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

Name: Glen Price

Date Interviewed: 5/1/99      Date Transcribed: 8/11/99      Tape: 28      Project Number 20012

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**Tape FLHP0056**

08:01:02

Q:

Are you ready?

A:

Ready.

Q:

Roll 'em. OK, our first question is the hardest question we're going to ask you. We just want your name and then spell it, just so we have it right.

A:

Glen Price, G-L-E-N P-R-I-C-E.

Q:

Great. And uh, first could you give us a little bit of background, where you're from, some of your earlier life; where'd you go to high school, those kinds of things.

08:01:28

A:

Well, I'm 60 years old. I was born in Williamsburg, Ohio. I went to high school at William Henry Harrison High School, and graduated in 1957, that's a long time ago. I played starter on the basketball team 3 years, I started on the baseball team a couple of years, and then played, ran a little track, got married when I was 19. Uh, that's when I started working here, ah at a early age.

A:

I got 3 children, 3 grown children, I got, I had to stop and think, I got 2 boys and a girl, and I got 7 grandchildren. Ah, and I live about 6 miles from the plant here, and that's basically about it. Just thankful that everything's going real well for the job that I have, and for the children and for the health and things like that, so I have a lot to be thankful for and I'm thankful for the job that I have.

08:02:28

Q:

How did you first get hired at Fernald?

A:

Ah, I was working in Cincinnati, I was working in Lockland; I was working at Diamond International; I was making a large sum of money at that particular time, I was making \$1.65 an hour I think it was. Being from Harrison here, we, we are familiar with who's hiring and so forth, and we heard that they were hiring here at Fernald and ah, we applied and we got the job here at Fernald, and was closer to home and more money, too, you know. So that's how I got on here.

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08:03:05

Q:

And uh, tell us what the interview was like.

A:

I don't really remember, it's been so long ago. Ah, things were, they asked questions that legally they couldn't ask today. I won't get into that, but they asked some questions that ah, like I said before, that they, they couldn't ask today. And ah and, they gave us a test I remember; an aptitude test and a math test, ah, and it was ah Bruce, (pauses) he worked here for a long time, he was in Personnel, Bruce, I can't remember his last name.

08:03:38

A:

In fact, he's on site, I see him every once in a while, doing tours. You probably know who I'm talking about, but anyhow, he was, he was here then. And he interviewed me I remember that. And ah, and you had to get a Q clearance. I was working in Cincinnati at my, the job that I had, and ah, the FBI, actual FBI guys came there on the job and ah, and I saw them come in, come into the building, and I know when I saw them, I knew who it was.

08:04:04

A:

And they went over and talked to the supervisor, and my supervisor at that particular time was all nervous, you know, and he talked to them for a while. And ah, they, the men left and he came running over to me, and he said ah, "You know who that was?" And I said, well I think I know who it was. I think it was the FBI wasn't it? And he said, "yeah, they want to know about you." And I didn't know this guy maybe a year or two.

08:04:23

A:

And he said, "I told em I'd known you for years, and you're really a good guy, you know." And I thought, well I appreciate that, you know. But ah, you did require a Q clearance to get on here back then. I don't know how long that lasted, but we did require one of those to get on here.

Q:

Who else did the FBI talk to?

08:04:39

A:

I, I think they ah, they checked ah, they do a pretty good background check. I think they checked the other places that I had worked, which being right out of high school wasn't very many. (Chuckles) I think they check your, your ah, your neighborhood friends, and people that you do business with and things like that.

08:04:56

A:

But that's, that's the only one I actually saw the FBI was at that, when I worked there in Cincinnati at ah Diamond National in Lockland.

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Q:

And you lived not too far away from the location where they were building Fernald. Is that correct?

08:05:11

A:

That's correct. I live in Morgan Township on Jenkins Road, ah we started working here and ah, my father-in-law gave me a ½ acre of land there and we started building our house there on Jenkins Road. And ah, we built the basement part of it, and we kind of sealed the basement off and ah, lived in the basement for about a year, and then we, later on we cont-, we continued building the house, and finish the house. But we did live in the basement for ah, for about a year. I had the reputation of being a groundhog for about a year there.

08:05:41

Q:

Now do you remember when they started building site, what that was like?

A:

Ah, they had, ah I came here in 1959, and that was right in the mid of ah production days. They were really going hot and heavy about production, and ah, you know I would drive by and I wouldn't at that particular time, before I got on here, I didn't think about even working here at that time, you know. I heard a lot of horror stories and things like that, but ah, ah, eventually it came full circle. We came to the place that we did come to work here. And ah, it was in the production when we were here.

Q:

Great. Great. Um, tell us about the production years, were they busy years? What was going on?

A:

Well, we hired in, I hired in in ah August of 1959, and that summer Plant 6 had a wildcat strike. I don't think remember what it was about. I, I did know at one time, I just don't recall what it was. All the people in Plant 6, I said all the people, most of the people in Plant 6 did, had a wildcat strike. They walked out.

08:06:40

A:

Well they stayed out for ah, I don't remember now, it was ah too long a time, maybe a week or a few days or something like that, but that kind of put them behind as far as production goes. And ah, they, they had a hire, that's when we got on; myself, my brother even, my brother worked with me too.

