

BEAVERTON ORAL HISTORY PROJECT

Interview with

HARVEY WILLIAMS

at his home in Beaverton, Oregon

INTERVIEWER: SHIRLEY TANZER

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TANZER: Is that what used to be referred to as "rural fire district."

WILLIAMS: Yes. We used to protect that a certain amount. It didn't amount to much protection. We had an old tanker that we'd built up -- I think 500 gallons of water, and we'd go out and do what we could. We done some good once in a while.

TANZER: How far east did the Beaverton Fire District extend?

WILLIAMS: Any part of the Beaverton city limits is in the Beaverton Fire District.

TANZER: Now from 1932 to 1952 you were a volunteer fireman, you were chief and then who took over from you?

WILLIAMS: What it was, I was working in Portland and couldn't be here during the day so they thought it would be better if there was somebody else. So they appointed Archie Olson; he was chief then until '61 or '62 when he retired. In 1952 they started putting paid firemen on. Archie Olson was the first paid man, and he worked days and took care of the equipment. Cal McGann and Archie and me worked then for pay, 24 on and 48 off. We'd take care of the phone calls coming in. When we got an alarm, se'd set off the siren.

TANZER: Where was the siren?

WILLIAMS: It was on the top of city hall on 1st and Main; later it was moved up to the fire station. **PART TWO AUDIO RECORDING STARTS HERE**

TANZER: Mr. Williams, you were telling me about the starch factory. Was it another factory before it was a starch factory?

WILLIAMS: It was a feed mill. I think they made flour there, too. It was on the northwest corner of Cedar Hills and Farmington along the railroad tracks. They used to make potato starch. They'd buy up potatoes from the farmers.

TANZER: Who owned it when it was a feed mill?

WILLIAMS: I think Mr. Musik. He was the one that owned it when it was a feed mill. They've got a son, Joe Musik, who lives up on Cooper Mountain. He could probably give you a lot of information on that, too. I don't know too much about the feed mill part of it. My dad used to fire the boilers there when they were making potato starch, and that's how I remember, from that. They had vats of this starch and it was real white; they'd run it through a dryer and it would come out potato starch. They eventually moved from here up to Toppenish, Washington. When it was a starch factory, I think Bill Gifford was one of the owners and Fred Carslund had some money in it, too.

TANZER: Who was he?

WILLIAMS: A fella that just wandered around town most of the time when he was here. He lived in Beaverton some, but I don't think he was born and raised here. He was one that come in. Bill Gifford had a son that lived in Hillsboro for a while.

After the starch factory went out, they put in a cannery. They built a whole storage place to keep the canned stuff and they would can different types of fruit and some vegetables. Several different ones owned it; I don't recall the names of the companies that owned it.

At the last, they used the freezer part to freeze meat there for dog food. I remember that pretty well because they had a bunch of that out on the runway there and this building was set afire as a diversion for a robbery at the Safeway store.

TANZER: This present Safeway?

WILLIAMS: Yes. And during the fire, these fellas went down to Safeway. There was a manager and one of the clerks, and they robbed the store and they took them up on Cooper Mountain and took the keys away from them and left those two up on Cooper Mountain. I can't think of the manager's name, but he's manager now up at the Aloha Safeway Store.

TANZER: How many years ago was the robbery?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I think it would be anyway 25 years ago. About 1968 -- No, it might be a little bit later than that. I remember we had the old hook and ladder from Portland and I don't think we got that until 1962. So it'd be around 1962 someplace. On that fire, it made a third alarm and we had equipment from Hillsboro, Cedar Mill, Aloha, and Beaverton, West Slope -- a lot of equipment in here that night. It was an old, all-wooden building, and no fire stops. I can't think of the fellow's name, a contractor; he had a lot of lumber from jobs that he didn't want to throw away, stored in there, so it made an excellent fire. It was totalled. Some of that meat was salvageable, I guess, but I wouldn't want to use it myself. I think this contractor owned the plant. He was hooked up with somebody from Damerow Ford, too. I can't think of the name.

TANZER: It wasn't Lou Mountain?

WILLIAMS: No, I don't think so. I know Newberg Transportation hauled the dog food to Newberg when it was turned into a freezer, but all they had in there was meat for dog food.

TANZER: You mentioned something about going to the starch factory with your dad at one time. Did he show you how to fire the boiler?

