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FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Name: Nancy Holliday

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Tape: 37

Project Number 20012

Tape FLHP0076

06:01:00

Q:

Sure. Okay. Our first question is always the hardest question. (Laughs) if you could give us your name and spell it so we know we have it right.

A:

OK. My name is Nancy Holliday, spelled H-O-L-L-I-D-A-Y.

Q:

Great. And first of all, we're gonna start with a little bit o' background, um, how did you get your job at Fernald?

06:01:25

A:

Through a friend. I was looking for a job, and my friend's husband, who was Carl Polson, worked out here, and Carl knew that Bill Grannen, who was um, the attorney working, the attorney working for Fernald, um, needed a full-time secretary. And so, and Carl and Bill were good friends, and so, that's sort o' how it came together. And so I applied and was hired, and that was in September of 1979.

Q:

Great. And what was your background um, sort of pr-, pre-Fernald?

06:01:59

A:

Mostly, just um, well, I've only ever done office work and homemaking and mothering. (chuckles)

Q:

Great. And um, what were the early years like? Those first years when you first started your job?

A:

When I first started my job, it was with NLO, and it was um, a world, when I came to Fernald, it was a world unlike any I had ever encountered. And it was sort of like the best of times and the worst of times. Um, I, I wasn't prepared for the austerity that um, NLO just assumed, that was their way of life, their way of doing business.

A:

Which is very interesting in contrast to today, because now, we have austerity programs, but NLO didn't have those words, they just had austerity, period. So I came and I saw plain vinyl floors, and green walls everywhere. And the building that I worked in (clears throat) is the administration building, and it was a temporary building out of cinder block.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:03:14

A:

And it had no insulation, and it had no screens on the windows, and it still doesn't. (laughs) Um, it's very hard to heat, and it's hard to cool, but somehow they've managed. Um, there hadn't been, no new people had been hired for a long time when I was, when I was hired. And um, first of all, I had to go through this security clearance process, and I started working before I had my clearance, and

A:

I worked in what was called the "Holding Tank," which is now the Industrial Relations building, and all of us who were hired, but still weren't cleared had to sit in that room, and I was probably in there a couple months. Along with other engineers, and people who had come to start but weren't cleared yet. Well, finally my clearance came through, and and I was Q cleared.

06:04:09

A:

And I began working in the Admin Building, and I'll never forget the first day, that dear Ruth Zimmerman, she was president's secret-, she was pres-, well, we didn't have presidents, we had managers. She was the manager's secretary; the first. Manager's secretary. And she said to me, "The girls eat lunch at 11:30."

A:

And so I said, "Fine." And so she took me to the cafeteria, and I will never forget walking through those enormous double doors. And, it was, it, it was just, it was so astonishing to me. All the wage people were on my left, and all the salaried people were on the right. And to get to the food part of the cafeteria, you just walked down through the center of all that.

06:05:00

A:

And there was not a total hush, but a noticeable hush as I walked through, (chuckles). And everybody turned and looked because I was the new person. (Laughs) It was just so unique to have a new hi-, person hired. Uh, That was a real scary day for me. But I soon felt accepted and, and at home, and through the years, this has, this has become my home away from home. And I just, I love Fernald.

Q:

Tell us a little bit about your responsibilities, for your, you've had the same job the whole time you've been here?

06:05:38

A:

Yes I have. Oh, I've been in the same position, but I certainly haven't had the same job in that the work scope has changed drastically from contractor to contractor. When I first began, I was truly a secretary. I took my little steno pad in and Mr. Grannen dictated notes and letters to me, and I typed them on, in, on a typewriter, you know, where you really bang hard.

A:

And (clears throat) then when Westinghouse came, I did, I was trained by Peter Campisi, who was a contract attorney, and he taught me an awful lot about government contracting. And he and I together did the bulk of the contract work. And then when Westinghouse came, a whole bunch of people were

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript

hired to do what Peter and I had been doing; I just thought that was very peculiar.

06:06:34

A:

And, Westinghouse took all that away from us, and we were real scared about that. Oooh, what's happening to our job security? But, other work came in and it all worked out fine, but, to say I had the same job is not exactly accurate because you know, I was a steno, and then I became more of a subcontracting person.

A:

And then it sort of evolved into an administrative assistant, and then an administrator, and now I think I'm a legal assistant. (Laughs) you know, because I work directly with a lot of our um, our um, law firms that we deal with. So.