08:06:55

A:

And some of ah, some of our friends, ah about 50 of us I think went into Plant 6 to kind of take up the slack for the time that they went on the wildcat strike. So ah, ah, we all came in here and we started out as a laborer, and we moved, moved up the ranks pretty quick, because there's a lot of job openings and ah, our ah, best job I guess was called a machine tool helper.

08:07:18

A:

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We loaded ah, uranium rods into the bar griddlies in Plant 6. Ah, the bar griddlies there, a row of bar griddlies about the middle of Plant 6, I guess there was about 10 or 12. And our job was too ah, after the rods came from the rolling mill ah, the crane operate, the crane operator would bring a, a load of, of bundled rods over to the back end of the ah, to the griddlies.

08:07:44

A:

The griddlies ah were kind of like a Gatling gun on the end. And we would load those ah, cylinders all full and the operator would run slugs, at that particular time, they ran the solid slugs, they were about this big, (demonstrates width with hands) and ah probably about that big around (demonstrates with fingers). And ah, when, when the machine would get loaded, we would go on, and when the operator would haller, holler and say "hey, I need that load," we'd would ah, we would take those rods.

08:08:06

A:

What it was, at the end of the, the bar grid, like I said, it looked kind of like a Gatling gun, if you can kind of picture that. Ah, several holes all around, like that (demonstrates while moving hand in a circular motion) and we would roll the, the uranium rod down in this track, and then we'd line the track up with the cyc-, cylinder hole there. And we would shove it in with a, with a rod, with a steel rod, and we would tap it, tap it, and he would cut the end off and get a good end on it, and spin it all the way around. And he would load the machine that way.

08:08:33

A:

Ah, with the uranium rods. And then like I said, there were several of them, row of 'em down through there and that's what we did. And we worked mostly on third shift, we worked the back shift. And at that particular time ah, I was really, really raking in the money. I was making \$2.50 an hour, and you know, even now I think about that and you're laughing about it, it sounds like it's just kind of not much money at all.

08:08:56

A:

But, at that particular time ah, I was, I was saving ah, I think I was saving \$25.00 or \$30.00 dollars a week, which back then, that was pretty good savings, you know. I put it in the credit union, that's how I got enough money to start my house. So ah, we were making a large, breaking the bank making \$2.50 an hour, that was a pretty good raise coming from a job where I made \$1.60.

08:09:18

A:

And of course it was closer to home, which made it a lot nicer. And it, it was, it was just great. I just thought I'd died and gone to Heaven, you know. Cause it was closer to home and it was more money too.

Q:

That's great. Um, how did you explain your job to friends and family? Especially during your first stint here.

08:09:39

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A:

Well, you didn't. You really didn't, cause they had us, they had us all scared to death, they really did.

Ah, people would ask me, course they, they make jokes back then like they do now. You do glow in the dark and all this kind of stuff, you know and ah. But, ah really back then ah, we really, I don't think we knew what we were doing, to tell you the truth. I, we were there, we know we were machining slugs, we didn't actually know how these slugs were used and where they were used, and how they were used and, ah, we didn't know the process at all.

08:10:08

A:

Like I said before, you couldn't go to Plant 4, 7, or Building 12. You couldn't go to these plants, you were there in your own area, and you were kind of limited in your own little world there and ah, with the Rolling Mill, and that was the extent of what you really knew about what was really going on.

08:10:21

A:

You were told ah, "don't be telling anybody" and like I said, they put the fear into you about ah, if you, if you get ah too talkative here, we're gonna put you in jail or electric chair, or something, you know (chuckles). But it was, it was kind of funny, we were, kind of scared. We didn't, we didn't know what we were doing really in detail and we just did what we were told and, and that was about it.

08:10:45

Q:

How did they know whether you were talking to somebody about your job or not?

A:

You know, I don't know how they, how they would know. But like I said before, they, they said it in such a way that you would think there would be a Secret Service man or a FBI agent behind every rock and every tree, so you were, you just didn't do it. And I don't know of many people that, that, that did. And I've talked to a lot of people and they felt really the same way that I did.

08:11:10

A:

That ah, they ah, they were kind of afraid, you know. They, back then, back then maybe more so, now there was more patriotism too. And ah, lot of flag waving, and, and I'm still that way today, and, you know, I stand up for, for America and all that, you know. But ah, back then, if they told you not to say anything, I'm sure that probably 99.9 people didn't.

08:11:34

Q:

Wow. Um what was the typical American's mind set about that time, especially about the Cold War?

A:

Well, Russia was the enemy, and, and of course we were the good guys and I think we're still the good guys. Ah, and it was a place to work and, and it, and it was kind of an unknown ah, you ask that, you know. Ah, somebody say's, "how many Rad Techs did you have back then?" I said, what's a Rad Tech? We didn't have any Rad Techs.

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08:12:04

A:

Now we look at ah, like for example, we worked in Plant 6 mostly. Ah, you look at Plant 6 now, well when, what it is now, the with the restrictions and with all the rad coverage, which is excellent ah compared to what it was back then. And it was kind of scary, if you look back on it and think about some of the things that we did.