WILLIAMS: He taught me how to put water in the boilers; when the water was down a little bit he'd open one valve, close one valve, and open another one and watch it until it come up to where the water level was supposed to be in the boiler. Then you'd reverse it to shut off the inflow and open up the other one. I went down there one time with my aunt, and I had a look to see how the water was. I seen it was just a little bit low, so I hopped up on the brick there and I started opening valves and closing valves and filled the boiler, and she like to beat my head off with her umbrella. (laughter) She was really made. She give my dad heck for teaching me how to do that. Didn't bother him none, though. He says, "Oh, heck, he does it all right." I was 12, 13 years old at the time.

TANZER: Mr. Williams, were most of your activities confined to the Beaverton area?

WILLIAMS: Yes. I worked in Portland a little bit, and I worked in the shipyards some, but of my total time, it wouldn't be over 10 or 12 years of working outside of the city of Beaverton. That's driving a truck from Beaverton. Oh, I did other work, too, helped mix concrete, cut wood, fire department. My activities have mostly been right here in Beaverton.

TANZER: Were there some other rather spectacular fires you remember in the Beaverton area?

WILLIAMS: Well, I remember the first fire I'd ever seen. We were living in the house thereon the corner and there was a houseright across the street here. Frank Miller lived there and at that day and time, there wasn't too many telephones, and I heard a fella hollerin', "Fire!" It was Mr. Swenson, a real estate man and an auctioneer, and he had a good loud voice. I come runnin' out of the house, looked, and I could see fire comin' out of the upstairs window. Somebody else picked up the alarm and telephoned it in to Thyng's Restaurant. And somebody would go across the street where the hose carts was and they'd ring a bell. Whenever you heard that bell, and you were a volunteer, why you started running. They pulled the hose cart up here and hooked it up to a hydrant on Watson Street and they drug the hose around. Finally they got the fire out, but there was a lot of water damage and a lot of damage to the house. It had got a pretty good start before they got down there.

This fella, Johnny Davis, owned this house and he come up and was just a little under the weather with the bourbon blues. He looked in there and said, "You're a hell of a bunch of firefighters." And there was a little fellow in there that had been picking up fruit and handing it out and he was black from one end to the other from fightin' in there in just his ordinary clothes, and it kind of didn't set with him. He used to be a prizefighter. He come out and they got into a fight. And this little Harvey Pender, he licked him. And he says, "Well, if I hadn't been drunk, you wouldn'ta licked me." And Harvey says, "Well, we'll postpone it until when you're sober." Well, he lived down there in the White Hall, and Harve would go down there and Johnny, every time Harve would come, Johnny was drunk. It went on for a couple of weeks, I guess, and finally Johnny's brother stepped in. He was a pretty good-sized fellow. He weighed 220 and he was pretty physically fit. He said, "Well," he says, "I think it's about time to stop this; otherwise, I'll take a hand in it." And little Harvey Pender looked at him and sized him up and down and says, "Well, you don't look too big for me." But I guess that's about when it stopped. (laughter) That might have been one of the first fires I got to see as a kid, that was any size.

They used to pull those hose carts around. I can recall one time out at Clements, the call came in they had a fire. They lived on Lombard and had a chicken ranch there. It took up the biggest share of the northwest corner of Lombard and Allen. One of his sons had property down on 10th Street, so that can give you an idea of how big that place was. I remember helping pull the hose cart up the street, running all the way. There was a hydrant right close there, and we hooked on to that with this 2½" hose and put it out. And we got it out without too much damage.

TANZER: What were the reasons that you decided to become a fireman?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I'd volunteered off and on ever since I was able to get to one of the meetings and when there was a job that needed to be done.

In the early days, if somebody had a problem and needed help, somebody was always ready to give a helping hand; you dropped what you was doing and went over to help, regardless of what time of the day or night it was.

I remember another fire I was still going to grade school and it happened at the noon hour. It was down where Tektronix Warehouse is, a brush and grass fire. So I went down there. Quite a bunch of farmers had stopped work and had come over to help. In them days, you had to use shovels and just gunny sacks, wet sacks, and beat it out. And I went down there at my noon hour and I helped fight that fire and I come back to school late, and I got by all right. They let me alone. (laughter)

TANZER: Did they ask you where you'd been?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. And I told them. Mrs. Merle Davies, she was the principal then, and oh -- it was all right.

