

ILOHI Interview with Gene Snowden

Friday September 14, 2018

Huntington, Indiana

Interview by Dr. Michella M. Marino

Transcribed by Dr. Michella M. Marino

MP3 File, Sony

Gene Snowden=GS

Michella Marino=MM

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(Getting recorders set up)

[0:00:15]

MM: Ok. I'll just state for the record then that my name is Michella Marino, and today is Friday September 14, 2018, and I am here interviewing Gene Snowden, and we are at Ness Brothers Realty in Huntington, Indiana, and we are doing an in-person digital audio oral history interview. Um, then we've got both of our forms signed here, and you're ok with the forms?

GS: Yes.

MM: Ok, great. Well, I'll start with some easy questions. When and where were you born?

GS: Huntington, Indiana.

MM: Ok. And when?

GS: April the 7, 1928.

MM: 1928. So just the other day, right?

GS: Yeah, yeah. (Laughs)

MM: Ok, what were your parents' names?

GS: Ben, my father, and Anna was my mother.

MM: Ok. What was your mother's maiden name? [0:01:01]

GS: Orr. O-R-R.

MM: Ok. Where is your family from originally?

GS: Right here.

MM: In Huntington?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Yeah. Ok. Even going back further, had they migrated from the East Coast—

GS: No.

MM: --your grandparents or?

GS: They lived in Union Township, which is just five or six miles—out where...what's their name?

MM: Sieberns?¹ [Pronouncing it Siburns]

GS: Yeah, Sieberns. [Correctly pronouncing it Seeburns].

MM: Sieberns. Yeah, where they live. Ok.

GS: I used to get my milk from him.

MM: Oh, really?

GS: Well, he'd milked cows, and then I'd go out and get the milk, and it was fresh.

MM: That's nice. (Both chuckle) What were your parents' occupations?

GS: My dad was the manager of Perfect's Wholesale House.

MM: Ok.

GS: There was a place where grocery people came to buy their groceries and stock their shelves. And he was there for forty years, probably.

MM: Wow, ok. And did your mother have a job outside of the home or...?

GS: Yeah, she worked at the...what's the name of that place? It's a, um, factory [0:02:00]...I can't remember the name of it now. She was there for like twenty years...after she raised a family. We have four boys—five boys and one girl.

MM: In—your siblings?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Yeah. What were their names?

¹ The Sieberns are a long-time farm family that live outside of Huntington that Michella Marino's parents know. In trying to track down Gene Snowden, Michella called Tom Siebern to see if he could help her locate Gene. Tom tipped her off to the fact that Gene still works at Ness Brothers Realty.

GS: Charlotte was the daughter, and she's the oldest one. Then Charlie and then Jack and then me and then Ned and then Jerry.

MM: Ok. And then is Jack your—did you have a twin?

GS: Twin, uh huh. Yeah.

MM: Twin, ok.

GS: He just passed away.

MM: Oh, I'm sorry to hear that. So were you fraternal or identical?

GS: Identical.

MM: Identical twins. That's fun.

GS: Yeah. I have twins.

MM: What? Oh you do too? Oh, wow! So clearly it runs in the family then.

GS: Yeah.

MM: What was that like being a twin growing up?

GS: It was, uh, we're not much of a competitor because he liked [0:03:00] different things than I did, and we both ended up in sales, and I didn't ever did see that much of him because he lived out five miles out south of Huntington.

MM: Oh, ok.

GS: In fact of the matter, his house just sold just after he passed away. They sold it.

MM: Where did you fall in the pecking order of your siblings?

GS: In the middle.

MM: In the middle.

GS: Yeah, because my sister and brother Charlie were both older than me. Then Jack was forty minutes older than me (MM laughs), and then myself and then Ned and then Jerry.

MM: Ok. How would you describe your childhood?

GS: Good. (emphatic) Couldn't of been better.

MM: Yeah. What made it so good?

GS: Just family. We, we were a close knit family. As it happened, we didn't like the same things to do, and so each one went their own way [0:04:00] but it worked out real well. And they all—Ned lives in Muncie. Jerry lives in Elkhart. That's our youngest brother. And then Jack lived here, and I was here, and Charlie was—where'd he live? He lived in, uh...somewhere around here. And then my sister, and she lived here in town. So it was really kind of a close knit family.

MM: What socioeconomic class would you say you were growing up?

GS: Middle.

MM: Middle class.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Ok. Who were the most influential people in your childhood?

GS: Uh...I had a friend of mine that um, when I was like fourteen years old [0:05:00], he wanted me, he wanted me to drive for him 'cause he couldn't drive. And that, I was only fourteen, but anyhow, it worked out real well, and then we made trips to Arizona and all over, Mexico City. He was an accountant for different companies, and he had to have somebody who could drive so I took that job.

MM: Wow.

GS: And I was in there for like four or five years, and uh, we separated and went different ways.

MM: That's interesting.

GS: Yeah, but it was an accounting job and I enjoyed accounting, so it was a lot of fun.

MM: Yeah. As a child, what understanding if any did you have about your family's politics or political beliefs?

GS: Didn't. We never were involved in politics until I got involved.

MM: Oh, really? Were you even aware if they were one party or the other or...?

GS: [0:06:00] No. There could only be one though. (Both laugh)

MM: Of course. And which one would that be?!

GS: Republican. (Laughing)

MM: Uh huh. Uh huh. Ok. I thought you might say that. Well, what schools did you attend as a child?

GS: I went to Central School, which is right across the street, and now it's turned into a living quarter place, then high school, and then Olivet in Kankakee, Illinois.

MM: Ok, and Olivet is a Nazarene school?

GS: Yes.

MM: Did you grow up in the Nazarene faith?

GS: Yes.

MM: Did your family attend church regularly?

GS: Yes.

MM: So an important part. Ok, how would you describe your educational experiences? Did you like school?

GS: I did like school, and I liked accounting real well because of the influence of that fella I had that I drove for. And it was just an interesting time, [0:07:00] and I suppose that's one thing that drove me into a different field than I went into and so it turned out a real blessing.

MM: Well, thinking about, I guess, the time frame of when you would've been in school, you would've been a teenager during World War II. Is that right?

GS: Yes.

MM: Yeah. How did that affect you or your family?

GS: Well, we were, my twin brother and I were supposed to be called into the service, and two weeks before we did...Truman...cancelled the draft (crying).

MM: Oh, wow.

GS: (Still very emotional) Cancelled the draft law, so we didn't go.

MM: Was that—were you happy about that or sad or...?