08:12:25

A:

Ah, we'd be in Plant 6, in the machinery part of it, and those bar griddlies and lays would make fine like real curly Q shavings and those shavings on a nightly basis would get hot and would ignite and cause uranium chip fires inside of Plant 6. Well when that happened you know nobody thought too much of it, we'd go on and somebody would open a door or something and nobody would stop work or leave or anything.

08:12:56

But um can you imagine now what would happen now if something along that line would happen we'd be shut down now for the next six years. But that's kind of bad though if you think about it, there weren't, I think a lot of people back then didn't know what extent of what could happen.

08:13:10

The long health term health affects it could have on a person. And I'm glad now that I think we over kill which I'm glad that we do. There's jobs out there now that we take more time getting ready to do and taking precautions than if we back in old days we'd have it done forgot about but what affect would it have on your health. So I'm glad things have changed in that respect that we have rad coverage and things are a little more safer and things along that line.

08:13:46

Now were talking about safety, uh, I remember on a Sunday morning I was working overtime in Plant 6 and the supervisor said come over here and he took the sides off the bar griddley. They had plates that you took off, and if you looked into a bar griddley the coolant looked like milk that cooled the chips so they wouldn't catch on fire. Most of the time they didn't catch on fire and lots of times they did.

08:14:15

In the bottom of the bar griddley there was an auger that those chips would fall down into that would take the chips out that auger out onto a main conveyor that would take it back to a place called the degreasing that they would recycle those chips. And I remember one Sunday the morning the supervisor said to me, he'd just brought me over. This is another thing that wouldn't happen today but happened back then.

08:14:35

The supervisor says, see that, and he handed me like a little hoe or rake and he says now you get in there and get those chips out and put it up in that conveyor, up there's an auger and put it up in there. And here I was just 20 years old and I didn't, hadn't really worked around machinery that much and he didn't give any instructions and I didn't ask because I didn't know.

08:14:55

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So, I'm busy getting those chips out in my hand, and there's milk now, you can picture it, it was like you're working in a big vat of milk, so I had my hands like this reaching and getting those chips that hadn't fallen in the auger, filling them up. And I reached down with my hands spread out like this and something grabbed a hold of my hand like a bear trap, so I jerked it real quick and I had a rubber glove on.

08:15:24

I took my rubber glove off and my finger looked like a seven. And that right at the end of the auger it was a sprocket, like a bicycle chain sprocket and when that tooth got right there I jerked it, it cut the tendon in two. So I went to the hospital, that was Sunday morning, I worked third shift.

08:15:30

I went to the hospital that day and got my tendon sewed back up and I came back to work that night with my hand all bandaged up and I held my hand up because if you keep it below your heart it just kills you. But anyhow, even today my fingernail was deformed and even if I bend my knuckle you can see where the stitches were taken out and that was back in 1959, so that's a souvenir I got from Plant 6 back in 1959.

08:15:55

But I guess the point I'm trying to make is that safety wasn't stressed very much at all and I'm sure now if that same situation would come up we would be a week probably before we even thought about cleaning the machine out. Because we would go over the situation step by step which is good and I wouldn't have a finger like this if that were the case. So that was one of the things that happened safetywise back then.

08:16:22

Q:

What are also some of the other differences between the process years and the cleanup years?

08:16:29

A:

Well besides not being able to visit other plants, people today have, I know I have full reign of what I do today and I'm sure there's a lot of people that can go, for some reason with the supervisor permission go down to AWWT, they can go down there. But back then you just could not, you could not go. Only your work area and you'd better not be caught anywhere else.

08:16:56

Uh, and back then it was production, production the Cold War race thing, we were in a giant race to get as much product as we could and that's why if we were to have an accident they would bring us back. I've seen it happen several times where people would have accidents like myself, I got hurt that morning went to the hospital that afternoon, got sewed up and came back to work with my hand all bandaged up the next day.

08:17:23

And I remember another thing that happened along those same lines, I have a friend of mine, his name is Davis. This has been years ago. I came back and he really laughed at me for getting my finger caught in the machine. You know, and I remember two nights later he was pulling a cart load of those slugs, two carts together, and he got his hand down in there and the carts smashed his fingers.



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08:17:41

So the next day he came in with his hand up and I told him, I kind of ribbed him. So it doesn't pay to kind of make fun of anybody like that, you know. But basically, it was production, production, production and safety that was, they'd say don't get hurt, you know. But it's changed quite a bit, I'm sure it has.

08:18:04

I know the people here get kind of tired of waiting around for a week or two to get started on a job, you know. Say this is a bunch of crap, you know we shouldn't do this. But if they would go back say 40 years back in the production days, they would see that things can happen and they usually did happen for the worst.

08:18:29

Q:

Great, and um, what was a typical day at work like during the process years for you?

08:18:42

A:

Well, like I said before, they stressed production above everything else. In Plant 6 there were bar griddles running, there was sun strains running, there was drill presses running. And when we first hired in, we hired in as laborers and our job was to make sure that the coolant. Every machine had that milky coolant. Had a reservoir of that and lots of times they would be overfilled and they would spill out and it was our job we would mop the floor and sweep the floor, get the chips.