TANZER: What do you remember about her?

WILLIAMS: I remember she used to have a fifteen-inch ruler that was really applied (laughter). I wasn't any exception, either, (laughter)

TANZER: What were the reasons that the discipline was applied to you?

WILLIAMS: Oh, there was many a reason (laughter). Oh, I don't recall just what it was, but she didn't just pick on any one. I seen her start in; she was teaching I think it was the 6th & 7th Grade, and they was all in one room, and we'd done something that didn't satisfy her that we shouldn't have done so she started in on the one grade, the lower grade and went through that. By the time she got to the other grade, her arm was getting pretty tired, so she just hit the high spots in that.

One time Schuyler Harris, he had done something. I don't recall what he had done but he was sitting in the back of the room, and she made him bend over the desk, and she applied the ruler. And when she hit him with the ruler, his pants ripped, so he set down in the seat (it was a back seat and there was no desk on it) and she told him to get back up there on that desk and he wouldn't do it because his pants was ripped. So she got a hold of him and started a shakin' him around there and pulled the screws out of the desk -- pulled it right out of the floor. (laughter)

TANZER: Was she a big woman?

WILLIAMS: She was a large woman, yes. Put I always remembered that there and how the rest of us kids was sitting around there with grins from ear to ear but we didn't dare laugh.

TANZER: Well, it certainly sounds like there were some good times.

WILLIAMS: Oh, it was nothing. Dull times didn't last very long. It was pretty active. I remember one time I was in a track meet and our relay team went up to Forest Grove. There was four of us in the relay team. I was anchor man because they had a pretty good lead for me. And the kids told about how

Miss Davies was up there in the stand screamin' and hollerin' for us to come on in, and they all got a kick out of it -- her out there getting excited and a-screamin' for our race. That's something she usually didn't do.

TANZER: Was she a very controlled woman?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. She had her ways of running things and you done the right thing; otherwise, she informed you by warming your britches, or sending you home, or something.

TANZER: Did you ever have to bring your parents to school?

WILLIAMS: No, but I probably should have quite a few times. (laughter) No, in them days they didn't have you bring your folks to school. If you got expelled for something, why they'd send a note home with you. They didn't have no easy time of it. Have you talked to Mrs. Stipe yet? She used to be a teacher up there.

TANZER: You referred to her husband's shop.

WILLIAMS: Elmer, yes. He had the garage there and they live up here on 10th & Watson. That was the home place of Stipes.

TANZER: Was the garage a gathering place for the young men?

WILLIAMS: Not too much. They gathered at the pool hall next door to Thyng's Confectionary. That was one of the antique, old-time places around here.

TANZER: Did you go to the pool hall?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. Yes, spent my share of time there.

TANZER: Were there a lot of the young men?

WILLIAMS: Yes.

TANZER: And where did you meet the young women?

WILLIAMS: Well, I met my wife at a dance at Huber, through Ralph and Grace Stipes. I took her home that night and went together for a while and then we quit going together and she lived in Portland and she got married and raised two boys. That was before we got married. I was married before to Hilda Thomas, and that's when I had the one boy by her.

TANZER: Was Hilda Thomas from Beaverton?

WILLIAMS: She was from Cornelius. I think I met her at a dance, too, if I remember right.

TANZER: Is she deceased?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Hilda and George, they passed away about a year apart. Then Vera heard about me losing my first wife and we started to going together and then we decided we'd get married, which has been real nice and real happy. We have raised three nice boys that we're real proud of.

TANZER: Mr. Williams, how strongly do you identify with the city of Beaverton?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I've been here for quite a while and am pretty well known around. Some of the things that are going on now, I just don't really agree with, but everybody has their own opinion.

TANZER: What are your opinions?

WILLIAMS: Well, I don't believe in this B.U.R.A., this Urban Renewal the way they're goin'. I think parts of it is fine, but I think they're going overboard. A lot of this brick work, tree planting, shrubery, and stuff like that, is costing the taxpayers a heck of a lot of money. I think the city would be just as well off, in fact, I feel it would be better off, if they didn't have these brick walks across the street which go to pieces about every time you turn around. And oh, those goosenecks they got out in the street so that it makes it hard to pull up to the curb and get away from it -- it's all -- a lot of that stuff is just senseless. It's just looks. I think they're puttin' too much money on that. They could take that money and make a better street, do a better job of either putting in blacktop or cement or whatever they want to do.