GS: Well, I had been looking forward to going into the service because it's a constructive area, [0:08:00] but it turned out okay.

MM: Yeah.

GS: You don't know when you're that age (clears throat), but anyhow it was a good experience. (looking for a tissue in a desk drawer and found one) He, uh, Truman probably did me a favor,

you know, by cancelling the draft law, but I wish I would've been able to go into the service, but I never wanted to enlist. Never. Enlistment that wasn't in my vocabulary. So, uh, but anyhow, it all worked out.

MM: Yeah. Did your older brother have to serve?

GS: No, neither one of us did. Now, Charlie did. He was in the Navy. And Ned, which is the one younger than me, was in the Navy also. We had two of them in the Navy. [0:09:00] They were at Chicago.

MM: Was your family, did they take war jobs or affected by rationing or things like that?

GS: My mother worked at a factory that made materials for war, and uh, my dad, 'course he was in the grocery business so that took care of his time.

MM: Yeah, I'll bet that did affect him.

GS: He went from being a worker there to management, so he ran the wholesale house. They sold the groceries, and hey also had these hucksters, the guys on those trucks, you know, where they go out into the country and sell, and they'd come in there and load up at night. He enjoyed his work but it was long hours.

MM: I bet.

GS: Yeah, like from seven o'clock in the morning until ten o'clock at night, but it was something you just expected to do, you know. [0:10:00] It was good to have a job, and he felt fortunate.

MM: Yeah, yeah. I'd imagine. Well, even as you were getting into your teenage years, what were your views about the state of Indiana or being a Hoosier? Did you think about that at all?

GS: No. (Both chuckle) Government was not one of my forte's, but when I got the exposure to the city council and the county council, and it became a part of the blood relation, and then it just grew from there.

MM: So when did you graduate from Huntington High School?

GS: '46. 1946.

MM: Ok. And then did you go straight to Olivet?

GS: No. I did three years later.

MM: Ok. What did you do in the three years between?

GS: Worked. Worked just wherever I could find a job, but the funding was the part that, you know, I didn't have any chance to, my parents with five kids [0:11:00] didn't have the money for

it, and so I just stayed and worked. And then one thing developed into another thing and next thing you know I'm with the university, with Olivet Nazarene University, and I ended up on the board there for forty-one years.

MM: Wow! That's a long-time service there! Well, what did you major in when you were at Olivet?

GS: I majored in accounting. I really enjoyed that. It was good.

MM: What did you hope to do when you graduated?

GS: I didn't have any idea. I was just trying to find a place to call home. And that happened to be a way to do it.

MM: [0:12:00] Did you know you wanted to come back to Huntington?

GS: I didn't, it didn't make me any difference, but when you have a community that's a part of your life, it's easy to stay here you know, rather than to go out and try to find someplace else, so...

MM: Right.

GS: ...but it worked out just perfect.

MM: Great. How did you view your college experiences? What was college like for you?

GS: I was only there a year.

MM: Oh, ok.

GS: And then met my wife. Well, she wasn't my wife then but met my girlfriend turned into a wife. (MM laughs) She was from Michigan. I would never have met her otherwise.

MM: Oh, ok. And Carol is her name?

GS: Carol.

MM: And so you met her there. Did you get married while you were still in college or did you wait 'til you were afterwards?

GS: No, we waited until we were out. 'Cause she was two and a half years there earlier than I was.

MM: Oh ok.

GS: So she jumped a couple of the degrees and then but that's where it all started from.

MM: Uh huh. [0:13:00] So when did you graduate from there?

GS: I didn't graduate.

MM: No, you didn't. You just went there for a year. (MM trying to clarify) And then so you and Carol came back here?

GS: Yes.

MM: Yes. Oh, ok. Gotcha. Um...when you were in college did you start thinking about politics at all or?

GS: No.

MM: (Chuckling) Still no. Ok.

GS: It was just—It's one of those happenstances, you know? I was walking down the street one day, and this county chairman said, "Why don't you run for county council?" I said, "What do they do?" He said, "Well, you meet when they call it, and you govern the county with your judgements." So, uh, I said "Well, let me talk to my wife," and so I talked to her, and she said, "Do what you want to do." So I went back to him and told him I'd be happy to. [0:14:00] That was a stepping stone.

MM: Yeah. Was that an elected position or no?

GS: Yeah. Yes, uh huh.

MM: So you had to go through the election.

GS: Right.

MM: Ok. Um, well we'll come back to that here in just a second. Um, so when you came back from Olivet then, what type of work did you do at that point?

GS: Let me think. Um...Hmm. I can't recall right now. (Both chuckle)

MM: That's ok! Um, did you think you wanted to do accounting or...?

GS: No.

MM: No, you didn't think so. You wanted to do something else.

GS: Yeah, I wanted to—sales was the thing I really liked best, and I got that from my dad being in the warehouse, the wholesale house, and then things kind of took shape to get involved with the political arena, and from there [0:15:00] it was just one job after another. It was really an interesting time.

MM: Yeah, I bet. So when did you and Carol get married then?

GS: We got married in... Well, we just passed 69 years so I'll let you figure that out.²

MM: I can figure that out. Ok! (Gene chuckling) And then you had children, right?

GS: Yes.

MM: And how—

GS: Four daughters.

MM: Four daughters?

MM: We had three in one year, 'cause the twins were born a day before my oldest daughter was a year old.

MM: Wow! I'll bet you all were busy there for a while.

GS: She was!

MM: I'll bet.

GS: I was out scratching where it didn't itch. (Laughing)

MM: Oh my goodness. What were your daughters' names?

GS: Connie was the oldest one, and then Barb and Bev are the twins, and Jody's the youngest one.

MM: Ok, [0:16:00] so you started telling me about how you got into, was it county councilman?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Was that in the early '60s or was that—

GS: Early '60s.

MM: Early '60s. Ok. What was that first position like?

² Gene and Carol (Replogle) were married on August 26, 1949 in Pontiac, Michigan.

https://search.ancestrylibrary.com/cgi-bin/sse.dll?_phsrc=Cvh380&_phstart=successSource&usePUBJs=true&qh=2/eCEfRIeScXPDiOeR2NvA%3D%3D&gss=angs-c&new=1&rank=1&msT=1&gsfn=Gene%20Elsworth&gsfn_x=0&gsln=Snowden&gsln_x=0&msbdy=1928&83004003-n_xcl=f&MSAV=1&uidh=fv3&pcat=BMD_MARRIAGE&h=1598051&dbid=9093&indiv=1&ml_rpos=1

GS: It was just on-call, whenever they needed you they'd call a date, and you'd be there. I really did enjoy every step we took in the political arena 'cause it was just a different thing all the time. It was important to me because I knew that what we did there was going to effect a lot of people.