06:07:14

Q:

And what was the most interesting project that you've worked on?

A:

(Pauses to think) I don't know if I've ever worked on a specific project. I think doing the subcontracts was my favorite part. Because it was so diversified, and it was um, it, the cont-, we, NLO and Westinghouse and Fluor Daniel F-, are considered prime contractors of the Department of Energy. So that when other people come in to do wiring and roofing and tenting and digging, we have to sub-, subcontract that out, so we have all these subcontracts.

A:

And that was really fun because I learned what a cherry picker is, and (laughing). I, I just learned a lot about which clauses to put in, and boilerplate to put in, all the different contracts. Then I made up a checklist of about 20 steps that you have to go through from, from the onset of the invitation for bid, or the, or the request for proposal, clear through the completion of it.

A:

And it, it takes months for some o' these things to get finished; sometimes years. So that was probably my most interesting project.

06:08:33

Q:

Great. Now you mentioned earlier about getting Q clearance, and there was a background check and all that kind o' stuff. Can you tell us a little bit about getting your Q clearance?

A:

(Pauses to think, starts to say something but doesn't right away)

Ah, I really can't. I know that, some people were, were asked to talk about me and some of my friends were asked questions about my integrity, and my, my life, what sort of life I lead. Was I a good guy or a bad guy. (Laughing) I think that, that the, the initial security clearance was easier to get than, than, every 5 years, we had to, we had to, it had to be renewed.

A:

That was really tough. The lady came to my friend's house, and, and she came at a really inopportune

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

time. And my friend asked if she could do it later, and she said no, and so my friend had to go ahead and answer all the questions even though there was commotion in her household.

A:

And the security lady went on to another friend's house, and she wasn't very nice to my friends. And it was very awkward, but, but they were thorough. They really were, and they went around and knocked on a lot o' doors and asked a lot of questions. I do know that, but, other than that, I don't know too much about, about the process.

06:09:58

Q:

Now why did you have to have a Q clearance to work here at Fernald?

A:

When I first started working here, (clears throat) in the law department, we had some classified material, and we had to keep it locked in a safe. But I did have privy to it, and (laughing) um, I used to laugh about that, and think, well they could just tie me up and beat me, and I couldn't tell anybody anything because it was so technical I couldn't understand it.

A:

I didn't have the technical background so, but I did file it, and I did handle it, so consequently I did have to be Q cleared.

06:10:30

Q:

Yeah, pretty much everybody had to be Q cleared, is that right?

A:

If you, if you handled uh, classified documents, yes. 'Course we don't have classified documents here anymore. We don't have clearances anymore (chuckling).

Q:

All right, yeah. I know I didn't have to get one. (Laughs) um, (pause) Let's see; tell us a little bit about um, when you first began here, I'm going off your form. When you went to lunch, and you sat in someone else's space.

06:11:05

A:

(Smiles and looks away) you weren't, weren't supposed to bring that up (laughs).

Q:

Oh, she didn't say that.

A:

Oh, I'll tell ya that story, because I think it's it, it, it's a good ah, it's a good illustration of how closely knit the employees were as family under NLO. I went to lunch that first day, and there were I think eight places at the table, and I was told this is the girls' table.

A:

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

So I sat down at an end place, and everybody just sort of looked at me, and they said, Well you can sit there today, but that's Marilyn Franklin's seat. And so when sh-, and she's out sick today, so when she comes back, you'll have to give your seat up. (laughs) Ok. Well, eventually, I did become accepted and they were very warm and very caring, and I felt, I felt very much at home with all the other secretaries and ladies that I worked with.

06:11:59

A:

But what that pointed out was, how caring all the people were under NLO, I mean it was just so closely knit. And the thing that, that, what happened when Westinghouse came, Westinghouse being the first new contractor at Fernald, is that everybody was, was very shaken, not knowing what to expect, they had never transitioned before.

06:12:26

A:

And, Westinghouse was, they, they were wonderful about accepting and understanding what we were going, we the NLO employees were going through. And so they worked with us. They weren't antagonized and they weren't cavalier about it.

A:

They said, "okay, we understand." And they had seminars and they had workshops and they had printed material for us, and if you would take advantage of what they were offering, it really was very helpful. Now granted, there were people who've, had Westinghouse out here, and I'm not going to accept you, well, I'm, that's the way they wanted to deal with it, and that's okay.