I don't agree with their method of distributing the cost of some of this stuff. They wanted to work over this street here, and they wanted to charge me as much for a  $46\frac{1}{2}$ ' lot as they did for the neighbors around here that had a 100' lot.

And I happen to own two  $46\frac{1}{2}$ ' lots -- one on one side of the street and one on the other. Well, I was going to pay around \$1500 that they wanted to blacktop down the center of the street, I think 24 feet. Well, that isn't a finished street. It sure would help some, but it isn't your street curb and sidewalk. Another thing, I've got sidewalks in front of all of our property here, and we didn't get any credit on that in the street assessment they wanted to do. I went down and hollered about it, and I had company.

TANZER: How prevalent is this feeling about development in Beaverton among the oldtimers?

WILLIAMS: There's a lot of them that can't figure out how they get by with it. I had one fellow tell me that he used to be the mayor. He says, "Well," he says, "After all, you gotta give him credit for doin' all these things for the people whether they want them done or not -- being able to get them done. You got to give him credit for being able to do that." But I don't know. That isn't my method of operation. I figure that if you're going to do something, you at least want 50% of the people involved to be for it, or 50% against; whichever way it is. It should be majority rules.

Now another thing, on the voting on this here, they sent things out for us to fill out and send back. Well, on these here, it took 60% "No" vote to vote it down. Anybody that didn't vote was a "Yes" vote. Well, that is pretty lopsided. I also preferred to mention that to them when I was at the Council meeting, and told them about what I thought.

TANZER: Which Council meeting did you go to?

WILLIAMS: Oh, there were several of them. They had one up at Fir Grove

School, and then another one here at the City Hall. That one time I was there, Guy Carr, he was in ahead of me and he was upset in regards to the annexation of his property down there. They wanted to bring it into the city limits, but he didn't want it brought in.

TANZER: When you were with the fire department, how well did you work with other city departments -- the mayor's office, and so forth?

WILLIAMS: We had good relations with all departments then. Well, there was years there when we used to inspect building plans and had a few shenanigans pulled on us. For example, bringing a set of blueprints in at 4:30 and saying they had to be ready for the Council meeting that night. Then you get there to the Council meeting and the Council asks if the fire department had seen them, and he gets up and says "Yes." We had to prove that we saw them.

Hal Hewitt was in the building department. He run things over there the way he wanted to regardless of whether it was right or wrong. And he had enough gift of gab to him the Council would believe him. He was a college man and here I am, no college man; well, they're going to take his word over mine.

But I did get a kick out of one setup that went wrong. They wanted to put a sidewalk and a fountain on Second Street, do away with that Street, and so I complained about it. We needed it for fire equipment in case of a fire. Well, the school district had four sets of plans, four different setups where they would have a walkway down in there which we could have brought a truck in on. But when you brought one piece of equipment in, it would be blocked. And this Hewitt, he says, "Oh," he says, "We'll put a hard surface for the grass to grow on." Well those pieces of equipment, if you got a piece of ground that grass is growing on, that front end is pretty heavy, heavy enough that it's just going to go ZOOM.

They wouldn't pay any attention to me. I talked to some of the Councilmen but they wouldn't pay no attention. Finally I talked to Gene Springer in the building department of the school district; I made an appointment to meet him after dinner. The Chief was out of town and I was in charge of things there that day. I was going to go over that stuff, and I come back in the office there and here was a note from Larry Sprecter not to meet with Springer until the Chief come back.

TANZER: Who was the Chief at that time?

WILLIAMS: Houston Reynolds. He's still chief in the fire department there.

TANZER: And who was chief before Reynolds?

WILLIAMS: Bob Wickum. He came to the department from eastern Oregon.

TANZER: Did Wickum follow you when you retired?

WILLIAMS: No. Wickum was let out before I retired. Wickum and then Houston. Houston Reynolds was still chief when I retired. See, I didn't retire until 1972, and this was all around in the early 60's.

TANZER: Well, finish telling me the story. I just wanted to get my cast of characters straight.