MM: So what types of things did you do in that position? Or what types of problems would come up?

GS: Oh, anything involving the county. Whatever, well there were a lot of different things that effect it, [0:17:00] but it's just one of those things where it takes a judgement call, and you want to make sure you're doing the right thing 'cause it affects a lot of people. So it turned out real good.

MM: So I'm assuming you ran as a Republican--

GS: Yeah.

MM: --Right? So, at that point had you, did you have a sense of like what the party was like or...?

GS: No.

MM: Was that what everyone was up here or how, I guess, how did you get into the Republican Party?

GS: My closest friends were Republicans, and one of them was the county chairman, and so that worked out real well. He was the, also the head of the license branch, and he was a good supporter of mine and gave me a lot of opportunities I wouldn't have had otherwise.

MM: Uh huh. What was his name?

GS: Paul Johnson.

MM: Paul Johnson, ok. [0:18:00] Well, as you started getting in at the county level, so you've obviously, Paul Johnson was very influential. Were you looking to state leaders or national leaders?

GS: No, no.

MM: No, so it was all starting local then.

GS: Yeah, I was happy where I was and until Senator Colclessor, who's a principal—not principal but teacher at the university, and he stopped me one day and said, "Why don't you run for state representative?" He said, "We've got a joker in there and [he's] the laughingstock of the House." And I said, "What do you have to do?" (laughs heartily)

MM: An important question.

GS: Yeah, so I told him I'd think about it, and so I asked my wife and she said, "Do what you want to do," so I just threw my hat in the ring for [0:19:00] the state representative job and won it.

MM: Wow. Did you have to campaign or anything like that?

GS: No, I didn't.

MM: Ok.

GS: The activities I had in the community were things that exposed you to that element, and so it was just pretty much a natural.

MM: Sure, so before you ran for, you ran for the House first, right?

GS: House of Representatives.

MM: Had you just been a county chairman or had you moved to the city stuff as well?

GS: No, I was just in the county council. Yeah, that's where I got the start in the political arena.

MM: Ok, um, was it a tight race? Do you remember who you ran against?

GS: No, it wasn't. I don't remember who I ran against.

MM: Yeah, um...

GS: But this guy had been in there for six or eight years, the fellow I defeated, and I only went against him because this Senator Colclessor told me, "You know, he's the laughingstock of the House, [0:20:00] and we need to get somebody there that's got some reputation."

MM: Were you scared at all doing this or were you excited?

GS: I was excited. It's a new venture and it's in Indianapolis rather than Huntington County.

MM: Had you spent much time in Indianapolis prior to this?

GS: No. Huh uh.

MM: So, ok. Do you remember what you were thinking as you went to the Statehouse that first day?

GS: Yeah, I was like an open book, and you wondered who's going to be writing in it. (laughs)

MM: That's funny. How did you start to learn the ins and outs of state government?

GS: Oh, from being involved with it with the state representative job. 'Cause that exposed you to all kinds of elements governmentally on the state level.

MM: [0:21:00] Did you have a mentor in the General Assembly or was it just sort of trial and error as you went?

GS: Trial and error as you went. You see most of these people came from somewhere else so I wouldn't have any idea who they are or what their capabilities were.

MM: Sure. That makes sense.

GS: But what you start to do is look at who you want to mimic and then you go from there.

MM: Yeah, ok.

GS: I had a couple friends of mine that were in the legislature that they were real good people to be with and they had a good background and well-established, so I just kind of hung close to them.

MM: Who were some of those friends that you made?

GS: Well, the one was Charlie Bosma, and his son now is Speaker of the House.

MM: Right.

GS: Let's see, who is it? (trying to recall names) There were a couple of them. Charlie was one of them. He was the main one because he was in the Senate already, and he was [0:22:00] a good leader, a good person to mimic. And it worked out real well. And then Bob Garton was speaker of the, I mean was the President Pro Tem, and I developed his relationship from being in the Senate, and then one day he said, "I'd like to have a run for Speaker—for I mean President Pro Tem. (tearing up) I told him I'd be glad to help him. So I got a list of the legislators, Republican legislators, and had 'em each sign that they would support him. And he was [inaudible].

MM: 'Cause I think he was kind of a long shot, wasn't he, the first time?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Wow. That's neat. (Chuckling) He held that spot [0:23:00] for a long time too! (Both laughing) Yeah. So what then made you switch over from the House to the Senate?

GS: Senator Colclusser retired—the guy that got me involved with the House of Representatives—he retired and wanted to know if I would run for that office, and...I said, "Well let me give it some thought." And he said, "Don't think too long 'cause I have to let them

know by tomorrow.” (Both laugh) And he had somebody else he was talking to, so uh, I told him I’d do it after I talked to Carol.

MM: Sure.

GS: But it worked out just perfect, because he was a good guy from the university, nice personality, and he was really helpful to me knowing what to do ‘cause it was green territory for me [0:24:00], so uh, but from there it was just one step after another.

MM: Mmhmm. It seems like to me that maybe it’s a little different back in the ‘60s and ‘70s than today, but correct me if I’m wrong. Did you have to be in contact with your constituents as much or how did you know what issues to take up or what legislation to put forth?

GS: Well, of course, if you’re known in a community, people let you know what their interests are and that develops a relationship that you wouldn’t have otherwise, and I was a people person, so when they’d talk to me, I’d listen, and then weigh up the situation and make a judgement call.

MM: Would people call your office or was it more like when you were out of session [0:25:00] back in Huntington, people would come talk to you and say, you know—

GS: Yeah, both.

MM: Both?

GS: Both ways, yeah.

MM: Ok. Ok. Um...

GS: And I always made myself available to them.

MM: Yeah, that’s important I think.

GS: Yeah, it is.

MM: Do you remember the first bill you sponsored in either the House or the Senate or even the first major piece of legislation?

GS: No, I don’t, ‘cause in the early years I just, I would just pick up whatever I wanted to run with and do it. I just made sure that what I was working on was something I could agree to and it all developed from there.

MM: Ok. What was the regular interactions between assembly members, you know, when you were in session, what was it like, you know, talking with or meeting with other people? What were your relationships like?

GS: What you do, you gotta find somebody [0:26:00] you feel has got the ability to make judgement calls like you would, and then you develop those relationships. It doesn't take you long to figure out who's good and who's not. By having an estimate about that personality, it really helps you, and I enjoyed that.

