the safest environment possible but even we didn't know. I mean, we had counselors there that were there when they took the tests and saw the tests and all that but it was very trusting. And uh once the Girl Scout camp did close we saw a decline in campers. So, I mean, it's a perception, that just happens.

20:42:36

Q:

And what kind of questions would parents ask when they would drop their kids off when they would see Fernald, you know, on the way or whatever?

A:

Uh, they would ask, "Is there something in place if something happened?" Will they be able to get information. Uh, will somebody give me a call um, how's the water, how's the soil. Is my child ever going to be in danger at any time? How close do you get to the site? That kind of information.

20:43:10

Q:

And did you ever see any of the soil testing or water testing taking place?

A:

Uh, just once. That second summer when I was there early they came out and took some samples of the soil.

20:43:23

Q:

And what did that process involve, what did they do?

A:

It was just basically coming, planning out where they wanted to take plugs, taking the plugs, putting them in a vial or packaging and then going on to the next sample. And that was as extended as we got seeing it, visually seeing it.

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20:43:47

Q:

And what were the results of those tests? What did they find out about the camp?

A:

Well they always came back as negative, no health problems, no health risks as far as we know. But we never knew what does that mean? Does this mean how many particles per millimeter or what, you know, we didn't know. It was just always said, "well there's no health risks." Uh, that didn't give us much information.

20:44:15

A:

So and uh, you know, you think about the Archdiocese took a big chance. Every year they opened up afterwards, you know, taking that gamble that it's worth doing this. It's worth having the camp open. 'Cause, you know, we're getting questions and we're not getting answers.

20:44:34

Q:

So tell me about the decline of campers. Uh, how did that affect, first of all what were the numbers and how did that affect the morale of the administration and the counselors?

A:

Uh, I wasn't there for the big drop. The big drop happened in '88, that was the summer I wasn't there. I did go to the camp at the beginning and I was told there was a big drop in attendance, there were going to be some financial squeezes. They were not going to have a full camp for Rodeo Week, which would be incredible; we always had a full camp.

20:45:08

A:

Um, that lessened the experience in my opinion for the campers. I mean, especially Rodeo Week when so many kids were there it was, it just had just this energy about it. Uh, counselors were wading through it, especially those that had worked there for years and years, they were doing everything they could to make it work.

20:45:35

A:

Uh, talking it up, talking to their friends who had kids, uh trying to get other kids out there. Sharing their experiences, going to different churches talking about their experiences of camp, what benefits it was. It was a consolidated effort to get new campers to fill those gaps of those who were just afraid to send their kids.

20:46:03

Q:

And had.

(Cameraman – can we stop?)

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20:46:06

(Cameraman – Yeah. I mean, it was intermittent but we were definitely getting it. [Comment – Okay] Now I'm not getting any so [Comment – Cool]).

20:46:17

Q:

Okay. Um, with the decline of the campers um, how did it affect some of your friends who were counselors or administrators at the camp?

A:

Uh, there was a lot of disappointment, a lot of frustrations. A lot of people scared. Uh, they had, most of their childhood life was surrounded by the camp and a number of them some of their adult lives were surrounded by the camp.

20:46:50

A:

It meant a major change for them if this didn't work that last year. Um, there was so much history, so much that went on that we wanted to continue to go on and we didn't want to lose that. You know, we've always kept this as family. We always kept in touch with the older counselors, past counselors, past campers. When I was there and we celebrated 65 years I went through books and books of photos and we had slides made so that we had this huge presentation one night.

20:47:30

A:

We put up this huge screen down at the boys uh pool and just showed photos of all what happened at camp. The past and the counselors that were there. It was an incredible night that night and we didn't want to lose that. We felt like the camp had so much to offer and it was such a part of people's lives. It felt like not only a chapter we felt like a whole novel had ended.

20:48:08

A:

, You know, one of those continuing novels, or maybe we're on book 150 we don't know, but we felt like there was so much more to say. It was not an end of Fort Scott. It's still going on. It's just physical location is not there any more.

20:48:31

Q:

Tell us about when you found out that the camp wasn't going to be open anymore.

A:

Oh boy. The major news break happened between Christmas and New Year's when it was first told that our camp was not going to be open for the summer of '89. And I don't remember what news channel had it, but one of the news channel had uh gone to a family that had gone there a number of years. And they would always buy um, their kids um, tickets, little tickets, telling them that they were going to camp next year for Christmas.