08:19:05

And uh, kind of work in that area as a laborer. But as I said before as things picked up and production picked up we moved on to machine to helper jobs and things like that. But uh, they stressed production. Man, it was just ah, it was the forth thing on their mind was production. And 'course now, there's no production involved, it's just a matter of cleaning things up like I said before.

08:19:40

Q:

So when you came in the morning, did you dress out before you went out there, or what was that like?

A:

Well, when we came in, they had ah, everybody got a white pair of coveralls, and a white little beanie. I thought that was kind of unusual, you know, like you were goin' to a bakery or something. And then they gave us bright yellow shoes. Our shoes were the color of that yellow tape that we use when we dress out; they were bright yellow.

A:

And back then, we had the cobbler, the guy that worked on your shoes; lots of times, you just wouldn't go get another pair of shoes. If you got something wrong with your shoes, he would fix them for you. They weren't quite as free with as handing out shoes as they are today, but I remember they had that and ah, (pauses) Let's see, there was something else I was going to tell you about that, we were talking about that earlier. It's slipped my mind, maybe I'll think of it after while, but ah, I can't recall, maybe I'll think about that a little bit later about what we did as far as our dress was concerned.

08:20:39

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Q:

I'll look at my list here to see if I made a note of anything. No, pretty much on that. (laughs) OK, um.

A:

One thing, too, maybe I want to put in here, I think this was kind of a highlight; kind of a neat thing that we did. I think it was 1959 or 60, I don't remember exactly the year, but it was the year that the Russians sent the Sputnik up. And ah, they told us; we worked the third shift all the time, and they told us that at a certain time of the night, let's say like at was 2:00 or 2:30, I forget what it was now, you look at a certain spot in the sky, and you would see the Sputnik. It was like a star. So I remember the first time that they said (coughs) they said, "Tonight's going to be the night that the Sputnik's going to come over." So, everybody stopped what they were doing, it was on third shift.

A:

And we all ran out the side of the building, and we all looked up and we saw, we saw the Russian Sputnik, the first I guess it would be a satellite I guess it would be or something like that, in orbit, the man in orbit you know? And we thought that was pretty neat. And we watched that for several weeks, and after a while, it became old hat and we didn't watch it anymore. But you know, at the time I thought it was pretty interesting to see that Sputnik go over the certain part of the sky at a certain part of the night, you know.

08:21:26

Q:

That's great. I think you're the only person I talked to that saw Sputnik. (both laugh). Uh, let's see. Um, can you tell us about the safety picture in front of Plant 6?

A:

I think it was 1960, ah, we had so many, they stressed, just like they stress today, which is good. So many million man working hours without a accident or so forth, back in 1960, all 3 shifts took a group picture out in front of Plant 6, and I think it was 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> shifts, and when I came back, I came back in 1993. And I was down at the, about the second day I was here, I was down in the office in the North end of Plant 6. And there was a picture on the wall, and I was with another person who just hired in, and we just happened to be standing there, and I kind of looked at it, and I said, "Boy that looks familiar."

08:22:52

A:

And I started looking at it, and I said, "There I am," and that person said, "No it's not." I said, "Yes it is, right there!" And they looked at the picture and said, "That is you, isn't it?" And I said, "Yeah, I was 20 years old right there." And it showed us all out in the front, all dressed in our white uniforms and things like that in 1960. And that picture was in Plant 6 until they started getting it ready to get everything cleared out. But I've got a picture of that at home the same way; I can bring that in for you if you want to maybe get a copy of that or something.

08:23:22

A:

But they stressed man hours more-so than safety back in those days. I think it's a little more even now than we had it, it was back then.

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Q:

That's great, and ah, (pauses)

A:

And I remember too, while you're thinking about something there. Ah, we had basketball teams back, just like they have softball teams and things. We had basketball teams and softball teams back then, I remember, ah, the first year I was here, I played high school basketball, of course I thought I was good, you know, everybody that plays thinks they were the best.

A:

So I got on a team here. And I was on a team with a guy, he was a little bit shorter than me and he had kind of a brown hair, and a little brown moustache, pretty good player, we played guard, he played guard and I was the other one. And he, his name was Chico Brannon, they call him Gene Brannon. And I thought that was kind of unusual, that he was here when I came back again. I know Pete his brother, told me that, we called him Chico then, I don't know. Some, I've heard people call him that since then, but we played basketball on the same team and I came back and he's still here. I thought that was kind of unusual. Of course his hair's a different color, and his moustache is a different color, but it's still the same Chico, Gene, Gene Brannon. I thought that was interesting.

08:24:45

Q:

I know what I was going to ask you; why did you get hired back when you came back for your second stint? How did that happen?

A:

Oh, you know, well, I came back, I worked for, as I told you before, I worked for 13 different companies in 3 places twice. I've worked here at Fernald twice. I've worked for Diamond International twice. And I've worked for Tallawanda Springs twice. And I've worked for the Kroger company. I worked at the big distribution center down on Glendale-Milford Road, and I've worked for trucking companies. I've worked for some big companies. I've worked for small companies.