MM: Did you mostly work within the Republican Party or did you try to develop those relationships across the aisle too or how did that work?

GS: Just in the Republican party, and then the other side comes to you because they need you for your support, you know? So that's how that developed.

MM: Ok. Um...Was there a lot of tension between the majority and minority parties [0:27:00] or did people generally get along even though they differed on issues? What was it like?

GS: You have to live with them, because you know, it's your turn now but it's theirs the next time, so you just make sure that what you do is a compliment to the job and go from there. That's what I liked about Garton, because he'd be a good guy to support.

MM: Mmhmm, mmhmm. Would you say there were any differences between members of the House and the Senate since you served in both?

GS: Yeah, there was. There's a lot more responsibility in the Senate, 'cause there's only half as many of you, and so you have to make sure that what you're doing is something that the others can support, and if they didn't support it, you didn't go anywhere. So, uh, and that's another thing, picking and choosing what you want to develop. [0:28:00] Education at that point was important to me. That worked out real well. But you just have to, you have to—well, it's like life, you know, you have to decide what you want to do and then you go after it, and that's what I did.

MM: Yeah. Was education an important issue for you early on or is that something you developed as you were in the legislature and realized you needed to work on?

GS: Developed. The exposure you get in these different positions is what finally determines what you're going to do and not do. That's—most of it is just finding out what's best for the people you represent, and then go for it.

MM: Yeah, ok. What were the values of the Republican party during your time as a legislator?

GS: Well, their philosophy [0:29:00] was a lot different than the Democrats, and it fit my bill. I mean I enjoyed the relationship with the Republicans, and this Paul Johnson was a good example too. He would help me a lot to know what the background or whatever it was that we were working on, and I appreciated that.

MM: Mmhmm. Were there key issues as like a caucus that you felt like the Republicans needed to work on or that these were always the same issues you were pushing or...?

GS: It changed. It depended on what you were exposed to, but there again it becomes a judgement call. You know, if you like what's right and people—enough people know that you are the one they want, [0:30:00] that's what makes a difference.

MM: Yeah. Ok. Well, you were serving I think when the switch occurred from the annual, er, biennial to the annual sessions.

GS: Yes.

MM: How did that change the legislature?

GS: It made you more astute when it came to selecting what you wanted to do because it was a lot more time consuming than every other year. I think that's probably the main thing. You just have to decide what is going to fit the bill and go for it.

MM: Obviously with that change you had to spend a lot more time in Indianapolis. Did that affect, you know, your career at that point or your family life?

GS: No. First of all, I got approval from my wife (inaudible). [0:31:00] She just, she just assumed part of the responsibility. The other thing is you, when you grow into these positions, you kind of develop a, uh...you develop a attitude toward government that determines where you're going to go from there. I was real happy that I chose the direction I did, because it all worked out perfect.

MM: Yeah, ok. Um... (brief laugh) you were serving in the 1960s and '70s and later as well, but that was obviously a really a tumultuous time in the United States. Did, sort of, national issues trickle down and affect state issues? Any big ones that you recall?

GS: It does, because whatever you have on the national level, it came from the state level, and that's where your [0:32:00] structure of pushing (inaudible) comes from.

MM: Do you recall some of the major political or social issues were that you had to grapple with during that time?

GS: Oh, no, I don't remember.

MM: Yeah, ok. What was your relationship like with your seatmate?

GS: Oh, on one side it was good and on the other side wasn't great. (Both laugh). My close friend (tearing up)—excuse me—was Bill Dunbar from Terre Haute. We were uh, you know, two different elements entirely, and yet we got along real good together and we carried legislation together, and uh, he became a real close friend. What you kind of do is pick and choose who you think's going to be a supportive of yours, and you go for it.

MM: Kind of surround yourself with those people?

GS: Right. Uh huh.

MM: [0:33:00] Well, you've already shown this to me a little bit today, but I read you were known for your sense of humor and your puns (Gene laughs). How did you use humor in the legislature?

GS: Well, if it, whatever they were working on, if it fit a joke or something, I'd relate it—the tie-in. Course you do it with intelligence rather than ignorance. After a while if you don't do it right, you're not going to be there.

MM: Right. Well I think I read a story somewhere—I don't know if this is true or not, so correct me—but if people were giving a speech on the floor, and it was too long, you would hold up a time card? (Gene giggles!) Is that true?

GS: That's true. [0:34:00] (Both laughing!)

MM: That's funny!

GS: And the people appreciated it!

MM: I bet they did.

GS: They're sitting down there with me.

MM: I bet they did. Ah, that's funny.

GS: You get these wordy people.

MM: What? Oh.

GS: You get these wordy people and some of them like to take your time and you're busy, and you don't want to sit there and listen to their mumbo-jumbo.

MM: Right, right.

GS: So...(Both laugh)

MM: Well, can you, um, walk me through the process of generating a bill? When you knew that you wanted to put forth legislation what then happened?

GS: You get a supporter from the Democrat side, in my case, and you have friends over there who you trust and those you don't, and you go to the trustworthy ones and explain to them what you're trying to do. They'd put their name on the bill, and then they would help you in committee actions and whatever else, and go before the floor and you explain to them what they're endeavoring to do, and they'd pick up the Democrat side, and then if there's any

questions, they always refer back to the author, and you have to go up and present [0:35:00] your side of the coin.

MM: So would you have to do the research yourself or did you use like legislative services or...?

GS: Me.

MM: You did it yourself?

GS: Yeah, right. Yeah, because they're busy with so many different things, and when you need them, that's when they're not available, so I just developed my own workings, and it worked out real well.

MM: Ok. How was legislative business conducted like outside of formal votes and committee meetings? You know, did you meet with people and talk or what did that look like?

GS: Yeah, they, a guy told me he wanted to talk with me about bill number so-and-so, and I said, "I hear better on a full stomach, so maybe we ought to go get a bite to eat." (Both laugh) You know you're down there with no expenses on the, I mean no [0:36:00] expenses—income, and they expected that, but it wasn't hard, because they if they like you they'll do it. So that's what they did. They'd say, "Where do you want to go?" And I'd say, "Out to Fujiyama." Do you know where that is?

MM: No.

GS: It's down on the west side of 4—of Indianapolis, and it's a Japanese place—good food.

MM: Well I'll have to try that out then.

GS: Yeah, Fujiyama. I don't know that it's ran that way now or not, but when I was over there it was really a nice place to eat.

MM: So talking over meals and coffee and things like that?