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20:49:11

A:

And it was going to be the first year for the youngest son, I believe, for him to go. And all the sudden it was like okay, they got this birthday present of, you know, saying they're going to camp and all of the sudden within a week it was taken from them. It was like somebody took their Christmas present away from them. And that was so bad, it was like okay, of all the stories they could put on they put on that story.

20:49:36

A:

It was just like how could they, you know. They've taken away, you know, all these memories and all these future memories. And on top of all that they've taken away these kids Christmas presents. And I was like they can't. You know, you just didn't want to believe it. You were on the phone calling everybody going "Is this true, is this true, what can we do, what can, can we stop this?"

20:50:04

A:

"Um, you know, I wasn't going to be a counselor again but do you need me to come back, you know, I'll quit the job that I've got for next summer and come back, what can I do?" And at that point it was too late. There was just, it was oh (crying). If I remember correctly a number of them, a number of people met at Les Flick's the night that it was announced.

20:50:31

A:

I couldn't go, I couldn't even go to the auction. I just couldn't see it. I didn't want to see it go that way. I mean, I was so scared about what's gonna happen afterwards. It was like okay, if you sell it off but promise not to do anything to it, leave it just the way it is. You know, and I even have a friend who swears up and down he will win the lottery and buy it back and reopen the camp.

20:51:00

A:

There's so many of them that want to do that. We really do. And I think for the first time it hit me, when we went to the reunion we now have kids in these families that don't have that Fort Scott experience. They're just hearing the stories and it feels like they've missed out on so much and you want to tell them more stories and more stories and you want to fill them in.

20:51:27

A:

You want to make them feel like they've been there and it's not going to happen. They're not going to have that. And uh, a friend of mine, her name's Ellen, her son Billy, that's what he wanted to know. "What happened there? Well when did my mom and dad meet? You know, what was it like? Well can I go there some time? When can I go to camp?" You know, what do you tell them?

20:52:09

Q:

So as far as Fernald being so close, did most people attribute the closing of Fort Scott to the problems with Fernald?

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A:

There was about three camps. One felt that yes, Fernald and what happened and what was going on directly closed the camp. Uh, second camp felt that it was the fear of Fernald that closed the camp. They were afraid to send their kids, they were afraid of the unknown.

20:52:45

A:

Then there was the third group that says no that was an excuse. It was mismanagement of finances. It didn't matter. At that point it didn't matter. I think a lot of the counselors still feel Fernald's the enemy. They closed it, they took it away from us. So, that's probably why I get the strange looks (laughing). You work where? For who?

20:53:15

A:

It's like yeah, I work for Fernald. How do you work out there? Well I'm actually at Springdale, I'm not at the site, duh, duh, duh, duh, duh, etc., etc. We're cleaning it out. You know, you have to talk to them about the whole process of what's going on, what we expect. It's not going to change anything. It's just not going to change anything.

20:53:36

Q:

Okay, we're going to take a break and change tape.

TAPE FLHP0138

20:53:43

Q:

So Fernald was kind of a constant backdrop the whole time you were there at, at Fort Scott um, tell us about Tim.

A:

Okay. Tim was a friend of mine um, was brought in. He ended up meeting Ellen there who later became his wife. Um, the two of them hit it off very well. She actually started as a counselor in training um, and than later came back the next year as a counselor.

20:54:14

A:

Um, they ended up getting married um, quickly when she became pregnant. Um, and that's when they had Billy. They had the struggles of any young couple that just had a child right away but worked through it. They really did. Um, it was amazing. They were able to really guide and gear Billy a lot. He was one of the nicest, pleasant boys I've ever been around.

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20:54:53

A:

Um, he was all boy but yet he listened. Well behaved and all that. And then Tim came down with leukemia and a lot of people rallied around him. A lot of them were counselors too. And he started the treatments and we were there to help as much as we could.

20:55:19

A:

Um, Billy knew what was going on, knew that, what his father was going through, knew his father was going to lose his hair with the chemotherapy. Um, a lot of struggles. They made a lot of plans during that time about what was going to happen afterwards. They always thought about what was going to happen afterwards. Um, and I remember the whole thing was going in remission.