A:

And as you and I have talked before, ah, people get the idea when they work at a job and things don't go their way, and things are maybe not like they want. And they say when they leave here, I'm going to really tell these people, I'm going to cuss them out and I'm going to destroy some property and things like that.

A:

Well, you can't burn your bridges, even if you feel that you've done wrong, you need to say, "Well, that's okay, I might want to have to come back here again." I've heard people say, "Oh, I'll never come back here again!" I've worked at different places, and low and behold, they come back and say, "Hey, can I have my job?" after they've said things and done things that're really bad, you know.

08:25:55

A:

So I've worked three places twice, and I've worked a total of 13 places. I've been in supervision for over 31 years and I've seen a lot. I've heard a lot of excuses, and seen a lot of things happen. I've seen some bad accidents happen on a job, I remember seeing a guy on a, when I worked at Diamond

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International, he got his hand in a machine that locked up and he was standing there with his hand in the machine.

A:

I've seen guys lose their fingers. I've seen a lot of stuff throughout the years. I've worked for union shops, I've worked for non-union shops. I've worked with all types of people, and I've been blessed enough to really come out and have a wide range of experience,

A:

And it's helped me to deal with people and to know their feelings, and some of the things that they go through rather than just being a supervisor and say, "Well, do as I say." And things like that. And so I've got to know people, and it's helped me a lot with in that respect, in working different jobs in different areas, and different. I've worked for trucking companies, and I worked for manufacturing companies, like I said, I've worked for Kroger and I've worked for Tallawanda Springs, and it's really helped me a lot.

08:27:08

Q:

Great. And um, what are you doing now on site? Because you're still a current worker.

A:

Yes, I came back, and I think that was the original question; I kind of skirted the issue, but I didn't mean to, but in 1993, I had worked for Tallawanda Springs in College Corner. In fact, they had a lot of the bottled water here at the plant, all over the Cincinnati area, and I know they had it here. But our company was bought out by a foreign company;

08:27:37

A:

Tallawanda Springs was bought out by a foreign company. And they did a lot of downsizing. I was downsized along with several other of the management people, and about a year later, they shut the whole place down. Now they bring their water, they bottle it in Pittsburgh, and truck it down here to Cincinnati. So it's Polar Water and Tallawanda Water.

A:

But anyhow, I lost my job, and ah, I heard they were starting back up here as far as the cleanup was concerned (clears throat), and I came back down and interviewed, I think, interviewed with Jim, Jim ah, Hill. Jim Hill interviewed me if I remember right, that's who it was. And I also interviewed with Al Elam.

A:

And ah, I guess the rest is history. I got on and when I came back, I'd been in supervision for probably 27 something years at that particular time, and you know, you get burned out on different things like that. And I thought I'd come back just as a HAZWAT and work for a while, and retire, and fade into the sunset, you know.

08:28:37

A:

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Well, I worked here for about 6 months, and there was a layoff of all things. And we got laid off for a while and I came back, and ah, Al Elam had talked to me about becoming a supervisor, and I said, "Well, I don't know, you know, I've done that for so long." He said, "Ah, you know you ought to do it." And he kind of talked me into it, and I'm glad he did.

A:

And I went from a HAZWAT to supervision, one of the first projects I ever worked on that was one of the bigger projects here was the UNH project; it was a very critical one. We completed that, I think ahead of schedule, and everything went well, without any accidents or anything like that. And from that project, I went to the Thorium Nitrate Project, which is down at the Pilot Plant.

08:29:20

A:

The T2 Project they call it. That's where we put the cement and the Thorium together and made the cement. And I also did the Thorium filtration there in Plant 8 where we took the sump from the lagoons out around the ah, Vit Plant out there. And then I also went to work down at the Sample Line at Plant 6 for a little while, and then from that I went into, Matt Harper was the Team Specialist on the HWMU Container Inspection Project;

08:29:53

A:

The Waste Storage and Sampling, and I was just supervisor. And Matt went out to the cell, and I kind of took on both jobs and it's been going real well. At one time before we came on board, it was kind of a shambles, and with the help of all the other people, and a lot of people helping me, we got it back on track again. And it's been really a thrill for me to see the progress that we made.

A:

And I've had several people comment that it's the best that it's ever been. Which we're not satisfied with that, we're trying to improve as we go, and we still make mistakes and so forth, but we're really happy and things have really turned around, and that particular aspect of the project has really going real well and um...

08:30:46

(Tape ends with interviewee talking).

**FLHP0057**

09:01:00

(Tape begins again)

09:01:04

Q:

Okay, um if you could go ahead and keep telling us what was, what is your job now? Some of the things you do now?

A:

Okay. The, my job consists now of ah making sure that, I'll tell you what it's really a record type thing. You've got to make sure that you've got every day, every area that you've got inspection for that particular day. And sometimes it really gets kind of hairy there, because there's so much area to

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

cover.

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

09:01:33

A:

Um, we have ah about, I haven't counted 'em lately, we've got about 20, we've been eliminating the HWMU's because as this project narrows down on a yearly basis, these, some of these are going away. And we ah, we've got roughly around 20, 23 or 24 probably HWMU's.