GS: Yeah, and you'd take a notepad with you and write down what you'd want to ask questions about or high points you want to bring out. Most of those were where they were trying to gain votes for particular bills. It gives you a chance to evaluate, and I was pretty particular on what [0:37:00] I was going to support.

MM: Mhmm. What made you so particular?

GS: Just the impact that it would have upon the constituency. People recognize that real quick like.

MM: Did you have a sense then of how people would probably vote on issues before the voting took place, or was it cutthroat, or you know, unknown until the end?

GS: Well, what you do is you try to find the people you want to talk to about it that's influential in their committee or their branch, and so if they're compatible with it, you run with it, and if they don't, you back away and go a different direction, but you always try to find people that would complement the bill and would be a vote-getter. That's how that stuff gets passed.

MM: [0:38:00] Yeah, you got to have someone sort of shepherding it through.

GS: Right. Mmhmm.

MM: Got it. During your tenure, what roles did party leadership play?

GS: The caucuses, at a caucus they would talk about the impact of the particular bill and how it might affect you or somebody else, and then they would explain away the things that were a drag to it or they complimented it, and you just take notes and keep that, and then when it comes time to vote on it, you got what information you need to do what you want to do.

MM: Mmhmm. Now you were Assistant Pro Tem for a while?

GS: Uh huh.

MM: How did that come about?

GS: When I got Bob Garton elected to [0:39:00] the chairmanship, or the Speaker of the House—the President Pro Tem, and I went around and got signatures of each one of those people that I talked to that they would support him, well, he was most happy, 'cause he didn't have to do a thing except sit back and relax. Then from that time on it was just a real solid relationship between Bob and I.

MM: Ok.

GS: And it was because of the work I did trying to get him elected. It wasn't any problem. He was a good guy, and he wasn't that well-known, so I had to explain away any questions they had, and if they had a question I couldn't answer, I got an answer for them [0:40:00] and went back to 'em. So it's political. That's where it is.

MM: Yeah.

GS: But he was a real joy.

MM: Mmhmm. Good. What was the relationship between legislators and lobbyists like during your time?

GS: You find people who you can trust and people you don't trust. I didn't waste my time with those that I don't think like they do. Herman Schaefer was a good example of that, 'cause he knew a lot about the lobbying process, and he was the car dealerships, and so I just, if I had a question I'd just go to him, and he'd get an answer for me and bring it back, and I trusted him. It worked out real well.

MM: Yeah. So would lobbyists, um, sort of just come try to talk with you and get you on board with their legislation or were you not even really interested in [0:41:00] talking with them, like what was their access like?

GS: No, I listened to them all. It took time but I listened to them all, and I'd pick and choose who I wanted to and what I wanted to follow.

MM: I see.

GS: And uh that worked real well, because if people feel you're honest, it makes a difference.

MM: Yeah, ok. What do you think the public doesn't know about the general assembly or how it operates? Are there inner-workings that we just don't know about?

GS: I don't think people care that much. If they got a bill and they want to get it passed, they contacted you to help push it through, if it's a good bill, and they recognize that so that you end up being contacted by the people that you have confidence [0:42:00] in to get done what you want to get done, and it doesn't take them long to figure that out.

MM: So if there's people who have, you know, issues that they want to put forth, you know, they'll come to you, but if not, most people just aren't aware of how it works, you think?

GS: And they trust you.

MM: They trust you.

GS: Yeah.

MM: To do the job for them.

GS: Yeah, 'cause you, you know, if you have confidence in somebody, let 'em do it. If that doesn't work out, you go talk to them, and if that doesn't work out, then you drop them. But it's, it's just a personality situation where you...

MM: Yeah. Well, I was wondering if you could tell me a little bit about—'cause I don't quite understand all of this—I know that you um, you said that you were involved in helping get Bob Garton in and you were Assistant Pro Tem too, but before him I know, was it Phil Gutman and Chip Edwards and some others had kind of gotten in trouble through different things which is why I think Garton was so straight-laced about how he wanted to operate, um, [0:44:00] so do you remember what happened with Chip Edwards and the bail bill?

GS: I think he probably changed—took, took money. I don't know that for a fact, but he was an attorney and they do a lot of things that you and I wouldn't think about doing, and that's one of the same types of situation. I liked Edwards real well, but you have to keep an eye on people like that too. I never, you know I never got exposed to him with a group but they had their favorites, and I just make sure I'm not caught in the middle of something that was not right, and it worked.

MM: Yeah. (Both chuckle) That's good! 'Cause I think with that the bail bill, didn't you sponsor that legislation? That was one of yours?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Yeah. What was—do you remember what that bill was?

GS: You know, I don't. [0:44:00]

MM: Yeah, ok.

GS: I remember it was the bail bill, but I don't remember what...

MM: What it was, yeah. Ok.

GS: When you go to get, when you go to assume a position, you better know what you're doing, and I always contacted people I had confidence in. They'd have a good reputation to get it answered. That's what makes the difference.

MM: Hmhmm. So you gotta know who to trust...

GS: Exactly right.

MM: ...and build that network. Ok. How did your legislative life affect your family?

GS: Well I got their permission to begin with before I ever got exposed to it, and then 'course once you're in there, then it's just up to you to make the thing work. And my wife was real supportive. And I kept her apprised of all the things that were happening [0:45:00] because she was here with four kids and I'm down there doing my trick, so it's um, you just have to make sure you have good communications like anything else.

MM: What, what was your, were you selling insurance or were you doing realty during this time of your service?

GS: Insurance.

MM: Insurance, ok. How was that balancing that career and the legislative career?

GS: Well, I had a twin brother that was in insurance also, and so when I needed help, I'd just go to him and he'd, I'd let him follow through on the local level, so it worked out as a team.

MM: Yeah.

GS: He was a county commissioner too.

MM: That's nice then. Yeah. What were the most controversial legislative issues during your time? [0:46:00] Is there anything that sticks out for you?

GS: No, because I, I would study whatever they were working on, and then I'd make a judgement call, and I'd stick with it. That's, it's the wishy-washy ones that get in trouble, and it's where you do one thing one time and another another. That's what destroys your image.

MM: So you wanted to make sure you were consistent?

GS: Right.

MM: Ok. Is there a piece of legislation that you remember that you felt like you worked really hard on and that was really important to you?

GS: Yeah, they had an educational bill and the university was sponsoring, not sponsoring it but supporting it, and so I made sure that I thoroughly understood and knew what the structure of it was, and then whenever anybody would ask me, I could just unload on them, you know?

MM: Uh huh. Was this the one that allowed, um, people who gave donations to get the tax credit and businesses? [0:47:00] Is that this bill?