WILLIAMS: Oh. O.K. Well, then like I was saying, I wasn't supposed to meet with James Springer, so every place I looked, why I'd run into a blank wall. And I thought, well, there's one more place I might be able to get some help. So I called Ed Markling, in charge of the Rating Bureau in Portland. I told him what was going on and what success I was having in getting this thing stopped, and what was going to happen if they had a fire there and we had to put a lot of equipment in there. He says, "Well," he says, "Maybe a letter from me might help." Well, you'll notice that it's still a street and not a walkway through there. If we'd a let them go, they'd a dug that street up and put a walk and a fountain down in there.

At that time, the fire station was on 5th Street where it is now, just off Hall. It was on 1st Street at one time.

TANZER: But you did need access to 2nd because of the High School?

WILLIAMS: If they'd put a walkway there, it would have cramped our getting equipment in and out and around each other. If you've got a piece of equipment in there, you are stuck. You couldn't bring it out or add more equipment without going right up to the last piece of equipment that was there.

It's a lot better the way it is here; you've got a wide street. You can get over on the other side of the street if it's a hot fire, and fight from over there. This way, you would have been in position in one spot. Either you take it or get everything ahead of you out of the way so you can get out. They had a fire in the auditorium -- I think it was a three-alarm fire -- and it showed them what we had to do -- the amount of equipment we had to run in and use.

Another thing I think helped, too, was they had a fire out at Fir Grove School. That was a set fire, a kid playing there set it afire. The Chief was out of town at that time and the alarm come in and I had my car here so I followed the first engine out and as we went out, I called the dispatcher and told him to be sure and make it a second alarm on the school. Before I even got to the school, I could see flames and smoke coming up out of the building, so I right then changed it into a third alarm. Well, we was able to save the office and the kitchen, the gymnasium, boiler room -- that was on both ends of the building. We was able to save it, but we had equipment all over the yard and every which way out there. I saw Boyd Applegarth, the school superintendent, there and told him, "Well," I says, "This is just an example of what could happen. Your high school has got a heck of a lot more wood in it than this building has, and you can see what a problem we've got here." I think that might of helped convince them that we was right on keeping that street open.

TANZER: How has the training for the fire department changed for the city of Beaverton?

WILLIAMS: In the olden days, about all you knew was which way to put the hose in the hose truck so it would come out right, and how to get water, and to get in and put it on the fire. Now it's built up to where you learnt the different methods and approach to a fire and types of methods of putting a

fire out without flooding it out the front door. For example, if a room similar to this here was afire, you could come in that front door and put a fog nozzle on and turn it clockwise to cool and smother. Then you come up here, the water up here and turns into steam, settles down and you come down here, it makes more steam, where your heat is. And you'll smother that down to where you can come in and pick up your spot fire.

TANZER: What about human rescue -- rescuing of people?

WILLIAMS: We've been taught how to go in. Nowadays you have your own oxygen masks and when you get in, you can always give them some of your oxygen. They also taught us how to get a hold of the shoulders, or reach down -- if it's a man, and get the bottom of his belt, hold his head up, drag him and get him outside. After you get him outside, you can start First Aid, oxygen, taking care of burns and stuff -- whatever is necessary to be done. I recall one fellow in a trailer house. He'd been baking a pie and his propane went off, so he took the pie out of the oven and put it up on the electric stove he had there to finish baking it. He saw the neighbor who was in charge of the trailer homes and told him he'd run out of propane, so he went and got some, filled up his tank, went back and connected it up. And he told him that, "Well, it's all connected now." And the guy says, "O.K." And in a little bit, why he went over to light something. But he hadn't shut the propane off in the oven when it went out, and it filled the room with propane. When he started to light it, the whole thing just went "Kaboom!" Well, this fellow heard the "Boom" and he run back and opened the door and this fellow was standing there. He brought him out and his face and hands was burnt real bad, so we was called. We put a wet sheet on him to keep the pain down as much as possible and sent him to St. Vincent's Hospital. He come out of it. In fact, Chief Wickum went to the hospital for something and he was in the same room that this fellow was and the fellow left in a day or so. So he come out of it all right.

TANZER: Tell me some of the stories of the mayors and how they were supportive of your department.

WILLIAMS: In the early days, we had real good support from the mayors. They realized they had to have a fire department in order to keep a fire rating, and they helped out what they could. Of course, they had their methods of running the city and they was always cramped for money, but they would help us accumulate things we needed. In fact the city bought this '32 Chevy for \$600 from Elmer Stipe. We had the body put on from New Haven Carriage in Portland, and we put on a Darley 500-gallon pump. They done that at Stipes Garage, and then went over to Guy Carr's garage and painted it, and the blacksmith, Humberg, made a bunch of handrails. We had them chromed and mounted them. The volunteer firemen at that time did a lot of that work.