09:01:50

A:

And I know at one time, several years ago they probably had a hundred. So, this is narrowing down, not only our particular area, but the whole site is, is closing in. And ah things are just narrowing in. And that's the same way with our particular area too, that the, it's becoming more condensed. Mostly everything is going to Plant 1.

09:02:14

A:

Ah, up until a year or two ago, things were scattered out throughout the site, way back in the back 40, and just all over. And as buildings come down, things are becoming more centralized, they're coming to Plant 1 as the central ah, point of ah, storage, ah storage area there.

09:02:31

A:

And ah, as, as that happens, like I say, some of the, some of these areas are going away, naturally. So, ah, our, our job is just like everybody else's, it's eventually gonna keep getting smaller, and smaller and then we'll all be on our, on our way, I guess, you know.

Q:

What exactly is, does HWMU stand for.

A:

It's Hazardous waste, I can't even talk. Hazardous Management Waste Unit, oh did I say that right, ah I don't know. But ah, I'll have to write it down and look at it. It's ah, it's what it stands for, Hazardous Waste Management Unit. It's an area where hazardous waste has once been stored. And we've got to maintain that until the Ohio EPA gives us the authority to say hey that's no longer needed. And ah, we, that's how they are eliminated.

09:03:20

A:

And that's how that works. And we also inspect all the other containers that are stored outside, and also in the tent structures, ah on Plant 1 pad. So there's quite ah, like I said, there's quite a vast area and, and it has been in past times been scattered pretty much. But like I said before, it's, it's becoming, being drawn mostly into the Plant 1 pad area and tent structures 4, 5, and 6 there and ah, in the pad area.

09:03:48

Q:

Now tell me a little bit more about the UNH project?

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

09:03:52

A:

The UNH project, the way I understand it. Ah, it got a lot of press, if I remember right, there was, there were several spills that happened, and ah, and that was kind of a time table type thing too. They were really anxious to get that out of the way and ah that was really kind of my first project. And I was ah, I was kind of apprehensive a little bit about it. But ah, it went off real well.

09:04:18

A:

We ah, we worked ah, hand in hand with ah Darrell, Darrell Kirby's group. They worked in 2 and 3 and they pumped the UNH over to us over in Plant 8. And we ran it across the amco filter, and we had the sump cake and the drums so forth. And ah, it went real well. And we didn't have ah, we didn't have any problems to speak of.

09:04:37

A:

And we got it, I'm pretty sure we got it done on time. Finished on time, and ah, without any major, any major problems. We had a few little things that happened, but ah nothing major, and that, that was put to bed, you know.

A:

And got rid of that ah, UNH because that was something that was kind of a, a real thing that can appear in the paper. And really, and the press has a tendency sometimes to make, blow things out of proportion a little bit. And they did that like they do a lot of things around here. But we got that taken care of and got that project completed. I think that was a big relief off of everybody's mind.

09:05:11

Q:

So UNH is actually a liquid?

A:

(Shaking head affirmative) Yes.

Q:

It was being stored in tanks is that correct?

A:

Right, Um-hmm.

Q:

This is just for people who are doing research out there.

A:

Right, right.

09:05:19

Q:

(Laughing) And then also the thorium nitrate project. Can you go into a little more detail on that?



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**Transcript**

A:

Well the thorium nit..., the thorium nitrate, we worked with a subcontractor ah, we worked with a subcontractor down there at ah, the Pilot Plant and ah, it was Kim um, I can't recall, I can't remember the name of the subcontractor, I'll think of it probably tomorrow sometime. But anyhow, we worked with that ah, subcontractor which worked out real, real well.

09:05:48

A:

And ah, we put the ah, it was a cement mixture that the thorium was put in, and ah, it was ah, was ah, in a compound like in cement and it was stored that way, and disposed of that way. And then ah, then we, like I say, we had the other thorium project where we took the sludge and stuff from ah, from the lagoons out in the ah it's out towards the ah Vit area.

A:

There's several lagoons out there that had thorium in it, we, we emptied those. The Super Sucker went out ah, and brought the sludge in and we pumped it into holding tanks and then we processed that ah material there in Plant 8 and got that project taken care of, too. So ah.

09:06:28

Q:

Now how did you ah de-water the sludge?

A:

Well, they run it across the ImeCo, it's a liquid with the, with the, ah (coughs) excuse me, with the ah, thorium and the other impurities in there and it runs across the ImeCo. I don't know if you've ever been in Plant 8 before, but the ImeCo's a big cylinder upstairs and has a giant blade. And that, it has a build-up after it's filtered through the ImeCo. It builds up on the cylinder and it's kind of a dacolyte ah compound (coughs) that's on the cylinder, and that knife shaves that off and it goes into a drum when it becomes it becomes sump cake and it's put on the pad and it's stored that way.

09:07:05

A:

It's a pretty neat process; it was good. And like I say, that project, it ah, we finished that up and we didn't have any major catastrophes there either. So I've been pretty fortunate about ah, ah some of the projects, they, are projects that could, if you didn't watch what you were doing, they could become newspaper headlines. And we didn't want that and that bore on our minds lots of times and we really put forth a special effort and tried to really concentrate on what we were doing.