06:13:10

A:

And the three contractors were all very different, but I can't say anybody was right or anybody was wrong, it was just simply the way they did business. So, I'll never forget Westinghouse doing a seminar, and it was the first transition seminar, and they taught us, I think it went like this; you can think of it like an equation. Change leads to transition, and transition, the first step of transition is letting go of your old identity.

A:

And, while the outcome of change may be great, but the first impact of change is loss. And that's how we felt. Our family, our security, our life as we had known it at work was going away. And now Westinghouse is here, and "Oh, my dear, whatever are we going to do?"

06:14:14

A:

Well, Westinghouse was just, They just, took us under their wing, and they said, "You'll be fine." They were very reassuring. And they said, what can we do to help? What, what don't you have that you would like to have? This sounds probably sounds pretty funny, but we said, soft drink machines. Picnic tables outside for summertime lunches. And they, they were just amazed.

A:

And they said, you don't have those? No. What else would you like? How about a salad bar in the cafeteria? (Laughs) so they said, Sure, sure. Fine. Okay. And so all of a sudden, soft drink machines

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

were going up around the site, and picnic tables were installed, and we had a salad bar with fresh soup every day, and, wow! (Laughs).

06:15:01

A:

And then, Westinghouse looked around these buildings that we, that we were working in. And they decided that they just weren't very pretty, (laughs) so, the next thing we knew, these interior design people were coming in, and they were measuring windows and measuring floor space, and then carpet was installed, and all the green!

A:

There was green everywhere. The green was painted over, and we had these soft mauve colored walls. Carpet, and draperies, new window treatments. It was primarily in the Administration building and the Safety and Health building. (Laughing) I will never forget walking down the hall one day, I was in the Safety and Health building, and I was going to ward Medical.

06:15:43

A:

And I looked around at these new cubicles, the carpeting, and the indirect lighting, and I thought, you know, you really can make a silk purse out of a sow's ear. It was amazing. And so the morale really went up. And NLO did things, they did things in an austere way, but they trusted, the management trusted everybody to do it right.

A:

There wasn't any question. They knew you'd do it right. So instead of having to order pencils and pens and paper clips and staplers on a requisition, there was a room in each building where you could go and just pick up what you needed. It was just there. And people weren't greedy, they didn't take what they didn't need. But, Westinghouse and Fluor Daniel took that away.

A:

No, if you want something, you order it, and that way we can keep, account for it better, so, there were a lot of differences.

06:16:44

Q:

What year did Westinghouse come in and take over from NLO?

A:

January 1, 1986.

Q:

And uh, that was shortly before they started cleanup. That was sort of 3 years before they would shut down the plant.

06:17:02

A:

(While interviewer is still speaking her last 6 words)

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

Oh, yeah. They were still in production then. Right, production was going on until 1989.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript

Q:

Tell us the difference between the, well, first of all, let's talk about the transition between the process years and the um, the cleanup years. Tell us about learning that they would be shutting the plant down. When did you find that out, and how did you feel about it?

06:17:33

A:

I probably found that out when everybody else found that out. And how did I feel about it? Not much. Because you see, I was administrative. I wasn't ever in plant area except as a tourist once; I went on a tour, so it really, it did not impact my work as I knew it then. What did happen as, as ours became a society more litigation minded, um, Fernald followed suit, and when NLO was here, we had um,

A:

I'm tryin' to thing. I'm tryin' to think. Well, when the dust collector bag broke, well then we had a problem, and that was the first, that was the first time the word litigation popped up in the law department. (Laughs) Then we had the first neighbor's class action suit, and that was a big deal. A really big deal.

06:18:45

A:

And then, um, Mr. Grannen was the lone attorney. I'm digressing, but this, I think this was important. When he was hired by NLO, he was hired in the security department. He had been in the FBI in New York, and the management decided they needed a lawyer to look over a lot of things, and so they asked him if he would, if he would do that, and he agreed to.

A:

And he had an office, and he worked all by himself. And he didn't have a secretary, um, well the anum secretary or assistant manager at the time, Roberta Brown, would do Mr. Grannen's clerical work in her spare time. That's how un, busy the law department was. Well, it began to grow in the areas of the subcontracts that I touched on earlier, and the worker's compensation claims.