20:55:48

A:

Things were going well. He was going to the very last doctor's appointment. And at the appointment something was wrong. His count was off. They rushed him to the hospital and within three days later he was dead. He was just gone. It was just like, what, what, what, what, he was doing so well, you know. It was just incredible; it was just like wait, you know, who took this member of our family away.

20:56:19

A:

And I remember going to the funeral and just can't believe it, Tim was gone. And you went to Billy, you wanted to console him and he would look at you and say "But my father doesn't hurt any more and he's in a better place." It was like you're only three, you know. How can you deal with it so well. He knew his dad was gone and he knew that he was going to go on.

20:56:46

A:

And he knew his father was going to be okay now. Um, I saw then, Ellen and Billy one more time at a wedding of a friend's about a year later. And then I hadn't heard from them until about three weeks ago when we had a reunion. Billy's the same nice kid. Uh, I felt like we picked up right where we left off. Uh, he didn't really remember me. I mean, he knew he knew me, he couldn't remember, but he didn't remember his Uncle Gimme.

20:57:20

A:

Long story on that but I was Uncle Gimme. And within about 5, 10 minutes I was carrying him on my shoulder. He was listening to me as an authority figure but yet we had fun together. Ellen let me, you know, take him on some rides. Uh, it was great, it was great to see her again. And then she took me to the side and says "I know you're going to have an interview, there's something I want to say."

20:57:56

A:

"I'm not pursuing it, but all Tim's family has been checked, I've been checked. There's no signs of leukemia or anything, there's no reason for him to have. We're down to one element and one element

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only that we can figure it and it's like Tim was at camp a lot, an awful lot. Extra time, the extra work and all that and was exposed to Fernald a lot more than a lot of the other campers and counselors.”

20:58:25

A:

They can't prove it one way or the other at this point. But she says deep down I can't see any other way we're, how this could have happened. So, I said at this point I can't say anything.

20:58:41

A:

I wasn't there at the time, I'm sorry. And I say do you want to pursue it any farther? I said there are groups and she said no. I said it won't hurt me. I work there, it's not going to hurt me, I understand.

20:59:00

Q:

Let's talk a little bit about that issue the fact that you have a job at Fernald. First of all um, tell us a little bit about your job and how you got it.

A:

Oh, I actually started out as a subcontractor working in the uh Conduct of Operation and worked on site. Uh, scared me to death. I mean, my first thought of, when I parked and walked up to the building and had my visitor's pass is what am I doing here.

20:59:31

A:

Why am I here and why am I exposing myself again. I was scared. And then when I found out I was in this little dinky trailer that rocked every time the wind blew I thought not only am I going to get exposed, I'm going to die. (Laughter) I, but I needed a job, I needed the experience. I really had to think about it. Um, do I want to work for Fernald?

21:00:05

A:

So I started learning what was going on out there. And I started feeling like well I wasn't part of the problem. I'm not there during the processing but maybe, maybe for this small amount of time I can be part of the solution. It's not going to eliminate what happened to Fort Scott. It's not going to eliminate what's happened to the community but I've made an effort.

21:00:33

A:

So I have a job, I'm getting experience, and maybe I'm making, turning some wrongs into a right. And that's how I had to feel going in to it. And then when I finally got the transfer over into Graphics and I've been there now for 6½ almost 7 years now. Now I get to see a lot more of what Fernald is. I mean, I can be out on site but now I get to see it through photos, uh what's going on now.

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21:01:08

A:

What's changed now um, I also got to see what happened. What they were wearing back then. I get to see pictures of people in just a white outfit with a white paper hat during the processing of the uranium and then seeing the same location of somebody in full anti-Cs. And I have to wonder what was going on? What happened, you know, what were they thinking?

21:01:34

A:

You know, have we got to the point where, have we gone to the extreme that it's not that dangerous but we're so afraid or is it the opposite. Were they so oblivious to the dangers that they didn't realize what they were doing. I mean, it is night and day. I get to see both sides now.

21:01:57

Q:

That's an interesting perspective.

A:

Yeah. I mean, I don't think people get to see that. I mean, people know what it was like during the processing who worked here 'cause it was all hush, hush, nobody got to know. Now people know because it's out in the media, they hear things. Sometimes they're wrong things but we're exposed more. But they have nothing to compare it to. I have the advantage of comparing it now. Not experiencing it, but comparing it.