09:07:36

A:

The UNH Project, especially, we had a ah, big board of valves and things; it was quite complex. And we would have people on the floor that ah, that ah would say they're going to open a valve, and you would have to tell them what valve to open, and you gotta, really communicate with each other. And, and I had never really worked in that kind of an atmosphere before, but that went really well, and that project, ah like I said, come to completion without any major problems at all.

Q:

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Gosh, that's great. See, those kinds of projects are, you don't hear the details. It's kinda nice to hear the details.

09:08:10

A:

Yeah, there's lots of times, you hear about projects and you don't hear too much about it. But like I said, our project, it was really a team effort, like I said. Like I said, we on the UNH Project, we worked with the people from Plant 2 & 3. Darrell Kirby and Tim, ah I'm terrible with names; Tim Huey, he was in on it, and there were several supervisors, I won't name the names because I'll forget somebody, but it was really neat because we all worked together as a team.

A:

They were in a different plant than we were, but still yet, we coordinated, you know, it went off really well. And everybody got a lot of overtime. Made a lot of money. (smiles) That was, that was a good year, that UNH Project, but anyhow, like I said, we got it completed; that was what we were after.

09:08:54

Q:

Terrific. And your job now, who are some of the folks you work with now?

A:

Well, I worked with ah, what I do, I have really two offices. I have an office over in Trailer 166 over here on the clean side. And I also go back and forth between the clean side and Trailer 154, which is the trailer right outside the chem warehouse where John Fitzgerald and Al Elam are located. That's where the Plant 1 people locate and that's where the inspectors meet and we have a morning briefing and so forth.

09:09:28

A:

And I go back and forth ah, between, between the trailers doing various different paperwork and filing and, and planning the work for the next day, and for the next week and so forth. And that's basically the way I work it. I go in between, I've got really two places that I work out of.

09:09:45

A:

And I work like I said, with the supervisors, I work with Tim Sparks up there and Mike Fiehrer, and, and ah, John Fitzgerald, and ah, Al Elam. Of course that changes some times. We've had different people up and, and, and this is going to sound really corny and probably think I'm maybe making this up, but I can't remember working any place I've ever worked where we've had people that worked any better than we do here. These supervisors especially, ah, sometimes there's quite a bit of pressure,

09:10:13

A:

And ah, they hold up real well, and do a real good job, and I like working with all of them. They all do a real good job. You can always count on them, you know.

Q:

In your opinion, how did Fernald's work, well, in your first stint, from '59 to '61, when you were in the process years, in the process years, how did Fernald's work further the America's goals?

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A:

Well, I think it's, what we did back then is why we're the #1 country in the world today. I don't think we could ever get to the place where we're, we should be complacent. When we, we're the number 1 power in the world today, and and ah, there's some things that happened that maybe I don't agree with that the government does. But still yet I'm an American and I support, support the president most of the time, and things that go on as far as the government's concerned, there's some things that I don't.

09:11:09

A:

But ah, back then, we, we worked and some people probably gave their lives here (clears throat) at our plant to make us the #1 country that we are today. And we just, we've just had Memorial Day just the other day. And I think that some of these people that have worked here, and have maybe sacrificed their lives for the, in the Cold War at, during that particular time should be honored just as much as the veteran that went across, over in Europe somewhere, and gave his life over there.

A:

It's basically the same thing I think. But I, they didn't have a uniform, maybe they had just a white uniform with a beanie and yellow shoes, but , but it's all the same, same situation I feel, you know. And like I say, I was proud to be a part of it you know, back then. I'm proud to be a part of it today. And I think Fluor Daniel's a good company, and they've treated me excellent. S' I'll probably get a little money for saying that, will I? (smiles)

09:12:06

Q:

In your next pay check. (Both laugh)

A:

Ok, there you go. But ah, like you and I were talking about before, I'm really thankful for, this plant and for the opportunity that they gave me. When I came back the second time, I was 53 years old, and lots of times, I know you're not supposed to, but lots of times, companies will discriminate and say, "Tell 'em we're not hiring, OK?"

A:

But they gave, not only me, but I know several of my friends that're my age or maybe just a little bit younger, they gave another opportunity, and. And I bet if you take a poll out there, these men that I'm talking about are some of your better workers in the plant today because they've been there and done that. Just like I have and just like they have, and they appreciate it. They appreciate their job and they give 110 percent every day and I like that. I like it a lot.

09:12:56

Q:

Great. And during the Cold War, what was the typical American's mindset with regards to Russia as a threat?

## FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

### Transcript

A:

Well, back in the '50s, there was a lot of worry, ah, they thought everybody was a Communist. They thought Hollywood was Communist, you know. And I remember in particular, this is a true story, I grew up in Harrison, and there was a man that owned a restaurant down there and he came out and he proclaimed himself a card-carrying Communist, and they ran him out of town. He, he had to give his business up and they ran him right out of town, so back then, people were very patriotic.

A:

As I said before, I think they're more patriotic. They were more patriotic then than they are now. Because things were a little bit harder then, and you know, the things came harder, and you appreciate them more. And there was a draft then, and there's not a draft now, I don't know if that makes any difference or not, but ah, ah, seems like it was a little bit different.