GS: Oh yeah. That was one of them.

MM: One of them. Ok. 'Cause that sounds like that was an important one [GS: It was.] that changed financials for colleges. So did you have a close relationship to Huntington—was it College at the time?—before you went to the legislature?

GS: Uh huh.

MM: Yeah.

GS: Yeah, because a lot of the stuff I worked up there on, and the president was a good friend of mine, and so he would converse with me about things that were effective in their branch of the education, and then I'd calling the bullhorn.

MM: Yeah. Ok, um...I've read in a couple different newspaper articles that you were sort of known for being anti-regional or anti-regionalism. What does that mean? [0:48:00]

GS: They, you were circumventing the local government, and I didn't like that. I mean it was a, it was like ten states would get together and do whatever. Well, I don't, I've never known ten

states that agreed on anything. (Clears throat) So I didn't—it's called regional government, and I don't like regional government, and I wasn't a bit backward about it.

MM: Was that something that was just—why was that so popular during the time or was it, I guess?

GS: Oh, it was. It was becoming popular, and I did everything to fight it I could, and it finally died out. Left. But it could've been a real damaging thing because when you deal with a regional, you're getting away from the local, and I didn't like that, and so I fought hard to get that straightened away.

MM: Why didn't you like it? What was important about it to keep it local for you? [0:49:00]

GS: Because you're taking the power away from the people locally and giving it to somebody in 5 cou—5 states over, and 'cause that's quite a difference in a state thing. But anyhow, and it all developed later and shared up real good, so I appreciated that. You have to be careful what you stick your head into because it can reflect back on you, either good, bad, or indifferent. So I was always extra cautious, because I'm also a religious person and I want to make sure what I did there didn't jeopardize that ability to do what you want to do with religion.

MM: So did you feel in particular with the regional stuff that that would sometimes tread on that?

GS: It would. That's right, without question.

MM: Ok. Hmm.

GS: And finally after so many people got against it, which I [0:50:00] helped push, you were happy that it died on the vine.

MM: Yeah, ok. Um...From looking through your legislative list, you know, you were involved in a wide variety of committees during your time, what was committee work like?

GS: It was um...like, for instance, take the education. There are certain things that would affect a lot of people adversely if it ever got out of committee, and I made sure that I had the background from Huntington University and places like that that was doing a good job in education to make sure we didn't caught in a bind, and that really bore well for me, because [0:51:00] people gain confidence in you.

MM: Mmhmm. So, how—I want to make sure I understand how it works, so someone would put forth legislation, and you would either vote on it or not, or it would be sent into committee? Or is everything sent into committee?

GS: Everything's in the committee.

MM: Ok. And then the committee would study it further and then sort of present a report on it and then the second vote would occur?

GS: Yeah, that's right. Uh huh.

MM: And then, is there a third vote as well? Can it be sent back to the committee or go forward?

GS: It can be, yeah, it can be reversed.

MM: Ok.

GS: But it has to be done by the author, so if it's something that you find out later that wasn't good, you just start withdrawing your support.

MM: Ok.

GS: And then it ends up dying on the vine, but that's what's nice about the legislative process [0:52:00], because by the time it gets to that point, you really need to know what's happening, and if you keep on top of it, that's the guy that's going to make the difference.

MM: Yeah, push it through. Now, did you get to choose what committees you would be on or was that all done by the ProTem?

GS: No, you choose.

MM: You choose.

GS: Now he may ask you to serve on a committee, and if he does, just make sure it's something you can agree to, and then do it. But everybody has their area of expertise, and they also have the influential side of it too.

MM: Sure.

GS: So they—go ahead.

MM: Was there a particular committee that you really enjoyed serving on? You know, I know you were on, um, some insurance committees, the education, um...the whole bunch.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Even environmental ones I think.

GS: Yeah. Yeah, the environmental thing you had to be real careful with because [0:53:00] there were some of these kooks that get involved with the environmental, and you're not sure if

you know what you're doing, you get to support the wrong one and then that blemishes your attitude.

MM: What was your sort of take, because I think I saw that you were on several different environmental committees and were involved in maybe some environmental legislation. What got you interested in that?

GS: Um, I'm trying to think...(long pause) Hmm...There was back during the early years, there was a lot of misinformation that got out and that established itself in the legislature. And that's what you had to work hard on to make sure that what you're supporting is supportable, [0:54:00] because, uh, you know, everything involves reputation, and if you get on the wrong side, it can do a lot of damage to you quickly and some of it is irreparable. You can't go back and make that stuff up, so you have to believe in what you're doing or you got a real problem.

MM: So were you just interested in environmental issues personally?

GS: Not really.

MM: Yeah, it was more through the...

GS: Yeah, through the, through the legislative process, because people would come to ya and they have a problem with it, explain it to you, and then you make notes and when it comes time to make a judgement call, you've got what you want.

MM: Ok. I think—

GS: That develops, that develops a good basis for your future.

MM: Yeah, absolutely. I know we talked about being Assistant Pro Tem, but I think you were Assistant Republican Caucus Leader or Chairman and also Floor Leader. What did those positions entail?

GS: Well, the floor leader was what the, what the um [0:55:00] President Pro Tem wanted done, you know, to support his cause. Then there it's a matter of developing relationships with people that have the power to make the judgement call, and Senator Bosma was a good one and so was Dr. Borst, good guy to work with, and their philosophy was right, and so I just developed friendships with those people and whenever I had a question, they could answer it for me.

MM: Ok.

GS: Most of it is personality influence.

MM: Yeah, who you get along with and trust and like.

GS: Yeah. Right. Mmhmm.

MM: Ok. Can you tell me about maybe the biggest hurdle you overcame during your time as a legislature?

GS: I think the biggest hurdle is when I left the House and went into the Senate, because it's a different ball game entirely. [0:56:00] You're half as many people. They're important. So you just have to make sure that what you do is something you can live with. It's like everything else, you know. It [accrues?] your reputation.

MM: It sounds like that was really important to you, making sure you maintained that and took the proper steps.

GS: Right.

MM: Ok. What was your proudest moment as a legislator?

GS: Well, I think that, I think that the most important thing was the Assistant President Pro Tem, because that puts you in a leadership position right next to the leader, and that developed a real good program for me. Of course, when you get to that point, [0:57:00] then people respect you more too because you gain ground in a position where you can do them some good too if they need it, but Bob Garton was an easy guy to work with.

MM: Mmhmm, yeah. I'm going to talk with him in a couple weeks, so I'm excited about that.