21:02:28

Q:

Now what do you tell your friends from Fort Scott, people that you're still in touch with, when they say where do you work now, you say Fernald, how do they react, what do you tell them now?

A:

Always the old joke, no I don't glow. That's always the first thing I have to say. Um, I tell them what I do, where I do it, what we're trying to do out here and what we've accomplished. Um, I want them to feel that things are changing. I just can't give them the hope of to have Fort Scott back.

21:03:09

A:

I'm not the one that can do that. I just want them to make sure that they feel comfortable knowing that I work there. And that ceases to become part of me that yes I work there but that's not who I am. I'm still the counselor that worked out at Fort Scott. I'm still the friend that you knew back then and has known since. Working at Fernald there's not this hush, hush I can't tell you anything about it any more.

21:03:41

A:

In fact I encourage them to find out more about it. So that they know that yeah they were a victim but it wasn't a victim that nobody cares about it. I want to make sure that people do care and history is not repeated.

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21:04:03

Q:

Um, you wanted to tell us about Ben, who was a counselor.

A:

Yeah. Um, Ben is a good example of what the Fernald family is like. Not remembering the situation exactly what he did but he was removed from his position. And had a couple days to get everything straightened out before leaving. Um, under the uh, boys cabin that the counselors stayed, the counselors cabin there was Pecks.

21:04:38

A:

It was a basement and we'd have parties there and people would write on the wall and all that and him and I went down there with paint and did, took one side of the wall and did this huge mural. We couldn't decide what we wanted to do and he was a big Beatles fan. And that whole era, he even looked like he came from, you know, late '60's early '70's.

21:05:04

A:

He dressed that way. We accepted him that way. Um and one of the tapes he had was "The Magical Mystery Tour" so we did a big mural of that. It was wonderful. I skipped out of a couple programs to help him. And the two of us sat there and I think for three and a half hours painted this mural. And left our mark there. It was more important for it to be his mark, but it's as much mine as it was his. But that was the kind of family we had. You know, you didn't just come and leave, you left a mark.

21:05:47

Q:

Great. Um, tell us about the camper who got lost.

A:

Okay. Um, this was during the two week session and on Saturday night usually the senior campers had what they called war night. This consisted of splitting the campers into two teams. They would have a limited amount of water balloons, when the water balloons were gone then it became like capture the flag kind of situation.

21:06:20

A:

When you were captured you were brought to the main camp fire and you had to sit there for a X amount of time which was figured out by the counselors or however we felt. Uh, it was kind of a time also for the counselors to kick back. We usually got baked potatoes and steaks and stuff like that and the kids would come in after being captured going, "Where's our food?"

21:06:46

A:

You ate it already okay, you had it. This is our dinner. Um, it was in the woods and the flags were of course in separate parts of the woods and um, it was a really good night. We had a really good; what

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we called war night, tag team night. Um, and we got all the campers back and all that and counted down and one was missing. First of all we had to find out who was missing.

21:07:18

A:

And we found out it was a first year camper which was unusual for a senior camper to be a first year camper. Uh that caused a little panic there. So we found out which team he was on and a large group of us went over and did a massive search of that area and could not find him. Uh, it became very late in the evening and it was decided that we have got to do another search but we've got to expand it.

21:07:46

A:

Uh, we got as many counselors as we could possibly out. We had decided to get all the counselors in training and a handful of the most senior campers that we trusted to do the search. We broke up in groups of three each carrying a lantern into the woods. Uh, we were given the edge of the property, a map of the edge of the property and just a prayer that this camper did not somehow stumble onto Fernald property.

21:08:19

A:

We were just hoping out of hope. So here we were in the middle of the woods. I was with myself counselor in training and a senior camper carrying this lantern in the dark woods and it felt like something out of a horror movie. I was so thankful the other two were there and we're just looking and just praying and screaming and yelling and hoping to find this camper.

21:08:55

A:

Um, we finally had to give up our search and go back. Everybody got back and it was decided it was too late. I took one of the first shifts and sat at the main campfire hoping that if we kept the main campfire open he would see the fire and come. Um, Fernald was contacted and they started checking the outskirts of their property to find out if maybe the camper got on property.