06:19:49

A:

And it got to the point where Mr. Grannen couldn't handle all that; he needed some clerical support, So that's when I got hired. And then shortly after that, I came in '79. And then, John Greulich was hired in 1981, and also in 1981, Peter Campisi was hired. And later we had, Peter did the contract work. John is laborer and employee relations.

A:

And then, (pauses) we've had, let's see, I don't wanna leave anybody out. (Laughs) after, after Dan Yaeger, who was an environmental lawyer was hired, then we had Rene Holmes. Now, after Mr. Grannen had to leave at the end of 1985.

A:

When that contract was up, there was no Westinghouse General Council for a while; they didn't fill that slot right away, and so John Greulich kind a filled in and did the administrative work in that area. And I'll never forget John for that; he was my lifeline; (laughs) he really kept me going. He was wonderful.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

06:21:04

A:

And (clears throat) then Westinghouse sent Sky Bradley, who came from Idaho, he was a Berkley graduate, and Sky stayed 6 years. And then when Sky was moved by Westinghouse out to Hanford, why Westinghouse sent Victor Franklin in for a small period, short period of time. And when Fluor Daniel came, Jennifer Curtis came.

A:

Jennifer was wonderful to work with. They were all wonderful in each very different in his or her own way of doing things, but I have loved working with all of them. Each one of them, I could (laughing) just tell stories and stories (laughing).

06:21:48

Q:

That's great. That's a, different perspective you know, than I've heard from other people, 'cause they give us that same traditional view from the plant, so it's good to hear it from an administrative point of view.

A:

I know that mine is probably far more positive because I just dealt with such wonderful people with such wonderful attitudes, and I just truly loved Westinghouse, I really did. And I loved NLO, and Fluor Daniel is great.

06:22:13

Q:

Tell us a little bit about the transition between Westinghouse and Fluor Daniel, when they came in.

A:

That was more difficult for me, personally, because I had grown so fond of the Westinghouse people, and so accustomed to their way of, their doing business. And Fluor Daniel, now again, I wanna emphasize, this is not a right or wrong situation. This is just my perception.

A:

Fluor Daniel came in with, We're here to clean this place up, and we're not here to coddle, to the employees. You know, intellectually, I understood that, but it wasn't a real easy pill to swallow. Um, Fluor Daniel has been, has just been wonderful as far as safety.

06:22:57

A:

I mean, even today, when I'm at home, when I'm on vacation, when I'm at the mall, wherever I am, I never stop thinking about safety, and it's, I have Fluor Daniel to thank for that. Fluor Daniel has done, remarkable work, because, they're cleaning this place up, and, and you can't go to the library and find out how to clean up (chuckles) a radioactive site.

A:

It, it's never been done, so it's tough. It's really tough, and they have taken a lot of slack. And some of it has been really undeserved, I mean, Fluor Daniel really tries hard. They really do. Now this is in my mind's eye. (Adjusts her jacket collar) because I see how careful they really are, and how, every,

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

every day, people come to my boss, Mark Sucher (pauses).

06:23:55

A:

(Clears throat) and they just wanna make sure they're doing it right. You wanna be, They're just so careful. And Fluor, Fluor Daniel is a conscientious group, but they are cleanup, they, the emphasis is on cleanup, not taking care of people.

A:

But you know what they're doing that I just think is marvelous, and I really think this is an enormous feather in their cap. They are training workers, who are certainly not ready to retire as I am, to go on into other fields of work.

A:

Anybody who has a job here, and knows that they're not going to be retired for a long time, is absolutely foolish to not take advantage of all the classes, and all the courses, and they were teaching people how to be truck drivers, and how to be.

06:24:51

A:

Well, I won't go into all the, all the different things that they do. But they, there are different universities that come on site and give classes, or you can go off to a university and, and of course, the government, the Department of Energy pays for this. But Fluor Daniel has, has worked very hard to, to facilitate this, and to get people interested, and to get them, to take advantage of this, and that to me is one of the best things that Fernald-, Fluor Daniel has ever done.

Q:

Great, I 'm glad you brought that up. (They both laugh) um, (pauses) covered that, and I've covered that. Um, in all your years here at Fernald, who has influenced you the most?

06:25:47

A:

Ooh. (Laughs and clears throat) who has influenced me the most? Probably Bill Grannen, my first boss. He was an absolute gentleman. The thing about NLO, everybody came to work dressed in, the men wore suits and sport coats, always a necktie. Women wore nice dresses or suits and dress shoes, and everybody looked professional, and everybody came looking as if they were going to work.