09:13:55

A:

I grew up in the '50s like Fonzie days, (smiles) you know, like, things were different, and people seemed like they appreciated the country and everything more, seems like they do now. I think people are really, really spoiled. I'm spoiled myself. Today, we've had things really easy and good for so long. But that's the difference I think between now and what it used to be.

09:14:22

Q:

And ah, what Fernald is doing now in their cleanup, how do you think that ah, that's sort of going towards America's goals now in today's world?

A:

Well, my wife is the president of the Ross Merchant's Association down there, and we have meetings, and I'm a member of Ross Merchant's Association, which is Ross is just 3 miles from where we're sitting right here, and they have a great interest in what goes on around this area and what's going to go on here on this site.

09:14:45

A:

And we've talked about it at several meetings, about what's, what's going to be here when it's, when it's all said and done. And ah, the people, the people in the area, we've got several groups of people that are very active and concerned about what goes on here at site. Ah, we know Lisa Crawford, she is very interested in what's going on.

A:

And we have several groups that are very concerned and, and what happens after this plant's gone, what's going to be here. And I've heard several different ideas what it's going to be. And the people in the area can have input on what they want. You know, they can suggest what they would like to see here, which I think is good. They can have an input on what they ah, what goes in here.

**FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT**  
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09:15:25

A:

I heard there's going to be maybe some business out on the Willey Road end of the property, and the back, the back part. I don't know the different things that people have suggested that they would like to see happen. So, ah the people still have an input ah, even though it's ah, we're still cleaning up, they're still looking ahead at ah, maybe putting different things in here to take the place when we're gone.

09:15:46

Q:

What would you personally like to see for the future land use?

A:

You know, I hadn't really thought that much about it. Ah, I've attended the meetings, and I've heard everything from golf courses, which a lot of people would like to see a golf course, you know. I don't know; I don't personally feel that there would be that much contamination for, to people to worry about and like I said before, the news media really, really has blown this thing out of proportion.

09:16:11

A:

Like the other day, I saw the first train that left here, it showed the train, then before that it showed some guys down in Plant 6 digging out some, some contaminated stuff, and then it showed the train leaving. So that tells you that ah they, they've not got their ducks in a row because what went out on the train wasn't what these guys were digging out in Plant 6. It was soil, not that.

09:16:32

A:

But if you were the average citizen, you would say, "Oh my goodness, this is terrible!" And that's, I think we've been ah, painted a poor picture by, by the news media all along, you know. And we've been guilty of some things, I realize that, but, but I think it's really, they've done us an, have done an injustice to us by doing things like that, you know.

Q:

Great. Did we get everything? Did you, is there anything you want to add?

09:17:00

A:

I can't, I can't think, I can't think of anything, you know, if we can look ahead, ah, this is ah, I'm going to give the date. I don't know if we should do this or not, this is June 1, 1999. And time is moving on, and as each month, and as each quarter goes by, the, the site is, ah, I take quite a few tours because my job, I want to go out and see what's being done in our particular areas that we have responsibility for.

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### Transcript

09:17:27

A:

And I can see on a, on a weekly basis ah, buildings that are coming down, and, and things ah that are being cleaned up. And ah, that's what it's really all about, and it's kind of like working yourself out of a job, but ah, that's, that's the way it is. And it, it won't be too many more years, I don't know, I've heard different people say well, "it ought to be another 30 years," and then I've heard other people say, "Well, it'll be 5."

09:17:48

A:

I don't know, but the progress that we're making, I think, I don't think it will be too many more years and the site will be to the place it'll be just a green area and whatever the people would want it to be. And I'm just ah, like I said before, I'm, I'm just glad that I was, be able to have a part in my latter working years to be a part of it and work for a company that's been nothing but good to me.

09:18:16

A:

And ah, I just ah, have nothing but good to say about ah, the place, and the benefits and the people, and it's just to me, it's just a good place to work. And every time I hear somebody say something that's detrimental, I always get right after them and tell 'em that ah, what ever they say if it's not true then I say, "Well that's not true." And it's a good place to work and we've got good people and, and that's the bottom line.

Q:

Great, anything else?

09:18:46

A:

I can't think, I can't think of any thing. I want to thank you folks for letting me do this.

Q:

Well, sure.

A:

I, I really like it. I really like to talk about ah, about something that you like and things. History, if you look back at it, you know, it doesn't seem possible that 40 years ago that I started working here. And that 40 years ago our son, our first son was born. And ah, I mean it just brings back a lot of memories and probably I could probably talk forever and ever about it.

09:19:14

A:

And probably ah, not say it all, and maybe you ask a question, maybe I really don't answer it like it, like you probably like for me to answer it. But sometimes I get off on a tangent here and I think about things and I just say what's on my heart, you know. But I appreciate it and I'd do it again if I can help in any other way or in other time just let me know.

Q:

Great, thank you so much.

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

Cameraperson  
Nat sound ?

Q:  
Yeah, we're gonna get a little bit of nat sound here. If we could have quite on the set for just a minute.