21:09:25

A:

We didn't want to call the parents until the next morning, we didn't want them to be afraid. We wanted to make sure all efforts we already, you know, taken care of before we even called the police although they were notified and put on alert just in case. The next morning the counselors were sent on horses out to find him and fortunately for us they did.

21:09:53

A:

He had found one of the farmer's utility houses and got some straw, hay and an old blanket to throw over it and slept there in the evening. And it was like okay, that's it we're having a party today. The camp is officially going to have a huge party. So it was a good experience that we found him but it was a big fear that what happened if he got on Fernald property. That was a thought. I wouldn't say the major thought but a big plus in people's mind.

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21:10:36

Q:

I think we heard that story from a farmer's point of view.

A:

Oh really?

Q:

Yeah, which is interesting. Um, (clears throat) tell us about um, when you heard that they were having the closing ceremony, you said you didn't go?

A:

I didn't go. I couldn't go. I mean; I just emotionally could not go. I didn't want to see a closure. I didn't even go to the auction. I know a number of people did and got stuff, I couldn't.

21:11:09

A:

It wasn't 'till years later that I could go out to the camp and see. And yeah, I snuck on property, I did, I trespassed. But the gates were open so I parked the car. It was actually after softball, the Fernald league. And I went running from one building to another, to another, to another. I just couldn't wait to see it and I remember I got up to the boys cabins and I got to the first cabin and it was empty and I just sat there and I just cried.

21:11:50

A:

It was like I didn't want to see it empty. I just didn't. And it just, it didn't belong that way. I knew, you know, there was going to be retreats and the family was going to have, you know, the company come out, there will be people. But it's not going to be the same, it's not going to be Fort Scott. So it was a lot of, I mean, I remember I even got into one of the mess halls.

21:12:17

A:

One of the doors were open. I got into the medical facility. I got into almost every building I think but the playhouse but I had to see. It then became a necessity. I wanted to see. But when the actual closing ceremonies and all that, I couldn't. I wasn't ready for it to close. I mean, I wasn't even a counselor any more but I didn't want it to close.

21:12:47

Q:

What do you hope to see for the future of both Fernald and the Fort Scott family which of course still exists.

A:

Well the Fort Scott family I just now got into the cycle of, of catching up with them. I was for the longest time kind of distant from the family. Not knowing how to contact people, not knowing where they're at. Uh, I know a few times I tried to get a hold of people or find out if they had a Christmas party going like they usually did and uh, just had dead ends.

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21:13:24

A:

Um, I myself actually stumbled on them by accident. I was on the internet and I typed in Fort Scott. So I was totally shocked when a site came up. I'm like "There's a site for Fort Scott!" I thought that it was sort of funny so I went there and there listings and there were people. And the first person I saw on there was Biz McClure and I had to call or get a hold of her.

21:13:53

A:

So I e-mailed her and says here's my number call me. And she called me saying, "I'm so glad to hear from you. We've been looking for you. We didn't know where to find you. Uh, we're having a party - in a couple months, can you come?" I'm like I have to. And I says have you heard from so and so and so and so and so and so and then she says no we need to find them too.

21:14:14

A:

I said, I will start looking for you, I've got to find them. So, you know, we found, we're connecting, more people are finding that, you know, the family is still together. Um, and I think it's going to go on for a while but we're getting older, you know, there's nobody replacing us at the other end. So little by little it's going to dissipate. There's always that hope that my friends dream will come true.

21:14:48

A:

That somebody; one of us will hit the lottery or hit money big time, buy the property back and maybe open it up voluntarily as a camp somehow. You know, things, it's not totally completely gone. One of the pools yes, is still in disarray, the other one's there. The cabins are still in place. The chapel pretty much is gone. The art center is gone. The playhouse still exists and, you know, we still have, both the cafeterias still exist.

21:15:22

A:

Um, the Maxwell house still exists and the retreat center still exists. There's a chance, we got to hold on to that hope. For Fernald, I would like to see it flattened. I'd like to see it gone. I know what can and can't be done now. Um, I would like to see the process go quicker but I know safety is important. There's part of me that wants to leave Fernald right now, you know, I don't know how much more I can do here.