A:

(Laughing) And now, everybody looks like they're going to the ballgame. (Laughs) And that was a tough one for me to get used to. Casual Friday, okay, but blue jeans every day? (Looks frowning off to the side, then smiles) But this is a construction site now. This is not a production site, and there's such a difference.

06:26:39

A:

So Bill Grannen influenced me as far as decorum in the office. (Pauses) He taught me, by, by example. He was such a gentleman, that I wanted to be just a lady at work all the time, at work. So he was my biggest influence.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

A:

Umm, I'm also influenced by my present boss was Mark Sucher. Mark is, has an incredible background, he comes from the, the Air Force Academy, and Harvard Law School, he has an, he has so many degrees, (chuckles). I don't wanna mention any more because I don't wanna get them wrong, but Mark has a very high work ethic. And that rubs off. It rubs off.

06:27:35

A:

And he's a very pleasant person, and he's a very personable person, so he's, he's just been a delight to work with. (Sitting back) um, there have, there have been, there have been people who have influenced me. Bill Britton. I loved Bill Britton. He was the second Westinghouse president. He came up from production, worked his way up, became president.

A:

Bruce Boswell was the first Westinghouse president, and then Bill Britton. And Bill never missed a day, he always came down to the office to say, "Just a social. I don't want my lawyer to forget who I am!" (Laughing) you know, and personable and bright and ambitious and industrious, what a guy. I really like Bill Britton. If he ever sees this, I hope, (waves to the camera) Hi, Bill (laughing).

06:28:28

Q:

Do we need to change tape?

(Off camera: about 28:30)

Q:

Let's go ahead and change tape.

FLHP0077

Q:

Producers are allowed to smack camera people whenever they want.

A:

Ooh! (Everyone laughs) all right.

(Off camera: back on)

Q:

That's blinking. How come that's blinking?

(Off camera: What's blinking?)

Q:

That w-, (tape is stopped and re-started midstream)

(Off camera: now we're rolling)

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

07:01:13

Excellent, okay, um, did anything funny or unusual happen to you while you were at Fernald? Any anecdotes.

A:

(Smiling then laughing) oh, we'd laugh a lot, believe it or not. At Fernald because yes, a lot of funny things do happen. We get, you can imagine in the law department, the questions that come in, are really funny sometimes.

A:

And I'm, s-, certainly not going to repeat any of them, but it's amazing what people assume the law department is here for, they think it's for personal reasons, and they call with their domestic problems. I've, I've really heard some loo-loos, and I simply say this is corporate law, we don't do personal law, and so.

07:01:58

A:

But, a funny, I, I remember Bill Grannen was a member of the Department of Energy and Contractor Attorney Association. And these people all took turns hosting and putting together the meetings. And they met every spring and every fall.

A:

And sometimes they met on the East Coast, and sometimes they met on the West Coast. Well, when Bill Grannen's turn came up to be the chair, it was on the West coast in La Hoya. California. And he sort of turned the project over to me to organize it.

07:02:30

A:

And of course, I had to do it all by long-distance telephone and by facsimile. By that the government had its own long-distance telephone system. It was called F.T.S., Federal Telephone System. And the day that I had to do all these, make all these arrangements, the telephone system wasn't working.

A:

In that if you were to dial 1-2-3-4, it would pick up 2-3-4-5. It was off one digit. So I made a couple calls and I got wrong an-, wrong number, and I thought, what is wrong? But I just passed it off. So I dialed again, and the answer was "White House".

07:03:20

A:

(Laughing) I said, "I'm not kidding." I said, "White House as in where the President lives?" (Still laughing) and the lady says, "yes it is." And I said, "oh, I'm so sorry, I've dialed the wrong number" and I hung up. And I (takes a gasp of air) I thought, Oh my gosh! So I got up and went to get a drink of water and s-, settled down and I dialed the phone again.

A:

And this time, the person who answered said, "Pentagon." (Both laugh) Oh, this is way wrong, you know. So I went in and told Mr. Grannen, and I told him what was going on, and he howled. He thought that was really funny. He said, "well, let me try." So he took a couple numbers.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

07:03:55

A:

And so the answer he got was, "Elevator 4." (Laughing) we had no idea where Elevator 4 was. Then he dialed another number, and he got an Indian reservation in Oklahoma. (Laughing) so we decided this is not working. (Laughs some more) so we went commercial then and had to do the rest of the calls, you know, by commercial long distance.