GS: Are ya?

MM: Yeah.

GS: You'll like him.

MM: Yeah, he seems very friendly and nice. I suspect I may know the answer to this, but what in your opinion is the most important work of the Indiana General Assembly?

GS: The ferreting out the trash and pushing the good, the good legislation, because it comes down to who can support what and why do you support it, and then if you're vocal and you're on the good side, that makes you a better person.

MM: Ok. Ok.

GS: That's the whole reputation.

MM: Yeah. Well, when did you leave the general assembly?

GS: In 19 [0:58:00]...oh boy, [inaudible] was it '62?

MM: Well...

GS: No.

MM: I think it was '83...

GS: '84.

MM: '83/'84.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Did you retire or did you lose an election or?

GS: No, I retired.

MM: You retired, ok.

GS: Yeah, you know, your life changes and so your attitudes and whatever, and at that point I just had had enough of the legislative process that I wanted to make a change.

MM: Ok, now I think I read but I'm not...mmm, I'm not going to remember the title of it, but were then appointed to another state position. Was it a commissioner of—

GS: Oh, I'll tell you what happened.

MM: Ok.

GS: The guy that had this office I took had been pilfering money, 'cause he was [0:59:00] selling—it had to do with licensure. Orr called me and told me about the problem over there. So he explains it to me, and I said, "Well, how will that affect my reputation?" He said, "You'll make your reputation." (Tearing up) So...He was, Orr was a nice guy, but I was there four years and three months and he never ever once came over or said boo, nothing. Never called me. We got all the things straightened away...showed good leadership (clears throat) [1:00:00] and so because it was an agency of like 47 people, and they were pilfering money and so I didn't know that when I took the job, but it just amazed me though, when you sit in the governor's position, and that he would call me and then never come around or say boo or anything. Never did contact me after I told him I'd take the job. Never did contact me.

MM: So did he feel like you would do a good job and was hands off or he just didn't care?

GS: No, I think he thought I'd do a good job 'cause he checked out before he ever called me that—to do it, and I really enjoyed it. It was a good time. Forty-seven people we had.

MM: Wow.

GS: And they all dealt with licensure...

MM: For like to be a beautician or to be a construction worker or—those types of licensing?

GS: Right. Uh huh.

MM: Is that right?

GS: Right, uh huh.

MM: Now, was that position based out of Huntington or did you have to stay in Indianapolis?

GS: I stayed in Indianapolis. [1:01:00] Yeah, I came back on weekends, which is a big sacrifice for me because my family was here and I was there, but I did it with her approval, and I told her, “If you don’t want me to, I won’t do it.”

MM: Sure. Sounds like Carol was very supportive.

GS: (crying) Thank goodness. (MM chuckles) Yeah, it was, that was a good experience for me, and uh...gave me the right tone. That was a good education.

MM: I’ll bet.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Now, so you stayed in that job four years and then did you—what did you do after that?
[1:02:00]

GS: Oh boy. I came back to Huntington and re-established my insurance, took it away from my twin brother, and which he was happy for because he had had enough, when you dump two peoples items on to one person, so he was happy for the transition, but that’s what did it. He got tired of doing two peoples’ jobs, and ‘cause see when you transfer those names over to him and he starts drawing the commission, and I’m on the outside looking in, and uh, but I had the other job, you know—to tell you what kind of situation it created, I had eighteen hundred dollars a year from the legislature, [1:03:00] and this job paid \$60,000 a year, so my income—bingo. And so I didn’t mind losing the insurance side of it when I had this side to take care of, and it just worked out perfect, so...

MM: Sure, ok. How—well, we’ll come back to that—how would you summarize your time as a state legislator overall?

GS: Productive.

MM: That’s a good word.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Yeah.

GS: It was a good experience too, because you're strictly dealing with personalities and the better you're liked, the better job you do, so that was important to me.

MM: Yeah, that makes sense. So you came back then and worked back in insurance. Now when did you decide to run for mayor of Huntington?

GS: When uh the guy that was going to run for mayor [1:04:00] wasn't a good guy, and so then this Paul Johnson, who was the head of the Republican Party came to me and said, "Would you do me a real favor?" (both laugh)

MM: He had already called some favors for ya, I think. (laughing)

GS: Anyhow, that's what changed my view. I had no intention of ever getting involved, but that was a good stepping stone and a lot of fun and good education, and was really well.

MM: So then, you were mayor for four or so years?

GS: Uh huh. Four years.

MM: Was that a lot different than serving in the legislature?

GS: Yes, 'cause it's a full-time job, [1:05:00] and you do it at home rather than a hundred miles away, and that's what I liked about it. Probably the best job I ever had, because it was one that was real important, and if you do it right, it was a real compliment.

MM: Mmhmm. So what did you do, what have you done since then? I take it you're not retired.

GS: No. I'm...it's not in my vocabulary. When I left the mayor's office—I'm trying to think what I did...I was on the board at Olivet and that took quite a bit of time. I was there for forty-one years. Anyhow, it was an enjoyable time and with good quality people, and then of course when you're [1:06:00] in that position, it was a lot of influence on a lot of different areas, and it kind of gets in your blood and so uh the school was in the process of building, and it now has like 4,000 students, and it's just kept—and the guy that was in there was a good friend of my daughter's, and uh, which gave me a good insight, and so I enjoyed the relationship there too and so, but it was a good experience.

MM: Mmhmm. The mayor, you mean?

GS: No, the education.

MM: The education place working—

GS: Yes, for Olivet.

MM: Yeah, yeah. Ok.

GS: And I got a doctorate from them.

MM: Oh, uh huh.

GS: A doctor of laws degree.

MM: That's a nice honor.

GS: Yeah, it was. [1:07:00] Real.

MM: Yeah. Wow. Well, I just have a few more questions here.

GS: Ok.

MM: Um, how has the state changed over the course of your lifetime?

GS: (long pause) I think they're much stronger governmental agencies than what it used to be, because they, we've had good leadership, and each time, each person—and Dr. Bowen was a good friend of mine, and we, I did a lot of work for him, but it was a pleasurable job. And uh, it, our government in Indiana is the best. [1:08:00] It's honest and pure. That's a remarkable thing in government. And we've had good leadership.

MM: So really that's been consistent you think, although things have changed, that piece.

GS: Yeah.

MM: Yeah, ok. Do you think that the General Assembly itself has changed, just in its operation or the character or?

GS: You know what? I haven't paid that much attention to it, 'cause when you're outta there, you're on the outside looking in (clears throat), and I when I left there, I just, I left, 'cause I left there and went to the four years and three months in the agency where they...