TANZER: But since then there's been a lot of new equipment added?

WILLIAMS: Yes. Oh, yes. We had two Dodge trucks that the rural district owned. We protected the rural district, and we used them with our own equipment. We had a '36 Chev. West Slope put up the money for it. It was turned over to the city for fire protection, and then West Slope saw where their equipment was going into our possession, so they bought an International pumper and it was registered under their name. Then when they organized the West

Slope Fire Department, why they had one piece of equipment. And it just took one piece of equipment away from us.

At one time, we had an awful big district here to protect -- the rural district, and what's now the West Slope, Aloha, Progress -- we took care of everything this way clear out to Scholls Ferry Road, and going east up to the Multnomah County line. And going west, it was up on the other side of Reedville.

TANZER: But that's changed now completely?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. That part there is all under Washington County Fire District #1 which has really expanded and has a real good fire service. They've got a lot of equipment and they are well trained. There's a little squabble between the city and the rural district; they'd like to join things together. But each one wants to hold their own identity. One says, "Well, that's a little more than we should pay." "I think we should pay this amount" -- and they just have a hard time getting settled down so they can get their feet under the table and come up with an agreement.

TANZER: How large is Beaverton's Fire Department now?

WILLIAMS: Gosh, I really don't know for sure but I imagine it's at least 45 to 50 paid men.

TANZER: Did you experience any restrictions in your career opportunities, anything you wanted to do and couldn't do?

WILLIAMS: Oh, I don't know. I've been pretty well satisfied with the way things has went. I used to work like heck. I'd work in the fire department and then on my days off, I'd drive trucks. The wife worked, and we kept pooling our resources and doing things on the building here. We bought this place for \$4600 and we put a foundation under it and built the garage on, put cement driveway and sidewalks in. A lot of the time, she'd take what she made and buy material to work on there, doing this building. One of the boys went through college -- well, two of them did, but -- well, the third one, he had a chance to, but he just couldn't get along on it. He just didn't agree to it. --The oldest one. He's got a good job at Tektronix but just being away from home and nervous -- he's the nervous type -- and he just give it up. He tried it a couple of times, went to Pacific College. We used to laugh afterwards when he'd come home Sundays; his aunt and uncle and his grandmas would be here, and one of us would take him around the corner and say, "Need a little money?" "Oh, yes." hold his hand out, "Well, here's \$5, \$10, something like that" and he went back to school. He had more money than we did (laughter). We laugh about it now.

Bob, he went to Pacific for one year and then he went with the service. After that he graduated out of Portland State, and when he graduated he went to work for United Pacific. He worked there about five years for them, adjusting, and he got the opportunity to buy into the insurance business in Madras, so he bought in there and now him and one partner, they own it.

TANZER: That's good. What do you think are some of the most important events in your life?

WILLIAMS: We've been very happy that our marriage was a success and that

we raised three boys that we're proud of. And they've raised grandchildren and great grandchildren that we're proud of.

TANZER: What do you think your major contributions are to this community?

WILLIAMS: Being able to (in the earlier days of the fire service) turn out any time of the day or night that somebody had an emergency or fire. In those days, a lot of it was done for nothing. I remember when we first started getting paid, I think it was 25¢ a fire. That was to more or less offset some of the cleaning bills and things like that. And some of the firemen would turn that back into the volunteer fireman fund which we used for either a party or equipment. I've felt good about that. I always was one that would like to help somebody. Take your police department, it's a necessity; but you're out there in a fight or argument a lot of times when you're arresting people, and I'd rather be in the fire department where you know that what you're doing helps somebody and if you do a good job, you're going to get thanked for it and be praised, which in the time that I've been in the fire department, the fire department has gotten a lot of praise for a job well done.

TANZER: First you got 25¢ a fire, and then did you get a raise at all?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes, we went up to 50¢ a fire, and then \$1 an hour, and payday, they'd usually get a poker game going and one or two guys would take it all (laughter).

TANZER: Do you still keep in touch with the other volunteer firemen?

WILLIAMS: Oh, yes. Yes, I was just at a banquet Saturday night for one that has been in the fire department 20 years, Russell Stuve.