A:

Which very interesting, again, back to the austerity of NLO. There were very few telephones that were hooked up so that you could dial long distance. In other words, you just couldn't make a long distance call, and so no charges were incurred.

07:04:28

So that was a great story, and we did finally get all the lunches prepared, and all the meetings set up and the projectors and the cameras, and, and what have you. And the meeting went off real well. It's amazing what you can do by long distance when (laughing) the phone works right.

Q:

That's wonderful! (Laughing) Pentagon! Oh my goodness. Tell us about when computers first came on site.

07:04:56

A:

Oh, glory. It was just awful. (Laughing) it was just awful. It was when NLO was still here. And they, they being management, and decided that okay, computers were coming, and they probably were here to stay, and they better figure out what they were and how to use them.

A:

So they bought a couple dozen. And they put several (clears throat) in the east wing on the second floor of the Administration Building, and made a sort of classroom out of it. And they said, OK, all the division director's secretaries, go learn how to use computers.

07:05:38

A:

Well, (laughing) we didn't go kicking and screaming but we weren't happy campers. It was, I don't wanna do this. I mean, none of us wanted to do it. I, it was terrible. So we walked into the room, and we all sat down. It was a very solemn, silent group.

A:

And the instructor had all the computers turned on. And kiddingly, or laughingly, she said, "oh, I'm sure you all know how to turn these on." Dead silence. No. We don't know how to turn 'em on.

07:06:09

A:

Oh, boy, so she went around the room and turned off all the computers, and she taught us literally, how to turn it on; push this button. We did that. Two hours later, we were still learning word processing; how to do a letter through word processing. And we were all sitting there saying, this is the dumbest

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

thing I have ever seen.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript

A:

I could have had this letter typed on my typewriter 15 times while we're sittin' around here with this put it in and take it out and move it around. Oh! I couldn't believe that the company was actually going to buy in to this computer business. This was just ridiculous. (laughs)

07:06:47

A:

So anyhow, we finally got the hang of it, and we practiced, and we practiced. And some of us practiced more than others (laughs) and I kind a became intrigued with it, and I did work with it. In fact, I worked with it, sometimes I'd come in on Saturday, and stay after hours just to practice, just because I wanted to learn it. And I was glad that I did.

A:

But now (laughing) here we are, many years later, and I think, how could you possibly function in an office without a computer? How could you function anywhere without a computer, even at home? The transition was just amazing, but oh, oh. It was too funny, when we just all had to learn. Word, word processing, what does that mean?

07:07:32

A:

Well, you take a paragraph from here to there, or take it out, put it in. (gasps "Oh dear!") So, it, it was very traumatic, and it was difficult. And you know, some of us hadn't learned anything for a long, long time. I had gone to secretarial school, I went to Miami for a few years.

A:

Miami of Ohio, and then to secretarial school. So I hadn't had any training for years. It's, oh, I don't wanna do this. Then after I got into it, I enjoyed it. Yeah.

Q:

That's great. (Muffled conversation off camera for a few seconds, tape stops and resumes)
A few quick questions and that's it. Great. Now, you have a unique perspective because your husband worked for the Atomic Energy Commission and also for Fernald.

07:08:16

A:

Yes he did.

Q:

Um, can you tell us a little bit about, gosh, being the spouse of someone that ah, worked here. What was that like, and?

A:

Well, it was really great! We could carpool! (Laughs) John came, uh, when Westinghouse was here, came as a Belcan employee, and then Westinghouse hired him, so we worked together for some years. But, we worked on the same site, we certainly didn't work together; I never saw him during, during the work day.

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript

07:08:54

A:

Um, it's interesting, one day, well, let me back track a little bit. When NLO was here, the shroud of secrecy was well known. And people didn't talk about Fernald a whole lot, and then Westinghouse opened the door and said what do you wanna know?

A:

And literally, when I would leave work in the evening, and come down through the Administration Building and through the lobby, and honestly, at least once a week, you'd trip over the wires from Channel 5 or Channel 9, or ABC or NBC. There was always somebody in here, interviewing or taping.