21:16:10

A:

Um, I know I'll be around for a little bit longer. Of course I know, you know, jobs, we're working ourself out of a job, you know. That's the whole point. Um, I would like to come back 20 years from now and go onto that property and say I was part of that and that, that it does function as something for the community. Goes from something negative to something positive again.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:16:45

A:

Uh, I'd like to do the same thing with Fort Scott. I'd like to go back 20 years from now, walk on that property and see some of the buildings still there and see it function at least as a retreat center if not a camp. There's too much history there, it's a shame to let it go.

21:17:12

Q:

Is there anything you want to add? Anything we didn't talk about that you wanted to get to?

A:

Oh, there's probably tons of things to say. I could probably go on with story after stories. Um, about, you know, different parties we had there, different things that people hold dear. Collections that we have of photographs. Um, other magic moments where somebody met somebody and got married. Um, sneaking off to do this, sneaking off to the cemetery, that's on property by the way.

21:17:55

A:

There is a cemetery plot still on Fort Scott property. Uh, don't know what's going to be done with that. It's interesting that we have one, had one out there I should say. Um, you know, the programs. We had Indian days. We made; we built teepees, you know. We did crafts, uh natural dying. We had arts week. We had the chapel ceremonies. The mice that would get in the chapels.

21:18:32

A:

The deers that would get into the cabins. Um, the creatures that would come out of nowhere scaring these kids half to death. The snakes and the skunks, the animals that were abandoned, the cats and the dogs. Um, the Maxwell family living on site um, right there on property. Going up in their attic and going through those old boxes, old costumes, old T-shirts, patches, photographs.

21:19:08

A:

Um, going through old theater makeup. Um, at one time in the boy's camp they actually offered boxing. The girls camp they actually offered sewing at one point and seeing photos of that. Archery um, the front gate, uh people, that's probably not a great one. Accidents that happened, you know, uh, we had a few auto accidents in front of Fort Scott. Sometimes with counselors involved.

21:19:44

A:

Usually on weekends. The weekends when the kids who didn't get to go home and the counselors stayed and activities they did. Uh, the volleyball games from hell (laughter). Uh, the counselors always did volleyball games during the break, uh during the day and as one person put it to me, "you were nasty." We, you know, played tooth and nail, down and dirty volleyball games.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

21:20:15

A:

But we thought it was normal. And then when we actually went back to school or something and played volleyball people thought we had these death wishes in volleyball. I mean, we sacrificed our bodies and, you know, nobody wanted to lose in volleyball. That was the counselors game, volleyball. Um, you know, seeing what happens with some of the horses.

21:20:38

A:

Seeing the changeovers. Seeing counselors who were scared of horses. Um, going on counselor's retreats before the camp opened. We went through a tree obstacle course, rope course. Um, and had to do group efforts doing that. It was incredible, the experience was just, it's something you had to live through to totally understand. Like I said I could tell you more stories.

21:21:13

A:

What happened under the bridge. You know, what camper fell in love with what camper. Seeing campers at a shopping mall, that's an experience. Being stopped in a shopping mall and a kid saying you were my counselor and I remember such and such. And you were like, this is so cool (laughter) and we'll see you next year, you know.

21:21:42

A:

And you was okay great or I'm not going to be there next year but I'll stop by; and you always did. You stopped by. I don't know how many counselors who didn't work that would stop for a day, say hi, see how things are going. See who's new. Um, a number of us got together for a couple of years afterward and played D&D together.

21:22:05

A:

And some of the counselors I didn't know until, you know, 'cause they were there just at '88. I got to meet them and know who they were and that was fun. It was really a community.

Q:

Okay

(Tape stops and begins again with interviewee holding a STAGE HOUSE sign)

21:22:22

A:

You gonna tell me when it rolls?

Q:

Yeah, I'll tell ya.

(Cameraman – um, actually it is)

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

(Tape stops and begins again)

(Cameraman - all right, rolling)

21:22:26

A:

Okay, like I was telling you I did get on property and I was the last drama director they had at Fort Scott so I had to take the sign.

(Tape stops and begins again with interviewee holding a board)

21:22:37

(Cameraman – okay, stand by. All right, we're rolling)

A:

And this is just a board and we'd put our bio on here and a photo so that when the campers come they would know who we were and where we came from and all that and then the parents could see it too so they would feel comfortable about leaving their kids with us.

(Tape ends here)