MM: Sure, the licensure agency, ok. Well, what if any, enduring qualities do Hoosiers have or hold dear? [1:09:02]

GS: Well, first of all, we're from a state that is complimentary. They, uh, if you look at the leadership we've had, it's been tremendous, and the uh the structural activities in the process have bolstered and become good. We've had good leadership, and that's what makes the difference, and when you, when you have that quality, you know, it's not like Chicago or someplace like that where they have all kinds of problems, we don't have it.

MM: So you think that the people's trust in their leaders?

GS: Exactly right. That's what makes the difference.

MM: Ok. Well that really is all the questions that I had, and there were a lot I know. Is there anything that we haven't talked about that you would want to say on the record or, [1:10:00] anything I haven't asked that you'd like to go over?

GS: No, I just think that when a person's (cell phone ringing in the background) in this position, you just need to know what you're doing is going to be long-lasting and have a tremendous impact. So I think that's the important part about government. It's a great place to expose honesty and integrity, and that's what, I understood that going in, so that's what you developed, and I appreciated it. It's been good to me.

MM: Yeah. Well, great. Well, thank you so much for taking the time out of what is still a busy day for you I think. (both laugh) Um, so yeah, I really appreciate it, and I've enjoyed hearing about your experiences, really interesting, so...

GS: I forgot to tell you one thing.

MM: Yeah?

GS: Up at Huntington University, we have a lake called Lake Snowtip. Have you, have you heard of that?

MM: I have!

GS: Have you?

MM: Well, what— [1:11:00], I know that somehow you were involved in trying to get that lake—tell me that story. What is that about?

GS: Well, first of all, they had a beautiful area up there that needed to be developed, and the university couldn't afford it.

MM: And what do you mean it needed to be developed? Like for the college?

GS: Yeah, for the college.

MM: Like for a park or something?

GS: Yeah, there was big trees in a big ravine and everybody kept talking about how great it would be if we had a lake there, and so Bill Tipmore, who was another good friend of mine, he was the head of the Chamber of Commerce, and he got involved with the Public Relations of the university, (clears throat), and I told him, "What do we need to do to see if we can't get something done?" and so I've got a—I didn't do this, but I've got a (opening desk drawer)—I've got to catch my nose. It's running away.

MM: That time of year. (gets quick drink)

GS: It is, for me anyhow. Anyhow, [1:12:00] this kid—here I call him a kid. He’s taught for 45 years, and he called one day and said, “Would you mind if I do a history on Lake Snowtip?” Said, “No, I wouldn’t mind.” He said, “I won’t take any of your time. I just wanted to get the permission.” So I said, “You just jump at it.” So here’s the, uh...and he did a beautiful job in exercising the questions and answers and other...

MM: Oh!

GS: But I’ll tell you what happened.

MM: Yeah.

GS: I got involved with this...I was on the board up there for several years, [1:13:00] and saw the need but no money. So I went to the president and told him I’d be happy to work on it for this if you would like. Well, he was also a good friend, and he said, “Boy, that’d be a blessing.” So, I got with Bill Tipmore who worked up there in public relations, and we started to work on getting people involved with donating. And a guy that was a good friend of mine had uh, equipment for earth-moving.

MM: Oh, ok.

GS: I talked to him and he said, “I could do that.” Said, “Do you need an estimate?” And I said, “Yeah, the estimate would be zero.” (both laugh)

MM: That’s usually not what [1:14:00] contractors want to hear.

GS: (still laughing) No! He was a good guy. But anyhow, he said, “Let me start you out.” So he went in there with big chainsaws and whatever and knocked all the trees down and [inaudible] but everything just developed. Then we went to Indianapolis and got big tile that dealt with the drainage, and I had a friend of mine who has a, had a uh cement plant. He gave all the cement.

MM: Wow.

GS: And it’s tax deductible for them, but you got to get approval to do it.

MM: Right.

GS: So we just went from one thing to another, and just developed in stages, and the next thing you know, we got a lake!

MM: Wow! And when, about when was that finished?

GS: Oh, boy...Eh...

MM: [1:15:00] Oh...’67?

GS: Yeah.

MM: Around there?

GS: Uh huh.

MM: Ok. And so is that a kind of—I haven’t been on the campus. I’m not sure if I ever have, but if not, it’s been a long time, but so it’s kind of like on the edge of campus then?

GS: It’s right **in** the campus.

MM: Oh, right **in** the campus!

GS: Right in the campus, uh huh, because there’s buildings all around this...

MM: Oh, ok.

GS: The lady told me she’s the head of the nursing program up there, and she said out of her window...

MM: I bet that’s a nice view. Yeah, wow. And so then they decided to honor you and Tip—Bill Tipmore—was that his name?

GS: Yeah.

MM: By naming it after you?

GS: Uh huh.

MM: That’s funny how they—

GS: The kids named it.

MM: Oh did they?

GS: Uh huh. Snowtip. So he just...here’s the history of it, but he did a good job [1:16:00] of doing that too because, you know, I didn’t give him any information whatsoever. He just went out and made contacts with people who did the work.

MM: Is this my copy to keep?

GS: Yeah!

MM: Oh, yeah, that’d be great to have that information, to know a little bit about it.

GS: This guy's been a teacher for forty-five years and came back and this doctor at the university gave him permission to do the research and development, and he did a good job.

MM: Yeah, well that's nice to have that told, that story told.

GS: Right.

MM: So. Well, great. Yeah, I had read a little bit about it, but I wasn't sure exactly how that came about, so...

GS: Yeah, that's how it happened. But that's the whole history right there. We just, it was just trial and error.

MM: Yeah.

GS: We went out and contacted who we needed to contact. Went to Indianapolis, got the big tile donated. [1:17:00] It's amazing how if you ask in a nice way what they do.

MM: Mmhm. Well that's a great, a great and important story too, so...

GS: Yeah. It's a, that'll be there forever.

MM: It's a nice legacy to have. (both chuckle) Is there anything else that we haven't covered about your time in the legislature or as mayor or...any stories that we've left out?

GS: I don't think so.

MM: We've been pretty thorough!

GS: Yeah, you've covered the gamut.

MM: Ok. Well, thanks again for for talking with me. I really appreciate it.

GS: My pleasure. I've enjoyed it.

MM: I'm glad I was able to come up today.

GS: I am glad to meet you too.

MM: Thank you! Alright, well...I will just go ahead and hit stop then on these.

GS: Ok. [1:17:55] (Recording Stops).