07:09:32

A:

You got really used to it. Well, one day, John and I were, leaving work, and we went down the front access road. And there was a man standing in front of the big sign out in front, and it looked like someone that we knew, and I said, I wonder why they're taping, and I mentioned this person's name.

A:

Had a full head of gray hair. And we got up close, and I said, oh, that isn't, the person we knew, that's Harry Reasoner. And we just kept going, and then when we got out on Route 128, I said, John, are we jaded or what? That was Harry Reasoner. They're doing "60 Minutes" out there, and we didn't bat an eye, just became so accustomed to it.

07:10:14

A:

But um, working, having your husband here, really didn't impact on your day-to-day job. It was just nice to have um, y-, you could talk about work, and he under, and you know, John understood what I, what I was talking about, and when he talked about it,

A:

I sort of understood what he was talking about, because, he, John is very bright, and, and, well-versed in all the nuclear, he's in nuclear engineering. He, he just knows all the technical stuff, and so, it was always over my head, but I was always interested, you know.

Q:

That's great. And uh, there's been a lot o' discussion around site about (pauses) Cold War Warriors. I think this is the term they're using now to describe people who worked here for a long time. And how do you feel that Fernald contributed to America's mission?

07:11:23

A:

(Long pause) Fernald's contribution to the Cold War (pause) was irreplaceable, and I am so proud to have been a part of that. Being, being here and knowing that the uranium that was being processed, that would go out to Hanford, Savannah River, Rocky Flats, into.

A:

(Clears throat) it would go through the nuclear reactor, and then it became plutonium, we got the

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT
Transcript

plutonium, I'm simplifying this, and then we could make a bomb. And because Russia knew that, I mean I, I just felt proud. I don't know of a better word, and, and I know a lot of people feel the very same way, to have been associated with that.

07:12:18

A:

And this is the most unique place in the world, to me, because it was the first step in the bomb-making process, and there's no place like it. And I got to be a part of it. I really am grateful, I really am. I've thanked the Lord many times for this job.

A:

I have. And for th-, for this association, for, for the tremendous knowledge that I've been exposed to, and brilliant people, and so many of them. People who work in the lab, and people who work, people, the engineering, and the brilliance is just mind boggling to me. Yeah.

07:13:11

Q:

That's wonderful. And uh, there's also been a lot o' discussion on site about what's gonna happen with the land here, once Fernald is torn down. What would you personally like to see here once the plant is gone?

A:

The talk of a (clears throat) Cold War museum is very interesting. Um, I'm sure that there's an awful lot of thought is going into how that would be done. My concern is, um, like I think it would be wonderful to have one, I'm not sure this is the place for it because it's so outta the way.

A:

I'm not sure people would come to it. 'Cause it's just not close to anything. That's why Fernald is here; it isn't close to anything. Um, I would like to see a museum built, but not here. My own preference would be to just keep going, with the project that they already have going out at the back access road with the wetlands, and the trees and just turn it into pasture.

07:14:18

A:

I think to make this a place where Native Americans can be interred is wonderful. I just think that would be a wonderful thing for those people. I would like to see that happen. I'm sure there will be people here monitoring the water, forever. I just want it to be pretty. That's all.

Q:

Is there anything that you'd like to add, anything that we didn't cover that you wanted to cover?

A:

(Laughing) if I seem kind of nervous, I'm not, it's cold. We're doing this outdoors. Um, I came to work here for a short while, and it's 20 years. Uh, I remember Betty Smith, who was in Medical, said she came to work here long enough to buy a winter coat, and stayed over 30 years (laughs).

FERNALD LIVING HISTORY PROJECT

Transcript

07:15:18

A:

You come here, and you stay, because you love it. And people are wonderful here, and they, everybody takes care of one another. When I had, I had two back surgeries, and oh, people came to my house, they brought me presents, they sent me cards, they called, it was wonderful.

A:

These, these friendships that I have made here will last forever. I'm not gonna name special people because they know who they are, and I don't wanna omit anyone. But I have made some lifelong friends here, and I'm thankful for that.

097:15:55

Q:

Terrific, anything else?

A:

Um, I'm very glad to have had this opportunity to record my thoughts and feelings about having worked here. I appreciate it very much. I thank all you public affairs folks. And we have a great cameraman.

(Everyone laughs)

A:

He's funny.

Q:

Oh, very good. Okay, we just need to get a little bit of nat sound is what we call it around here. If we could just have quiet on the set for a second, this is nat sound.